

# Olympic Experimental State Forest Review Board Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

**Prepared by:** Teodora Minkova

**Meeting Date:** July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Meeting Time:** 11am-1pm

**Location:** VTC bridge between Corvallis, Olympia, and Forks

**Attendees:** Dede Olson, Acting Assistant Director of Research, PNW, Portland

Paul Anderson, OESF liaison, PNW, Corvallis

Bill Wells, Olympic Region Coast District Manager, DNR, Forks

Teodora Minkova, OESF Research and Monitoring Manager, DNR, Olympia (Chair)

**Absent:** Drew Rosanbalm, Olympic Region State Lands Assistant, DNR, Forks

### 1. Introduction

Dede Olson has been Acting Assistant Director of Research since January 2014. The station is filling in the position now.

### 2. Update on riparian status and trends monitoring in the OESF

The project is going as planned, 10 of the 50 OESF basins were sampled in 2013; the rest are being sampled this field season. The progress is described in the 2013 establishment report (sent in advance). PNW involvement in the project is Alex, with last year estimated 640 hours. Shannon has been involved sporadically. Pete Bisson provides review and consultation.

The main need is scientific expertise for different protocols. Teddy is looking for collaborators. The most urgent need is finding a hydrologist to assess the quality of the field data and to build rating curves. Teddy gave presentations at UW in Seattle in January and OSU in Corvallis in March.

Teddy and Alex submitted 2 proposals for funding to PNW through the RFP process in April (one on fish modeling, the other on using LiDAR to characterize streams). Not approved.

Dede: PNW will keep the RFP's and check on funding availability next fiscal year. The RFPs that got funded integrated biophysical and socioeconomic topics.

Paul: PNW will think of combining the OESF need for hydrology expertise with the same needs of other experimental forests and potentially allocating funding thematically (e.g. hydrology analysis and data management).

### 3. Update on the OESF site of the Long-Term Ecosystem Productivity Study

Vegetation measurement and thinning in the Sapho site completed last year, organized by DNR.

Soil data collection is underway this season. Partial funding is provided by Tom Deluca, Director of the School of Environmental and Forestry Sciences, UW.

Bernard Bormann also submitted RFP for this project. Not Approved.

Bernard asked Alex Foster to help with developing protocols for riparian monitoring in Sapho. Alex will start after finishing the field season for the riparian monitoring (October 31<sup>st</sup>). the estimated involvement is 2-3 days/month.

#### **4. New projects currently conducted in the OESF**

4.1. Developing ecologically based guidelines for creating canopy gaps

Paul: check the similar project in HJ Andrews; PIs Tom Spies and Andy Grey

4.2. Influence of repeated alternative biodiversity thinning treatments

Paul: compare with projects implementing larger gaps, such as DEMO

4.3 PNW FIA Program destructive sampling of trees for development of biomass equations

Teddy is coordinating on DNR side and will take Andrew Gray's the field crew leader to the EOSF on August 1<sup>st</sup> to identify sampling trees.

#### **5. OESF programmatic updates**

The new OESF data manager Warren Devine started with DNR on July 16<sup>th</sup>.

A new fish biologist position is currently being established and will be advertised in the fall. The hired person will be seeking consultation with the new PNW fish biologist, who will be hired on Pete Bisson's position. Dede offered office space at the Olympia lab.

DNR met with the Tom Deluca, Director of the School of Environmental and Forestry Sciences, UW and David Ford, ONRC Director in June. The purpose was to renew cooperation. David has retired by now but will continue on the PNW-ONRC Joint Venture Agreement in his emeritus status. DNR would like for ONRC to consider the forest management uncertainties in the OESF when developing a strategic plan for forest research. Teddy provided David and tom with a list of key uncertainties identified in the OESF draft Forest Management Plan.

#### **6. PNW updates relevant to the OESF**

PNW has begun to hire a fish bio in Pete's position. The outreach is this summer, the hiring in fall. The position will be in Olympia. DNR letter had weight in PNW management decision about the location. PNW is seeking a scientist with few years of experience and proven abilities to publish and acquire grants. The person will cover WA and Alaska.

## **7. Renewal of 4-party MOU**

Delayed because of transition in leadership: the ONF regional forester retired as well as the ONRC Director. When reviewing the draft MOU, the PNW Director expressed concern about the vague language provided by the ONF regarding their mission and potential benefits. DNR management expressed the same concern about the language provided by the ONRC. More specifics will help to focus our cooperation and to apply for grants.

Paul will talk to Tom Deluca and the ONF management about adding more specifics.

## **8. Upcoming renewal of the EFRN MOU**

The 5-year agreement expires on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Both PNW and DNR want to renew it. Teddy suggests adding more language about integrating the OESF in the network, describing specific activities and potential benefits.

Teddy and Paul will talk with their management about the renewal.

## **9. Recent developments in the EFRN (strategic plan, recent efforts for improved communication and data management, webinars, etc.)**

Paul talked with Peter Stine, the EFRN coordinator, about activities to promote networking b/w experimental forests on national level. According to Peter, the draft strategic plan that was developed 2 years ago was stalled in Washington DC. Instead, the responsibility for networking is left to local FS research stations. So PNW is strengthening the cooperation between the regional forests and DNR will focus on working with the PNW exp. forests.

## **10. Enhancing OESF integration in the EFRN**

The experimental forests are ranked depending on their contribution of data. The first tier are the so called E-forests, which provide environmental data available online. Even better if they are transmitting in real time. The OESF currently contribute stream discharge and climate data from the western Olympic Peninsula to the Clim/HydroDB web harvester maintained by the PNW RS.

Paul talked with David Rugg, national data manager for the EFRN, located in Madison WI, funded out of WA DC. He is in charge of standardization of data collection and distribution. It will be good to have Warren Devine meet D. Rugg and discuss how to integrate the OESF data in the national network. Use David's shop for consultation on data collection or even to host some of our data.

Instead of presenting the OESF at a Station Management Team (SMT) meeting, where the time is limited and getting a slot is hard, have the OESF presented at the next Science Day for the station, which will cover large-scale projects. It is done through VDT. The context of the presentation should be: these are the PNW issues that OESF is contributing to.

## 11. Action items

- **Paul** to include an OESF presentation in the next Science Day covering large-scale projects
- **Teddy** to send Paul the study plans for the two silviculture demonstration projects starting in the OESF
- **Teddy and Paul** to check with their management about renewing the EFRN MOU which expires on 8/25. It will have similar content, maybe more specifics on integration of OESF with the other PNW Experimental Forests.
- **Paul** to present the need for a hydrologist, working with data from the regional exp. forests, for consideration for funding by the PNW research team. These will be thematic funding instead of allocation of funds to individual forests.
- **Teddy** to contact David Rugg about data standardization and data mgmt. consultation
- **Paul** to talk with Tom Deluca and the ONF management about including more specifics on ONF and ONRC mission and benefits in the 4-party MOU