

To: TFW Policy Committee Members
From: SFL Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup
RE: **Workgroup Recommendations for Policy**

Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions for Consideration

The Small Forest Landowner Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescription Workgroup (hereafter: Workgroup) presents to the Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee (hereafter: Policy) the following products for consideration to recommend to the Forest Practices Board (hereafter: Board) for approval:

- **Low Impact Conifer Thinning Prescription for Western Washington;**
- **Conifer Restoration (Hardwood Tree Harvest) for Western Washington;**
- **Alternate Harvest Prescription Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy Request**

History

The Workgroup developed these products per the Policy December 5, 2019 consensus recommendation to form the Workgroup; the Policy approved February 7, 2020 Workgroup Charter; and, the Policy approved September 3, 2020 adjusted deliverable timeline to achieve the Policy directive to:

Form 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 workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by December 31, 2020.

Workgroup Process

As identified in the Charter, the purpose of the Workgroup was to:

- (1) Finish the development of the State caucus introduced experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL in western Washington;
- (2) Identify resource objectives and performance targets from Schedule L-1 (Attachment 1) that the prescriptions are intending to meet or exceed; and
- (3) Compile associated information necessary to inform the development of a monitoring or evaluation strategy by CMER.

The State caucus, in response to the Board's request at their November 8, 2017 meeting to revisit previously created draft alternate plan templates, brought forward two western Washington experimental alternate harvest prescriptions for consideration by Policy. These prescriptions are based on the nearly finished stakeholder developed conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate plan templates which failed to make it to the Board or not approved by the Board. The State caucus designed the prescriptions to address past concerns through the inclusion of a monitoring and evaluation component to be administered through CMER. The monitoring and evaluation of the prescriptions will address the effects of the harvest prescriptions on essential riparian functions. To address riparian width concerns in the conifer thinning prescription, the State caucus embraced the Board approved western Washington fixed width buffer prescriptions based on the application of desired future condition options 1 and 2.

The Workgroup developed the two prescriptions and the associated monitoring and evaluation request for CMER through open discussion based on current, sound, silvicultural practices for timber management within riparian forests in western Washington. The workgroup specifically evaluated the site-specific conditions (e.g. site class, bankfull stream widths, forest stand conditions, stream reach lengths, etc.) in which stream buffer experimental alternative harvest prescriptions can be developed for small forest landowner riparian conifer restoration and conifer thinnings which will:

- i. Meet the alternate harvest (restrictions) as outlined in RCW 76.13.110 (3) to:
 - a. promote the development of small landowner options through alternate harvest restrictions (prescriptions);
 - b. contain criteria to be adopted and approved by the forest practices board into rules and guidance;
 - c. include evaluation of the cumulative impacts of the alternate harvest prescriptions on essential riparian functions at the sub-basin or watershed level; and
 - d. allow for the adjustment of the prescriptions in a manner that will minimize the cumulative, negative impacts on essential riparian functions within a sub-basin or watershed;
- ii. Provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the riparian protection provided in the Forest Practices Rules, including all six riparian functions as listed in WAC 222-16-010; and
- iii. Are operationally feasible, repeatable and enforceable.

Deliverables

The Workgroup has provided recommendations for technical prescriptions for conifer restoration and conifer thinning within the riparian management zone of Type F waters. Each experimental alternate harvest prescription outlines the key monitoring elements and components of the prescription. Accompanying the experimental alternate harvest prescriptions are a request for CMER to develop scoping documents for the monitoring and evaluation of each prescription, based on the key monitoring elements, for discussion with and review by TFW Policy.