

WA-DNR Adaptive Management Program Workplan Proposal

Compass was asked by AMP Staff and TFW Policy to develop an approach to applying an SDM framework to an upcoming decision about what action to take in response to the ENREP study results.

Our observations, shared at the May Policy meeting, are that we believe Policy should anticipate several challenges to reaching consensus on a decision about ENREP. Briefly, these challenges include:

- Substantial uncertainty and variability that will complicate a determination of whether the current WAC rules do or do not achieve existing Performance Targets defined in Schedule L-1;
- Limited ability to make meaningful inferences between outcomes measured in the ENREP study and the AMP goals, which will make the trade-offs associated with any potential rule changes difficult to interpret;
- A lack of defined alternatives for the purposes of understanding the relative effectiveness of potential WAC rule changes;
- Some fundamental objectives are missing from the analysis, which will make an informed decision about potential changes difficult or impossible.

To overcome these challenges, we recommend several core workstreams outlined below. These can proceed roughly in parallel, though some staggering will be necessary to build on earlier work. We anticipate that it will be most efficient for Compass to work with small groups of Policy and CMER members, including AMP staff.

Collectively, these workstreams will support Policy to identify (and potentially develop) the information required to evaluate the ENREP study results and support a decision about potential WAC rule changes for Eastside riparian prescriptions within the current ENREP timeline.

We recommend the following core workstreams (see schedule diagram on page 3):

1. Develop means-ends diagrams and articulate decision objectives (May – September):

- a. Work with Policy, CMER, and ENREP project team to advance development of means-ends diagrams – specifically, relating elements of riparian WAC rules, and relevant objectives (including means, fundamental, and strategic objectives).
- b. Work with Policy to identify and articulate decision objectives that will be used to frame information needs in support of a decision on the WAC rules.

2. Design additional alternatives (June – December):

- a. Work with Policy to define scope of alternatives to be explored.
- b. Work with Eastside silviculture experts to better understand riparian WAC rule components and their principal effects on stream conditions.
- c. Develop strategy table for use with Eastside silviculture experts to generate logically consistent and coherent alternative rule changes.

3. Develop approaches for estimating consequences (July – December):

- a. Environmental
 - i. Following from Task 1 and building on existing ENREP study parameters, work with CMER and ENREP project team to develop and/or clarify appropriate evaluation metrics relevant to each environmental decision objective.

- b. Economic
 - i. Following from Task 1, work with identified technical staff to develop and/or clarify appropriate evaluation metrics relevant to each economic decision objective.
- c. Other objectives
 - i. Following from Task 1, develop and/or clarify appropriate evaluation metrics relevant to each decision objective not addressed in 3a or 3b.

4. Explore approaches for populating consequence table (January – March):

- a. Following on Tasks 2 and 3, work with CMER to flesh out options and describe relative merits for evaluating effects of alternatives, including:
 - i. Implementation of additional field studies to develop empirical results
 - ii. Development of predictive models and scoping modelling studies
 - iii. Use of expert judgment elicitation to characterize likely outcomes
- b. Articulate a workplan to enable informed choices in 2027

5. Provide ongoing advisory support to AMP Program for program-wide adoption of structured decision making approaches (May 2024 – June 2025):

- a. On an as-needed basis, provide advice on changes to the Forest Practices Board manual and/or other Program documentation and processes.

Schedule:

Workstream	Tasks	Who	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
#1 Means-ends diagrams and decision objectives	a) Means-ends diagrams b) Decision objectives	Compass, Policy, CMER, ENREP team Compass, Policy		★												
#2 Additional alternatives	a) Scope of alternatives b) Riparian WAC rules c) Strategy table	Compass, Policy Compass, Eastside silviculture experts Compass, silviculture experts						★								
#3 Estimating consequences	a) Environmental b) Economic c) Other	Compass, CMER, ENREP team Compass, Technical Staff Compass, Other?								★						
#4 Consequence table	a) Options for evaluating alternatives b) Workplan to 2027	Compass, CMER, ENREP team Compass, Policy, CMER												★		
#5 Advisory support to AMP Program	a) Advice as needed	Compass							◎							

★ = Policy meeting
 ◎ = SDM workshop (Policy/CMER) TBD