



**Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee  
Forest Practices Board**

**PO BOX 47012, Olympia, WA 98504-4712**

**Policy Co-Chairs:**

Brandon Austin, Department of Ecology  
Court Stanley, Washington Association of  
Counties

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TO: Forest Practices Board  
FROM: Court Stanley and Brandon Austin  
SUBJECT: TFW Policy Committee Report and 2023 Policy Work Plan

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The Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) workload is driven by internal process deadlines and priorities directed by the Forest Practices Board. To accommodate the heavy workload, Policy relies on additional meetings, email communications between meetings and policy workgroups to address specific issues and meet deadlines to accomplish their work.

**TFW POLICY COMMITTEE Priorities for Calendar year 23 and 24.**

• **Small Forest Landowner alternative harvest prescriptions**

A subgroup of Policy is working through two templates for prescriptions for conifer restoration and riparian thinning. These prescriptions are experimental and will include a monitoring component that will be developed by CMER.

• **SAO Report Recommendation - #5 Net Gains**

Policy continues to develop an options paper for SAO Recommendations #5: *Adopt a Net Gains Model for Project Planning*. This document is still in draft form and, at present, Policy is discussing potential recommendations for:

- Net gains options;
- Clarification process for outside science;
- Setting clear AMP Priorities;
- Length of dispute resolution timelines;
- Potential AMP program reform; and,
- Development of additional guidance or a manual for TFW Policy.

**Master Project Schedule and Adaptive Management Program Budget**

Policy, at their July 2023 meeting, approved by consensus:

- The FY 24 – 25 Master Project Schedule (MPS) and associated Adaptive Management Program budget to be presented to the Board; and,
- Continuation of the Policy Budget Workgroup to remain engaged in the maintenance of the MPS including review and approval for work on ongoing project and funding contingencies and Board priorities.
- TFW Policy and the Board engagement in discussions on setting CMER work priorities.

**2023-2024**

- **CMER Work Plan:** CMER delivered to Policy for approval in January 2024.
- **CMER Project Summary Sheets:** Policy will receive the CMER 2025 Project Summary Sheets including a prioritized list of future projects in February 2024. This will be the beginning of CMER/Policy engagement on prioritizing the remaining AMP projects for the 2025-2027 CMER Work Plan and MPS.
- **Water Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Type Np Water Reaches:** Policy will receive final report from CMER for approval in June 2025. .
- **Unstable Slope Criteria Project –**
  - **Object Based Landform Mapping with High Resolution Topography (Project #3) Report:** Policy will receive the ISPR-approved final report and Findings Package from CMER in October 2024.
  - **Empirical Evaluation of Shallow Landslide Susceptibility and Frequency by Landform (Project #3 and Empirical Evaluation of Shallow Landslide Runout (Project #4):** Policy will receive the Prospective 6 Questions ISPR-approved Study Design in December 2023.
- **Extensive Riparian Monitoring:** Policy will receive the Extensive Monitoring Charter for Policy approval in October 2023. Policy expects to receive CMER recommended Extensive Riparian Monitoring scoping documents for riparian vegetation and stream temperature for approval in spring 2024.
- **Riparian Literature Synthesis Report:** CMER will deliver to Policy in January 2024.
- **Eastside Forest Health Strategy:** CMER will deliver Charter to Policy in November 2023.
- **Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring Program :** CMER will deliver Scoping Document to Policy in March 2024.
- **Anadromous Fish Floor Proposal Initiation:** Policy will vote on the DNR PI at the August Policy meeting.
- **Potential Habitat Breaks:** CMER approved Study Design May 2023. The Charter will be delivered to Policy August 2023. CMER will deliver Prospective 6 Questions document to Policy in December 2023
- **Default Physical Criteria:** The Charter will be delivered to Policy August 2023.
- **RCS:** CMER will deliver Prospective 6 Questions document to Policy in August 2023.
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- **Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness- Exploratory Field Study:** CMER will deliver final report and Findings Package to Policy in December 2023.
- **Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)-** CMER will deliver Prospective 6 Questions document to Policy in December 2023
- **Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy:** Landslide Mapping and Classification Project (4.5 and 4.6) Study Design is in ISPR and is expected to be approved by CMER in the fall of 2023. The Prospective 6 Questions document will be delivered to Policy January 2024.
- **Policy Operating Procedures:** Work with Triangle Associates to develop a Policy Operating Procedures document will be presented to Policy in August and voted on in September.
- **Multi-Criteria Decision Making/Structured Decision-Making:** Policy SAO Workgroup had a joint session with a CMER workgroup to discuss developing decision criteria for projects in the program to make progress on this SAO recommendation. Policy will approve the process for opening Schedule L-1 for revisions, including identifying which sections need revisions. The FPB can expect to receive a consensus recommendation for a process for revising Schedule L-1 at

their November 2023 meeting. The decision criteria process is planned to be prepared for the February 2024 FPB meeting.

- **L-1 Review:** A joint Policy/CMER workgroup is developing a process to conduct a systematic review of Schedule L-1. This process will be reported to Policy at the November Policy meeting.

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New Projects:

The Policy Committee workload is heavy, yet must also remain sensitive to the changes in various timelines and to new issues as they come up. The capacity for Policy to accept any new work as assigned by the Forest Practices Board or taken on for other reasons could require delaying existing priorities and/or scheduling additional meetings.