

Brainstorming a Better Pathway to Avoiding Current & Future Forest Wars

My View of the Current Situation:

The Adaptive Management Program created a process that fosters communications & collaboration on forest management issues that is effective on smaller issues that don't have significant economic impacts. We spend a lot of money & energy in hopes that science will solve our policy issues . . . but the natural sciences are rarely definitive enough to achieve consensus on big issues, particularly those with significant economic impacts. Our inability to deal effectively & fairly with the economic implication's tears at the fabric of AMP, destroying much of the collaborative spirit created in 1987 and subsequent years. Compromise on sincere but differing science interpretations isn't possible when there are significant economic implications such as the current Np rule making process that seems destined towards winners and losers, and with lasting damage to future AMP collaboration.

"Desired Future Condition" debates many years ago failed to find win-wins that damaged our AMP paradigm. The current Np debates are heading the same direction albeit a much larger win-lose trainwreck appears certain without a paradigm shift. The Board is being forced to pick short-term winners and losers – likely cementing the Adaptive Management Program itself as the long-term loser. I believe we now have the opportunity and an obligation to science and our predecessors' vision to think outside our current win-lose paradigm.

The evolving LWD recruitment science seems to suggest our current Fish and Shoreline buffers are wider than needed to provide regulatory RMZ functionality. My supporting science opinions are shared on the next page. Each caucus should form their own LWD science conclusion to help assess potential, if any, extra tree's that might be available as a precursor to your caucus considering using such "extra" trees to help address the economic issues associated with potential science driven increased protections elsewhere.

What I think we should brainstorm:

If "extra" trees could be used as currency to keep landowners whole on increased protections elsewhere try to imagine the potential benefits of such a paradigm shift:

- a. Major conflicts avoided if regulatory changes are win-win (economically neutral).*
- b. Moving trees rather than adding trees is a much easier conversation/compromise.*
- c. Smaller F buffers reduce the economic impacts of end of fish habitat decisions, opening compromise doors and perhaps even avoiding \$5 million+ science projects vainly trying to precisely define something that's not 100% knowable.*
- d. Science now viewed by many as a potential weapon or defense would become just information, as intended by our predecessors.*
- e. Allow us to genuinely focus on win-win ways to help Mother Nature (help DFC)*
- f. The generally good working relationships within AMP would reach new levels of openness and collaboration.*
- g. Other paradigm shift benefits???*

Using Science, and Collaboration to permanently resolve our perennial Forest Wars

Our current Fish & Shoreline buffer widths were negotiated without the benefit of current science. Our current Board Manual 21 indicates all RMZ functions (except LWD recruitment) are covered/"influenced" within 75' of BFW. The FEMAT curves for LWD have been determined to be much further left and steeper than previously thought. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/56335> (starting on page 483 - graphs below)

My opinions based in part on above and other recent science:

A F/S buffer width that provides most/all LWD functionality inherently provides all other regulatory riparian functions.

- Functional/Key LWD availability "DEPENDS" on multiple complex site/natural factors.
- The vast majority of functional/Key LWD comes from within 75' BFW (most within 50').
- Very little, if any significant functional/Key LWD comes from more than 90' BFW.
- Some/most streams could benefit from more LWD, sooner rather than later.
- Motivated landowners/loggers could help LWD delivery via tree tipping/directional falling.
- Motivated landowners/loggers could enhance/expedite riparian functionality towards DFC with prescriptive thinning.
- Our current Site-Class based RMZs add operational complexity without corresponding riparian functional benefits.

Without sacrificing RMZ functionality or "protections", it appears the currently required F/S leave trees outside 75-90' could/should better be used to:

1. Increase the economic viability of landowners **&/or**
2. Provide the incentive to manage RMZs for enhanced/expedited DFC **&/or**
3. Offset additional leave tree's elsewhere that science suggests could benefit additional leave trees **&/or**
4. Create a paradigm shift within the AMP (smarter buffers?) that eliminates winners & losers, while re-establishing a paradigm of TFW trust knowing regulatory changes must be win-win for both landowners and RMZ functionality.

What are your honest opinions on the RMZ widths needed to provide sufficient/effective LWD recruitment?

Does that opinion warrant further consideration/brainstorming of a potentially better pathway to the TFW Collaborative Spirit envisioned by our predecessors?

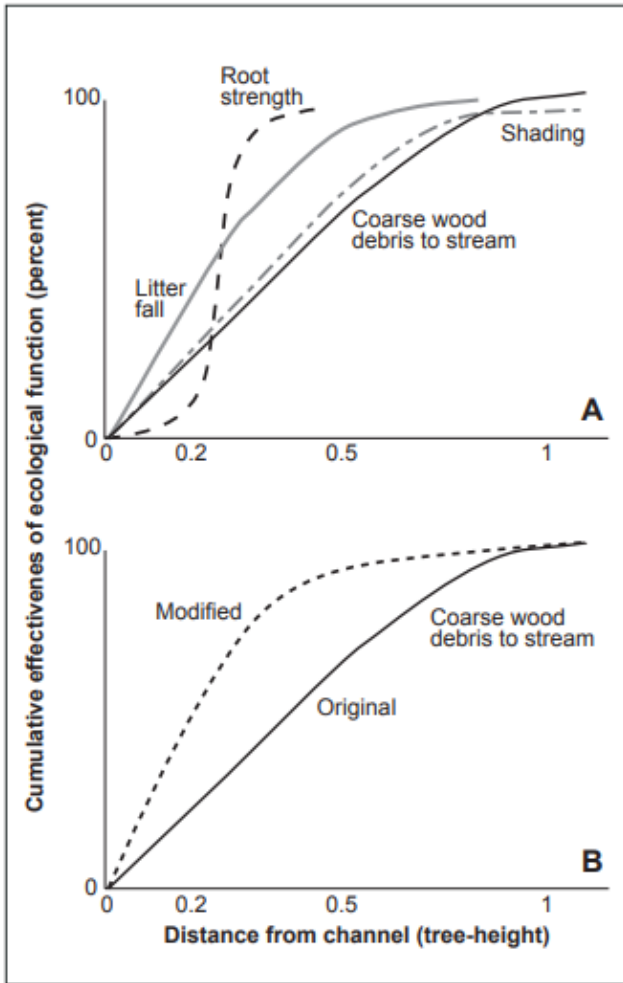


Figure 7-7—(A) Relation of distance from stream channel to cumulative effectiveness of riparian ecological functions (FEMAT 1993: V-27); (B) modified effectiveness curve for wood delivery to streams as a function of distance from the stream channel. The original curve was changed based on scientific literature developed since the original curve was portrayed in FEMAT (1993). Source: Spies et al. 2013.

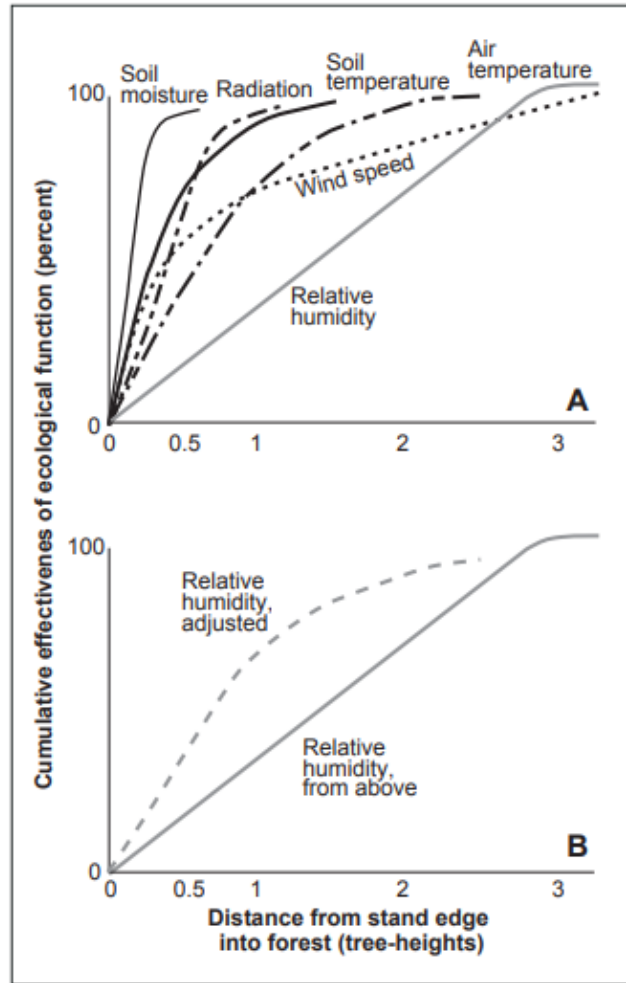


Figure 7-8—(A) Relation of distance from stream channel to cumulative effectiveness of ecological factors influencing microclimate in riparian ecosystems (FEMAT 1993: V-27); (B) modified effectiveness curve for relative humidity as a function of distance from the stream channel. The curve was changed based on scientific literature developed since the original curve was portrayed in FEMAT (1993). Source: Reeves et al. 2016a.