

Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

Thursday, April 4, 2024 // 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Hybrid Meeting

In-Person: WA State Light Industrial Park at 801 88th Ave. SE, Tumwater, WA 98512

Virtual: Zoom (Link Listed Below)

Motions	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
<p>March 2024 Meeting Notes</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ken Miller moved to approve the March 2024 meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Court Stanley</p> <p>Up: Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Court Stanley, Marc Engel, Chris Briggs, Cody Thomas, and Rico Vinh.</p> <p>Absent: Westside Tribes, WDFW</p>
<p>Master Project Schedule (MPS) Adjustments</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ken Miller moved to approve the revised FY24-25 MPS and support for projected budget for FY26-27 for Board consideration.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Court Stanley</p> <p>Up: Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Court Stanley, Marc Engel, and Chris Briggs</p> <p>Sideways: Cody Thomas (Eastside Tribes feel a serious discussion about project priorities is in order)</p> <p>Absent: Westside Tribes, WDFW</p>
<p>Eastside Tribes Riparian and Characteristics Shade (RCS) Memo</p> <p><u>Motion:</u></p> <p>Moved to future meeting</p>	
<p>Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) Technical Memo</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ken Miller moved to approve CMER/ISAG’s approach on how the AFF validation study would best fit as a companion or add-on study to the existing Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB) study, including the recommended timeline for scoping and implementation to inform effective and efficient sequencing.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Chris Briggs</p> <p>Up: Rico Vinh, Ken Miller, Court Stanley, Marc Engel, Chris Briggs, and Cody Thomas.</p> <p>Sideways: Darin Cramer (Water typing is a mess and doesn’t feel confident that this will be completed in any meaningful time.)</p>

Action Items	
Action Items	Responsibility
Send out public comments to TFW Policy voting members	Natalie Church
Discuss writing an acknowledgement letter to the members of the public that submitted a public comment.	Co-chairs and AMP Staff
ENREP extended monitoring discussion on April standing workgroup agenda.	Natalie Church
ENREP extended monitoring on May TFW Policy agenda	Natalie Church
RCS Eastside Memo postponed to May or June agenda.	Natalie Church

Caucus Updates

- Ken Miller asked for clarification as to why the Schedule L-1 workgroup is discussing which species should be considered in our SL1 revision process. Lori responded that she provided an email to the workgroup regarding the scope of the Schedule L-1 revision process suggesting that they discuss revisions from a scientific merit based on the current understanding for updating the performance targets and objectives. She also shared that this group should not be discussing Policy issues. Everything the workgroup finalizes gets reviewed and approved by CMER and TFW Policy and then TFW Policy would make recommendations for the Board. Any changes to the Schedule L-1 through the AMP process, if approved by the Board, will be reported to the federal services. Darin responded that the workgroup cannot make changes to the species listed in the HCP. There was a discussion about the consideration of HCP only vs HCP+WAC when developing new Functional Objectives and Performance Targets particularly for Wetlands since these were not fully developed.

Staff Updates

- The AMP Dashboard is live on the CMER, TFW Policy, and AMP website.
- The Structured Decision-Making workshop for all AMP participants is next week (April 9-10th) at the NRB. Everyone should have received the workshop materials from Sarah Converse on Monday.

CMER Updates

A.J. Kroll, CMER co-chair, reviewed the CMER SAG Updates document and what was discussed at last month's CMER meeting. A.J. asked that Lori explain the CMER disagreement regarding the ENREP Extended Monitoring request that happened at last month's CMER meeting. Lori shared that CMER got a presentation from Dr. Tim Link last month and there was no consensus for a recommendation to Policy to continue this monitoring effort. This was based on a CMER member's discomfort with a previous decision by Policy and intentional deliberations with the Board, CMER, and TFW Policy regarding the cost and scope of the ENREP project. Lori reviewed meeting minutes and dispute documents between 2016-2021 where the timing of the monitoring is discussed and Board questioning the "fiscal prudence" and feasibility of ENREP. It does appear that the Study Design was developed, negotiated, and approved deliberately with the 2-year post harvest monitoring. That being said, should Policy be interested in extended monitoring to observe the persistence of the changes and the recovery dynamics, they would need to revisit that conversation. Lori recommended having this conversation during the MPS discussion

on today's agenda. The ENREP extended monitoring would cost the program approximately \$1.1 million over 7 years. There is a need to have Policy weigh in on this topic b/c the PI needs direction as to if the field equipment at the sites that have completed monitoring should be decommissioned or left in place to begin the extended monitoring this summer.

Public Comments

Natalie Church will send out all public comments out to the TFW Policy voting members. Marc Engel suggested that the co-chairs write an acknowledgment letter to the members of the public. Cody Thomas explained that he will talk to Brandon about writing a letter.

Department of Natural Resources, Timber, Fish and Wildlife Committee

Attn: Natalie Church,

I appreciate the opportunity to address The Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee. I am sending this letter regarding recent nonpermitted activities in Southwest Washington related to Chelatchie Bluffs Mine and Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR).

Clark County is proposing designating a Surface Mining Overlay (SMO) on \approx 1000 acres of Tier 1 prime forestlands near Chelatchie Bluffs. The land in question, appeared in a 2005 DNR survey saying it had **hypothetical** deposits of rock. In 2011, Clark Co. convened a Mineral Lands Task Force, which declined to add these parcels to the gravel inventory. The County panel decided there was not sufficient gravel present. Yet in 2021, Granite Corp. applied for a SMO. In 2023, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled the SMO was invalid because the County did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Clark County has appealed this decision, and it is currently in Appellate Court.

What does this have to do with TFW? WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its many tributaries, in the vicinity of the mine. It also indicates spawning of these species occurring in the same tributaries. WDFW was informed as early as 2021, that these streams were in potential danger of logging and subsequent mining. The area is a major recharge area for Cedar Creek and provides the majority of its flow. Cedar Creek also contains T&E species.

In late September of 2023, the PVJR destroyed many acres of timber and wetlands along a tributary of Chelatchie Creek, to provide a loading area for the mine. This was done with no permits. A Hydraulic Permit Approval (HPA) was not received by WDFW, nothing was sent to DNR or Washington's DoE. Trees were cut down, a road was built, and wetlands destroyed; all without permits or applications. Subsequently, DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and EPA visited the site and confirmed the damage. EPA is leading the investigations and will assess damages.

My question is: what role did TFW play, or did not play, in this process? If not, why not? This is exactly the sort of action you were created to address. Were you aware of this? How can this be avoided in the future?

Citizens informed WDFW of the damage to wetlands and forest, but they claimed not to have jurisdiction. A lie -- since a HPA was required. Just what is your role, and why did this breach occur? How do we effectively protect habitat? Since the damage is already done, DNR should address the breaking of state law (Forest Practice Act) and impose a severe fine for tree cutting, road building to harvest said trees, and wetland destruction. We must use this example to deter future habitat destruction.

I am a retired Civil Engineer and Geologist from the Corps of Engineers. Also spent over eight years as a Geologist with the US Forest Service and worked for Clark County as a Hydraulic Engineer and Hydrologist developing stormwater runoff master drainage plans.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Regards,

Albert O'Connor

Albert (Al) O'Connor
15417 NE Parkinen Rd
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Friends of Clark County

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Email: oconnors2@netzero.net

To: tfwpolicy@dnr.wa.gov

I appreciate the opportunity to address The Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee. I am writing regarding recent activities in Southwest Washington.

Clark County is proposing designating a Surface Mining Overlay (SMO) on \approx 1000 acres of Tier 1 prime forestlands near Chelatchie Bluffs. The land in question, appeared in a 2005 DNR survey saying it had **hypothetical** deposits of rock. In 2011, Clark Co. convened a Mineral Lands Task Force, which declined to add these parcels to the gravel inventory. The County panel decided there was not sufficient gravel present. Yet in 2021, Granite Corp. applied for a SMO. In 2023, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled the SMO was invalid because the County did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Clark County has appealed this decision, and it is currently in Appellate Court.

What does this have to do with TFW? WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its many tributaries, in the vicinity of the mine. It also indicates spawning of these species occurring in the same tribs. WDFW was informed as early as 2021, that these streams were in potential danger of logging and subsequent mining. The area is a major recharge area for Cedar Creek's headwaters, providing the majority of its flow. Cedar Creek also contains T&E species.

In late September of 2023, the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad destroyed many acres of timber and wetlands along a tributary of Chelatchie Creek, to provide a loading area for the mine. This was done with no permits. A Hydraulic Permit Application was not received by WDFW, nothing was sent to DNR or Washington's DoE. Trees were cut down, a road was built, and wetlands destroyed; all without permits or applications. Subsequently, DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and EPA visited the site and confirmed the damage. The EPA is leading the investigations and will assess damages.

My question is: what role did TFW play, or did not play, in this process? If not, why not? This is the exactly the sort of action you were created to address. It happened on your watch. Were you aware of this? How can this be avoided in the future?

Citizens informed WDFW this would be a probable outcome, but they claimed not to have jurisdiction. A lie -- since a Hydraulic Permit is required. Just what is your role, and why did this breach occur? How do we effectively protect habitat? Since the damage is already done, DNR should forcefully address the breaking of state law (Forest Practice Act) and impose a severe fine for tree cutting, road building to harvest said trees, and wetland destruction. We must use this example to deter future habitat destruction.

Please respond to this letter with your intentions. Thank you for your time and attention. If the SMO is granted; potentially 1,000 acres of prime forest land is at risk for conversion to a mine within critical areas – unstable slopes, aquifer recharge, F&W habitat, wetlands and geological hazards.

-Jim Byrne

Recent activities in Southwest Washington have raised concerns and hopefully will be addressed by the Timber /Fish Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee?

Tier 1 prime forestland near Chelatchie Bluffs is being looked at for a Surface Mining Overlay. These parcels were not added to the gravel inventory in 2011. The issue is currently in Appellate Court because the County did not conduct an EIS.

In the vicinity of the mine the WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its tributaries. In 2021 WDFW was informed that these streams were in danger of logging and mining.

The Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad destroyed many acres of timber and wetlands along the tributary of Chelatchie Creek in 2023. This was done without permits (trees cut down, a road built, and wetlands destroyed). The damage was confirmed when the DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and EPA. visited the site and confirmed the damage.

These abuses raise questions:

In this process what role did (did not) TFW play in this process? Why/Why not? This is the sort of action it was created to address. Going forward how can you learn from this lack of credibility?

Since the damage is already done, DNR should take an assertive role to address the breaking of state law and impose a fine for trees cut and removed, road building, harvest said trees, and wetland destruction. A severe fine should be imposed.

We must use this example to adhere to misconduct in the future.

Please respond to public concerns and questions.

Sincerely,

Teresa Hardy

Dear members of the DNR's Timber, Fish, and Wildlife Committee,

At the end of September 2023, the Portland Vancouver Junction railroad began building a road through wetland, and riparian habitat behind our home. There were no permits. No Forest Practice Applications, no FPHP or RMAP.

They built the road over several water ways, disregarding anything downstream. Hundreds of fish were killed on our property due to the dewatering of the stream. Including coho, steelhead, cutthroat, etc. We have photo and video evidence, as well as a growing list of correspondence with state and federal agencies. (Please let me know if you need any of this additional information).

PVJR is being investigated by the EPA for violations of the Clean Water Act, and NOAA is investigating the Endangered Species Act violations.

When the DNR agent finally visited the site in January, they issued a NTC to the homeowner for constructing the road.

DOE recently issued an administrative order against PVJR, because they have refused to comply.

We have seen first-hand this corporate abuse of the environment, and we hope that the DNR will take some actions against this kind of activity.

Chelatchie is a beautiful area of wildlife and forest. We see elk and bear; we have salmon and steelhead fry in our streams. We have beavers and owls, turtles and frogs.

This is no place for another gravel mine, and the DNR's own studies have concluded an inefficiency of gravel present.

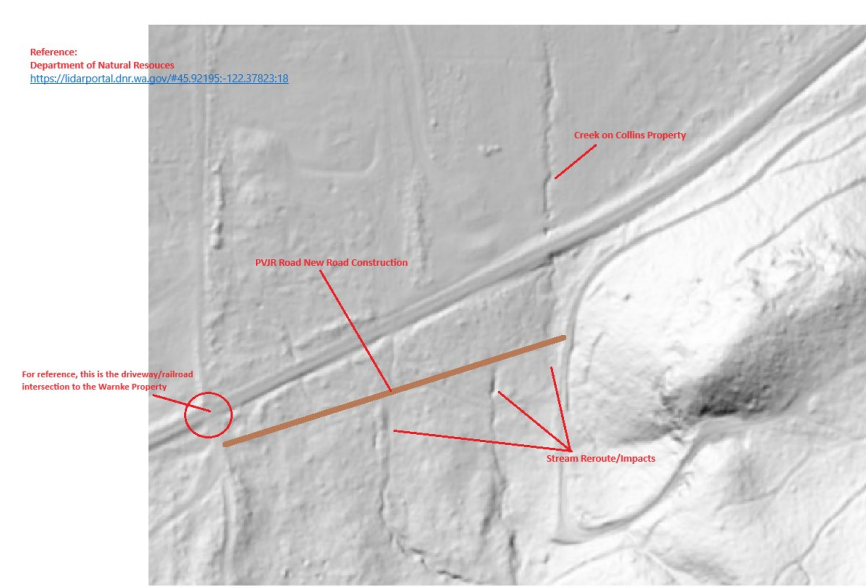
This is no place for an active rail line. Its continuous operation would devastate the same wildlife that Washington has sworn to protect.

It would be great if we could understand the DNR's posture on these issues surrounding the forests and waters that we call home.

We hope to hear back from you, thank you greatly, for your time.

Cheers,

Brenna Collins





To Whom it May Concern,

I want to highlight my concern as a resident of Chelatchie Prairie over the PVJR railroad/Granite gravel mine project that is being proposed and *implemented* in our neighborhood on close to 1000 acres of beautiful forest. The whole project is being pushed by our county council without ANY thought or understanding of environmental impacts! I'm sure you understand even better than I that we have a hugely diverse ecosystem in the Chelatchie Prairie area with forests, wetlands, streams, creeks, elk, deer, salamanders, eagles, and a huge variety of fish that eventually end up in the Lewis & Columbia rivers. I fail to understand how a large-scale industrial project such as a mine and railroad will preserve this beautiful resource for our grandchildren.

I do say this project is being implemented because last winter, PVJR bulldozed ahead, quite literally, with their [unpermitted] railroad/mine project reeking quite a bit of havoc to local streams/wetlands that shelter protected species of fish. I know these matters take time and resources to address, but we need the appropriate agencies to take the lead on putting a stop to project and this rogue actor (PVJR). I sincerely hope fines will be imposed that are beyond PVJR's calculations as "the cost of doing business"; but fines that will seriously discourage a repeat offense. This is wrong and must stop!

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely,
Jonathon Spafford

Good evening,

I am writing regarding recent activities in Southwest Washington:

Clark County is proposing designating a Surface Mining Overlay (SMO) on \approx 1000 acres of Tier 1 prime forestlands near Chelatchie Bluffs.

The land in question, appeared in a 2005 DNR survey saying it had hypothetical deposits of rock. In 2011, Clark Co. convened a Mineral Lands Task Force, which declined to add these parcels to the gravel inventory. The County panel decided there was not sufficient gravel present, yet in 2021, Granite Corp. applied for a SMO.

In 2023, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled the SMO was invalid because the County did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Clark County has appealed this decision, and it is currently in Appellate Court.

What does this have to do with TFW? WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its many tributaries, in the vicinity of the mine. It also indicates spawning of these species occurring in the same tribs. WDFW was informed as early as 2021, that these streams were in potential danger of logging and subsequent mining. The area is a major recharge area for Cedar Creek, providing the majority of its flow. Cedar Creek also contains T&E species.

In late September of 2023, the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad destroyed many acres of timber and wetlands along a tributary of Chelatchie Creek, to provide a loading area for the mine. This was done with no permits. A HPA was not received by WDFW, nothing was sent to DNR or Washington's DoE. ** Trees were cut down, a road was built, and wetlands destroyed; all without permits or applications. *** Subsequently, DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and EPA visited the site and confirmed the damage. The EPA is leading the investigations and will assess damages.

-What role did TFW play, or did not play, in this process? If not, why not?

This is the exactly the sort of action you were created to address. Were you aware of this? How can this be avoided in the future?

Citizens informed WDFW this would be a probable outcome, but they claimed not to have jurisdiction. A lie -- since a HPA was required.

Why did this breach occur? How do we effectively protect habitat?

Since the damage is already done, DNR should forcefully address the breaking of state law (Forest Practice Act) and impose a severe fine for tree cutting, road building to harvest said trees, and wetland destruction.

Please respond to this letter with your intentions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Heather Jolma (she/her/hers)

Hello - I live in north Clark County. My home property is located directly adjacent to Granite Construction's planned 1,000-acre gravel pit and mine in Chelatchie. Our home's sunroom faces directly into the front of the proposed gravel and rock transloading railcar station only 100 feet away that is owned by Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR).

I am writing to you regarding recent railroad expansion activities by PVJR for this mine and the corresponding disastrous and ongoing environmental effects it has had on this land.

Chelatchie Bluffs appeared in a 2005 DNR survey indicating it has rock deposits. In 2011, Clark County convened a Mineral Lands Task Force, which declined to add these parcels to the gravel inventory at that time. The county panel determined there was insufficient gravel present. In 2021, Granite Corporation applied for SMO designation in this same area.

In 2023 in direct contradiction to the Growth Management Hearings Board's (GMHB) previous ruling that SMO designation was inappropriate and not authorized, CCC approved SMO designation for Granite Construction's 330-acre mine.

The GMHB ruled that SMO was invalid because Clark County did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Clark County has appealed this decision, and it is currently in Washington's Appellate Court.

As previously stated, in 2023 the Clark County Council (CCC) approved Surface Mining Overlay (SMO) designation for 330 acres of prime land and, most importantly, they will soon be asked to do the same for an additional 650 acres (1,000 acres total) of Tier 1 prime forestlands in Chelatchie Bluffs.

WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its many tributaries, in the vicinity of this proposed mine. It also indicates spawning of these species occurring in the same tributaries. WDFW was informed as early as 2021, that these streams were in potential danger of logging and subsequent mining. This is a major recharge area for Cedar Creek, providing the majority of its flow. Cedar Creek also contains Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species.

In late September of 2023, the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad destroyed several acres of timber and wetlands along a tributary of Chelatchie Creek to provide an expanded railroad transloading area for this mine. This deforestation activity was done without any permits. A Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) was not received or approved by WDFW and, most importantly, nothing was sent to DNR or Washington's Department of Ecology (DOE). Hundreds of trees were cut down, an unimproved construction road was built, and wetlands destroyed; all without any permits or permit applications. Subsequently, several state and federal agencies including the DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and the EPA visited the Chelatchie Mineral Lands construction site confirming this damage. The EPA is the lead agency in charge of this investigation and will assess damages.

I have several questions for this Committee: What role did TFW have (if any) during this deforestation process? Were you aware of the scale and scope of the corresponding and disastrous fish elimination process during this construction timeline? If your committee has no role whatsoever, please explain this to me. How can situations like these be reduced or avoided in the future? I believe your committee was created precisely to address issues and concerns such as these.

Before the onset of PVJR's railroad expansion activity in 2023, several Clark County citizens informed WDFW this would be a probable outcome, but they claimed they had no jurisdiction whatsoever although an HPA was required. Please explain your role, and why you believe this breach occurred. How can we protect habitat more effectively in the future?

Since significant damage is already done, I believe the DNR should forcefully address the breaking of state laws including the provisions of the Forest Practice Act (and others) and impose severe fines and penalties for tree cutting, road building, tree harvesting, and wetland destruction.

In order for future deterrence to be effective we must use the capability and capacity of DNR's TFW as an example to deter future habitat destruction.

At the end of the day, I believe TFW's core mission and authority should, if for no other reason, seriously address my concerns and those of my Chelatchie neighbors regarding these issues.

Please let me know how you plan to proceed and respond to this email with your initial, ongoing and final decision(s).

With great respect,
(Gregg)

GREGORY O. SMITH, MSgt, USAF (Retired)
Air Force Senior Intelligence Officer - SIO (Retired)
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M: (402) 214-8069

I appreciate the opportunity to address The Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee. I am writing regarding recent activities in Southwest Washington.

Clark County is proposing designating a Surface Mining Overlay (SMO) on \approx 1000 acres of Tier 1 prime forestlands near Chelatchie Bluffs. The land in question, appeared in a 2005 DNR survey saying it had hypothetical deposits of rock. In 2011, Clark Co. convened a Mineral Lands Task Force, which declined to add these parcels to the gravel inventory. The County panel decided there was not sufficient gravel present. Yet in 2021, Granite Corp. applied for a SMO. In 2023, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board ruled the SMO was invalid because the County did not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Clark County has appealed this decision, and it is currently in Appellate Court. What does this have to do with TFW? WDFW's "Salmon Scape" indicates the presence of endangered steelhead and coho in Chelatchie Creek and its many tributaries, in the vicinity of the mine. It also indicates spawning of these species occurring in the same tribs. WDFW was informed as early as 2021, that these streams were in potential danger of logging and subsequent mining. The area is a major recharge area for Cedar Creek, providing the majority of its flow. Cedar Creek also contains T&E species.

In late September of 2023, the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad destroyed many acres of timber and wetlands along a tributary of Chelatchie Creek, to provide a loading area for the mine. This was done with no permits. A HPA was not received by WDFW, nothing was sent to DNR or Washington's DoE. Trees were cut down, a road was built, and wetlands destroyed; all without permits or applications. Subsequently, DNR, WDFW, DOE, USACE, USF&WS, and EPA visited the site and confirmed the damage. The EPA is leading the investigations and will assess damages.

My question is: what role did TFW play, or did not play, in this process? If not, why not? This is the exactly the sort of action you were created to address. Were you aware of this? How can this be avoided in the future? Citizens informed WDFW this would be a probable outcome, but they claimed not to have jurisdiction. A lie -- since a HPA was required.

Just what is your role, and why did this breach occur? How do we effectively protect habitat? Since the damage is already done, DNR should forcefully address the breaking of state law (Forest Practice Act) and impose a severe fine for tree cutting, road building to harvest said trees, and wetland destruction. We must use this example to deter future habitat destruction.

PVJR has recently clear cut 20 acres of woodland adjacent to the Curtin Creek wetlands in my neighborhood in Clark County. They did this without permits and without regard to the wetlands. PVJR

and its owner are attempting to use their leverage to expand the FRDU corridor in Clark County and destroy farmlands, wetlands and residential neighborhoods.

Do not let them operate with impunity!

Please respond to this letter with your intentions.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Donald & Geniece Magarian

Delivery of CMER Approved Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP) Prospective 6 Questions

Jenny Schofield explained that the Prospective 6 Questions was sent out in the mailing and asked if there were any questions. Ken asked about how Policy intends to use the results to the study. Jenny explained that they are not prepared to answer that question because it is not a technical question it is a policy question.

Master Project Schedule (MPS) Adjustments

Lori presented the FY2024-2025 MPS revisions based on project refinements and contracts associated with projects and participation agreements for the biennium. The Budget Workgroup reviewed and discussed the MPS revisions presented today. In addition, they heard from Alexander Prescott, Project Manager, on the specifics on the Roads Prescription-Scale Monitoring project budget increase and from Tim Link, the Principal Investigator for the Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP), on the current status of ENREP which affected the MPS this fiscal year. In addition, he shared a proposal for consideration for extended monitoring at the ENREP sites for a 5-year period with a reduced suite of variables. This was discussed at CMER last month and there was no consensus for a recommendation to Policy to continue this monitoring effort although the funding is a Policy decision. Lori walked through each line item that was changed.

The projects that are expected to be completed this biennium, if the approval process is not delayed, are Hard Rock Phase III and the Riparian Literature Synthesis. Two AMP projects are experiencing significant delays: Unstable Slopes Criteria Project Object-Based Landform Mapping with High-Resolution Topography and Westside Type F Riparian Management Zone Exploratory Study. These delays have resulted in the project budgets being pushed out into later biennia on the MPS. She also shared the FY2026-2027 projected budget, which includes an estimated \$3.6 million shortfall based on projected revenue. She will share this information with the Forest Practices Board at the May meeting and request support for DNR's request to the legislature for adequate funding for the AMP priority research projects and participation agreements.

Lori is requesting TFW Policy's approval of the revised FY24-25 MPS and support for projected budget for FY26-27 for Board consideration.

It was suggested the ENREP extended monitoring be added to the AMPA memo to the FPB as a possible additional cost and to discuss this at the next budget workgroup meeting. There was discussion on caucus' thought are at this point.

Review of the CMER Approved Protocol and Standards Manual (PSM) Updates

In response to the State Auditor's Office (SAO) recommendations, TFW Policy discussed and considered CMER reform options for improvements to support a more efficient and science centered CMER. Since TFW was not in consensus on the CMER reform options to advance this SAO recommendation, AMP staff worked with CMER over the last year to make revisions to the Protocols and Standards Manual (PSM) to improve how CMER operates. Lori walked through the overview of PSM changes. It is

expected that improving and adding clarity to the CMER process through updating the PSM along with the improvements made to the 23-25 biennium contracts, improvements in the AMP along with increase transparency and accountability will make progress on the SAO recommendation for CMER reform. Lori recommended that TFW Policy and CMER revisit AMP performance with the upcoming biennial review to gauge the effectiveness of these initiatives. If problems persist, CMER and TFW Policy would need to revisit the Net Gains Option 4, including requiring limiting voting membership in CMER to one member per caucus, and/or modifying the structure of CMER as the science arm of the program consenting the science function to be carried out independently by research organization(s).

Eastside Tribes Riparian and Characteristics Shade (RCS) Memo

Cody Thomas proposed to table this agenda item to a future meeting as he and Darin need to have further discussion. They plan on having a discussion in Spokane at the FPB meeting. There was agreement to postpone this decision item.

Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) Technical Memo

Lori gave an overview of the AFF Proposal Initiation approval, which included the recommendation for CMER to evaluate how the AFF validation study would best fit as a companion or add-on study to the existing Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB) study, including the recommended timeline for scoping and implementation to inform effective and efficient sequencing. CMER assigned AFF to Instream Scientific Advisory Group (ISAG). CMER supports ISAG’s recommendation for the AFF validation study be implemented separately as a companion study that will be integrated in the Water Typing Strategy suite of projects, ahead of the modeling and mapping. The Project Team expects to begin this spring, starting with an after-action review of the previous AFF effort and the development of a charter and then a scoping document which will be submitted to TFW Policy for approval. The memo notes that specific timelines beyond the initiation of the scoping phase will depend on completion of the early steps in the AFF development though it does not hinge on completion and/or results from the PHBs and DPC studies.

List of Attendees

Attendees	Representing
§ Briggs, Chris	Department of Ecology
§ Cramer, Darin	Large Industrial Landowner Caucus/WFPA
§ Engel, Marc	State Caucus/DNR
§ Miller, Ken	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
§ Stanley, Court	TFW Policy Co-chair/WSAC
§ Thomas, Cody	Eastside Tribe Caucus/UCUT
§ Vinh, Rico	WCA/Conservation Caucus
Church, Natalie	Administrative Assistant/DNR
Clark, Lori	Adaptive Management Administrator
Failing, Rae	Compass Resources Management
Franquemont, Maggie	DNR
Halteman, Philip	Compass Resources Management
Hawkins, Tracy	DNR
Heimburg, John	WDFW
Henkel, Theryn	Supervisory Project Manager/DNR
Holy, Shae	Skokomish Tribe
Kay, Debbie	CMER Member/WetSAG Co-chair
Kroll, A.J.	CMER Co-chair

Mendoza, Chris	CMER Voting Member/Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	RSAG Co-chair
Ohlson, Dan	Compass Resources Management
Prescott, Alexander	Project Manager/DNR
Roberts, Dave	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
Rubin, Rachel	AMP Scientist
Roorbach, Ash	Westside Tribes/NWIFC
Schofield, Jenny	Project Manager/DNR
Smith, Kendra	Skagit

§TFW Policy Voting Member