



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

Forest Practices Biomass Work-Group: Final Report

August 2012



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Group Members

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DNR

DNR

DNR, FP

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Dept. of Ecology

WDFW

Hermann Bros.

Conservation Caucus

Conservation Caucus

WFPA

Conservation Caucus

Nippon Paper, Inc.

Port Townsend Paper

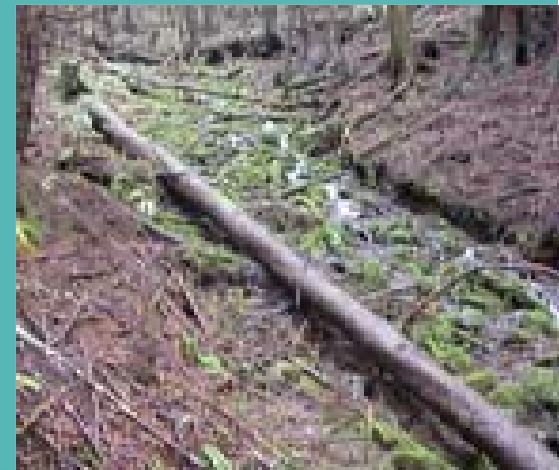
NOAA

WFFA

Port Townsend Paper

Merrill & Ring

DNR, FP



Purpose

Per the group Charter:

“Educate ourselves on the science/policy and available technologies related to biomass harvest, the Forest Practices rules that apply to such harvest and biomass harvest BMP’s. Discuss and determine if specific BMP’s and/or Forest Practices rules and/or rule revisions related forest biomass harvest are need in Washington. If so, identify a path toward identifying what is needed.”



Topics Addressed

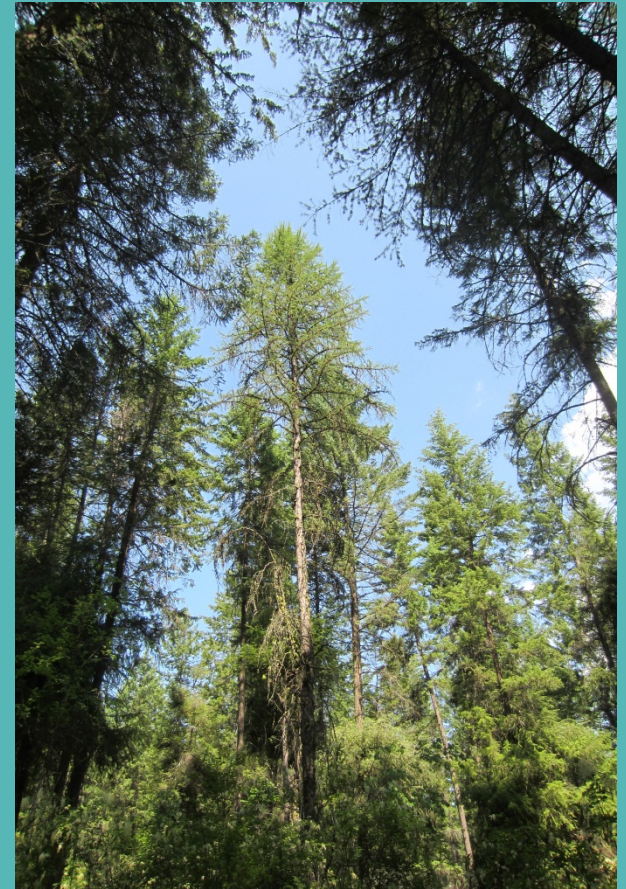
- **Forest Practices Rules**
- **Best Management Practices/Resource Considerations**
- **Soil Health and Productivity**
- **Silviculture and Roads**
- **Disturbance (pests, disease, fire, conversion)**
- **Dead wood, slash disposal, and carbon storage**
- **Water Quality, Riparian Zones/Unstable Slopes, and Water Infiltration**
- **Wildlife, Biodiversity, and Cultural Resources**



Consensus Recommendations

Add a definition of “Forest Biomass “ to Forest Practices Rules:

“Forest Biomass” means material from trees, and woody plants that are by-products of forest management, ecosystem restoration, or hazardous fuel reduction treatments on forest land. Although stumps are a by-product of these activities, only those removed for the purpose of road and landing construction, forest health treatments, or conversion activities may qualify as forest biomass.”



Consensus Recommendations

Revise the definition of “Forest Practice” in the Forest Practices Rules:

"Forest practice" means any activity conducted on or directly pertaining to forest land and relating to the growing, and removal through harvesting or processing of timber or forest biomass, including but not limited to:

- Road and trail construction;
- Harvesting, final and intermediate;
- Precommercial thinning;
- Reforestation;
- Fertilization;
- Prevention and suppression of diseases and insects; Salvage of trees; and
- Brush control.



‘Forest practice’ shall not include...

Consensus Recommendations



- **Funding for Landscape Level Wildlife Assessment Models**
- **RMZ Retention.**
 - Add element to Compliance Monitoring Program to estimate volume of post-timber harvest biomass that remains on site.
 - Consider developing guidance with regard to the harvest of biomass in the managed portion of the inner zone.

Consensus Recommendations

- **Upland Retention Levels**
 - Pursue funding to complete the Landscape Level Wildlife Assessment models.
 - **Before 2016:**
 - Re-evaluate biomass harvest practices using LLWA models.
 - Develop and implement a practical and reliable methodology to estimate volume and characteristics of biomass left on a sample of harvest units post timber harvest and biomass collection.
 - Identify funding for this work.
 - Ensure the Wildlife Work Group provides an annual review of progress.



Consensus Recommendations

The Forest Practices Biomass Work-group recommends the FPB consider rulemaking amending WAC 222-30-020 to read:

WAC 222-30-020 Harvest unit planning and design. (1) Logging systems, including forest biomass removal operations, must be appropriate for the terrain, soils, and timber type so that yarding and skidding can be economically accomplished and achieve ecological goals of the rules.



Consensus Recommendations



- Road abandonment requirements and need for biomass to cure; Landowner notification to DNR.



- State timber contracts and road abandonment/re-abandonment.

Consensus Recommendations

- **Soil Quality**
- **Carbon Storage**
- **5-Year Recommendations**
 - Shifts in reforestation species.
 - Shrubby vegetation collection.
 - Dynamic forest products market.
 - Snag leave requirements and L&I.



Non-consensus Recommendation

Ecosystem Functionality

Position #1: Not in statutory intent. A shift like this would need to come from the legislature.

Position #2: Biomass harvest could jeopardize overall ecosystem functionality.



Recommendation to DNR



Washington State Forest Biomass Assessment

The Forest Practices Biomass Workgroup recommends that the Department of Natural Resources undertake a QA/QC review of the methods and models used in the 2012 UW/DNR Statewide Forest Biomass Assessment.



Questions





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