

## Policy Request

<b>Proponent:</b> Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project TWIG	<b>Date:</b> December 21, 2015
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<b>Project Name/Issue:</b> Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project	
<b>Request Description:</b>  The Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project TWIG is requesting Policy review and approve the Forested Wetland Effectiveness Project: Problem Statement, Objectives, and Critical Questions memorandum.	
<b>Funding Source:</b> Not Applicable	<b>Urgency:</b> High
<p><b>Purpose of the Project</b></p> <p>The purpose of the project is to examine influences of forested wetlands on hydrologic processes, temperature regimes, nutrient cycles, and the quantity and quality of plant and animal habitats in watersheds managed under the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (FPHCP) in Washington State. It also will evaluate the impacts of timber harvest on the ecological and hydrologic functions of forested wetlands and on connected watershed functions, potentially including, but not limited to, the regulation of surface and subsurface hydrologic exchange, plant and animal habitat quantity and quality, and ecosystem dynamics of temperature, sediment, carbon, and nutrients.</p> <p><b>Study Objectives</b></p> <p>The TWIG proposes the following primary research objectives for this project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To examine how well current forest practices rules meet the performance target of no-net-loss of wetland functions.</li> <li>2. To develop study design(s) that, when implemented, will yield information on the changes in wetland functions and associated watershed resources due to implementation of forest practices rules</li> </ol> <p><b>Following Approval of Problem Statement, Objectives, and Critical Questions</b></p> <p>The TWIG's next task will be to conduct a Best Available Science (BAS) synthesis, and to subsequently use the information to develop study design alternatives for a Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Study that will address the projects stated objectives and the Critical Questions. The Best Available Science document will incorporate knowledge gained from the 2014 literature synthesis conducted by WetSAG on the effects of roads and tree removal on wetlands (Adamus 2014); however the BAS document will also incorporate sources from other regions and will be tailored to the Critical Questions below.</p>	