

Olympic Experimental State Forest Review Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Teodora Minkova

Meeting Date: January 10th, 2012

Meeting Time: 1-4 pm

Meeting Location: Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Olympia

Attendees: Susan Willits*, Assistant Director of Research, PNW, Portland

Jamie Barbour*, Line Officer, Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory, PNW, Olympia

Drew Rosanbalm, Olympic Region State Lands Assistant, DNR, Forks

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

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

*Attending via VTC

Also attending: Doug Ryan, Team Leader, PNW, Olympia

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Review of the ongoing OESF research projects and proposals, update on Experimental Forest and Range Network (EFRN), and update on OESF forest land planning process.

MEETING MINUTES:

1. Introduction

Bill Wells and Jamie Barbour were introduced as new members of the Board. Bill was hired in the position of Coast district Manager a year ago. Jamie replaced Doug Ryan in the position Lab Line officer and is now a member of the Board. Doug Ryan will continue to be PNW liaison with DNR for OESF as he has been in the past.

Teddy proposed that the last item on the agenda, called "Additional topics", include a discussion and possible consensus on specific recommendations from the OESF Review Board to DNR and PNW management. This proposal is in accordance with the MOU, Section III.5., which states: *"The Review Board will use these meetings to consider and recommend EF&R Network activities. The Board's recommendations will be advisory to the DNR Deputy Supervisor for*

Uplands and the Director of Forest Service/PNW Station.” The proposal was supported by the rest of the Board members.

Teddy briefed the Board on the decisions made at the last meeting that a Board charter was not needed at that time, how EFRN projects were defined, and the roles and responsibilities of individual Board members. MOU and the minutes from the previous meeting were sent to the Board members prior to the meeting.

2. Review of ongoing projects

- Riparian status and trends monitoring in the OESF

The draft study plan was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. Teddy briefed the Board on the objectives of the plan, timeline, budget, and relationship to the OESF Forest Land Plan (currently under development). Dr. Pete Bisson, PNW, was one of the two external reviewers of the study plan. He and other PNW staff have expressed interest in collaborating with DNR during the plan’s implementation.

Funding of \$150,000/year has been requested from DNR management for launching the project in July 2012. The project is expected to continue for at least 10 years.

- Providing long-term meteorological and hydrological data from western Olympic Peninsula

Teddy described the need for this project, the timeline, and participants. The project makes long-term data and associated metadata available at the EFRN “web harvester” data portal (<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/climhy/hydrodb/>). In addition, it increases the OESF visibility and will demonstrate the OESF participation in the EFRN. The project was completed in January 2011; the data transfer is being successfully conducted on a monthly basis. Information about the project with map of the field stations and link to the CLIM/HYDRO web harvester are available on the OESF webpage (under *Read more about research and monitoring in the OESF*) at: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/TrustLandsHCP/Pages/lm_hcp_oesf_main.aspx

Doug Ryan presented preliminary results from two national syntheses (one on temperature and one on precipitation and runoff) that have used long-term data from the OESF. These results showed that the potential that was mentioned in the MOU for participation by OESF in net work-wide synthetic research was realized in 2011. Materials on these two projects were sent to the Board members prior to the meeting.

- Bibliography on natural disturbances in the OESF

Description of the database was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. Teddy briefed the Board about the rationale behind this project, its objective, participants, funding and timeline. She described the structure and format of the database. The database is jointly owned by DNR

and PNW and is available to other interested parties upon request. It is stewarded and updated by Teddy and currently resides on a DNR server. The database description is available on the OESF webpage (under *Read more about research and monitoring in the OESF*) at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/TrustLandsHCP/Pages/lm_hcp_oesf_main.aspx

- DNR funding request to Congress

Copy of the funding request was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. In February 2010, DNR submitted a request for \$1,752,900 increase of PNW budget for a period of three years beginning in FY 2011 to fund three research projects in the OESF. The three research projects address key DNR management needs related to development of landscape approach to riparian management and monitoring, use of silviculture to accelerate the development of late-succession forest, and assessment of the effects different management practices on long-term ecosystem productivity. The request received wide support from the local stakeholders including the environmental caucus, timber industry, counties, etc. It was submitted to Congressman Dicks' office to be reviewed as part of the upcoming appropriation session. The 2011 appropriation session did not take place that year and the proposal was not reviewed. Since then DNR conducted several conversations with the FS office in DC trying to move it forward. The prospects for this appropriations request do not appear to be favorable this year.

3. Ongoing coordination with EFRN

- New coordinator for Experimental Forest and Range Network

Doug briefed the Board about FS efforts to institutionalize and strengthen the EFRN. EFRN coordinator (Peter Stine) was appointed in 2010. Strategic business plan for the network is currently being developed.

- OESF project prospectuses submitted for the strategic plan

A copy of the email with the attached prospectuses was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. Teddy briefed the Board about the proposals sent to Peter Stine for consideration when developing the EFRN strategic business plan.

- Prospective PNW-DNR research opportunities at OESF

List of prospective PNW-DNR collaborative research opportunities was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. Doug explained the rationale behind the proposals. He has proposed to have this list discussed at the FS PNW top management meeting at the end of January, but Sue Willits advised that it would be better discussed at full-day meeting to consider the future of all of PNW's Experimental forests to be held later this year.

4. Update on the OESF forest land planning

- Development of adaptive management chapter and procedure

DNR is developing a revised draft EIS for the OESF Forest Land Plan (a 100-year landscape management plan). It is expected to be published in May of 2012. Teddy is developing an adaptive management chapter and procedure as part of the plan. The chapter explains the integration between research and monitoring and land management; described the adaptive management process and identifies the high priority activities to be conducted in near term.

- Identified monitoring and research priorities

The EIS analyses for the plan identified the key management issues and the associated ecological uncertainties. They are prioritized to focus the research and monitoring activities. The OESF Forest Land Plan will include several fully-developed and conceptual study plans for research and monitoring

- Future information management

Information management is a key requirement if the OESF is to be managed adaptively. DNR will describe the needs and the existing information systems in the OESF Forest Land Plan. An implementation of effective information management will benefit from FS PNW expertise. For example, HJ Andrews have experience with management of long-term datasets.

5. Renewed collaboration with Olympic Natural Resources Center, UW

The recent changes in the ONRC and UW structure, budget, leadership, and vision prompted ONRC to revisit its priorities and external relationships. DNR, being a primary client of ONRC services, is a logical contact to explore new options. DNR has recently gone through budget cuts which affected the OESF Research and Monitoring Program. As a result, the partnership with external research organizations like UW is viewed as even more critical in realizing the HCP commitments for the OESF. The two parties met several times during 2011 to explore new options for partnership. The communication includes two aspects: 1) building a partnership framework and 2) conversations with UW scientists about collaboration on specific projects.

6. Board's recommendations to the PNW Director and DNR Deputy Supervisor for Uplands

The following three recommendations were drafted at the meeting. They will be finalized and approved by the Board members after the meeting and submitted to PNW and DNR management.

1. The OESF Review Board recognizes the potential of research and monitoring to improve land management practices and planning. Therefore, the Board encourages DNR to consider the proposed study plan for riparian status and trends monitoring in the OESF as a high priority.

2. FS PNW and WA DNR should work towards increasing the visibility of the OESF among the research community and specifically in the Experimental Ranges and Forests Network.
3. PNW management should encourage PNW scientists to consider OESF as a place that offers important opportunities for doing research among PNW's experimental forests.

7. Frequency of the Board meetings

The Board agreed to have meetings twice a year (May and December). The conference call format is acceptable.

Action Items:

- Finalize the text of the Board's recommendations
- Draft a letter to PNW Director and DNR Deputy Supervisor for Uplands with final recommendations
- Get the Board's approval and send the letter.