

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
 July 12, 2018 **APPROVED** Meeting Summary

Action	Responsibility
Review June and July meeting summary for August meeting	TFW Policy Caucus Representatives
Make the “Effectiveness of Experimental Riparian Buffers on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Competent Lithologies in Western Washington” study available to the public online	Department of Natural Resources
Consider best ways for Policy to meet its deadlines on the Hard Rock timeline	Curt Veldhuisen, Terra Rentz, Hans Berge
Present 2019 work plan to Board	Scott Swanson, Curt Veldhuisen, Terra Rentz
Present budget and recommendation for a Board budget subcommittee	Hans Berge

Decision	Notes
Policy moved to accept the “Effectiveness of Experimental Riparian Buffers on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Competent Lithologies in Western Washington”, as delivered to Policy on July 12, 2018. Policy agreed to start the process as outlined in Board Manual Section 22, Part 3.4, to make a decision upon receipt of a report. Policy agreed that the study must be made available in its final form to the public on the DNR webpage.	Eastside Tribal Caucus absent; all other caucuses thumbs up.
Policy moved to approve the budget recommendation that has been brought forward, as amended by the budget subcommittee, to the Forest Practices Board for the 19-21 Biennium.	Five caucuses (Industrial Forest Landowners, Small Forest Landowners, Counties, Westside Tribal Caucus, and DNR) voted in favor of the recommendation to the Board. This recommendation will be given at the August 8, 2018 board meeting. Two caucuses (Conservation and DFW/DOE) voted with ‘sideways thumbs’, not approving or rejecting the recommendation. The Eastside Tribal Caucus was absent from the meeting; this caucus is not in consensus with the budget recommendation.

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business- Policy Co-Chairs Scott Swanson and Curt Veldhuisen opened the meeting. Curt Veldhuisen introduced himself as a new Co-Chair. Curt has a background in forestry and hydrology and was a self-employed consultant for many years. Curt has worked at the Skagit River System Cooperative for 18 years and is often in the field.

Karen Terwilleger shared a proposal regarding PHBs that was presented to the Forest Practices Board (see attachment).

Terra Rentz invited Policy caucuses to refer participants to Chris Conklin for a WDFW marbled murrelet work group.

Hans Berge updated Policy on the PHB process. A study design was circulated, comments were received, and a matrix was circulated to show the response to comments. A revised study design will be released at the end of July. A meeting was held on the pilot, which will test the methodology in the validation study.

Policy reviewed the June draft meeting summary. One edit was made regarding attendance. The meeting summary decision was tabled until August.

Update from CMER Co-Chairs on June CMER Meeting- Doug Hooks, CMER Co-Chair, reviewed updates from CMER.

- CMER heard a presentation on climate change at their June meeting.
- The FWEP study design was sent to ISPR. This version of the study design only includes the chronosequence.
- CMER approved the chapter findings reports for Hard Rock.
- CMER approved the Van Dykes Literature Review from ISPR. A findings report will be delivered to Policy when it is available.
- CMER approved the scoping document from the Riparian Characteristics.
- CMER approved the BCIF report and sent it to Policy.
- The buffer-shade study is going back to ISPR.
- Next month, they anticipate approval of the Extensive Riparian Project with a presentation to Policy in August.
- CMER will focus next on the schedule for revising the CMER work plan.

Update on Water Typing Rule Progress- Marc Engel let Policy know that Joe Shramek will put out a monthly memo on water typing rule progress. This memo will outline the status of the draft rule language and draft Section 23 of the Forest Practices Board Manual. The memo will also provide the status of the preparation of the draft State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) analysis and Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)/Small Business Environmental Impact Statement (SBEIS). Marc shared that DNR has posted an Request for Proposals (RFP) to contract the preparation of the draft cost-benefit analysis and, if needed, the SBEIS.

Small Forest Landowner Template Update- The science review has been completed by a consultant and has been distributed to the subcommittee for comment by July 20, 2018. It will then go to ISPR. Policy agreed to address the Template further in planning the 2019 workload.

RSAG Presentation- Mark Hicks presented the Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Experimental Research Study Draft Scoping Document on behalf of the Riparian Science Advisory Committee.

Washington's forest practices regulations include no-harvest buffers of varying width that are used alone or applied in combination with adjacent zones where thinning is allowed. No study has been identified which examines a well replicated range of riparian harvest treatments on stream shade across a broad range of forest types applicable to Washington State.

Field research is limited in examining how changing the width of no-cut buffers along streams affects the ability to thin the adjacent riparian stands without detrimentally affecting stream shade. The purpose of this study is to quantify how stream shade responds to a continuum of buffer management treatments of varying intensity across a range of stand types (or geo-physiographic regions) common to commercial forestlands covered under the FPHCP. The results would ideally strengthen the ability of the AMP to interpret and respond to ongoing and future effectiveness monitoring studies that directly test both shade and temperature. The data collected on buffer and stand characteristics would also be used to test and make improvements to Ecology's SHADE.xls model.

Mark Hicks reviewed the four alternatives for the study design:

Alternative 1, \$433,125: Uses a well-controlled and replicated field study to firmly establish relationships between stream shade and the use of no-cut buffers of widths common to the rules when applied both alone and in combination with adjacent stand-thinning harvests of varying intensity.

Alternative 2, \$621,055: Uses the same field study design as Alternative 1 but includes more direct measurements of canopy density and light extinction along with a broader range of descriptive stand metrics affecting canopy density. It also includes the task of making changes to the SHADE.xls model.

Alternative 3, \$436,777: Is a two-phased study in which the first phase (described herein) is focused on identifying and making refinements to the shade model using data from existing RMZ's representing a range of forest types and harvest conditions, and the second phase (un-scoped) would test the validity of the model and any specific prescriptions of policy interest.

Alternative 4, \$237,000: Uses a rigorous field study to firmly establish relationships between stream effective shade and existing no-cut buffers widths across a range of forest types.

Policy must approve a study design alternative(s) before the SAG/Project Team writes the detailed study design. Policy will approve an alternative at their August 2, 2018 meeting.

Master Project Schedule and Budget- The budget subcommittee presented their draft budget and "below the line" project considerations. "Below the line" projects are unfunded and potentially waiting for space to open up in the budget. Policy discussed the need for regular review and prioritization of the "below the line" projects.

The draft budget included a new line, a contingency fund for "below the line" projects. This is different than the contingency fund for active projects, and could be used to fund projects or phases of projects if funding becomes available. The budget subcommittee suggested that the purpose of this line would need to be explained to the Board and memorialized for Policy.

Hans informed Policy that the ENREP Study has finalized the number of sites, confirming the funding needed. Hans recommended no additional changes to the ENREP funding amounts.

Howard Haemmerle received an updated cost estimate for the FWEP project in 2019, 2020, and 2021. The FWEP study design is currently at CMER. Hans suggests that CMER review the numbers closely and consider what that amount buys and what the sequencing should be. Caucuses noted that there are many questions about the amount and sequencing of the budget. Policy adjusted the FWEP numbers for the 19-21 biennium.

Policy moved and seconded a motion to vote on the budget as put forward by the budget subcommittee.

Discussion:

Policy discussed the following topics:

- A recommendation to the Co-Chairs that they suggest a Board budget subcommittee.
- A need for equity in project vetting for above- and below-the-line extended monitoring projects and would like to identify people to work on this topic.
- The possible ongoing role of the budget committee in putting forward considerations for the treatment of below-the-line projects.
- A potential extended monitoring subcommittee or conversation to take place between Policy meetings.
- Appreciation for a budget that represents compromises and mutual gains between caucuses.

Decision- Policy moved to approve the budget recommendation that has been brought forward, as amended by the budget subcommittee, to the Forest Practices Board for the 19-21 Biennium.

Five caucuses (Industrial Forest Landowners, Small Forest Landowners, Counties, Westside Tribal Caucus, and DNR) voted in favor of the recommendation to the Board. This recommendation will be given at the August 8, 2018 board meeting. Two caucuses (Conservation and DFW/DOE) voted with 'sideways thumbs', not approving or rejecting the recommendation. The Eastside Tribal Caucus was absent from the meeting; this caucus communicated after the meeting that they are not in consensus with the budget recommendation.

Policy Monthly Workload- Policy discussed their anticipated slate of topics for calendar year 2019.

Topics discussed:

- Type N rulemaking: This is on DNR's work plan after the rulemaking for the F/N break.
- Working with the legislature to educate them on AMP funding, participation grants, and cultural resources. Policy recognized that caucuses working jointly send a powerful message, and also acknowledged that the state agencies may have different guidelines on their interactions with the legislature than other caucuses.
- CMER Coordination: Policy recommended an official refresh of goals and intentions to support better coordination with CMER.
- Small Forest Landowners Template: Recommendations on next steps should go to the Board by May 2019. While the possibility of future dispute resolution on this topic was discussed, the Co-Chairs strongly recommended tabling that conversation until the subcommittee brings a recommendation to Policy.

- Presentation from Ecology on the HCP and CWA Milestones, which expire in 2019.
- Updates on PHB work from DNR
- Type F rulemaking updates from DNR
- A presentation to Policy from CMER on their revision of their protocols and standards manual
- Marbled murrelet: It was noted that historically, Policy caucuses set up working groups with caucus members for wildlife issues rather than discuss at the main Policy table. However, Policy is open to discussion of wildlife issues and this is a priority for some caucuses.
- Soft Rock topics
- Hard Rock extended monitoring
- Board Manual review

Hard Rock Phase I- Howard Haemmerle noted that all chapters of the 17-chapter report have been through ISPR and CMER. Originally, one findings report was produced for the whole project. Policy then asked for findings reports for four individual chapters. The memo and comment matrix were provided to policy through the AMPA. DNR believes that the project has now fulfilled its obligation to Policy.

Policy caucus representatives requested that a public draft be made available after the meeting, and noted that other science needs to be brought to Policy's conversation on next steps, such as Soft Rock, BCIF, and riparian vegetative data. Hans noted that a public data request on riparian vegetative data will make this information publically available.

Policy reviewed the timeline for its decision to take action, develop action alternatives, and decide on an action. There is a wide range of possibilities that could constitute an "action" for Policy. The Co-Chairs noted that it might take additional meetings or offline meetings between caucuses.

Decision- Policy accepted the "Effectiveness of Experimental Riparian Buffers on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Competent Lithologies in Western Washington", as delivered to Policy on July 12, 2018. Policy agrees to start the process as outlined in Board Manual Section 22, Part 3.4, to make a decision upon receipt of a report. Policy agrees that the study must be made available in its final form to the public on the DNR webpage.

The Eastside Tribal Caucus was absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Curt, Terra and Hans will have a follow-up conversation about how to meet the process deadlines.

October Field Trip- Marc Engel would like to hear suggestions for the October field trip. Some suggestions included the Yacolt Burn State Forest, the Bear Prairie Fire site, a template demonstration at Ken Miller's forest, or a forestry discussion with nearby tribes.

Closing- Policy thanked Scott Swanson for his work as a Co-Chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 7/12 Meeting*

Conservation Caucus

*Alec Brown

County Caucus

Kendra Smith, Skagit County

*Scott Swanson, WSAC, Co-Chair

Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus

*Karen Terwilliger, WFPA

Doug Hooks, WFPA and CMER Co-Chair

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA

*Ken Miller, WFFA

State Caucus – DNR

*Marc Engel, DNR

State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW

*Mark Hicks, Ecology

*Chris Conklin, WDFW

Terra Rentz, WDFW

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative, Co-Chair

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

Not present at meeting

*caucus representative

Others

Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator

Howard Haemmerle, Adaptive Management Program

Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates