

Extensive Monitoring Workshop Follow-up

“Extensive monitoring is used to evaluate the current status and future trends of key indicators of important input processes and habitat conditions statewide.”

Extensive Monitoring (EM) is a population-scale assessment of the effectiveness of F&F rules in attaining specific performance targets across forestlands subject to the rules. It represents one of three distinct and interrelated components of the CMER research and monitoring program. Where Prescription Monitoring estimates the effects of a specific prescription at that site and Intensive Monitoring is focused on cumulative effects of multiple forest practices and biological responses, EM estimates the distribution of conditions across the landscape regardless of management history and represents a comprehensive look in determining if F&F rules are effective in meeting the expectations set forth in the Board approved Schedule L-1 of the Forests and Fish Report, as cited in Appendix N of the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan.

The EM Workgroup recommends a strategy be developed to inform the direction of this component of the CMER research and monitoring program. Utilizing the Monitoring Design Team (MDT) framework, learning from CMER’s previous efforts, and extensive monitoring performed by others, we recommend a strategy with priority focus on status/trends in stream temperature and riparian stand condition. While temperature and riparian stand condition are a priority, other key metrics which have well-defined performance targets and can be monitored cost effectively should be considered by TFW Policy and CMER.

Extensive Monitoring key questions of interest regarding stream temperature and riparian stand condition can be found in the 2002 MDT Report, the current CMER Workplan, and the recent March 13, 2019 memo from CMER. To the extent necessary, questions should be adapted based on learning to date and advances in technology. The strategy should also recommend a prioritized approach to questions of interest based on the relationship to performance targets, relative cost/effort, and sampling error. In the interest of increasing the value and potentially lowering the overall costs of extensive monitoring, the strategy should attempt to coordinate and link up with planned or ongoing monitoring performed by others. Of particular interest is extensive monitoring efforts focused on key salmon recovery metrics.

TFW Policy recognizes there are challenges and lessons learned from our previous efforts. The recommended strategy should clearly describe what is needed from TFW Policy to overcome and/or minimize those challenges.