



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**


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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2021

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Mark Hicks, Adaptive Management Program Administrator 

SUBJECT: Update on TFW Policy Type Np Technical Workgroup

The Timber Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) Type Np Technical Workgroup (Workgroup) was formed by Policy in response to the results of the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER) Type Np study conducted in basins with competent lithology (Hard Rock). The results of that two-year post-harvest study found harvesting using the three prescription-variants examined resulted in levels of warming to streams which are in conflict with the state surface water quality standards (WAC 173-201A). The workgroup was assembled under charter by Policy and tasked with recommending alternative buffers that would meet the water quality standards and protect other aquatic resources.

The Workgroup is expected to deliver a draft report to Policy for review by the end of February 2021. The Workgroup will then respond to clarifying questions submitted by Policy in April 2021. A final report and presentation is expected to be delivered to Policy by June 2021. In the project charter developed by Policy, the Workgroup's Final Report is to consider the results from four additional topically-related studies:

1. Buffer Integrity – Shade Effectiveness (Amphibian) Project
 - Completed and previously delivered to the Board
2. Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function (BCIF)
 - Completed and previously delivered to the Board
3. Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Hard Rock Lithology - Phase II Extended Monitoring
 - In second round of review by the ISPR
 - Authors expect to have their final changes to ISPR by March 2021
4. Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Soft Rock Lithology
 - In first round of review by the ISPR
 - Authors expect to have comments back to ISPR by March 2021

Once Policy receives the final report from the Workgroup, they will need to come into consensus on what if any action recommendations to provide to the Board. This will likely take from 2 to 7

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months, depending on whether they begin deliberations before the final report is provided and if they go into dispute resolution. The final product of Policy will be an action recommendation to the Board in late 2021 or early 2022.