



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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TO: TFW Policy Committee
FROM: Mark Hicks, Adaptive Management Program Administrator 
SUBJECT: Update on WFPA Proposal Initiation Request

On May 1, 2020, I transmitted a Proposal Initiation Review Package to the Timber Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) in regards to a “Smart Buffer” study proposal submitted to me on April 21, 2020 by the Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA).

In my review, I recommended Policy reject the proposal on the grounds that it was outside science and did not include a request to send the study design through the process established in CMER to review and approve science proposals.

In a skype call on May 12 and in testimony to the Board on May 13, Darin Cramer, WFPA’s Policy Representative clarified that it was indeed their intention that their study design go through the necessary CMER and ISPR review and approval process if accepted by Policy.

With that important clarification, I am amending my recommendation to Policy. A scientific study examining the feasibility of using solar path analyses to define where along a stream buffers are needed in order to protect stream shade is a research topic that is relevant to the mission of the Adaptive Management Program. **Thus I am recommending Policy strongly consider accepting the proposal and remanding the study design to CMER for review and approval.**

WFPA will be paying to implement the study, however, the review of both the study design and presumably that of the final report will have some costs implications (financial and cooperator time) for the AMP. This would be very minor compared to that of developing and implementing a study, but it is an issue that you are directed by the Board Manual to consider in arriving at your decision.