




Memorandum

Date: November 25, 2014

To: Steve Bernath, Policy Co-chair
Adrian Miller, Policy Co-chair

From: Chris Hanlon-Meyer, Acting AMPA 

Subject: RMZ Resample (birds) Report – next steps

CMER recently completed the RMZ Resample (birds) Final Report. This report is coming to Policy at its December 4 meeting. Policy consideration of all such reports is based on the Framework for Successful Policy/CMER Interaction (Appendix B) found in Board Manual 22 Guidelines for Adaptive Management Program.

Accordingly, CMER completed and Policy will see answers to six questions found in Appendix B, Table 1 titled “Questions leading to a Policy adaptive management recommendation to the Forest Practices Board” at Policy’s December 4, 2014, meeting. The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance/recommendations on next steps with the study.

Based on results from the report, Policy has choices for the types of recommendations it can make to the Forest Practices Board: 1) a petition for rule making, 2) a non-rulemaking alternative action, or 3) no action. Policy needs to answer up to three questions in developing its recommendation to the board:

1. Should any action be taken at this time, in response to the information that CMER has provided?
2. What are the alternative courses of action, each of which would be an appropriate management response to the information that CMER has provided?
3. Will Policy make a consensus, adaptive management recommendation to the board? If so, which alternative will Policy recommend?

Of course, this process comes with a timeline. Upon receipt, the Policy Committee has up to 180 days to develop a decision, whether consensus or not, and then make a recommendation to the Board. To make it simple, the timeline can be summarized as follows:

- Up to 45 days to review the findings and to make a consensus decision as to whether the information merits taking action or not.
- **IF** Policy agrees that action is warranted, then
 - Up to 60 days to develop appropriate alternative courses of action.
 - Up to 45 days to reach a consensus decision on an alternative to recommend to the Board.

- Up to 30 days to finalize its recommendations and give them to the AMPA for delivery to the Board.

Should consensus not be found on the appropriate course of action, Policy would have up to an additional 150 days (60 days in Stage 1, 90 days in Stage 2) to attempt to reach a consensus.

Based on the final study report and the answers to the six questions I propose Policy make a “no action” recommendation to the Forest Practices Board. This recommendation to the Board would be accompanied by:

1. Specific no-action recommendation(s) (or alternative developed by Policy); and
2. Final CMER report, Policy products, or the Administrator discussion report of potential implications to the rules and guidance.

Any other type of decision (petition for rule making or other non-rule making alternative) would require additional documentation.

So, to summarize my recommended next steps are:

- Consider a recommendation for no further action regarding an RMZ bird resample;
- Discuss the merits of, and make a decision for no further action or any alternative types of action at the December (or January) Policy meeting;
- Compile recommendation information for the Board (AMPA should do/help with this); and
- Submit recommendation to the Board at its February 2015 meeting (assuming the recommendation is no action).