January 18, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Jim Hotvedt, Adaptive Management Program Administrator

SUBJECT: Status of Selected CMER Studies

If all goes well, final reports of a number of CMER studies should be ready for Independent Science Peer Review (ISPR) in the next few months. The following summarizes the status and purpose of these projects.

FPA DFC Desktop Analysis

The FPA DFC (Forest Practices Application, Desired Future Condition) Desktop Analysis study is very near completion and should go to CMER for approval early this year. Responses to ISPR comments are currently being incorporated into the final Field Check and Desktop Analysis reports.

This study is part of a larger group of DFC Validation Program studies under the Type F Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group. This project was intended to determine how Westside Type F prescriptions are being applied by landowners, and to evaluate the effect of various riparian prescription options and constraints on timber available for current harvest and on projected future basal area (DFC). Forest & Fish Policy requested CMER to complete an office (desktop) analysis of a random set of FPAs that had active management of the inner zone and to conduct a field-verification project on a sub-sample of those FPAs.

Road Sub-basin Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Study

The final draft report for the Road Sub-basin Scale Effectiveness Project was recently approved by CMER and is now ready for ISPR.

This study falls under the Roads Sub-basin Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Program under the Roads Rule Group. The purpose of the study is to provide data that can be used to assess the degree to which sub-basin scale performance targets, and therefore resource objectives, are being met throughout the state. In particular, it reports on the effectiveness of the Forest Practices Rules in improving conditions that are known to lead to fine sediment input to fish-bearing streams from surface erosion. It also characterizes the extent of road conditions that reduce surface erosion (e.g., improved surfacing and reduced runoff to streams).

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

Draft final reports for this group of status and trend studies are currently being finalized and are expected to be approved by CMER in the next few months. The three reports are expected to be sent to ISPR by May or June.

These studies fall under the Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring Programs under the Type N and Type F riparian prescriptions rule groups. 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 and S stream temperatures across FP HCP lands in Western and Eastern Washington, and across Type Np FP HCP lands in Eastern Washington, as well as to identify trends over time. The timing of the second sampling has not been scheduled, but should not occur within the next few years to allow time for the expected changes in canopy cover and stream temperature to occur.

Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity, and Function (BCIF) Project

A draft report for the BCIF project is expected to go to CMER in the next few months. This project is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Westside Type N riparian prescriptions, including survival of buffer leave trees, changes in stand condition and trajectory over time, and changes in riparian functions (shade, LWD recruitment, and stream bank protection).

In addition to these soon-to-be-completed studies, CMER is in the final stages of completing study designs for new projects. These include the Eastside Type N Characterization Project - Forest Hydrology Study and the Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness – Pilot Study. The final study design for the "Hydrology" study recently went through ISPR, was revised, and has been accepted by CMER. It is ready for consideration as a new FY11 study by Policy and the Forest Practices Board. A draft study design for the Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness Study should be forwarded to CMER for review in the next couple months. It also could be ready for consideration as a new FY11 study.

Discussions are currently occurring within WetSAG and CMER to determine the feasibility of expediting Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness - Pilot Study for use in applying for a recently announced EPA $4.5 million Puget Sound Scientific Studies and Technical Investigations Assistance Program. Although not as far along, CMER is also discussing the feasibility of expediting the Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Study in Incompetent Lithologies for use as a potential EPA project. Both studies will have to go through the FFR Policy and CMER consensus processes before being submitted to EPA no later than March 2.

JH/

January 20, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Walt Obermeyer, Compliance Monitoring Program Administrator WAO

SUBJECT: Status of Compliance Monitoring

2009 Sampling

The 2009 sampling season was completed in December. That sampling included the standard sample and a wetlands emphasis sample for a total of 175 applications observed and valid for analysis.

Clean Water Assurances

In October the DNR received the finalized version of the Clean Water Assurances (CWA) Milestones from the Department of Ecology. Of the twenty-one individual milestones, six are directly related to compliance monitoring and three of those addressed below had due dates set within 2009. Because of the number of milestones division set up a process to deal with them to avoid early misunderstandings requiring rework. The process front loads work and meetings with Ecology staff to assure a common understanding of what is necessary to fulfill each milestone and sets up a schedule of tasks for their completion.

The first Compliance Monitoring milestone due was the charter for the Compliance Monitoring Stakeholder Committee. The charter had been adopted by the committee in August and provided to board members within the last month. The Department of Ecology considers this milestone completed.

The rule element sampling milestone focuses on establishing a plan instituting compliance monitoring strategies to address water typing, shade, wetlands and haul routes. These strategies are to be addressed in the plan and completion is expected February 12. The planning for the milestone will be discussed with the stakeholder committee at the end of February.

The dispute resolution milestone has the goal of reviewing existing dispute resolution processes for field disputes and establishing procedures that will resolve disputes and reduce similar disputes in the future. This affects both compliance monitoring and operations. A set of tasks was agreed to and the expected completion is the end of January.

2010 Program Work Preparation

Other program work has included editing of the program document to clarify procedures and protocols and establish a modular format to include additional sample designs without extensive editing. The 2010 population of applications has been defined and the sample is being selected. Field sampling is expected to begin in February. The Compliance Monitoring Stakeholder committee will be considering program development work for 2010 including elements of the CWA milestones at its next meeting.

WO/

MEMORANDUM

January 24, 2010

TO: Forest Practices Board

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

SUBJECT: 2010 Rule Making Schedule

Following is an update on rule making activity.

Riparian Open Space – The 2009 Legislature passed Second Substitute Senate Bill 5401 which expands the Riparian Open Space Program to include the acquisition of forest lands containing "critical habitat" for threatened or endangered species as designated by the Board. A CR101 was filed in August 2009. Staff is working with a stakeholder group to develop rule language.

Northern Spotted Owl – Staff will request your approval to file a CR-102 to continue permanent rule making and adopt a new emergency rule.

All other rule making on your work plan is scheduled to begin at the May meeting.

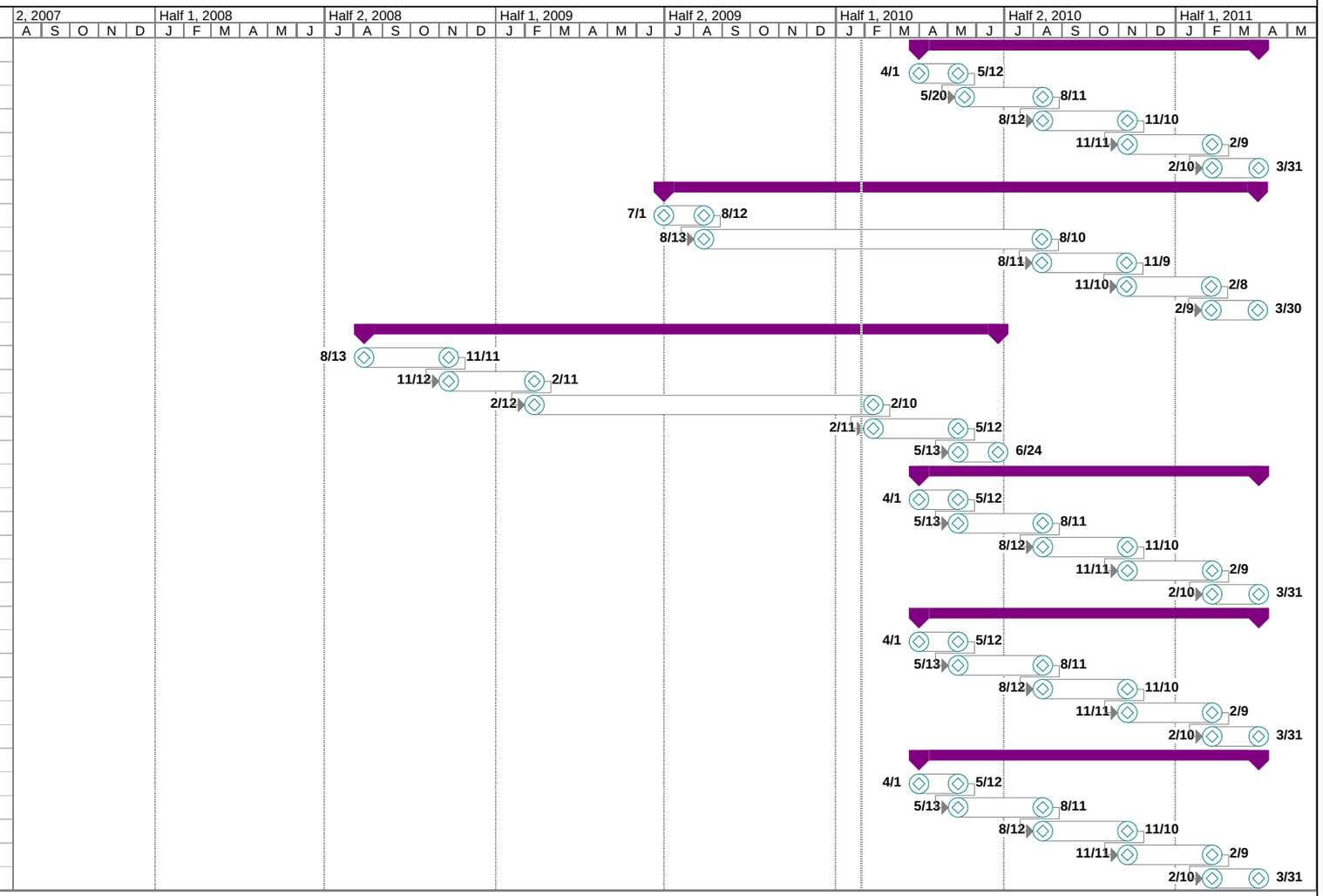
Also attached is an updated 2010 Work Plan as a result of your November 2009 planning meeting.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Patricia Anderson at 360.902.1413. Also, I will be happy to answer any questions at the February meeting.

paa\
Attachment

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
2010 Rule Making Schedule

ID	Task Name		
1	**Conversion Activites & Restructure-Chapters 222-20 & 46 WAC**		
2	CR101	4/1	5/12
3	30 day notice	5/20	8/11
4	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	8/12	11/10
5	CR103	11/11	2/9
6	Estimated effective date	2/10	3/31
7	**Riparian Open Space-222-23**		
8	CR101	7/1	8/12
9	30 day notice	8/13	8/10
10	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	8/11	11/9
11	CR103	11/10	2/8
12	Estimated effective date	2/9	3/30
13	**NSO Permanent**		
14	CR101	8/13	11/11
15	30 day Notice	11/12	2/11
16	Supplemental CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	2/12	2/10
17	CR103	2/11	5/12
18	Estimated effective date	5/13	6/24
19	**Notice of FP to Affected Indian Tribes-222-20-120**		
20	CR101	4/1	5/12
21	30 day notice	5/13	8/11
22	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	8/12	11/10
23	CR103	11/11	2/9
24	Estimated effective date	2/10	3/31
25	**Trees and Houses-222-16-050, -16.010**		
26	CR101	4/1	5/12
27	30 day notice	5/13	8/11
28	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	8/12	11/10
29	CR103	11/11	2/9
30	Estimated effective date	2/10	3/31
31	**Lands Platted-Chapter 20, 222-16-050, -16-010**		
32	CR101	4/1	5/12
33	30 day notice	5/13	8/11
34	CR102 (CBA, SBEIS, SEPA)	8/12	11/10
35	CR103	11/11	2/9
36	Estimated effective date	2/10	3/31



FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
2010 WORK PLAN

TASK	COMPLETION DATE	STATUS
2011 Work Planning	November 9	
Adaptive Management Program		
Funding	On-going	
CMER 2011 Work Plan and Budget	May 11	
Annual Reports		
Cultural Resources Committee Annual Report	August 11	
Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Report	February 10	
Forests and Fish Policy Priorities	August 11	
Board Manual Development		
Section 7, RMZ (DFC)	February 10	
Section 18, Riparian Open Space and Critical Habitat Conservation Easement Program	February 10	
Section 21, fixed width and conifer templates	February 10	
Rule Making		
Trees & Houses		
Conversion Activities (implement 2007 legislation and clean-up)		
Riparian Open Space and Critical Habitat Conservation Easement Program	August 11	
Lands platted (depending on legislation)		
Northern Spotted Owl	May 11	
Notice of Forest Practice to Affected Indian Tribes		
Upland Wildlife	February 10	
Quarterly Reports		
Board Manual Development	Each regular meeting	
Adaptive Management Program & Strategic Plan Implementation	Each regular meeting	
Rule Making Activities	Each regular meeting	
Compliance Monitoring	Each regular meeting	
Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee & Office	Each regular meeting	
Legislative Update	February 10 & May 11	
Watershed Analysis Mass Wasting Prescriptions Committee	February 10	
Clean Water Act Assurances	Each regular meeting	
NSO Policy Working Group	February 10	

January 26, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Mary McDonald, FP Division SFLO Manager

SUBJECT: Small Forest Landowner Office and Advisory Committee

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee: The commissioner appointed Tammie Perreault to the Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee to replace Dennis Dart's appointment. Tammie's appointment is thru June 2012. Current members on the committee are: from the small landowner caucus: Acting Chairman-Phil Hess, Maurice Williamson, Ken Miller, David Whipple (WDFW), Mark Hicks (Ecology) and Jeffery Thomas (Puyallup Tribe) and Nancy Sturhan (NWIFC). The committee is focused on the hardwood conversion/conifer restoration alternate plan template. The caucuses are reviewing the latest draft with their constituents. The basis for this template is the current forest practice hardwood conversion rule and the results from the alternate plan hardwood conversion review completed in 2008.

Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP): There are 278 easements purchased through the Forestry Riparian Easement Program between January 2001 and June 2009. There are currently 81 applications for FREP unfunded. The program has protected 4,303 acres of streamside forest. This number includes RMZ, CMZ, WMZ. FREP statistics follow:

Area of forest land in FREP

Type of Protected Areas	Acres
RMZ	2,437.8
CMZ	1,387.9
WMZ	477.4
Unstable	546.9
Uneconomic	88.3
Total	4,938.3

Forest Streamside under FREP

Stream attributes	Length (feet)	Length (miles)
Single side of fish bearing stream	319,037.3	60.4
Both sides of fish bearing stream	369,950.2	70.1
Single side of non-fish bearing stream	12,272.5	2.3
Both sides of non-fish bearing stream	125,535.1	23.8
Total	826,795.1	156.6

Forest Stewardship Program

- Forest Owners Field Days held in Republic and Concrete in summer 2009 attended by over 600 landowners.
- Joint Forest Owners Field Day with Idaho scheduled for June 12 near Coeur d' Alene.
- Providing technical assistance and forest health/wildfire-related cost-share funds in Eastern Washington (funded entirely by USDA Forest Service National Fire Plan and Forest Health funds).
- DNR currently exploring the potential to partner with WSU Extension for possible Westside technical assistance options.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program:

- 2009 construction season: 29 of the proposed 31 barriers were corrected with 40 miles of habitat were opened.
- Budgeted for 1st period of the biennium for barrier correction were $2.47 million. The economy's recession provided lower bids on materials and work for the 2009 construction period. The savings between actual and estimated is estimated at $550,000. This money will be allocated for projects in the second period of the biennium.
- 2010 construction season is scheduled to complete 28 barrier corrections opening 65 miles of habitat. The estimated cost for 2010 is $2.4 million
- Five stream crossing abandonments projects are funded in 2010. This is the highest proportion of abandonments during a construction year to date.

Long Term Application (LTA) Program Progress beginning 10/2007- 1/1/10

DECISION	LTA1	LTA2	Total by Decision
CLOSED	1	2	3
REVIEW	2	1	3
APPROVED	0	32	32
Total by Step	**3**	**35**	**38**

The LTA is a 2 step process before a decision is made.

Please contact me at 360-902-1415 or mary.mcdonald@dnr.wa.gov for any questions.

January 19, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Timber/Fish/Wildlife Cultural Resources Committee Co-Chairs-

Jeffrey Thomas, Puyallup Tribe of Indians

Pete Heide, Washington Forest Protection Association

SUBJECT: Quarterly Report of Timber/Fish/Wildlife Cultural Resources Committee

The Timber/Fish/Wildlife (TFW) Cultural Resources Committee (Committee) is pleased to submit the following quarterly report to the Forest Practices Board as requested by the Board.

The report is in the form of the Committee's Action Items list. This list is reviewed every month by the Committee and updated to reflect current activities.

We look forward to your February 10, 2010 meeting and answering any questions you may have. In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us:

jthomas@puyallupfisheries.org and (253) 845-9225

pheide@wfpa.org and (360) 352-1500

Enc.

TFW Cultural Resource Commitee					Dec-09	
Priority		**Action Items**	**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
High	1	Approach the Forest Practices Board about the official standing of the CR committee and operational funding and/of staff support	Allyson			Advance the Committee's work
		Prepare a letter to the FPB		Complete		
		Contact John Mankowski regarding state responsibility for NHPA compliance under the state's FPHCP		In progress	Second conversation w/Mankowski	
		Develop and approve a draft charter for the TFW Culture Resource Committee	Tammi	Complete	Meet with Commissioner Goldmark to discuss the draft.	
		Contact individual FP Board members to "champion" CR Committee issues		In progress	Encourage the establishment of a CR rep on the FPB	
High	2	Prepare the cultural resource guidance documents or a manual as agreed to in the CRPMP	Jeffrey		Seek a funding source to help the committee with this task	Educational Program and Commitments
		Scope the guidance/manual project to develop a detailed description and outline of the proposed guidance or manual.		In progress	Scoping workshop re-scheduled for February 16	
		Work procucts:1) Guidance for TFW stakeholders, 2) Guidance specific to forest landowners, and 3)guidance specific to Tribes.		Not started		
High	3	Improve knowledge and use of the GLO information to identify historic features recognized during 19th century land surveys.	Committee	In progress	Take up this issue as an education topic for agencies and landowners.	Educational Program and Commitments
Medium	4	Individual caucuses will support funding in the biennium 12-13 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	On hold	Retry during next biennial budget cycle	DNR Forest Practices Program support
Medium	5	Consider revising to WAC 222-20-120 as per the Cowlitz' recommendation in response to concerns on identification of FPA with specific cultural resource concerns. Prepare a draft	dAVe	In progress	Consider DNR's redraft in January	DNR Forest Practices Program support
Medium	6	Seek funding for a Watershed Analysis CR Module pilot project ($150,000) Draft a proposal to include CR in the CMER work plan for Forests and Fish Policy		On hold	Waiting for the next opportunity	Appendix A Watershed Analysis Manual
Medium	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		New item	Consider at the January meeting	Educational Program and Commitments

TFW Cultural Resource Commitee					Dec-09	
Priority	**Action Items**		**Lead**	**Status**	**Next Action**	**Relationship to the CRPMP**
Low	8	Other CRPMP amendments to consider and further discuss:	Sherri	On hold	Wait for the Mission etc to be completed	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				
Low	9	Prepare a report the 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	
On-Going Tasks						
	1	Give a CRPMP presentation at Regional TFW meetings				Communication
	2	Emphasize accomplishments when communicating progress on implementing the CRPMP				Communication
	3	Submit the Committee's action item list to the be Board as a quarterly report	Co-chairs	1st QT 2010 coming up	Submit to Patricia Anderson by January	Communication and Outreach
	4	Annual Cultural Resources Committee Report to the Forest Practices Board	Co-Chairs	2009 Complete	Next report due Nov 2010	Annual obligation
Completed Items						
High		Consider a recommendation to include a cultural resource question on the Phase II 15-year small landowner permit application. Finalize	Sherri	Completed Spring 2009		

January 27, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Sherri Felix, Forest Practices Policy Analyst, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
David Whipple, Forest Policy Coordinator, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Annual Report on the Board's Voluntary Cooperative Protection Approach for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*)

The second annual report on the status of the Board's voluntary protection approach for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly is attached. This report covers mid-October 2008 through November 30, 2009.

Approximately two years ago on September 11, 2007, the Board approved the voluntary cooperative protection approach for the state listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly recommended by the Department of Natural Resources and supported by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. At that time, the Board also directed staff of the two departments to annually report to the Board on the status of the voluntary cooperative protection approach.

We look forward to discussing the report with you at your February 10, 2010 meeting.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us: sherri.felix@dnr.wa.gov or 360-902-1446, and david.whipple@dfw.wa.gov or 360-902-2847.

Attachment

c. Darin Cramer
Marc Engel
Julie Sackett
Rocky Beach
Eric Cummins
Ann Potter
Jeff Davis
Gary Bell
Phil Ferester
Board liaisons

Annual Report to the Forest Practices Board

The Status of a Voluntary Cooperative Approach for Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly
January 27, 2010

SPECIES BACKGROUND

The Taylor's checkerspot butterfly was listed by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission as State Endangered effective March 2, 2006. The species also remains listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In Washington State, the species occurs in three highly localized areas in Clallam, Pierce and Thurston Counties. The 13 occupied sites on non-federal forestland are in Clallam and Thurston Counties. These sites consist of small grassy "balds" within the forest matrix, which have thin soils and generally are not conducive to efficient timber production. The species occupies their habitat throughout the year in various life stages, and are thus always present on occupied sites.

HISTORY OF FOREST PRACTICES BOARD ACTIONS

On May 10, 2006, the Forest Practices Board (Board) determined there is sufficient potential risk to the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly from certain forest practices to consider rule making and other protection strategies. The Board directed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff to notify the public of its intention to consider rule making.

From April 2006 to August 2007, DNR held meetings attended by WDFW experts, forest landowners and other interested stakeholders, including the Washington Butterfly Association and The Nature Conservancy. Discussions focused on the butterfly's habitat requirements, potential effects of certain forest practices, and protection strategy options. Additionally, WDFW staff met with individual landowners and land managers to further discuss voluntary protection and management options. During this process, the handful of large forest landowners who own or manage occupied butterfly sites committed to develop management plans with WDFW.

On September 11, 2007 the Board approved the voluntary protection approach recommended by DNR and supported by WDFW. This decision recognized the work of DNR and WDFW in conjunction with stakeholders, the commitments from many

landowners to develop management plans, as well as DNR's conditioning authority to protect public resources. In light of the precarious status of the species and the related need for protection and management assistance from forest landowners, the Board directed DNR and WDFW to annually report on the status of management plans, and any butterfly protection issues associated with individual Forest Practices Applications or Notifications. Once the landowners that committed to develop management plans with WDFW have successfully done so, staff will report every 5 years.

2009 TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT SURVEYS

In the spring/summer of 2009, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conducted butterfly surveys on nearly all known occupied Taylor's checkerspot butterfly sites. Butterfly numbers in Clallum County were found to be similar to past years, while no Taylor's checkerspots were observed on Thurston County sites.

Results from surveys at Clallam County sites show overall Taylor's checkerspot butterfly numbers at the Dan Kelly and Eden Valley sites similar to past years. Additionally, it has been a few years in a row that the species has not been detected at the Striped Peak and Highway 112 sites.

Despite continued survey efforts, no Taylor's checkerspot butterflies were observed on sites in Thurston County. During the 2009 flight period for the Bald Hill sites, WDFW conducted 59 survey visits to 15 of the 17 balds previously determined to be occupied and five neighboring balds; 12 received greater than one visit. Visits totaled 63 survey hours and were conducted between April 15 and June 4. During the 2009 survey effort, WDFW did not encounter any Taylor's checkerspots. Thirty-five of the 59 visits were made to the seven balds previously found occupied by greater than two Taylor's checkerspots in multiple years. For these seven sites, 2009 is the fourth consecutive year of survey without detection at two sites, the third consecutive year of survey without detection at four sites, and the second consecutive year of survey without detection at one site.

WDFW has not identified any additional Taylor's checkerspot occupied sites on state or private lands. One small site was discovered on U.S. Forest Service land on the Olympic National Forest in 2007, and WDFW assisted the Forest Service with survey design and site selection for a 2009 survey effort in this area. Three sites were identified here in 2009 and follow-up surveys are scheduled for 2010. These are small balds with low numbers of butterflies.

FOREST PRACTICES APPLICATIONS/NOTIFICATIONS (FPA/NS)

In the fall of 2006, DNR and WDFW initiated an interagency screening process for FPA/Ns with the potential to impact the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Using WDFW's GIS locational data for occupied Taylor's checkerspot sites, DNR notifies WDFW of all FPA/Ns within one mile of, or within, a WDFW identified occupied site. WDFW reviews these FPA/Ns for potential impacts to the butterfly, and if

necessary, works with the landowner/land manager to protect the site and species. Short of landowner action, WDFW requests protective FPA/N conditioning by DNR. This process continues today, and provides a safety net of protection.

From September 13, 2008 through November 30, 2009, there have been nine FPA/Ns within one-mile of an occupied Taylor's checkerspot site and no FPA/Ns within an occupied site. Of these nine FPA/Ns, five are almost one-mile from a site and four are approximately one-half mile from a site. All of these forest practices were Class III activities, including two renewals (Class II) of previously approved Class III applications. Large landowners conducted even-aged harvest, road construction, pesticide application, road abandonment, and/or salvage on six FPA/Ns. Three small landowners conducted even and uneven-aged harvests and/or road construction on their property.

None of these forest practices was determined by WDFW to pose a risk to the species, and none were conditioned by DNR with protective measures.

Following up on an issue identified in the 2008 annual report, WDFW and a landowner have worked cooperatively on mitigation for impacts from road abandonment work within an occupied site that resulted in impacts to that occupied site. In 2009, the landowner collaborated with WDFW on mitigation/restoration efforts including invasive vegetation removal (Knapweed and Scotch Broom), strategic conifer limbing and removal, and associated host/nectar plant enhancements. Additional mitigation measures have included site access restriction measures (blocking off ORV access) and limited sign posting.

BUTTERFLY SITE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND OTHER LANDOWNER EFFORTS

WDFW, utilizing information developed during the stakeholder process on rules and other protection approaches, developed general guidance on what types of activities should be addressed by management plans in order to protect the habitat of occupied sites. This guidance has been distributed to the large forest landowners who own or manage sites occupied by the butterfly, and WDFW modified the document based on landowner input. The document may be updated in the future to provide clarity or to incorporate knowledge gained relative to protection and management of occupied sites.

There are five large forest landowners that own or manage all or portions of occupied sites. These landowners are at different stages of management plan development. The recent and current economic conditions have affected the ability of at least some landowners to work on their management plans.

- One landowner has submitted their plan to WDFW, and the agency is currently working with the landowner to finalize it. This landowner has cooperated with WDFW in conducting butterfly surveys.
- One landowner has developed a draft plan, and is undergoing an internal review prior to submitting it to WDFW for review and input. This landowner has cooperated with WDFW in conducting butterfly surveys.

- One landowner is developing a plan to manage their sites to maintain, enhance, and restore habitat, and to avoid negative impacts to sensitive Taylor's checkerspot life-stages. In 2009, WDFW mapped habitat areas, and worked cooperatively with the landowner to control unauthorized and damaging ATV traffic, identify several habitat enhancement opportunities, provide site-specific recommendations for vegetation and road management, and conduct habitat restoration at two sites. The landowner and WDFW anticipate the management plan will be completed in spring/summer 2010.
- One landowner has not initiated development of their plan, but is still very much willing to write a plan that works for all parties. The landowner has no forest practices activities planned for quite a few years, and intends to provide access for habitat restoration activities.
- WDFW has learned that the remaining large forest landowner is interested in selling their parcel that contains part of an occupied site. WDFW will attempt to contact any new landowner relative to developing a management plan.

There are eight small forest landowners who own small portions of sites occupied by the Taylor's checkerspot, or who own property immediately adjacent to occupied sites. Due to budget reductions and workload issues, these small forest landowners have not yet been contacted by WDFW to ascertain the possibility of developing plans to protect and restore Taylor's checkerspot habitat.

PROTECTION BY COUNTIES

WDFW's Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) database with GIS locational data for Taylor's checkerspot butterflies is regularly available to, and requested by, counties in order to identify known occupied butterfly sites as they conduct local land use planning. Thurston County receives PHS data from WDFW digitally, updated on a regular basis. Clallam County receives this data upon request (e.g., WDFW fields requests from Clallam County for PHS data related to public works projects). This is the same data that WDFW biologists use to screen FPA/Ns and other proposals going through the State Environmental Policy Act process for potential project impacts to the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

On March 26, 2009, DNR and WDFW conducted a co-agency training for staff from both agencies who are involved in reviewing and conditioning FPA/Ns, developing and reviewing Taylor's checkerspot butterfly management plans, etc. This training built upon a basic understanding of the species' life cycle and habitat requirements, and the potential positive and negative effects from forest practices, and highlighted the sensitivity of the species to possible impacts. It also clarified each agency's roles and responsibilities for processing, reviewing, and conditioning FPA/Ns that may have an effect on the butterfly. The training had the added benefits of creating ownership in protecting the species, as well as strengthening interagency working relationships.

SUMMARY

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly surveys for 2009 have been conducted by WDFW on nearly all known occupied sites. Butterfly numbers on sites in Clallam County were similar to past years, while no Taylor's checkerspots were observed on Thurston County sites. WDFW has not identified any additional Taylor's checkerspot occupied sites on state or private lands.

In the second year since the Board approved a voluntary, cooperative protection approach for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, there were nine FPA/Ns within one mile of an occupied butterfly site. This makes a total of 19 FPA/Ns within one mile of an occupied site in the first two years of the Board's voluntary protection approach for this species. There have not been any butterfly protection issues associated with these individual forest practices activities. There was one issue associated with an FPA just prior to the 2007 Board action.

Regarding butterfly management plans, of the five large forest landowners owning or managing occupied butterfly habitat, three management plans may be completed by summer 2010; WDFW and one landowner are finalizing their plan, one landowner is conducting an internal review prior to submittal of their plan to WDFW, and the third landowner is developing their plan in conjunction with WDFW. Additionally, one landowner has not started their plan but is still willing, and one landowner may be selling their affected parcel.

The two counties that have Taylor's checkerspot butterfly occupied sites, Thurston and Clallam, are utilizing WDFW's GIS locational data as they conduct their local land use planning.