WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2013

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Jim Hotvedt, Adaptive Management Program Administrator

SUBJECT: Status of Selected CMER Studies

CMER and Policy will be presenting a budget proposal to you at your May meeting, which will include on-going studies as well as the initiation of new project study designs. CMER currently has a number of final reports in the process of review and approval. The following summarizes the status and purpose of selected reports.

Review and Synthesis of Literature on Tailed Frogs (genus *Ascaphus*) with Special Reference to Managed Landscapes

A draft review and synthesis of literature on tailed frogs was approved for Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) by CMER last October (2012). The draft is currently in ISPR review.

Tailed frogs, a species covered by the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan, comprise the only two living species in the genus *Ascaphus*, a group of frogs endemic to the Pacific Northwest (PNW) of North America. Tailed frogs are of conservation concern throughout much of their geographic ranges because large proportions of their ranges are managed for timber, and disturbance associated with forest practices may reduce tailed frog habitat quality. This work reviews pertinent literature on tailed frogs with a focus on understanding the relationship of forest practices to their ecology. It also incorporates a section discussing how climate change might affect that relationship.

A draft literature review was completed in 2011, but the recent reclassification of the tailed frog into two species required the review to be restructured in midstream to reflect the taxonomic revision. I expect this report to be through ISPR and the CMER review and approval process later in the year (2013).

Stream-associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading Report

A draft report was approved by CMER for ISPR review this past December (2012). The draft is currently undergoing ISPR review.

This project examined the effects of three levels of shade reduction on stream-associated amphibian density, body condition, and spatial distribution, as well as water temperature, primary productivity, litter fall and macroinvertebrates. Timber harvests result in two

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important immediate physical changes: reduction in shade levels and increased sedimentation. Since during harvests these changes are coupled, it is typically not possible to partition their respective contributions. Understanding their individual effects is important because sediment is suspected of having largely negative effects, whereas the effects of shade reduction have the potential to be positive. The Buffer Integrity - Shade Effectiveness Project provided the opportunity to examine the effects of reducing shade on a scale that minimizes sedimentation effects.

Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Temperature, Type F/S Westside,
Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Temperature, Type F/S Eastside
Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Temperature, Type Np Westside

The draft final reports for this group of status and trend studies are currently being finalized. The Eastside Type F/S report has gone through ISPR and a revised report based on ISPR comments is currently in CMER review. I expect this report to be approved by CMER and in Policy's hands by early spring. The Westside Type F/S and Type N reports are being combined into one Westside report, which is awaiting final CMER approval of the Eastside Type F/S report. The draft combined report will be revised based on final CMER-recommended revisions to the Eastside Type F report and submitted to CMER for review and approval in the spring. The report will be forwarded to Policy for their deliberation soon after CMER approval.

The purpose of the Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring Program is to provide data needed to evaluate landscape-scale effects of implementing forest practices riparian prescriptions and to provide data needed by regulatory agencies to provide assurances that forest practices rules meet Clean Water Act requirements and achieve riparian resource objectives. The purpose of this group of studies is to develop unbiased estimates of the distribution of Type F/S stream temperatures across FP HCP lands in Western and Eastern Washington, and across Type Np FP HCP lands in Western Washington, as well as to identify trends over time. The timing of the second sampling has not been scheduled.

Effectiveness of Riparian Management Zone Prescriptions in Protecting and Maintaining Shade and Water Temperature in Forested Streams of Eastern Washington

A draft report is in the CMER review and approval process for forwarding to ISPR. The author is currently revising the draft based on recently completed CMER review comments. A revised draft should be back in the CMER review process by the end of winter quarter. If all goes well, the draft report should go to ISPR early this summer.

Eastern Washington riparian timber harvest prescriptions pertaining to shade differ depending on whether or not a harvest unit is within the Bull Trout Habitat Overlay (BTO). When a harvest unit is located within the BTO, "all available shade" must be retained within 75 feet of the stream. When a harvest unit is located outside the BTO, prescriptions fall under the standard rule, which may allow for harvest of a portion of shade trees within 75 feet, depending on elevation and canopy cover existing prior to

harvest. This study compares and assesses the effectiveness of the two eastern Washington riparian prescriptions for the protection of shade and stream temperature. Specifically, the study was intended to address the following questions: Does the all-available shade rule provide the temperature protection intended by the rule, and is it more effective, or not, than the standard rule?

Mass Wasting Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring (aka Post-Mortem)

As I reported to you in October 2012, the Post-Mortem report, which is based on the December 2007 storm, was forwarded to Policy by the CMER co-chairs as a CMER non-consensus report. It was designed to evaluate the relative effectiveness of current forest practices rules with regards to landslide density and sediment delivery. The study also sought to collect information on site-scale triggers and natural landscape factors that might inform specific unstable slope mitigation practices.

Although the Post-Mortem report is a non-consensus CMER report, Policy chose to follow remaining Adaptive Management Program processes as closely as possible. As a result, Policy asked CMER to develop a Findings Report, in particular, to answer the six questions in the Framework for Successful Policy/CMER Interaction found in Board Manual 22 that puts the results of the report in context with Schedule L-1 and related forest practices rules associated with mass wasting. In the event some CMER members disagree with the majority's answers to the six questions, Policy instructed CMER to include minority responses to questions where there was a difference of opinion. All material needed for Policy to begin deliberating on a response to the report should be delivered to Policy no later their March Policy meeting.

Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Effectiveness – Hard Rock

The Westside Type N experimental buffer effectiveness study is a complex study, covering multiple riparian and in-stream functions. Except for an amphibian genetics component to the project, all field work and most data analyses have been completed. Multiple project investigators are currently drafting their respective chapters. Although ambitious, the current expectation is to have a first draft completed by late winter, early spring. The challenge at this time is coming up with a tractable review strategy, given the report will be large and cover many scientific specialties (e.g., riparian ecology, amphibian ecology, water quality, geology, experimental design and data analysis, and so forth). The report is expected to be through the ISPR process and approved by CMER in FY 2016.

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative buffers, including those based on current forest practices rules, on non-fish bearing perennial Type N streams. The study focuses on the impact of forest practices on water quality; exports to fish bearing streams; amphibian occupancy, abundance, and genetics; primary productivity; riparian characteristics; and in a limited way, response of fish downstream.

JH/

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Commissioner of Public Lands

January 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Engel, Assistant Division Manager, Policy and Services

SUBJECT: Forest Practices Board Manual

Board manual development for 2013 includes the following:

Forest Practices Hydraulic Project (New Section) – Staff has initiated development of a new Forest Practices Hydraulic Project section for inclusion in the Board Manual. This Board Manual section is required by 2ESSB 6406. The Board will receive a draft of the manual section at their May meeting and a completed manual section at the August meeting.

Board Manual Section 3, Guidelines for Forest Roads; Section 4, Guidelines for Clearing Slash and Debris from Type Np and Ns Waters; Section 21, Guidelines for Alternate Plans; and Section 26, Guidelines for Large Woody Debris Placement Strategies must be amended to include the new Forest Practices Hydraulic Project rules, and remove the requirement to acquire a HPA from WDFW. The Board will receive amended manual sections at their August meeting.

Guidelines for Adaptive Management Program, Section 22 – Staff will soon initiate amendment of this manual section to include elements of the Adaptive Management rule making resulting from the settlement agreement. The Board will receive this amended manual section at their August meeting.

If you have any questions feel free to call me at 360.902.1390.

MDE/

January 23, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Walt Obermeyer, Compliance Monitoring Program Administrator

SUBJECT: Status of Compliance Monitoring

Annual Report Preparation

The program staff completed the 2012 field season in December and is entering data for analysis. The Stakeholder Committee recently reviewed and accepted a plan to publish the report in early summer. That plan has several points of Stakeholder review in the beginning, middle and end of the process. The Stakeholder Committee agreed to schedule three meetings to ensure this review.

2013 Field Sampling

The 2013 sample has largely been selected from the population and field reviews will begin January 28. This is three months earlier than the 2012 season. The 2013 population is larger than 2012 due to a change in the time period considered. As in 2012, field review is expected to complete in late autumn. The table below displays the number of individual prescriptions to be sampled this season.

Sample Size Estimated to Reach a 12% Confidence Interval for Each Prescription Type

Prescription Type	2013 sample size
Western WA No IZ	34
WW F or S No entry RMZ	26
Western WA Total DFC opt1	23
W WA DFC Opt2	32
Eastern WA no IZ	20
Eastern WA F &S No entry RMZ	21
Eastern WA F &S Inner zone harvest	TBD
Ns activites	13
Np activites	18
A Wetland	9
B Wetland	9
Forested Wetland	9
Road construction and abandonment	20
Haul route	20
Total	233

The eastern Washington inner zone harvest sample is yet to be determined because no FPAs using this harvest type have been found in the population. Downward adjustments in the sample population size may occur as the season progresses. If we find the actual population is lower than the previously estimated population the sample size will be recalculated for the actual population size.

The program reviewed approximately 165 Standard prescriptions in 2012 along with approximately 30 Exempt 20 acre RMZ prescriptions. The program will not perform any emphasis samples in 2013.

WO/

January 17, 2013

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Andrew Hayes and Lauren Burnes, DNR on behalf of the Northern Spotted Owl Implementation Team

SUBJECT: Update on Activities of the Northern Spotted Owl Implementation Team (NSOIT)

Since our last meeting to the Board, the NSOIT has met once (December 6th) and has an additional meeting date scheduled in early February.

Expanded membership and scope: During the August, 2012 Forest Practices Board (Board) meeting, members discussed a Board subcommittee on the upcoming designation of federal critical habitat for the Northern spotted owl by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). On November 13th, 2012, the Board unanimously approved a motion to expand the existing NSOIT duties and membership. The NSOIT was directed to expand its membership to: one DNR representative (Chair); one WDFW representative; two conservation caucus representatives; two industry caucus representatives; one land trust representative; one USFWS representative; and one small forest landowner representative. Though membership changes are still in the works, the expanded NSOIT consists of: Aaron Everett, DNR (Chair); David Whipple, WDFW; Paula Swedeen and Shawn Cantrell, conservation caucus; Kevin Godbout and Chris Lipton, industry caucus; Bettina von Hagen, land trust; and Vic Mussleman, small forest landowner representative. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not committed a representative for the team; however, Bridget Moran has been attending the meetings. Membership will be finalized before our next meeting. In addition, the Board further directed the NSOIT to: "investigate and make recommendations to the Board not later than the August, 2013 Board meeting, as to whether the State should consider seeking: Voluntary "opt-in" federal assurances for forest landowners, designed to promote the establishment, use and operation of a Northern Spotted Owl conservation bank or other voluntary conservation incentive planning tools; or, a programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan, Safe Harbor Agreement or other federal assurance mechanisms." The expanded NSOIT will be convened in early February to discuss how to accomplish the additional Board directive due in August in addition to maintaining momentum on ongoing priority work plan tasks such as the Technical Team and Eastside Pilot Project.

Industry Incentives Panel: The NSOIT held an industry incentives panel on December 6th, 2012 to explore what factors a landowner considers when determining whether or not to voluntarily engage in northern spotted owl conservation actions. Participants shared examples of recent conservation transactions in which they participated (such as a Habitat Conservation Plan, a Safe Harbor Agreement, a

conservation easement, or other conservation efforts), and addressed a number of factors influencing their company's participation in past, present and future participation in voluntary conservation efforts. Major takeaway messages from the panel include but are not limited to: the need to provide regulatory certainty to landowners engaging in conservation transactions related to the northern spotted owl; the importance of creating incentive tools that are simple and efficient to participate in; there exist a variety financial and regulatory inventive mechanisms available to landowners that each have value, and individual circumstances and landowner goals dictate the appropriate application of each mechanism; and federal assurances can be an effective tool for creating certainty, but are not desired by all landowners in all circumstances. The NSOIT greatly appreciates the information provided by panelists, and looks forward to continued engagement with the participants as the NSOIT moves forward with its exploration of conservation banking and federal assurances mechanisms.

Technical Team: The NSOIT Technical Team has met once (November 13th) since our last meeting with the Board to share their draft analytical scenarios with the USFWS and begin determining how to most effectively and efficiently utilize the time and resources of the USFWS modeling team. With the release of the final northern spotted owl critical habitat rule last November, additional consultation time and technical support from the USFWS modeling team will likely become more available to the technical team's process in late winter or early spring. Though the technical team has developed and shared their draft analytical scenarios with the USFWS modeling team, continued technical support from USFWS is necessary to ensure that the team has a solid understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the USFWS critical habitat modeling tool. The Technical Team is currently analyzing data recently provided to them by USFWS staff and appreciates the continued support and collaboration with the Service.

Eastside Pilot Project: The Pilot Project Team has met twice since our last update to the Board, once in the North Blewett SOSEA (November 5th) and once in Olympia (November 27th). The goal of the eastside pilot project is to explore whether prescriptions for thinning overstocked stands on the eastside could be both economically and operationally feasible. Success of the pilot is a high priority for the NSOIT as it could demonstrate how incentives could be applied to promote beneficial management of spotted owl habitat on non-federal lands. In two field visits, and the review of more than a half dozen stands, the pilot team only found one stand that even marginally meets the requirements established in the Board's 2010 pilot rule. The NSOIT and the pilot project team are currently determining how to proceed in the face of the project team's initial findings. Options include continuing to search for suitable stands on Longview Timber lands or on other landowner holdings, conducting forest stand modeling on one candidate stand to simulate treatments and outcomes, and evaluating the likely success of implementation the pilot rule in the face of information gathered to date. The NSOIT will continue to gather information in the coming months and will update the Board on our progress at the May Board meeting.

We will be available during the February Board meeting should you have any questions.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM
WORK PLAN

On February 10, 2010 the Forest Practices Board (Board) accepted the consensus recommendations of the Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group, and directed DNR to form an Implementation Team (NSOIT) of five members: DNR, WDFW, industry, conservation caucus, and a land trust group.

The Board also directed the NSOIT to develop a work plan, including prioritization, and directed the team to coordinate with the federal agencies with regard to the Barred Owl control experiments. In addition, the Board directed the NSOIT to formally convene a technical team to assess spatial and temporal allocation of conservation efforts on nonfederal lands using best available science.

While the Board has been provided regular status updates of the NSOIT's work items, the following represents the group's formal prioritized work plan, and is intended to provide information relative to the status and next steps of each recommendation. Information in the work plan will be modified as progress is made on existing tasks, when new tasks are identified, etc.

On November 13, 2012, the Forest Practices Board expanded the NSOIT membership to consist of nine members: DNR, WDFW, two industry representatives, two conservation caucus representatives, a land trust group, USFWS, and a small forest landowner representative. In addition to the tasks outlined in the work plan below, the NSOIT was further directed by the Board in November 2012 to: "investigate and make recommendations to the Board not later than the August, 2013 Board meeting, as to whether the State should consider seeking: Voluntary "opt-in" federal assurances for forest landowners, designed to promote the establishment, use and operation of a Northern Spotted Owl conservation bank or other voluntary conservation incentive planning tools; or, a programmatic Habitat Conservation Plan, Safe Harbor Agreement or other federal assurance mechanisms…" The expanded NSOIT will be convened in early February to discuss how to accomplish the additional Board directive due in August in addition to maintaining momentum on ongoing priority work plan tasks.

Item	Status	Next Steps
Endorse a Voluntary Incentives Program For Landowners to Achieve Conservation Goals	The NSOIT held an industry incentives panel on December 6th, 2012 to explore what factors a landowner considers when determining whether or not to voluntarily engage in northern spotted owl conservation actions. Participants shared examples of recent conservation transactions in which they participated (such as a Habitat Conservation Plan, a Safe Harbor Agreement, a conservation easement, or other conservation efforts), and addressed a number of factors influencing their company's participation in past, present and future participation in voluntary conservation efforts. Major takeaway messages from the panel include but are not limited to: the need to provide regulatory certainty to landowners engaging in conservation transactions related to the northern spotted owl; the importance of creating incentive tools that are simple and efficient to participate in; there exist a variety financial and regulatory inventive mechanisms available to landowners that each have value, and individual circumstances and landowner goals dictate the appropriate application of each mechanism; and federal assurances can be an effective tool for creating certainty, but are not desired by all landowners in all circumstances. The NSOIT greatly appreciates the information provided by panelists, and looks forward to continued engagement with the participants as the NSOIT moves forward with its exploration of conservation banking and federal assurances mechanisms. Bettina Von Hagan (EcoTrust) & Cindy Mitchell (WFPA) interviewed an expert in the field of forest incentives (Becca Madsen, Biodiversity Program Manager at Ecosystem Marketplace, Washington, D.C.) and have provided background material to the NSOIT on various ecosystem service markets around the world. They also included links to suggested reading as well as contacts for the various markets. House Bill 2541 was passed in 2010, and will dovetail with efforts of the NSOIT. DNR is required to develop landowner conservation proposals, including both markets and conservation easements, which support forest landowners by December 31, 2011. In the development of the proposals, the DNR must consult with the Board, Indian tribes, small forest landowners, conservation groups, industrial foresters, and state, federal, and local government. The proposed initiatives, if any, must be presented to the Governor, the Legislature, the Commissioner of Public Lands, and the Board. The DNR must also offer to present its findings to the Washington	1. Possible Conservation Funding Summit 2. Have a discussion on which market(s) and/or framework would work best for NSO habitat in WA 3. Develop a list of questions relative to NSO habitat markets possibilities for future conference calls w/ experts. 4. Pending NSOIT follow-up: recommend to FPB inclusion of NSO habitat outside of SOSEAs for RHOSP. 5. The NSOIT Technical Team process includes developing incentive-based recommendations to best achieve desired conservation outcomes from biological recommendations; their work will help inform the NSOIT of voluntary incentives programs for landowners to achieve conservation goals.

	congressional delegation, local governments, and appropriate agencies of the federal government. Paula Swedeen attended the World Resources Institute/American Forest Foundation Conference in Madison, WI at the end of June and led a discussion session on incentives for owl conservation. Participants gave the following recommendations: 1) Develop a state-level "Conservation Stamp" program similar to the federal Duck Stamp program that is used for wetlands conservation. Commission artists to design stamps, sell them with hunting licenses and at recreational good stores, legislatively protect the proceeds so they are used for buying easements on owl habitat/restoration areas; 2) Raise funds from development impact fees; 3)Take advantage of overlap of funds from other ecosystem service priorities such as source drinking water protection areas and watersheds important for salmon; 4) prioritize funds in next Farm Bill (all acknowledged challenges in current federal budget climate). Mark Nechodem, Special Assistant to Secretary Vilsack agreed that targeting funds from the Farm Bill like the Healthy Forest Reserve Program, was a good idea, and he would help us advocate for it. The Encumbered State Forest Land Transfer program, enabled in 2009, provides the necessary tools for the state to maintain long-term working forests and trust revenue to small rural counties. It does so by acquiring productive working forest lands to replace State Forest lands encumbered by harvest restrictions due to Endangered Species Act-listed species, thereby maintaining the corpus of the State Forest trusts. Encumbered habitat lands have to meet two requirements. They have to (a) be located in counties with a population less than 25,000, and (b) be encumbered with timber harvest deferrals that are associated with federal ESA-listed wildlife species and greater than 30 years in length. Lastly, when transferred, lands that meet these criteria must be appraised at fair market value without consideration of management or regulatory encumbrances associated with the listed species' habitat. Once transferred using the Trust Land Transfer program, lands are placed in Natural Resources Conservation Areas.	
Support an Action Program: Outreach to Owners Of	The NSOIT has disused this item, which is intended to conduct outreach to specific landowners who may wish to secure important NSO habitat that is currently not protected.	Work on this will be enhanced after the team convenes and obtains results from the Board-mandated Technical Team, which will

Specific Lands Inside And Outside Of SOSEAs		assess the spatial and temporal strategic allocation of conservation efforts on nonfederal lands. See the last item on this work plan. Develop communication strategy, including possible outreach materials for distribution once mechanisms are in place. Cindy (WFPA) has expressed interest in assisting the NSOIT with the outreach program once this component is ready to be addressed.
Promote Barred Owl Control Experiments and Research	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency on Barred Owl control experiments, and the NSOIT is coordinating with the Service on the progress of these experiments, through the Barred Owl Working Group operating within the context of the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Planning process.	There is not a lot of activity on this issue outside of the Barred Owl EIS process. The NSOIT has requested an update from USFWS once the Barred Owl EIS is finalized in early 2013. The NSOIT continues to track the progress of the Barred Owl EIS process and to-be-rechartered Barred Owl Working Group.
Continue the Current Decertification Process for owls Sites During a Transition Period	This item has been accomplished. The Forest Practices Board adopted a permanent rule in May 2010 which establishes a three-member, multi-stakeholder Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group that makes a determination on whether owl site centers and surrounding habitat is important to the Northern Spotted Owl while the Forest Practices Board determines a long-term strategy for spotted owl habitat conservation. The Advisory Group makes their determination after the Department of Fish and Wildlife determines that surveys for Northern Spotted Owls have met survey protocols that indicate the absence of spotted owls.	Membership was updated at the November 13th, 2012 Forest Practices Board meeting and consists of: Aaron Everett, Kara Whittaker, and Marty Vaughn. To date, the Conservation Advisory Group has not been convened.
Initiate Two Washington Pilot Projects for Thinning and Habitat	1. A FPB Pilot Rule was adopted to allow one pilot project with Longview Timber in the Entiat SOSEA. The project would explore whether thinning in highly stocked suitable owl habitat will improve habitat quality and is operationally and economically feasible. Efforts to secure funding to conduct the thinning project have not been successful.	**Eastside Pilot:** In two field visits, and the review of more than a half dozen stands, the pilot team only found one stand that even marginally meets the requirements established in the Board's 2010 pilot rule. The NSOIT and the pilot project team are currently determining how to proceed

	2. A Section 6 grant application was submitted to thin and defer Westside forest with the goal of accelerating NSO habitat development. This application was not funded.	in the face of the project team's initial findings. Options include continuing to search for suitable stands on Longview Timber lands or on other landowner holdings, conducting forest stand modeling on one candidate stand to simulate treatments and outcomes, and evaluating the likely success of implementation the pilot rule in the face of information gathered to date. The NSOIT will continue to gather information in the coming months and will update the Board on our progress at the May Board meeting. **Westside Pilot:** Non-profits (Pacific Forest Trust and Seattle Audubon) are working to advance owl-related Section 6 projects with landowners for the 2012 funding cycle. Due to lack of financial support for the pilot, initial attempts at initiating the project have been unsuccessful. The NSOIT is investigating whether, and how, this project, or a similar project, could be reinitiated.
Support Identification and Design of a Flagship Incentive Project	The concept is to test incentives options on a landscape scale, possibly w/ multiple landowners, in order to achieve significant conservation value and competitive, economically sustainable forest management.	Investigate and possibly find areas of opportunity to learn from or collaborate with other efforts, i.e., Tapash Collaborative, Oregon Safe Harbor Agreement, etc. Further efforts are contingent on information obtained from incentive pilots, funding, etc. A pilot under the auspices of ESHB 2541 in the Nisqually River Basin is in early planning stages. Landowners and other participants in the pilot are interested in having a component focusing on owls, in addition to murrelets, water, and possibly carbon.

Approve Measures of Success	"Measures of Success" were recommended to the FPB, which accepted the final report of the Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group.	Re-assess previously proposed "Measures of Success," determine if they provide the proper metrics. Consider updating and reporting FPB.
Convene a Technical Team to Assess Spatial and Temporal Allocation of Conservation Efforts on Nonfederal Lands Using Best Available Science	This is the current focus of the NSOIT. The technical team component of our work plan has commenced now that the Final Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and draft Critical Habitat rule has been released, which contains critical modeling tools intended to assess the importance of different scenarios of blocks of land to be managed for the Northern Spotted Owl. During the NSOIT meeting last August, Brian Woodbridge gave a presentation on how modeling information can be useful for WA State. Last March, Ken Berg (USFWS) presented information on the draft NSO Critical Habitat and draft Barred Owl EIS to the NSOIT and Technical Team. The final Critical Habitat rule will be available on November 15, 2012. In April, the Technical Team held a meeting with Brian Woodbridge (USFWS) and discussed how we can cooperate with the USFWS modeling team to answer key analytical questions developed by the Technical Team. In October, the Technical Team shared their draft scenarios with USFWS for initial feedback, more back and forth with the USFWS modelers will be needed during the process to ensure the Technical Team understands the utility and capability of using the critical habitat modeling tool for their analysis.	The Technical Team is currently developing federal and non-federal baseline scenarios to compare against future modeling runs. In addition, the team is currently working on determining how much can already be answered with existing information and identifying what would need to be answered with additional modeling runs. The Technical Team met with USFWS in October to share their draft scenarios, next steps include scheduling an additional conversation to discuss the logistical aspect of getting the modeling done.

Other Processes the NSOIT is tracking that might be relevant and fruitful:
WWRP appraisal process
Funding

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands

MEMORANDUM

January 15, 2013

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Engel, Assistant Division Manager, Policy and Services
Forest Practices

SUBJECT: Rule Making Activity

Rule making for 2013 include the following:

2ESSB 6406/Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects – Staff continue to develop a rule proposal to incorporate the fish protection standards in the hydraulic code rules into the Forest Practices rules. This proposal is expected at your May meeting.

WAC 222-12-045 Adaptive Management and Forest Biomass – As a result of the settlement agreement on the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan this rule making will include reform measures in the Adaptive Management Program. In addition, this rulemaking includes Board accepted recommendations from the Forest Practices Biomass Work Group to define forest biomass, amend the definition of a forest practice and to address forest biomass harvest activities. Staff will request your approval to file a CR-101 Pre-Proposal of Inquiry to notify the public of possible rule making.

WAC 222-16-080 Critical Habitat – DNR staff continue to develop rules clarifying which wildlife plans are required to be reviewed under the State Environmental Policy Act and WDFW is resuming discussions with the Wildlife Work Group to develop recommended rule language to amend the critical habitat definition for the gray wolf. This proposal may be presented to the Board at your August meeting.

Attached is the timeline for each rule making and a copy of your 2013 work plan.

If you have any questions feel free to call me at 360.902.1390.

paa/
Attachment

1111 WASHINGTON ST SE • PO BOX 47041 • OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7041
TEL: (360) 902-1250 • FAX: (360) 902-1780 • TTY: (360) 902-1125
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FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
2013 WORK PLAN

TASK	COMPLETION DATE/STATUS
Work Planning for 2014	November
Adaptive Management Program	
• CMER 2014 Work Plan and Budget	May
• Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring Type F/Eastside Temperature Study	*May*
• The Mass Wasting Effectiveness Monitoring Project: A Post Mortem Study Examination of the Landslide Response to the December 2007 Storm in Southwestern Washington	November
• Program Funding	On-going
Annual Reports	
• Compliance Monitoring Annual Report	February
• Forests and Fish Policy Priorities	August
• Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group	November
• Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Report	February
• TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable	August
• Clean Water Act Assurances	May
• WAC 222-20-120	May
Board Manual Development	
• *Section 3, Guidelines for Forest Roads*	*August*
• *Section 4, Guidelines for Clearing Slash and Debris from Type Np and Ns Waters*	*August*
• Section 8, Wetland Delineation	November
• *Section 21, Guidelines for Alternate Plans*	*August*
• Section 22, Adaptive Management	August
• New Section, Guidelines for Forest Hydraulic Projects	August
• *Section 26, Guidelines for Large Woody Debris Placement Strategies*	*August*
CMER Membership	As needed
Rule Making	
• WAC 222-16-080 Critical habitat	August
• Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects (2ESSB 6406)	August
• NSO Critical Habitat	2013
• WAC 222-12-045 Adaptive Management	August
Upland Wildlife - Northern Spotted Owl	On-going
Quarterly Reports	
• Adaptive Management Program & Strategic Plan Implementation	Each regular meeting
• Board Manual Development	Each regular meeting
• Compliance Monitoring	Each regular meeting
• Clean Water Act Assurances	February
• Forests and Fish Policy Work Priorities	Each regular meeting
• Legislative Update	February & May
• NSO Implementation Team	Each regular meeting
• Rule Making Activities	Each regular meeting

Italics = change or addition

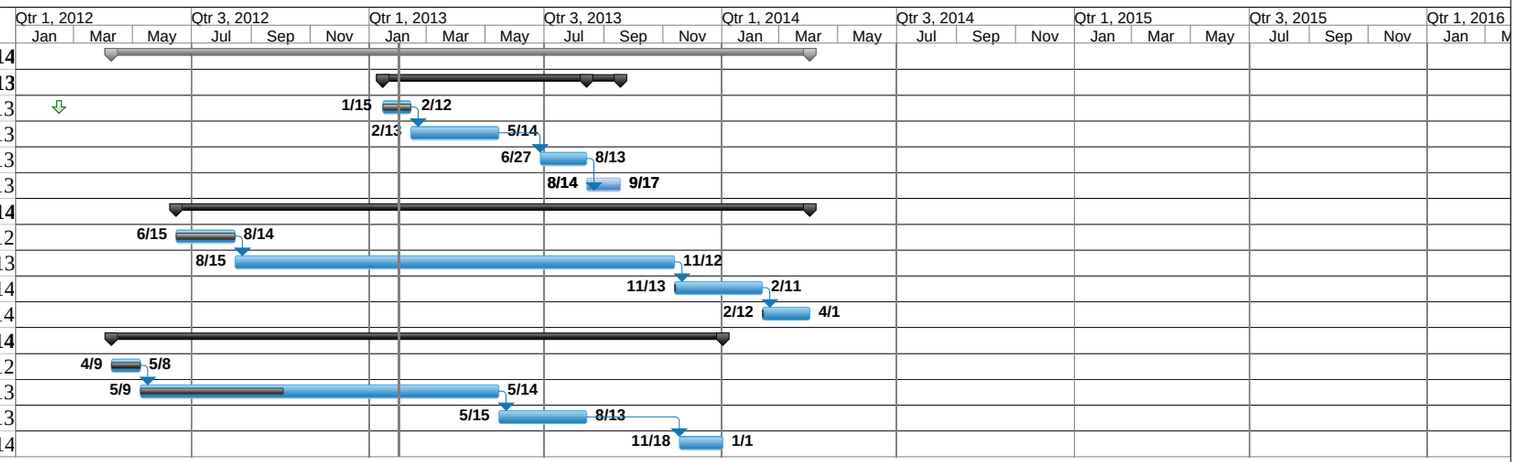
FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
2013 WORK PLAN

TASK	COMPLETION DATE/STATUS
• Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee & Office	Each regular meeting
• TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable	Each regular meeting
• Upland Wildlife Working Group	Each regular meeting

Italics = change or addition

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
2013 Rule Making Schedule

ID	Task Name	Start	Finish
0	**2012-2013 Rule Making Schedule**	**Mon 4/9/12**	**Tue 4/1/14**
1	**WAC 222-12-045 Adaptive Management**	**Tue 1/15/13**	**Tue 8/13/13**
2	CR101	Tue 1/15/13	Tue 2/12/13
3	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	Wed 2/13/13	Tue 5/14/13
4	CR103	Thu 6/27/13	Tue 8/13/13
5	Estimated effective date	Wed 8/14/13	Tue 9/17/13
6	**WAC 222-16-080**	**Fri 6/15/12**	**Tue 4/1/14**
7	CR101	Fri 6/15/12	Tue 8/14/12
8	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	Wed 8/15/12	Tue 11/12/13
9	CR103	Wed 11/13/13	Tue 2/11/14
10	Estimated effective date	Wed 2/12/14	Tue 4/1/14
11	**Forest Practices Hydraulic Projects (2E**	**Mon 4/9/12**	**Wed 1/1/14**
12	CR101	Mon 4/9/12	Tue 5/8/12
13	CR02 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	Wed 5/9/12	Tue 5/14/13
14	CR103	Wed 5/15/13	Tue 8/13/13
15	Effective date	Mon 11/18/13	Wed 1/1/14



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Commissioner of Public Lands

MEMORANDUM

February 1, 2013

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Tami Miketa, Manager, Forest Practices Small Forest Landowner Office TM

SUBJECT: Small Forest Landowner Office and Advisory Committee

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee
The Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee did not meet this reporting period.

Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP)
DNR continues to receive new applications for the FREP. There are currently 97 landowners that have applied for a forestry riparian easement with a total of 111 applications on file (some landowners have more than one easement application). DNR is in the process of offering to purchase 16 easements before the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2013). At this time five formal offers are out with two offers accepted.

Forestry Riparian Easement Program Outreach
The program is working on creating detailed instructions to assist landowners with the FREP application. This application is also going to be made available online.

The educational brochure for the program is close to completion with some minor edits being made before it can be printed and distributed.

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (R&HOSP)
No activity in this program since last reporting period.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)
The Small Forest Landowner Office received 32 new FFFPP applications in the first half of the fiscal year, above the average of approximately 25 applications normally received in that time period. In response to the $10 million received under the Jobs Bill, there are 48 projects planned for the 2013 construction season, nearly double the historical average. About half of these projects are already under agreement, which means the project sponsors (non-profit or tribal entities who implement the projects on the ground) can begin charging their time to them.

For 2014, the FFFPP is planning on correcting approximately 50 more barriers. This number may be adjusted based on the actual costs incurred for 2013 project implementation.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) Outreach
The Stillaguamish Tribe, in conjunction with DNR, hosted an open house celebrating a completed FFFPP project on Cherokee Creek. The open house was a celebration of the people, partnerships, and programs that make these projects happen, and also included some extra special guests. Right on cue, many returning Coho salmon were seen swimming through the restored area during the open house, using habitat that had not been accessible for years. A joint editorial was published about the event by Aaron Everett, Forest Practices Deputy Supervisor and Scott Rockwell, Stillaguamish Tribe Forest & Fish biologist.

The FFFPP program published a press release resulting in multiple radio advertisements and newspaper articles across Washington State. The press release combined with multiple editorials written about the program assisted in publishing 22 articles over the past year. The amplified outreach efforts have resulted in a large increase the number of applications normally received in that time period.

In the past couple of months the FFFPP Program presented at the: Chehalis Rotary Club, Washington Contract Loggers Association Training, Timber Fish and Wildlife Meeting for South Puget Sound in Belfair and Enumclaw, and the Society of American Foresters Meeting in Chehalis.

Long Term Applications (LTA's)
The approval process for long-term forest practices applications is a two-step process. The first step, Phase 1, is the review and approval of the proposed harvest of the total area identified on the LTA; and the second step, Phase 2, is the resources protection strategies review. There are a total of 118 approved long term applications; which is an increase of 5 approved applications since the end of the last reporting period (10/29/2012).

LTA Applications	LTA Phase 1	LTA Phase 2	TOTAL
Approved	0	113	**113**
Under Review	1	2	**5**
TOTAL	**1**	**115**	**118**

The Small Forest Landowner Office is currently updating the long-term application brochure posted on the Small Forest Landowner Office website. This update will ensure it reflects the new information regarding the changes to the Forest Practices Application and updating region contact information.

Forest Stewardship Program
Regional Forest Owners Field Days are tentatively planned for June in Okanogan County and August in Clallam County. These events have now been attended by more than 10,000 small forest owners at nearly 30 different venues.

Over the next three years, DNR will be cooperating with WSU Extension on a series of educational outreach efforts targeted at absentee forest owners. The first will be held this March at Green River Community College in Auburn. This event will target metro Puget Sound residents who own forest land elsewhere in the state.

Recruitment has been completed for the Statewide Landowner Assistance Wildlife Biologist and Northwest WA Landowner Assistance Forester positions and they should be filled in early 2013. Similarly, WSU Extension anticipates their Northeast WA Regional Extension Forester position in Spokane will also be filled in early 2013.

Forest Stewardship Program Outreach
The Small Forest Landowner Office staff, working with DNR Region staff, developed an Eastern Washington Cost-share Program brochure. This will be used to promote the program and encourage landowners to be proactive with creating defensible space around their homes and to address forest health issues on their land. The application to the program has also been made available to landowners to apply online.

Small Forest Landowner Outreach/Grant Applications
The Small Forest Landowner Office distributed the December issue of Small Forest Landowner News and is in the process of assembling the headlines for the February issue. The Small Forest Landowner Survey remains open with many small forest landowners continuing to complete the survey and subscribe to the Small Forest Landowner News. The Small Forest Landowner Office also created a pamphlet about the office's programs in order to educate new legislative staff.

Small Forest Landowner staff continue to interact with stakeholders at Timber Fish and Wildlife Meetings and attend Washington Farm Forestry Meetings to promote the program and answer landowner's questions.

The Small Forest Landowner Office is continuing to seek grant opportunities to support all of the small forest landowner programs. The Office is exploring the potential to partner with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for money towards the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

One of the Small Forest Landowner Office goals is to continue to provide the highest quality outreach to the small forest landowners. Staff will continue to pursue the use of media and social media to inform the public on the programs and the resources offered by the Small Forest Landowner Office. Another important goal of the Office is to solicit feedback from users and track all program outreach activities to ensure this outreach is effective.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 902-1415 or tamara.miketa@dnr.wa.gov if you have further questions.

TM/

Cultural Resource Roundtable

January 18, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Timber/Fish/Wildlife Cultural Resources Roundtable Co-Chairs
Jeffrey Thomas, Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Peter Heide, Washington Forest Protection Association

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report of Timber/Fish/Wildlife Cultural Resources Roundtable Covering the Period Since November 2012

The TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable is pleased to submit this latest report to the Forest Practices Board.

Again, the report is in the form of the Roundtable's Action Item list. This list is reviewed every month by the Roundtable and updated here to reflect current activities. Changes from the November 2012 report are highlighted in red and italic print.

The Roundtable has not produced new outcomes over the last three months since we last reported. However, progress is being made on several fronts. We completed draft text for cultural resource guidance that we hope to finish soon and publish on the Cultural Resources page of the DNR's web site. While drafting this guidance, the Roundtable discovered that information regarding forest practices on DAHP's website can be improved, so that effort is underway. As a result of recent legislation, Ecology is carrying out a process to streamline SEPA and increase exemption to SEPA processes. The Roundtable is tracking progress on this effort and providing input urging Ecology to avoid exemptions that would put cultural resources at risk. Partially as a result of our input, cultural resources have been raised to one of Ecology's top three priorities in Phase 2 rulemaking. The Roundtable has also embarked on an effort to remove unnecessary and time consuming Forest Practices processes so as to avoid disincentives that could discourage forest landowners and land managers from actively identifying and reporting cultural resources.

Please note that co-chair Jeff Thomas has enrolled in a graduate program in the College of the Environment at UW and his time to spend on Roundtable work is limited. The Roundtable has asked David Powell, archeologist for the Yakama Nation, to fill in when Jeff cannot attend meetings. Also, co-chair Peter Heide is retiring from WFPA at the end of February and will be leaving the Roundtable. We are seeking a replacement to fill his co-chair position. As a result of these interruptions in leadership, the Roundtable has reduced its formal meeting schedule from monthly to February, April, July and October for the remainder of 2013. We hope to maintain momentum with email work sessions on specific issues in the time between formal meetings. Also, in the future, the Roundtable will be occasionally visiting tribal offices around the state with our meetings.

Jeffrey, or David, and I will be at the February meeting to answer questions or respond to Board requests that may arise at the meeting; and please do not hesitate to contact one of us before the meeting.

jeffrey.thomas@puyalluptribe.com and (253) 405-7478l

dwpowell@yakama.com and (509) 865-5121 Ext. 6312

pheide@wfpa.org and (360) 791-8299

Enclosure

T/F/W Cultural Resources Roundtable					*1/18/2013*	*Changes from the previous report are in Red or Italics*
Project Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
High	1	Seek funding and staff support for the Roundtable's work	Allyson Brooks	On hold due to state budget situation		
High	2	Prepare the cultural resource guidance documents and tools as agreed to in the CRPMP				Educational Program and Commitments
		Scope the guidance/manual project to develop a detailed description and outline of the proposed guidance or manual.		Complete		
		Work products:1) Guidance for T/F/W stakeholders, 2) Guidance specific to forest landowners, and 3) Guidance specific to Tribes.	*Jesse and Gretchen*	In progress	Review completed drafts, prepare drafts on remaining sections.	
		Post Roundtable guidance documents and other information and training material on the DNR Forest Practices web site		On going		
High	3	Include information about RCW and WAC for historic sites in the instructions for question 7 of the forest practices application and suggest that if the environmental features called out in the instructions are present they should be shown on FPA map.	Sherri	Scoping	Review the instructions and prepare a draft of a revision	This would be an edit to Appendix B of the Cultural Resources Protection and Management Plan
High	*4*	*Review the State Environmental Policy act rule making by the legislature and participate in the SEPA advisory committee established by the Department of Ecology to draft rules to implement the legislation*	*Gretchen*	*On going*	*Ecology is recommending that Cultural Resource be considered as one of three top priorities for Phase 2 rulemaking. The Roundtable will continue to monitor*	
High	5	Prepare a training workshop to be for private industrial foresters in ~~*the May or June 2013*~~ *2014*	~~*Peter*~~	Planning	Securing a date and preparing an agenda	An education component of the CRPMP

T/F/W Cultural Resources Roundtable					*1/18/2013*	*Changes from the previous report are in Red or Italics*
Project Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
Medium	8	Develop a Logo for the Cultural Resources Roundtable	Jeffrey	In progress	Draft logo under review	Publicity
Medium	9	CRPMP amendments to consider and further discuss:	*All*	Scoping	Each member of the Roundtable will bring suggestion for amendments to the ~~*January*~~ *February* 2013 meeting	CRPMP Support
		Regarding MOUs, consider adding a statement specifying when DNR has a role in implementing MOUs and if there is a role, specifying its nature.				
		Under "Education Program and Commitments," modify #2 to recognize that agreements are often executed at the field level without the need for higher level contacts				
		Reference a role for the CRPMP in Forest Practices ID team deliberations and preparation of SEPA documents for Class IV Special FPAs	*Jeff*			
Low	10	Prepare a report to the Forest Practices Board on the impact to cultural resource protection and management when forest land is converted to another use and regulatory responsibility passes to local government (county or city)	Jeff and Pete	On hold	Wait for other higher priority items to be addressed	

T/F/W Cultural Resources Roundtable					1/18/2013	*Changes from the previous report are in Red or Italics*
Project Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
On-Going Tasks	1	The Roundtable will: (a) meet monthly; (b) Report- to the FP Board at each regular meeting; (c) Review the CRPMP in June each year; (d) Report to the FP Board each August on progress of the CRPMP during the previous FY *(e) suggest recommendations for modification to CRPMP* .	Co-Chairs	FPB meeting Feb 12, Report due Jan 18.		Annual and quarterly obligation
	2	Give a CRPMP presentation at Regional TFW meetings as new CRPMP support material is released.	All	Next opportunity for TFW presentations after the 20-120 rule and supporting manual is passed by the FPB		Communication
		Create a Roundtable presentation about the DRPMP and Roundtable activities with a singular message and bullet points	Jeff and Jesse			
	3	Maintain an annual calendar of recurring Roundtable tasks and functions and post on DNR's website. Include FP Board report due dates, DNR regional TFW meetings and upcoming training opportunities	Jeff	Planning	Select calendaring software	CRPMP Support
	4	Emphasize accomplishments when communicating progress on implementing the CRPMP.	All	Post examples of successes and cooperative opportunities on the DNR Forest Practices web site.		Communication
	5	Contact individual FP Board members to “champion” CR Roundtable issues	All	Collaborate with current FP Board members regarding cultural resources issues coming to the Board.		Advance the Roundtable's work
	5	Individual caucuses will support funding in the biennium 13-15 budget for a **full time** position at DAHP for the maintenance of CR data in support of the forest practices risk assessment tool.	Individual Caucuses	Currently the position has 1/2 time funding [	Next opportunity is the 2013 Legislature	DNR Forest Practices Program support
	7	Seek funding for a CR Module pilot project		On hold	Waiting for the next opportunity	Board Manual Section 11 Appendix J
Completed Items	1	Cultural Resource Protection and Management Plan (CRPMP)		Completed 2003		

T/F/W Cultural Resources Roundtable					1/18/2013	*Changes from the previous report are in Red or Italics*
Project Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
	2	Forest Practices Board adopted the rules recommended in the CRPMP		Completed 2005		
	3	Statutory exemption for sensitive cultural resource information gathered during a watershed analysis CR module or stand-alone CR module		Completed 2005		
	4	Updates to the CRPMP		Completed 2008		
	5	Recommendation to DNR staff and the Board for changes to the historic site definitions in Class III and Class IV Special definition to correct long standing interpretation issues		Completed 2008		
	6	A recommendation to include a cultural resource question on the Phase II 15-year small landowner permit application.		Completed Spring 2009		
	7	Draft a motion for the Forest Practices Board to request that the staff create a CR page on the Department's forest practices website		Complete (Board action was unnecessary)		
	8	With the support of the Commissioners Office, a Charter for the Timber/Fish/Wildlife Cultural Resources Roundtable (formerly known as TFW Cultural Resources Committee) delivered to the Forest Practices Board		Completed 2011		
	9	Consensus recommendation on changes to WAC 222-20-120 delivered to the Forest Practices Board		Completed 2011		
	10	As requested by the FPB, review and comment on a suggestion to amend 222-20-120 Sub-Section (3)(c))(i)		Completed 2011	Recommendation adopted by the Board in Feb, 2012	
	11	Prepare a streaming video of Lee Stilson's lecture on cultural resources that typically may be found in Washington's managed forests		Completed May 2012		

T/F/W Cultural Resources Roundtable					1/18/2013	*Changes from the previous report are in Red or Italics*
Project Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
	12	In time for the FY 2012 report to the FPB, develop a method for formally assessing the performance CRPMP in accomplishing its purposes as stated on page 1 of the plan.		Completed June 2012		
	13	Two new cultural resource links have been added to the DNR Forest Practices webpage. Roundtable agendas, notes and action item list are on the Forest Practices Board's webpage		Completed September 2012		
	14	Improve knowledge, understanding and use of the GLO, historic and current USGS quad maps and other publicly available information to identify historic features recognized during 19th century land surveys.		Completed October 2012		Making available tools to improve identification and recognition of cultural resources in the field

State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia WA

January 31, 2013

MEMORANDUM

To: **Forest Practices Board**

From: **David Whipple, Forest Policy Coordinator** DW

SUBJECT: **UPLAND WILDLIFE UPDATE**

Gray Wolf Forest Practices Rule

Recall that the Forest Practices Board (Board) initiated the rule making process to amend the critical habitat definition for the gray wolf in August of last year. In addition to the gray wolf rule, the CR-101 also included a potential clarification as to which wildlife plans are required to be reviewed under SEPA.

As I included in my November 2012 update, while the Wildlife Work Group has met a number of times and numerous individual caucus discussions have occurred, agreement on a revised rule has not yet been achieved. As with all wolf conservation and management issues, the caucuses have passionate perspectives about a rule revision.

A delay in the process related to the SEPA clarification for wildlife plans continues to allow wolf rule options to be explored. The Wildlife Work Group will resume its discussions as appropriate and as calendars allow, in hopes of reaching consensus on recommended rule language sometime this spring or summer. The goal is to provide the Board with rule language and the required analyses concurrent with that of the SEPA clarification for wildlife plans.

Forest Biomass

You may recall, in 2010 the Board adopted a rule revision that incorporated the harvest of forest biomass into the definition of "Forest Practice". On the heels of this rule change was a commitment by the Commissioner of Public Lands to convene stakeholders to review potential public resource impacts from the harvest of biomass, and during the Board's August 2012 meeting, you received the final report from the Forest Practices Biomass Working Group. The

(over)

report contains numerous recommendations, some for additional rule changes and others which focus on filling information gaps.

One of the recommendations relative to information needs was for the Board to *"prioritize the identification of funding to finish the Landscape Level Wildlife Assessment models. This will provide necessary information to determine whether existing requirements are sufficient or if a rule change is necessary to ensure wildlife habitat is sufficiently provided for in the Forest Practices Rules."*

Some background may refresh the Board's memory and also help inform new Board members about the Landscape Level Wildlife Assessment. This project is Element 2 in the Board's Wildlife Work Plan for upland habitat. Much progress was made on the multi-stakeholder project, but it was moth-balled due a lack of funds. The project was intended to determine the extent to which the Forest Practices Rules, combined with voluntary landowner measures and federal forest management, contribute to upland wildlife habitat in Washington. It was designed to assess current habitat conditions as well as being able to predict future wildlife habitat conditions as forests change over time (e.g. as riparian management zones mature under the Forest Practices Rules). Similarly, the modeling tool could help inform us whether current and future levels of forest biomass removal are of concern from an upland wildlife habitat perspective.

While the Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to look for opportunities to help fund completion of the Landscape Level Wildlife Assessment, I plan to engage members of the Forest Practices Biomass Working Group in discussions relative to potential funding sources and partnerships. Workload of individuals involved may be an issue, as there are currently many completing priorities. I will provide future updates to the Board, as appropriate, on the group's progress.