

1 **FOREST PRACTICES BOARD**
2 February 10, 2004
3 Natural Resource Building, Room 172
4 Olympia, Washington
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7 **Members Present:**

8 Pat McElroy, Designee for Commissioner Sutherland, Chair of the Board
9 Bob Kelly, General Public Member
10 David Hagiwara, General Public Member
11 Eric Johnson, Lewis County Commissioner
12 John Mankowski, Designee for Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
13 Lee Faulconer, Designee for Director, Department of Agriculture
14 Sherry Fox, General Public Member/Independent Logging Contractor
15 Toby Murray, General Public Member
16 Tom Laurie, Designee for Director, Department of Ecology
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18 **Absent:**

19 Alan Soicher, General Public Member
20 Keith Johnson, General Public Member/Small Forest Landowner
21 Wendy Holden, Designee for Director, Office of Trade and Economic Development
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23 **Staff:**

24 Ashley DeMoss, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
25 Karrie Brandt, Board Coordinator
26 Lenny Young, Forest Practices Division Manager
27 Patricia Anderson, Rules Coordinator
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30 **CALL TO ORDER**

31 Pat McElroy called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and introduced out of state guests.
32 Introductions were made of the Board, staff, and attendees.
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34 **OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF FIELD TOUR**

35 Stephen Bernath, Department of Ecology, gave a presentation to the Board reviewing the history
36 of water typing in Forest Practices.
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38 Brian Fransen, Weyerhaeuser Company, presented the water typing model. To predict fish habitat
39 a digital elevation model is used as the base data. The data, which was derived from field surveys,
40 consists of basin acreage, stream gradient, elevation, and precipitation levels. The Geographic
41 Information System (GIS) processes this data to determine the likelihood of fish habitat. Fransen
42 stated that the model works well in most situations with the largest errors occurring in predictable
43 locations such as natural barriers, headwater ponds and lakes, and areas of very low topographic

1 relief. At this point, the model's performance remains uncertain, but validation and refinement are
2 scheduled to begin later this year.

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4 Eric Johnson wanted to know where the cutoff was for making the leap from applying the model,
5 which has a whole spectrum of variables to determining the final habitat classification for
6 predicted fish habitat. Fransen said the statisticians developed a heuristic value where they
7 empirically extracted information where the confusion existed and developed a rule that assigned a
8 single point using the field survey data to identify that point on the ground.

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10 John Mankowski asked Fransen to explain the error with areas of very low topographic relief.
11 Fransen stated that in extremely flat topography like flood plains the digital elevation model does
12 not accurately identify where the streams are. This is mostly due to stream network modification
13 through channeling and ditching.

14

15 McElroy asked if there were more likely to be fish in areas of low topographic relief even if the
16 model says there are none. Fransen replied that it is difficult to generate a stream network in these
17 situations and an alternative approach would have to be applied.

18

19 Marc Engel, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), reviewed the draft procedures to locate the
20 modeled end of fish habitat points on the ground.

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22 Dennis McDonald, DNR, informed the Board that the tour would be conducted on Port Blakely's
23 land and would demonstrate the results of the new water typing system and how fish habitat will
24 be predicted under the new model. He thanked Port Blakely and DNR's GIS and information
25 technology staff for their assistance with the tour.

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27 The Board, staff, and public began the field tour at 9:45 a.m. The field tour ended at 3:00 p.m.