Consensus Recommendations of the
Forest Practices Board Watershed Analysis Mass Wasting Prescriptions Committee
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Whereas, the Washington Forest Practices Board (Board) formed the Committee to make recommendations to the Board regarding the use of Watershed Analysis and implementation of Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions by landowners and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR); and

Whereas, the Committee, after undertaking a review of these matters, now makes the following consensus recommendations for Board consideration and adoption:

1. The Committee recommends that the Board support the continued use of Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions as contemplated in these consensus recommendations.

2. The Committee recommends that DNR continue to implement the process described in the November 30, 2009 memo from Julie Sackett providing Regions guidance to work with affected landowners for reconsideration of the delineation of specific and non-specific Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions.

3. The Committee recommends that the Board request the presentation of findings from five year reviews that have been completed.

4. Consistent with the views expressed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in their letter dated January 8, 2010 from Ken Berg to Lenny Young, DNR Supervisor, the Committee recommends that private holders of federal Incidental Take Permits (ITPs) that incorporate Watershed Analysis and permit the use of mass wasting prescriptions based upon Watershed Analysis should maintain Class IV exemptions that currently exist under law.

5. The Committee recommends that to the extent permitted by law, and excepting Watershed Analysis reviews performed under (4) above, for watersheds in which DNR determines that a Watershed Analysis review is necessary under WAC 222-22-090(4), forest practices applications may be conditioned to address unstable slopes and landforms within the watershed analysis administrative unit during the review. As appropriate, DNR can also approach landowners to utilize the mass wasting avoidance strategy found in WAC 222-16-050(1)(d)(i) on a voluntary basis during the review. As needed, on a site specific basis, the DNR may use existing enforcement authority to achieve protection of public resources. Rule making may be required to achieve this goal. *(DNR will report to the Board at their February 10th meeting as to how long this would take.)*

6. The Committee recommends that DNR establish a process and priority system to formally determine when reviews of Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions are necessary. The DNR will notify and coordinate with the Federal Services, as appropriate, where reviews may be necessary on lands covered by ITPs.

7. The Committee recommends that DNR review the process and qualifications for certification of individuals conducting watershed analysis mass wasting prescription reviews and consider the use of qualified experts as defined in WAC 222-10-030(5) as qualification for certification.

8. The Committee recommends that DNR establish a process by which landowners that do not wish to continue to utilize Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions may instead use standard forest practices rules. The DNR will classify such forest practice applications based on WAC 222-16-050(1)(d)(i).This process can be accomplished by mutual agreement between landowners and the DNR to enter into a review of Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions where the prescriptions will be changed to those outlined in WAC 222-16-050(1)(d)(i).

9. The Committee recommends that Board continue to utilize products brought to the Board by Adaptive Management, including CMER research, other studies, and monitoring efforts to inform them on the use of Watershed Analysis mass wasting prescriptions, and that the Board continue to support completion of unstable slopes Adaptive Management studies that are planned or currently underway.