

To: TFW Policy Committee Members

From: Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Chair, SFL Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup

RE: **September 3, 2020 Request to extend duration of SFL Experimental Alternate Harvest Rx Workgroup**

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**Request to TFW Policy: The members of the Small Forest Landowner Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup (hereafter, referred to as the Workgroup) unanimously recommend changing the end date of this Workgroup to December 31, 2020, in order to provide recommendations to TFW Policy no later than the January 7, 2021 TFW Policy Meeting.**

**Background and Rationale for this request**

At the December 5, 2019 TFW Policy meeting, TFW Policy approved formation of:

“a technical workgroup including the State caucuses and other interested parties to continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER”

The original intent was that this workgroup would provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

At their February 7, 2020 TFW Policy meeting, Policy approved a charter for this workgroup, officially named the “Small Forest Landowner Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup”. That charter changed the end date for the Workgroup to September 24, 2020, in order to provide recommendations to TFW Policy at the October 1, 2020 TFW Policy meeting.

The two deliverables from the Workgroup are as follows:

1. Technical recommendations for experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL in western Washington that include on-the-ground prescriptions, the necessary site-specific conditions in which the prescriptions could apply, qualification criteria for SFL, and limitations for site-specificity.
2. Monitoring and evaluation components to inform subsequent CMER project development. Components include the identification of Schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets for the six riparian functions, and key monitoring elements such as pre-existing stand conditions to qualify, windthrow, reforestation, canopy response, residual tree species, diameter-breast-height, and tree spacing; as well as preferred evaluation criteria and reporting needs necessary to inform Policy’s future decision-making process

The following are the technical expert participants in the Workgroup:

- State Caucus – DNR: Marc Engel
- State Caucus – Ecology and WDFW: Brandon Austin and Don Nauer
- Westside Tribal Caucus: Jim Peters, Ash Roorbach
- Small Forest Landowner Caucus: Steve Barnowe-Meyer

**Although all Workgroup members are in agreement that sufficient progress (see Workgroup Progress below) has been made to justify continued efforts within the Workgroup, they have reached the conclusion that the Workgroup will be unable to complete our TFW Policy-assigned tasks by the current September 24 workgroup end date, and therefore are unanimously requesting extension of the end date for the Workgroup to December 31, 2020.**

## **Workgroup Progress to Date and Action Plan**

The Workgroup has met five times to date, starting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, with our most recent meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, with each meeting lasting three hours. Three additional three-hour meetings are already scheduled for September.

To date, the Workgroup has concentrated the bulk of its time on the improving the draft State Caucus thinning proposal document labeled “**Low Impact Conifer Thinning Prescription for Western Washington For Small Forest Landowners**”. Of the two prescriptions that are the purview of this Workgroup, this prescription was the one requiring the most rework and has had the least previous technical vetting. The Workgroup plans to complete most details on the first deliverable for this prescription at our next scheduled meeting. The Workgroup will then begin work on the second deliverable for this prescription, identifying the monitoring and evaluation components necessary to inform subsequent CMER project development of a Monitoring Plan, as well as inform any future decision-making process by TFW Policy concerning this experimental alternate harvest prescription.

The Workgroup believes that completion of the first deliverable for the State Caucus “**Conifer Restoration (Hardwood Tree Harvest) for Western Washington**” document will require significantly less time than required for the Conifer Thinning prescription, since much more extensive technical vetting of the Conifer Restoration prescription occurred prior to the formation of this Workgroup. The Workgroup also believes that the second deliverable for the Conifer Restoration prescription will also be able to dovetail off the second deliverable work for the Conifer Thinning prescription.

The Workgroup’s intent is to complete all of their work in time and deliver a quality set of recommendations to TFW Policy as early as possible, preferably by Policy’s December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, but not wishing to ask for another time extension at some future point, once again request the following:

**Request to TFW Policy: The members of the Small Forest Landowner Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup (hereafter, referred to as the Workgroup) unanimously recommend changing the end date of this Workgroup to December 31, 2020, in order to provide recommendations to TFW Policy no later than the January 7, 2021 TFW Policy Meeting.**