



P.O. Box 1010
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August 4, 2022

Re: Criteria for SFLO Low Impact Alternate Plans

Washington State Forest Practice Board
P.O. Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

Chairwoman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board:

My name is Ken Miller, co-representing SFLOs and Washington Farm Forestry Association on the TFW Policy Committee. As Marc Engel reported on page 3 of his TFW Policy Committee report to the Board the dispute on this issue was fully resolved July 20th by consensus. Despite yet another long process we were able to resolve a seemingly tough issue with perhaps an even better solution than the original proposal.

Rather than defining the criteria for low impact SFLO Alternate Plans (WAC 222-12-040(5)) with general principles Policy agreed that a new stakeholder group (experienced AP reviewers) could draft revisions to Board Manual 21 that would better meet everyone's needs with additional guidance for your ultimate consideration in 2023.

The gist of the consensus motion from Policy (attached) was to request ". . . the Board ask DNR staff to convene a stakeholder group . . ." to initiate this BM 21 review. This review/recommended stakeholder process apparently can't start without your direction/confirmation you support the Policy recommendation. Delaying the initiation of this process could easily preclude your ultimate review until 2024.

I remind the Board that the SFLO Advisory Committee spent 2 years drafting a consensus recommendation. It's now taken 2 more additional years of Policy time/effort to get consensus – 4+ years to bring you a simple recommendation to authorize this stakeholder group. For apparent process reasons we were told on July 20th that you would not be able to take action on this consensus Policy recommendation until November, snatching the euphoria/momentum of settling another dispute into what seems a typical AMP process of delaying for tomorrow what we can/should do today.

My simple request is that you do accept the consensus agreement from Policy and ask staff to convene a stakeholder group for the consensus purposes outlined in the attached. This action will not obligate the Board to any potential Board Manual language that might be proposed – but avoid losing the momentum of such good work, primarily between WFFA and DNR – and taking one thing off your ever-increasing November agenda! Help us celebrate the win of the Dispute Resolution process – please don't let this small step forward languish awaiting non-substantive additional reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken".

Ken Miller
Washington Farm Forestry Association
Attachment: TFW Policy Motion July 20, 2022

TFW Policy Motion

July 20, 2022

(reached consensus on July 20, 2022)

Description: *The following Motion and Key Points of Agreement (Attachment A) were agreed upon and through a vote at the July 20, 2022 Timber Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee meeting to resolve the Criteria for Small Forest Landowners (SFL) Low Impact Alternate plan dispute. All voting caucuses reached consensus on the content. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (part of the State caucus) and the Conservation caucus declined to participate in this dispute.*

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and SFL (Washington Farm Forestry Association) caucuses have been working on an agreement of a potential motion to resolve the Criteria for SFLs Low Impact Alternate Plans Dispute.

TFW Policy recommends the Forest Practices Board request staff to prepare an amendment to Board Manual Section 21 (BM Sec. 21), *Guidelines for Alternate Plans*. This amendment will create a new part designed to aggregate existing information into technical guidance for SFLs on how to implement the forest practices Alternate Plan (AP) rules as outlined below.

Policy requests the Board ask DNR staff to convene a stakeholder group to amend BM Sec. 21 according to the process outlined in WAC 222-12-090 to develop advisory technical guidance in support of the forest practices AP rules for SFLs, and where:

1. The stakeholder group will include field staff/ID team members who are experienced with SFL AP field reviews;
2. The stakeholder group will:
 - a) Consolidate existing board manual alternate plan guidance into a new part devoted to technical guidance for small forest landowners;
 - b) Follow the Key Points of Agreement agreed to by the SFL and DNR caucuses in Attachment A; and
 - c) Provide guidance on how to access the DNR Small Forest Landowner Office for online assistance and how to contact DNR Regions for field assistance, WAC 222-12-0402.
3. The Board request staff to re-insert previous Board-approved "Imminent Mortality" guidance back into BM Sec. 21; and,
4. The Board include the BM Sec. 21 amendment effort in the Board's 2022 and 2023 Work Plans, with the intention of having recommendations to the Board by its February 2023 meeting.

TFW Policy Motion

July 20, 2022

(reached consensus on July 20, 2022)

Attachment A

Small Forest Landowners (WFFA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Key Points of Agreement

The collaboration and consensus recommendations from the Small Forest Landowners Advisory Committee are appreciated and helped initiate important conversations within the Adaptive Management Program. The Small Forest Landowners (SFLs) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) caucuses have determined that rather than utilizing general principles to define “low impact” for SFL Alternate Plans (APs), a Forest Practices Board Manual Section 21 (BM Sec. 21) amendment addressing WAC 222-12-0403(5) is preferred based on the key points of agreement below.

Key Points of Agreement

1. SFLs are impacted more by regulation than other landowners who harvest timber in Washington State.
2. One intent of BM Sec. 21 is to provide guidance to SFLs on the rule requirements for an AP, methods to determine how their forest is eligible for an AP, and how to layout an AP including situations in which an AP can support riparian functions while addressing disproportionate economic impacts to smalls.
3. However, the BM Sec. 21 guidance is confusing, and the AP process can be intimidating to SFLs and turn them away from the application process.
4. The intent is to:
 - a. Provide information on the areas of the AP process that SFLs can clearly participate in and benefit economically from.
 - b. Develop an AP process for SFLs to implement an approach to develop a harvest plan within the rule identified Riparian Management Zone (RMZ), which is a low impact to riparian functions.
5. There is a need to:
 - a. Reorganize the manual and dedicate a part for SFLs to help clarify the AP process.
 - b. Develop “criteria to assist the department in determining whether a small forest landowners alternate plan qualifies as a low impact alternate plan” to be included in BM Sec. 21 [WAC 222-12-0403(5)] by:
 - Consolidation and review of existing guidance in BM Sec. 21 and creation of a new part exclusively for small forest landowners within BM Sec. 21; and
 - Developing an expanded list of examples for harvest opportunity to be considered within the RMZ for SFLs and includes information on situations where the design of the AP and field review can be more successful.
 - c. Develop user friendly ways to encourage SFLs to utilize the available expertise to harvest within the RMZ while maintaining or improving riparian function.



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August 10, 2022

Re: May 11th FPB meeting General Public Comments

Washington State Forest Practice Board
P.O. Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

Chairwoman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board:

My name is Ken Miller, co-representing SFLOs and Washington Farm Forestry Association on the TFW Policy Committee.

You have received, but likely not read the Minority and Majority Reports: Small Forest Landowner Buffer Width Dispute. We are happy the Chair indicated you will take this up for decisions at your November meeting. I was advised to keep our portion of this very short because otherwise you would not likely even read it.

Our report isn't short in word count because it summarizes the full record from our perspective. Considering this an interim step in a 7 ½ year process within the Adaptive Management Program, and touches on similar struggles for over 20 years it is in fact a much shortened story line so I respectfully ask that you really do read all of our position paper to get a better sense of all the various hoops we've jumped through over the years to achieve regulatory promises made to SFLOs by the Legislature and this Board in various RCWs and WACs.

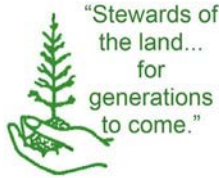
This long-standing template effort is likely the most important issue you will ever deal with regarding SFLOs – and perhaps a turning point for the AMP, at least for SFLOs. Your decisions in November will enable Policy to complete the work you assigned them in Feb of 2015. After 20+ years of mostly failure within these processes most SFLOs feel disenfranchised & disrespected by a process that seemingly doesn't appreciate the environmental benefits provided by thousands of SFLOs. I'm not seeing any more real chances to meet the commitments of Forests and Fish. We've been repeatedly told "not this, but something else" -too many times to have any credibility. You have all the information you need to say "yes" to our much-watered down recommendations before you, assuming the AMP process is actually about our rules and science, rather than simple "just say no" power politics.

In the coming months we will be reaching out to each of you for opportunities to help your understanding of the content and significance of these template buffer width decisions. Thank you in advance for your serious consideration of each of the 4 buffer width recommendations we've made to help guide Policy to finalize their review of our 2015 Proposal Initiation.

Additionally, I'm still hopeful the Board will today capture the positivity winds from our relatively low impact Dispute settlement by directing to DNR to appoint a stakeholder group before those positivity winds dissipate.

Sincerely,

Ken Miller
Washington Farm Forestry Association



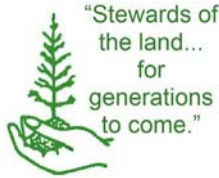
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**Testimony by Elaine Oneil to the Washington State Forest Practices Board on
August 10, 2022 – Master Project Schedule and Budget**

Chairman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board, I am Elaine Oneil, Executive Director of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

As a reminder to board members who have been here these past few years, and to all the new board members, we want to acknowledge the efforts in TFW Policy to address a long-standing equity issue which is captured in the funding request included in the master project schedule. Specifically, the participation grants for WFFA and the Counties were about 1/3 of the value allocated to other NGO participants in prior biennia which meant we were limited in our ability to fully participate without voluntary contributions from dedicated small forest landowners. This budget addresses that inequity for these two caucuses for this upcoming biennium, but it looks like that 'bump up' goes back down in future biennia. We do hope that we do not need to struggle with maintaining full staffing in the TFW Policy and CMER committees in future years and in future years we will be able to maintain funding in order to maintain high quality participants on these committees. There is one more NGO that is currently not on parity with the remaining participants, and while it is up to them to advocate for their funding needs, the principle of equity should apply to all.

The other thing I am particularly pleased to see in this budget is the emphasis on monitoring. As we have been discussing in the TFW Principal's meetings, we are behind the 8 ball when it comes to having the data that identifies what we are doing well and where improvements are needed based on landscape level information. Monitoring should help this situation and needs to continue in the future. While site specific studies like the Type NP study can provide deep detail for a few small stream systems and use statistics to estimate landscape level impact they don't capture measured landscape level outcomes which are the real drivers of salmon recovery and long term riparian and ecosystem restoration.



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**Testimony by Elaine Oneil to the Washington State Forest Practices Board on
May 11, 2022 – open public comment period**

Chairman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board, I am Elaine Oneil, Executive Director of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

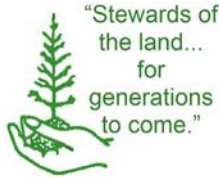
At long last the 2015 Small Forest Landowner Westside Riparian Template proposal decision package is before you for your vote in the November board meeting.

It should be no surprise that we are disappointed with the majority report and the fact that we cannot bring even a single consensus recommendation forward. This is primarily because there is a dramatic difference of opinion with respect to the interpretation of the science, either that commissioned by WFFA or within the AMP process. While our report shows that both scientific analyses provide similar results and are probably within the margin of error of impacts expected under FP rules despite taking completely different approaches to assessing the impacts of the proposed prescriptions, the majority report indicates that they 'believe' both scientific efforts are inadequate. This is even though the ISPR review in CMER found the second study to be unbiased and technically sound.

The decision package identifies significant issues in the AMP, specifically with how it deals with outside science and proposal initiations (PI). The FPB just approved a multi-million dollar biennial budget, but it will still be inadequate to answer all relevant questions. Outside science will always be needed to fully understand these systems and make the best decisions going forward. These issues w.r.t. outside science need to be resolved or the PI process will never function effectively, and we will continue to have ongoing conflict. In addition, from our perspective the inclusion of policy positions in the CMER scientific analysis polluted the process and led to an impasse in moving forward.

While we appreciate the majority recommendation for "*development of additional templates to address site specific conditions to facilitate small forest landowner management of RMZs*" we are puzzled by what is intended as this is exactly what we developed in our template proposal and yet we struggled mightily to get traction on any of the many prescriptions put forth for discussion. If the FPB adopts this recommendation, we believe specific sideboards will be needed to ensure we don't end up in the same place once again.

Expect detailed testimony on specific elements of the PI during your November meeting as there are many small landowners who have been watching this process intently as it has significant impacts on their land management opportunities.



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**Testimony by Elaine Oneil to the Washington State Forest Practices Board on
August 10, 2022 – water typing rule proposal**

Chairman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board, I am Elaine Oneil, Executive Director of the Washington Farm Forestry Association.

I have been a part of the small group that has met multiple times to sort out the AFF issues that are still outstanding. It has been very helpful to talk our way through miscommunications. We appear to agree that any final AFF rule should be field based and not mapped based, that rule making and board manual implementation should track together, and that AFF should be a critical part of a permanent water typing rule. We also appear to agree 'in principal' that the AFF should be a 'no-brainer' where we can expect salmonids at all times and therefore we don't have to look for them. In other words, it is part of their core habitat. Where we struggle is in identifying what parameters are the best determinants of where this core habitat exists on the landscape. Habitat is a complex element so as we learned in the June special meeting using one or two metrics such as stream gradient and permanent natural barriers to identify it is problematic as it is likely to over-estimate where core habitat exists. This is particularly germane as the AFF is after all a floor, and not a ceiling where salmonids can be expected to be found at all times, either now or in the future. We are confident that the FHAM process, which is another critical component of the permanent water typing rule, will capture all fish habitat above the AFF, especially given all the focused attention on that element of the permanent water typing rule.

I look forward to more discussions on this topic. I think there are opportunities to find solutions that are agreed upon for inclusion in a permanent water typing rule. While I think Ray's timeline of Oct 26 to finalize AFF discussions is optimistic, small forest landowners are willing to give it a good go. If no consensus is reached we will be asking that the Alt D be included as an alternative in rule making assessments since the AFF will affect SFLO more than any other landowner type given our location low down in the watersheds.



WASHINGTON FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
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August 9, 2022

Washington Forest Practices Board
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Forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

Re: 2023-25 Master Project Schedule, Water Typing System Rule Making

Dear Forest Practices Board Members:

Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) is a forestry trade association representing large and small forest landowners and managers of four million acres of productive working forests, including timberland located in the coastal and inland regions of the state. Our members support rural and urban communities through the sustainable growth and harvest of timber and other forest products for U. S. and international markets. For more information about WFPA, please visit our website at www.wfpa.org. WFPA respectfully submits the following comments for the Forest Practices Board's (FPB) August 2022 meeting.

Master Project Schedule

Timber Fish & Wildlife (TFW) Policy is providing a consensus recommendation to the FPB on the 2023-25 biennial Master Project Schedule (MPS). While TFW Policy was able reach consensus on the proposed MPS for next biennium, that consensus is fragile and contingent upon progress on key topics within the budget. For WFPA those include:

- The slate of water typing studies (Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB)/Default Physical Criteria (DPC)/LiDAR model) being fully returned to the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) with TFW Policy fulfilling their role as prescribed in WAC 222-12-045 and Board Manual 22; and
- Substantive progress on landscape scale monitoring of key aquatic and riparian indicators and investigating management within riparian zones to meet multiple objectives.

Per prior written and verbal testimony to the FPB, WFPA remains genuinely concerned about the sequencing of events related to water typing. Substantively changing regulations affecting aquatic resources and catching up the necessary AMP science years later is not consistent with the Forests & Fish (F&F) agreement, associated law/rules, and the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (FP HCP). Maintaining the ad hoc approach of CMER reporting directly to the FPB on science studies which will consume a considerable proportion of the AMP budget is far afield of any recognized and required process. The FPB can start to course correct by directing the water typing science work back

to the AMP consistent with the consensus TFW Policy recommendation referenced in the Adaptive Management Program Administrator's July 25, 2022, staff report.

The AMP needs to make significant adjustments to the scope and focus of our science work. We have not executed scientific investigation consistent with the vision and framework articulated in the Monitoring Design Team Report (2002)¹, the CMER Workplan (2021)² and the FP HCP (2005)³. Multiple scales of research and monitoring are necessary to confidently understand the effect of implementing the F&F rules across millions of acres over many years. We collectively agreed and committed to such an approach. Yet 20+ years into AMP implementation we remain mired in mostly site scale projects and debating appropriate policy responses absent operational, watershed, and landscape context. Every year that goes by with no progress on developing and executing a robust monitoring program makes this problem worse. The small step forward of allocating funds in this MPS to extensive monitoring is progress, WFPA will be looking for the AMP to make more progress in the coming months.

Finally, the riparian characteristics and shade (RCS) study funded next biennium is the first time the AMP is venturing into the world of management within the riparian zone. Originally promoted by Ecology as part of the response to Type Np stream study findings and after more than five years in development, we are finally field-testing study methods this fall. The AMP is way behind the curve of aquatic resource/forestry interaction research in this regard, so starting this project is a positive step forward. While we had good intentions in F&F and provided thinning options in the rules, they are overly cumbersome and not often used, resulting in densely stocked riparian zones with lots of small trees. These riparian zones will take multiple decades to transition into stands with mature forest characteristics, delaying achievement of important riparian function and maintaining high levels of pest/disease/fire risk in many areas of Eastern Washington. We can do better, and there is abundant research available to guide us. We are hopeful the RCS study can begin to demonstrate how we might be able to better manage riparian zones to achieve multiple objectives sooner than we otherwise would.

Water Typing System Rule Making

WFPA is not opposed to the concept of an anadromous fish floor (AFF) and are encouraged by recent discussion within a TFW Principal's subgroup and hopeful a solution may be found. However, WFPA remains concerned about the FPB including specific AFF alternatives in the water typing system rule making at this stage. As a reminder, the current array of AFF alternatives represents divergent solutions to a poorly defined problem with no clear objectives or decision criteria. In addition, the AFF as a concept did not originate in the formal AMP, was not part of the water typing dispute resolution in TFW Policy, was not introduced through the Proposal Initiation process, and none of the work on the alternatives since 2018 has been subject to the technical/procedural standards of the formal AMP such as peer review and dispute resolution. While the FPB did attempt to check the AMP process box in 2019 by asking TFW Policy if an AFF should be considered, that was the extent of any formal AMP involvement. TFW Policy expressed substantial concern about the precedent being established by the FPB and

1 [MDT Rpt Final 18 Jul 2002.doc \(wa.gov\)](#)

2 [bc_fpb_cmerworkplan_20210512.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

3 [FPHCP Chapt. 4a, pg 176-177\(wa.gov\)](#)

did not consider it as satisfying the adaptive management process⁴. Given these process deficiencies, the foundational principles required of any water typing system (high accuracy, balancing error, etc.)⁵ and past FPB decisions relative to a permanent water typing rule⁶, the FPB has a few options in moving forward.

Delaying incorporation of any AFF into the rule making, reinitiating work on the PHB spatial analysis and revising/correcting the Cost Benefit Analysis/Small Business Economic Impact Statement and State Environmental Policy Act analysis accordingly is one way progress on a permanent water typing rule can advance quickly. An AFF is not required for a permanent water typing rule, the FPB did not make such a finding and declare it through a motion. This is a viable option since the concept of a fish floor already exists in practice. Current protocol survey practice informally incorporates the concept by utilizing all available credible information on fish distribution (not just anadromous fish) to assist in locating a starting place for a survey, this practice can be maintained going forward. This is a result of a need to be efficient with time/effort required to establish the F/N break and is supported by decades of data which show anadromous fish are rarely encountered in protocol surveys⁷.

If the FPB determines an AFF is a necessary component of the water typing rule, a qualitative description of the AFF objective(s) incorporated into the rule and explanation of information/tools available to assist in meeting the objective(s) in Board Manual (BM) 23 would accomplish that goal. The FPB could also consider enhancing existing screening tools by integrating publicly available, known anadromous fish distribution data into the existing HYDRO database to further the goal. Field testing is recommended and could hasten confidence in such a system. This occurred several years ago when PHBs were first being considered and would be a useful exercise given little to no attention has been given to field implementation of any AFF.

Incorporating specific AFF metrics into the permanent water typing rule is an option but should go through the formal AMP process which would take longer. If the FPB wants to pursue this pathway, we strongly urge you to commence the Proposal Initiation process prescribed in WAC 222-12-045(2)(d) and BM 22 immediately⁸. This process can be directed by the FPB and is a means to cure the process deficiencies described above. It also provides the best possible route to achieve consensus recommendations. If consensus is not achieved the FPB would receive majority/minority reports and more technical and policy information by which to inform future decision making. The FPB should also consider reconvening the Water Typing Committee to ensure all recommendations unanimously accepted in November 2019 are effectively completed, most importantly clarifying the goals and targets for the water typing system rule⁹. Leaving this vague and unaddressed allows for problems and solutions to be defined and decided in an arbitrary manner.

These options are not necessarily mutually exclusive, a combination of one or more could be pursued. In doing so we urge the FPB to prioritize consistency with the spirit and letter of the law regarding

⁴ [bc_tfw_julymin_20190711.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

⁵ [Aug 2015 FPB mtg minutes \(wa.gov\)](#)

⁶ [WFPA_062722_Special_FP_B_Meeting_\(wa.gov\)](#)

⁷ [Watertyping_Recomm_page_6-7_050917.pdf](#)

⁸ [Board Manual Section 22, Part 3 \(wa.gov\)](#)

⁹ [WTcomrecomm_fpbmtg_20191113.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

substantive rule changes affecting aquatic resources and upholding the integrity of the FP HCP. One of the primary benefits of the FP HCP for private landowners is stability and predictability with rule changes only occurring through a rigorous, transparent, and collaborative AMP process¹⁰. Rule changes resulting from an ad hoc process undermines this key benefit and disincentivizes voluntary conservation agreements on private land.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, should you have any questions I can be reached at dcramer@wfpa.org or (360) 280-5425.

Sincerely,

Darin D. Cramer

Sr. Director of Forest & Environmental Policy

¹⁰ Rule changes may also occur through legislation and court order, [RCW 76.09.370\(6\)](#)

Broughton Lumber Company
PO Box 929
Bingen, WA 98605

August 9, 2022

Via Email

Washington Forest Practices Board
1111 Washington St SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

Re: Forest Practices Board AFF Rulemaking

Dear Forest Practices Board Members:

Broughton Lumber Company owns and manages approximately 23,500 ac of forestland in Skamania and Klickitat Counties in Washington. A significant portion of our ownership is composed of potential Northern Spotted owl habitat outside of any owl circles and, therefore, is currently available for harvest under Washington State Forest Practices Rules. In 2012, we invested in securing a federal Safe Harbor Agreement with an Enhancement of Survival Permit noticed in the Federal Register on August 21, 2012 ([77 FR 50526](#)) and issued to the on October 26, 2012. The term of the permit is 60 years.

As owners and investors in working forests that are managed under a federally-approved Safe Harbor Agreement, we appreciate the regulatory assurances and stability that these plans, agreements, and permits provide our business so that we can make long-term investments in conservation. That is the core benefit of our bargain made under Section 10 of the ESA. We provide conservation commitments and receive regulatory assurances. This is commonly referred to in ESA policies and regulations as “No Surprises.”

As stewards of Washington State’s Forest Practices HCP, we urge you to protect and uphold the similar, but unique bargain entered into by the State of Washington with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a programmatic and regulatory HCP governing the conservation of aquatic resources and species on over 9.3 million acres of working forests in Washington. Washington’s forest practices HCP is truly exceptional and a unique accomplishment that is a credit to the State of Washington and its timberland owners. It is structured to provide both regulatory assurances and conservation commitments at a remarkable scale.

For the Washington Forest Practices HCP, and for any HCP, SHA, or CCAA, the foundation of the exchange of conservation commitments for assurances is built on

certain terms and commitments that provide stability and predictability for management of complex natural resource systems and investments. Where there is uncertainty, there is also a structured scientific process for evaluating the effectiveness of the Forest Practices HCP relative to the condition of aquatic species and resources. It is called adaptive management, and it is an essential term in the conservation bargain for forest management in Washington.

The adaptive management procedures and terms of the Forest Practices HCP are a process that all parties to the HCP must complete as a pre-condition to consider any changes to forest practices regulations thought necessary for the conservation of aquatic species. It is a process required by law.

When implementing the Forest Practices HCP, it is important to recall that it has a fifty-year term during which assurances are provided without surprises for regulated forests. An ongoing stakeholder negotiation of HCP terms was never intended and any recommendations or requests to amend its terms must be firmly-grounded in the adaptive management process and criteria agreed to when the HCP was created.

We understand that the Forest Practices Board faces pressure from stakeholders who pursue strongly held beliefs that more conservation commitments should be extracted from working forests or expeditious reforms should be imposed on working forest managers, without the scientific determination resulting from the adaptive management process. These expectations can fuel well-intended agency imperatives to take action and move quickly in response to pressure, but the Board should resist any temptation to depart from the terms of the 50-year bargain. More can always be required of landowners, but that is not the deal. The principle and commitment of “No Surprises” should be upheld for the Forest Practices HCP just as it is for HCPs on private lands.

Consistent with the principles and history of federal and non-federal conservation partnerships established under the ESA Section 10 program, we urge the Board to ensure that the adaptive management requirements of the Forest Practices HCP are satisfied before taking action to amend forest practices regulations. Anything less will erode confidence in the ESA Section 10 conservation program, which has been very successful in recruiting investment in working forests in Washington state and non-federal landowners to make substantial, long-term commitments to conservation.

Sincerely,



Jason S. Spadaro
Manager
Broughton Lumber Company
jasons@nobleforestco.com



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Via Email

August 8, 2022

Washington Forest Practices Board
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PATRICIA.ANDERSON@dnr.wa.gov>

Re: Forest Practices Board AFF Rulemaking

Dear Forest Practices Board Members:

Green Diamond Resource Company owns or manages over 2.3 million acres in ten states. Since 1992, Green Diamond Resource Company has successfully developed or assumed, and implemented five federally approved Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), partial assignments creating three separate HCPs, two Safe Harbor Agreements (SHAs), and three Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs). We are currently developing two more SHAs and another HCP. Based on our experience, we believe in the conservation and compliance benefits of plans and permits developed and approved under Section 10 of the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As owners and investors in working forests that are managed under federally approved HCPs, SHAs and CCAAs, we appreciate the regulatory assurances and stability that these plans, agreements, and permits provide our business so that we can make long-term investments in conservation. That is the core benefit of our bargain made under Section 10 of the ESA. We provide conservation commitments and receive regulatory assurances. This is commonly referred to in ESA policies and regulations as "No Surprises."

As stewards of Washington State's Forest Practices HCP, we urge you to protect and uphold the similar, but unique bargain entered into by the State of Washington with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a programmatic and regulatory HCP governing the conservation of aquatic resources and species on over 9 million acres of working forests in Washington. Washington's forest practices HCP is truly exceptional and a unique accomplishment that is a credit to the State of Washington and its timberland owners. It is structured to provide both regulatory assurances and conservation commitments at a remarkable scale.

For the Washington Forest Practices HCP, and for any HCP, SHA, or CCAA, the foundation of the exchange of conservation commitments for assurances is built on definitive terms and commitments that provide stability and predictability for management of complex natural resource systems and investments. Where there is uncertainty, there is also a structured scientific process for evaluating the effectiveness of the Forest Practices HCP relative to the

condition of aquatic species and resources. This process is called adaptive management, and it is an essential term in the conservation bargain for forest management in Washington.

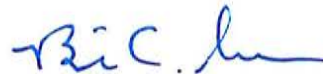
The adaptive management procedures and terms of the Forest Practices HCP are a process that all parties to the HCP must complete as a pre-condition to consider any changes to forest practices regulations thought necessary for the conservation of aquatic species. It is a process required by law.

When implementing the Forest Practices HCP, it is important to recall that it has a fifty-year term during which assurances are provided without regulatory surprises for regulated resource owners and managers. An ongoing stakeholder renegotiation of HCP terms was never intended and any recommendations or requests to amend its terms must be firmly grounded in the adaptive management process and criteria agreed to when the HCP was created.

We understand that the Forest Practices Board faces pressure from stakeholders who pursue strongly held beliefs that more conservation commitments should be extracted from working forests or expeditious reforms should be imposed on working forest managers without the scientific basis required in adaptive management. These expectations can fuel well-intended agency imperatives to take action and move quickly in response to pressure, but the Board should resist any temptation to depart from the terms of the 50-year bargain. More can always be required of landowners, but the HCP requires that adjustments to the forest practices rules be completed through the adaptive management process. The principle of sticking to the terms of the HCP and its assurance of "No Surprises" should be upheld for the Forest Practices HCP just as it is for other HCPs, CCAAs, and SHAs on private lands.

Consistent with the principles and history of federal and non-federal conservation partnerships established under the ESA Section 10 program, we urge the Board to ensure that the adaptive management requirements of the Forest Practices HCP are satisfied before taking action to amend forest practices regulations. Anything less will erode confidence in the ESA Section 10 program that has been very successful in promoting investment in Washington's working forests and in recruiting non-federal landowners to make substantial, long-term commitments to conservation.

Sincerely,



Brian Saylor,
Vice President, General Manager

CC: Jason Spadero, Executive Director, WFPA

From: [Ashlie Laydon](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Water typing rule
Date: Friday, July 22, 2022 3:27:53 PM

External Email

Good afternoon,

[WAC 222-16-030](#), Water typing system, states that until the fish habitat water type maps described in the rule are adopted by the forest practices board, the interim water typing system established in [WAC 222-16-031](#) will continue to be used. These rules were adopted in 2001 (WSR [01-12-042](#)).

"Water typing system" was listed on the [semi-annual agenda](#) last published in the Washington State Register in 2020. I don't see a current agenda posted in the WSR or on the Board's website. The agenda stated that the Board was "engaged in rule development" however, the rule has already been developed. It is clear in rule that what is needed is fish habitat water type maps:

"The maps will be based on a multiparameter, field-verified geographic information system (GIS) logistic regression model. The multiparameter model will be designed to identify fish habitat by using geomorphic parameters such as basin size, gradient, elevation and other indicators. The modeling process shall be designed to achieve a level of statistical accuracy of 95% in separating fish habitat streams and nonfish habitat streams. Furthermore, the demarcation of fish and nonfish habitat waters shall be equally likely to over and under estimate the presence of fish habitat."

Forest Practices Applications/Notifications are currently using the terminology (Type S, F, Np, Ns) from WAC 230-16-030. Counties, such as the one I reside in, cite to WAC 230-16-030 in their [ordinances](#) for water typing.

Has the Board adopted fish habitat water type maps? If not, what is the timeline? There are many other rules in Title 222 WAC that need attention, not to mention many chapters of the Forest Practices Board Manual that need to be updated or drafted entirely.

Sincerely,

Ashlie Laydon

August 9, 2022

To: Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Forest Practices Board
Public comment submitted for the Board's August 10, 2022 Meeting

From: Martin McCallum


I am a long time resident of Thurston County. I am writing to express my support for DNR revising its permitting rules so that the clearcut timber harvesting just allowed at Cooper Crest would **not** be allowed in the future.

I enjoy hiking the public trails at Grass Lake Park (the headwater-origin of Green Cove Creek) and I have watched salmon spawn in Green Cove Creek. Green Cover Creek is ranked high in Thurston County's stream recovery plan and it is rated as a high priority stream by WRIA 13 (Water Resource Inventory Area). I have heard Squaxin Island Tribe leadership and Natural Resources staff express their particular interest in enhancing Green Cove Creek for salmon protection and recovery. Salmon spawning and rearing in Green Cove Creek require that the creek's water runs cold, clear, and constant. The watershed's highlands and wetlands contribute to these survival demands.

Forests stands in Cooper Crest have been and are part of the forest canopy mosaic supporting Green Cove Creek and even though the ravine in the Cooper Crest parcel that has just been cut did not often supply above-ground water, the water flows, as you know, under ground.

I object to DNR permitting the clearcut at Cooper Crest. **I support** the following twelve (12) statements prepared by Cooper Crest neighbors and friends:

1. Residents had no meaningful opportunity to challenge the Forest Practice Application (FPA). There was no notice to adjacent properties and the clearcut was completed before the appeal period had even ended.
2. A stream was crossed out from an official map without any supporting documentation despite DNR having such procedures in place. This allowed the clearcutting of an environmentally sensitive area without any environmental review.

3. This unwritten policy is apparently used all over the state. This is a direct threat to watersheds across the state in an era of increasing drought and directly contradicts the Governor's climate change goals.

4. Data and documents from the City of Olympia disputing the facts entered on the FPA about the stream, wetlands and steep slopes on site were ignored. A recognized critical area was downgraded into a site class that needed no environmental review before logging.

5. If the stream truly "did not exist", DNR had a duty to report it since the Green Cove Creek is listed as an impaired body of water that drains into Budd Inlet and Eld Inlet, both of which are also federally protected impaired bodies of water.

6. DNR failed to consider the downstream impacts of clearcutting on the headwaters of a watershed with a high pressure aquifer that already is the cause of frequent flooding.

7. DNR failed to consider the effects of the logging on in-stream flows in the Green Cove Creek.

8. DNR failed to consider the inevitable increased stormwater runoff from this clearcut site on endangered fish habitat downstream that the County is spending millions to restore.

9. DNR failed to consider that this area was a wildlife corridor. Since the clearcut, bears, coyotes and cougars have been spotted in the adjoining Goldcrest residential neighborhood.

10. DNR effectively transferred the resources of riparian zones belonging to the people of the State of Washington to private hands by ignoring its own maps and other evidence easily obtainable from the City and County.

11. DNR failed to consider the cumulative effects of the adjacent toxic waste site listed under the Model Toxics Control Act which discharges runoff to the Cooper Crest site, and for which DNR has records of

unenforced mining violations stretching back 50 years.

12. DNR failed to consider its own Geological records showing a fault line that goes through this area making the site seismically unstable, as well as inherently unstable because of the nature of its highly saturated soils.

The twelve statements listed above are serious concerns that need to be addressed by the DNR Forest Practices Board as it works to update and improve its agency rules for the benefit of all state residents and birds and animals.


I ask that you give my recommendations your fullest consideration. Thank you.

From: [Desdra Dawning](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Clear Cutting
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 8:06:59 PM

External Email

Dear board members, the folks at Oly Ecosystems have clearly done their work to try and save our forests and watersheds. I include here the information they have gathered, because it is vital that your board educate yourselves about this crucial issue. I am a recent transplant from the arid SW, and am passionate about the need for us all to become stewards of this land, and quit seeing our forests as merely board feet of lumber. Please take this information to heart!

Sincerely,
Desdra Dawning

- 
1. Residents had no meaningful opportunity to challenge the Forest Practice Application (FPA). There was no notice to adjacent properties and the clearcut was completed before the appeal period had even ended.
 2. A stream was crossed out from an official map without any supporting documentation despite DNR having such procedures in place. This allowed the clearcutting of an environmentally sensitive area without any environmental review.
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 4. Data and documents from the City of Olympia disputing the facts entered on the FPA about the stream, wetlands and steep slopes on site were ignored. A recognized critical area was downgraded into a site class that needed no environmental review before logging.
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8. DNR failed to consider the inevitable increased stormwater runoff from this clearcut site on endangered fish habitat downstream that the County is spending millions to restore.
9. DNR failed to consider that this area was a wildlife corridor. Since the clearcut, bears, coyotes and cougars have been spotted in the adjoining Goldcrest residential neighborhood.
10. DNR effectively transferred the resources of riparian zones belonging to the people of the State of Washington to private hands by ignoring its own maps and other evidence easily obtainable from the City and County.
11. DNR failed to consider the cumulative effects of the adjacent toxic waste site listed under the Model Toxics Control Act which discharges runoff to the Cooper Crest site, and for which DNR has records of unenforced mining violations stretching back 50 years.
12. DNR failed to consider its own Geological records showing a fault line that goes through this area making the site seismically unstable, as well as inherently unstable because of the nature of its highly saturated soils.

“The mind creates the abyss,
the heart crosses it.”

~SRI NISARGADATTA
MAHARAJ~

From: [Meghan Hopkins](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Comments for August meeting
Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 8:13:42 AM

External Email

Regarding Cooper Crest clear cut. These practices are problematic and need a review and correction.

Thank you,
Meghan Hopkins

1. Residents had no meaningful opportunity to challenge the Forest Practice Application (FPA). There was no notice to adjacent properties and the clearcut was completed before the appeal period had even ended.
2. A stream was crossed out from an official map without any supporting documentation despite DNR having such procedures in place. This allowed the clearcutting of an environmentally sensitive area without any environmental review.
3. This unwritten policy is apparently used all over the state. This is a direct threat to watersheds across the state in an era of increasing drought and directly contradicts the Governor's climate change goals.
4. Data and documents from the City of Olympia disputing the facts entered on the FPA about the stream, wetlands and steep slopes on site were ignored. A recognized critical area was downgraded into a site class that needed no environmental review before logging.
5. If the stream truly "did not exist", DNR had a duty to report it since the Green Cove Creek is listed as an impaired body of water that drains into Budd Inlet and Eld Inlet, both of which are also federally protected impaired bodies of water.
6. DNR failed to consider the downstream impacts of clearcutting on the headwaters of a watershed with a high pressure aquifer that already is the cause of frequent flooding.
7. DNR failed to consider the effects of the logging on in-stream flows in the Green Cove Creek.
8. DNR failed to consider the inevitable increased stormwater runoff from this clearcut site on endangered fish habitat downstream that the County is spending millions to restore.
9. DNR failed to consider that this area was a wildlife corridor. Since the clearcut, bears, coyotes and cougars have been spotted in the adjoining Goldcrest residential neighborhood.
10. DNR effectively transferred the resources of riparian zones belonging to the people of the State of Washington to private hands by ignoring its own maps and other evidence easily obtainable from the City and County.

11. DNR failed to consider the cumulative effects of the adjacent toxic waste site listed under the Model Toxics Control Act which discharges runoff to the Cooper Crest site, and for which DNR has records of unenforced mining violations stretching back 50 years.

12. DNR failed to consider its own Geological records showing a fault line that goes through this area making the site seismically unstable, as well as inherently unstable because of the nature of its highly saturated soils.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DNR NEPT BOARD](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments for upcoming Forest Practices Board August 10 meeting
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 7:37:27 AM

External Email

To the Forest Practices Board,

I am writing to provide comments prior to your quarterly meeting.

I am very unhappy with the recent logging near Cooper Point Road and 20th in Olympia.

It's unbelievable to me that there was essentially no public process around this logging, an area adjacent to city property and within the urban growth boundary. The logging was completed before the appeal period ended; that's ridiculous. I urge you to change the rules so this doesn't happen again.

In addition, it doesn't appear that the DNR considered the impacts from this logging operation on important environmental functions, including:

- A stream was evidently crossed out from an official map without documentation, contrary to DNR rules; this shouldn't be happening here or other places.
- City of Olympia data and documents dispute what was stated in the FPA regarding the stream, wetlands, and steep slopes.
- Impacts on an important recharge area weren't considered.
- Impacts to the area serving as a wildlife corridor weren't considered.

I look forward to seeing how DNR modifies their policies and procedures so this type of thing doesn't happen again.

- Karol Erickson
[REDACTED] (Goldcrest neighborhood.)

From: [maureen.canny](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Cooper Crest and regulation review
Date: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 8:54:01 AM

External Email

Dear Forest Practices Board,

I ask that you review the Forest Practices regulations related to the Cooper Crest clearcut in Olympia. If the allegations are true, there were several irregularities in that application and its approval that need to be seriously scrutinized.

Thank you for your timely attention to this matter,

Maureen Canny

Olympia

From: [Roberta Adams](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Cooper Crest Clear Cut
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 3:38:10 PM

External Email

I am writing to urge the Forest Practices Board to make and enforce rules for timber harvesting in order to avoid the kind of clearcutting that occurred at Cooper Crest.

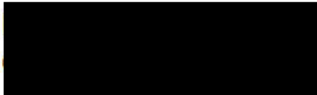
In this instance, DNR effectively transferred the resources of riparian zones belonging to the people of the State of Washington to private hands by ignoring its own maps and other evidence easily obtainable from the City of Olympia and Thurston County.

Also, DNR failed to consider its own Geological records showing a fault line that goes through this area, making the site seismically unstable, as well as inherently unstable because of the nature of its highly saturated soils.

I urge the Forest Practices Board to ensure that such irresponsible clearcutting never again is allowed in our Washington State forests.

Thank you.

Roberta Adams



From: [Maria Ruth](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Cooper Crest Clearcut
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 7:55:39 AM

External Email

To whom it may concern:

I am writing as a resident of Olympia and community member to express my disappointment and outrage about the process—or lack of process—that allowed the urban forest at Cooper Crest to be logged.

At a time when our community is working to protect our local watersheds, water quality, wildlife species, wildlife corridors, wetlands, native plants, soil integrity, and air quality—we should have been given the opportunity to challenge the Forest Practices Application and the time to collaborate with stakeholders to develop a win-win to protect this property.

The *Thurston Climate Action Plan*, which Olympia City Council has committed our community to adopting, makes the protection of our urban forests and tree canopy one of its highest priorities. We cannot achieve the goals of this plan when current Forest Practices allow DNR to turn a blind eye to the devastating environmental impacts of such clear cuts.

With sloppy mapping of streams, lack of wildlife documentation, and failure to consider the environmental impacts of the logging in this environmentally sensitive area is irresponsible. The DNR and the City of Olympia have set a shameful precedent for allowing developers to skirt a meaningful environmental review and to take advantage of Forest Practice policies that are poorly applied and/or completely ignored.

I urge you to conduct a thorough review of the loopholes, oversights, gaps in communication, and other easily avoidable errors in the Forest Practices policies that allowed the mature forest at Cooper Crest to be converted into a wasteland of slash piles and eroding soils when opportunities to thoughtfully harvest or avoid harvest altogether existed.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Maria M. Ruth
Olympia, WA

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Fw: comment for Aug 10 2022 meeting: Cooper Crest clearcut
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:59:19 PM

External Email

From: STEPHEN and ANN WADE <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:55 PM
To: forestpracticesboard@dnr.wa.gov <forestpracticesboard@dnr.wa.gov>
Subject: comment for Aug 10 2022 meeting: Cooper Crest clearcut

While I respect the benefits (to a landowner) of sustainably harvesting trees, I am troubled by what appears to be a failure to evaluate the harms (to that same land owned, and to the lands of neighbors, and to the associated aquatic environment which is not owned but trusted to the protection of the state) of the action that took place along Cooper Point Road. This failure appears to be deliberate rather than accidental: procedures that are prescribed to allow other interests than those of the harvester to be considered were not followed. In particular, cutting was started and finished before a public comment period was complete. Further, apparently the facts on the ground were ignored where convenient (stream? what stream?). The appearance is that the supposed regulator aided a private grab-for-gain.

Some say that this is common practice, and that the supposed regulator is in fact corrupt and routinely in collusion with the timber harvesting industry. I hope that this is not so, and that you will prove that it is not so. The failure on Cooper Point has certainly focused attention on your future performance.

Sincerely,

Stephen Wade

[REDACTED]

From: [R & M Tompkins](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Cooper Crest Destroyed
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 7:35:47 PM

External Email

Dear Board Members:

Writing to express shock and outrage in learning about the destructive logging you allowed at Cooper Crest. It's completely unbelievable that an important and (I thought) protected area could be clearcut like this.

Please find a way to protect, not just profit from, our limited Natural areas.

Respectfully,
Randy Tompkins

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DARRIN H. BOZAN](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments for upcoming Forest Practices Board August 10 meeting
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 7:37:27 AM

External Email

To the Forest Practices Board,

I am writing to provide comments prior to your quarterly meeting.

I am very unhappy with the recent logging near Cooper Point Road and 20th in Olympia.

It's unbelievable to me that there was essentially no public process around this logging, an area adjacent to city property and within the urban growth boundary. The logging was completed before the appeal period ended; that's ridiculous. I urge you to change the rules so this doesn't happen again.

In addition, it doesn't appear that the DNR considered the impacts from this logging operation on important environmental functions, including:

- A stream was evidently crossed out from an official map without documentation, contrary to DNR rules; this shouldn't be happening here or other places.
- City of Olympia data and documents dispute what was stated in the FPA regarding the stream, wetlands, and steep slopes.
- Impacts on an important recharge area weren't considered.
- Impacts to the area serving as a wildlife corridor weren't considered.

I look forward to seeing how DNR modifies their policies and procedures so this type of thing doesn't happen again.

- Karol Erickson
[REDACTED] (Goldcrest neighborhood.)

From: [Marianne Tompkins](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: DNR-Forest Practices in Washington State
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 4:29:32 PM

External Email

The clear cutting that has occurred at Cooper Crest has me shocked and alarmed. I am writing to ask for changes to DNR's current forest practices.

Regarding the Cooper Crest logging:

- There was no notice to adjacent properties and the clearcut was completed before the appeal period had even ended.
- A stream was crossed out from an official map without any supporting documentation despite DNR having such procedures in place. This allowed the clearcutting of an environmentally sensitive area without any environmental review.
- This unwritten policy is apparently used all over the state. This is a direct threat to watersheds across the state in an era of increasing drought, and it directly contradicts the Governor's climate change goals.
- Data and documents from the City of Olympia disputing the facts entered on the FPA about the stream, wetlands and steep slopes on site were ignored. A recognized critical area was downgraded into a site class that needed no environmental review before logging.
- If the stream truly "did not exist", DNR had a duty to report it since the Green Cove Creek is listed as an impaired body of water that drains into Budd Inlet and Eld Inlet, both of which are also federally protected impaired bodies of water.
- DNR failed to consider the downstream impacts of clearcutting on the headwaters of a watershed with a high pressure aquifer that already is the cause of frequent flooding.
- DNR failed to consider the effects of the logging on in-stream flows in the Green Cove Creek.
- DNR failed to consider the inevitable increased stormwater runoff from this clearcut site on endangered fish habitat downstream that the County is spending millions to restore.
- DNR failed to consider that this area was a wildlife corridor. Since the clearcut, bears, coyotes and cougars have been spotted in the adjoining Goldcrest residential neighborhood.
- DNR effectively transferred the resources of riparian zones belonging to the people of the State of Washington to private hands by ignoring its own maps and other evidence easily obtainable from the City and County.
- DNR failed to consider the cumulative effects of the adjacent toxic waste site listed under the Model Toxics Control Act which discharges runoff to the Cooper Crest site, and for which DNR has records of unenforced mining violations

stretching back 50 years.

- DNR failed to consider its own Geological records showing a fault line that goes through this area making the site seismically unstable, as well as inherently unstable because of the nature of its highly saturated soils.

Critical areas are mapped using careful, scientifically based criteria. Each kind of critical area protects a vital part of the public interest – preventing floods that devastate human settlements and farmland; identifying areas with unstable soils that could lead to landslides; conserving wetlands that filter pollution, offer flood control and protect wildlife; and preserving river basins that contribute to clean and plentiful groundwater/ drinking water and preserve endangered species such as salmon.

I have acreage, mostly wetland/ critical area in Olympia. I have invested in wetland reports, compliance reports, protection and restoration. My property has a non-developable parcel behind me that my neighbors own. The same seasonal creek from my property flows on my neighbors land and all the way into Zangle Cove (Puget Sound). I purchased this acreage because I know I will protect it, but

I also have to rely on the integrity and honesty of neighbors so my land is protected, the seasonal creek is protected, and Puget Sound is protected. Everything in nature is connected. The damage that has happened to Cooper Crest will be felt all around the area. This should not have happened, and it scares me it will happen again if things do not change.

All of us have a responsibility to protect our natural resources. Please make changes to DNR's current forest practices that puts protection and climate change first.

Thank you,

Marianne Tompkins

From: [Susan and Joe](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Logging at Cooper Crest
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 9:23:24 PM

External Email

We heard about the plans to log a piece of land off 20th and Cooper Point on June 25th and attended a demonstration opposing it on June 27th. We were told the appeal period would end in a few days (in early July). We were very surprised to hear that DNR had already accepted the proposal and the logging was beginning that day.

There are several issues that concern us about how this process was carried out. Does the appeal period have no real meaning? The area logged is adjacent to a lovely trail (a city of Olympia park). Was there any consideration made of how the clearcut will affect this park?

We believe there should be a change in how DNR permits logging within urban and suburban areas. There should be a real opportunity for those affected to review and make comments before the permit is accepted.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Susan Southwick and Joe Joy

From: [Samuel Merrill](#)
To: [DNR RE FP BOARD](#)
Subject: Objection to clear-cut in Green Cove Creek watershed in Olympia - Tributary was crossed out from official map without documentation
Date: Sunday, August 7, 2022 4:44:13 PM

External Email

I live in the Green Cove Creek watershed in Olympia and I am writing to object to how the Cooper Crest Clear-cut in the Green Cove Creek watershed was done:

Without notice to adjacent properties, the **clear-cut was completed before the appeal period had even ended**. There was **no meaningful opportunity to challenge** the Forest Practice Application (FPA).

A tributary to Green Cove Creek was **crossed out from an official map without documentation**. This is contrary to DNR procedures and dishonest. This allowed the clear-cutting of an environmentally sensitive area without any environmental review.

The logger, Silvimantle LLC, claims this unwritten policy is used all over the state and is a "common practice" that has been used hundreds of times over 35 years. **Is that actually true? If that is even partly true, it would be a direct and illegal threat to watersheds across the state.**

Sincerely,

Samuel Merrill

