

Olympic Experimental State Forest Review Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Teodora Minkova

Meeting Date: June 1st, 2010

Meeting Time: 1-4 pm

Meeting Location: Natural Resources Building, Olympia

Attendees: Susan Willits, Assistant Director of Research, FS Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW), Portland

Doug Ryan, Line Officer, Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory, PNW, Olympia

Drew Rosanbalm, Acting State Lands Assistant and Coast District Manager, DNR Olympic Region, Forks

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

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

Introduction of the Board members; discussion of the Board role and responsibilities; review of the ongoing OESF research projects and proposals.

MEETING MINUTES:

1. Introduction of the Board members

Drew is currently acting as State Lands Assistant in addition to his position of Coast District Manager and therefore he represents two members on the Board. A new person is expected to assume one of the positions soon and to participate at the next Board meeting.

2. PNW- DNR relationship in the context of the Experimental Forest and Range Network (EFRN)

Doug and Teddy briefed the Board about the OESF history and mission, the EFRN history and role, and the vision of how collaboration on OESF could benefit both DNR and PNW.

DNR benefits from participation in the EFRN include:

- increased visibility among the research community nationwide
- access to scientific expertise and science leadership provided by PNW
- opportunities for participation in other research and data-sharing networks
- increased opportunities for obtaining research funding

PNW benefits from the OESF participation in the EFRN include:

- access to a working forest with contiguous large land base allowing landscape experimentation; well maintained infrastructure (roads) allowing easy access; comprehensive and recent spatial datasets (GIS layers) for spatial analyses; and the only representative in the EFRN of a temperate rain forest ecosystem allowing ecological studies in area of extreme rainfall and growth rates.
- opportunity to provide scientific expertise to DNR land managers and policy makers on key forest management uncertainties

3. Purpose and responsibilities of the OESF Review Board

The Board duties are described under section III.5 of the MOU signed in August 2009 (PNW-09-MU-11261900-032). The purpose of the Board is to coordinate the EFRN research in the OESF with management activities, to communicate the ongoing activities within both organizations, and to promote the OESF as a place for forest research and monitoring.

The Board decided that a formal charter is not needed at this time. The role and responsibilities are defined in the MOU and clarified in the minutes below:

- An EFRN project is defined as a joined work between PNW and DNR taking place on the OESF or directed towards answering OESF-related land management questions. Research projects conducted by other organizations are not subject to the Board review. The OESF R&M manager will inform the Board about all research and monitoring activities taking place in the OESF for coordination purposes.
- The responsibilities of the Board Members are as follows:
 - Olympic Region State Lands Assistant and Coast District Manager provide input on the relevance of an EFRN project to region's forest management questions; bring to the Board's attention any operational considerations including operational feasibility of the fieldwork and possible interference with the scheduled management activities.
 - OESF Research and Monitoring Manager provides input on the relevance of an EFRN project to the OESF Research and Monitoring Strategy (2009 Draft was

provided to the Board members) and other research and monitoring priorities identified in the State Trust Lands HCP and other DNR policies; informs DNR management and DNR stakeholders about the ongoing and proposed EFRN projects and the Board's recommendations; coordinates the EFRN projects with other research and monitoring activities in the OESF; organizes and facilitates Board meetings.

- Olympia Forestry Sciences Laboratory Line Officer and Assistant Director of Research communicate DNR forest management questions to PNW scientists and managers; inform PNW scientists and their research partners about study opportunities at OESF; review EFRN projects for compliance with Forest Service legal and ethical standards; inform PNW Station Director about the ongoing and proposed EFRN projects and the Board's recommendations; coordinate the interface of OESF research with other research networks such as LTER and NEON.
- The Board will recommend EFRN research and monitoring activities in the OESF at their biannual meetings. The OESF R&M Manager will convey these recommendations to DNR Deputy Supervisor for Uplands within a month after the meeting.
- The Board will not make adaptive management recommendations to DNR decision-makers. The OESF R&M Manager will communicate to DNR decision makers the results of the EFRN projects including management implications and alternatives for adaptive management. The Board may assist the OESF R&M Manager with interpretation and summarization of the projects' results.
- The OESF R&M Manager will bring new EFRN proposals to the attention of the Board at the scheduled biannual meetings.
- The Board will facilitate joint grant applications between DNR and PNW.
- The Board will work to increase the OESF visibility. Crosslinks will be provided on the OESF, PNW, and EFRN websites. All EFRN projects taking place in or related to OESF will be listed and periodically updated on the OESF website.
- The Board will meet twice a year in May and October. The meetings will be organized by the OESF R&M Manager.
- Information on PNW ongoing research is distributed through periodic Science Findings and Science Update bulletins and PNW annual report released in

spring. Charters for PNW four programs are available on the web. The problem analyses (projects for the next 5 years) for each program are being developed now.

- It was suggested that Teddy contacts the EFRN working group (Fred Swanson, PNW is the chair), gets on their mailing list, and attends the group's annual meetings.

4. Review of ongoing projects

Teddy presented four OESF projects (copies were sent to the Board members for review one week before the meeting).

- DNR funding request to Congress

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 questions related to 1) riparian management and monitoring, 2) accelerated development of old forest structure, and 3) ecosystem productivity and carbon budget. All principal investigators are from PNW. The request is currently pending approval.

- Synthesis of riparian research and monitoring in the OESF

In 2007, DNR provided \$15,000, matched with \$15,000 from PNW's Focused Science Delivery Program (FSD), to PNW scientists Pete Bisson and Steve Wondzell to synthesize the recent scientific knowledge on three questions related to riparian management. The final report was submitted to DNR in December 2009. Since then the synthesis has been used in the OESF forest land planning and in the development of new research proposals.

- Bibliography on natural disturbances in the OESF

The project proposal was developed jointly by the OESF R&M Manager and PNW researchers. The study addresses information needs identified in the riparian synthesis (above) and key knowledge gaps identified in the OESF riparian conservation strategy. PNW FSD in Olympia provided \$15,000 to fund a one-year project which started in May 2010. A DNR GIS analyst will assist with identifying and describing DNR information sources.

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

The project proposal was developed by the OESF R&M Manager and PNW FSD in Olympia. The project will make long-term data and associated metadata available at the EFRN data portal

(<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/climhy/hydrodb/>). In addition, it will increase the OESF visibility and will demonstrate the OESF participation in the EFRN. A GIS analyst from the Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) will conduct the work. PNW FSD in Olympia will provide \$5,000 to fund ONRC's participation in the project. The estimated start date is late June-early July. The work is expected to be completed by October 2010.

5. Update on the OESF forest land planning

Teddy briefed the Board on the project progress. The draft EIS was published on June 1st and may be viewed on DNR website at:

www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/SEPANonProject/Pages/amp_sepa_nonpro_oesf_flp.aspx

SEPA comment period ends July 15th. The final EIS is expected by the end of the year. The link between the OESF Forest Land Plan and the OESF Research and Monitoring Program is currently described in Appendix B of the Draft EIS. The description of this linkage will be expanded and included as a separate chapter in the Final EIS. The key management uncertainties and knowledge gaps identified through the EIS analyses will also be discussed in the final OESF Research and Monitoring Strategy (to be completed after the publishing of the Final EIS).