

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee
 June 2, 2017 DRAFT Meeting Summary

Decision	Notes
<p>Next steps for the Hard Rock Study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to Policy on discussion chapter and findings report for the discussion chapter, likely at the October 2017 Policy meeting. This presentation will need adequate time (half day) and the presence of the authors. • Policy caucuses will review individual chapters prior to the October meeting, keeping in mind any potential requests for presentations or findings reports for specific chapters. • Policy can request a presentation and/or findings report on any individual chapter at a Policy meeting subsequent to the main presentation in October. Those presentations and findings reports will not be produced without a request from Policy. • In October, Policy will consider whether the decision timeline for acceptance of the Hard Rock study begins at that meeting. If additional information is requested on an individual chapter, Policy will decide at that point to start the decision timeline once that information is received. 	<p>Federal caucus sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up.</p>

Action	Assignment
1. Share written description of the Potential Habitat Break technical group process and charter with Policy.	Berge
2. Encourage technical representatives to engage in Potential Habitat Break work.	Caucus representatives
3. Hold Friday, October 6 in addition to October 5 for 2-day Policy meetings and field tour.	Caucus representatives
4. Share with budget reconciliation subgroup the comparison of project estimates vs. actual project costs.	Berge
5. Package April budget notes as an initial draft of a 1-pager and send to Ray Entz for offline review.	Triangle
6. Develop budget 1-pager for Policy and refine budget process document.	Entz
7. Coordinate with Luke Rogers for July Policy meeting content and agenda time.	Miller

Opening – Ray Entz and Scott Swanson, Co-Chairs of the Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (“Policy”), welcomed participants and led introductions (*please see Attachment 1 for a list of participants*). The goal of this meeting was to review themes of the June 1 field trip and to lay the groundwork for Policy’s upcoming discussions on the budget and other topics.

Curt Holmes, Kalispel Executive Director of Public Relations and Governmental Affairs, welcomed Policy to Spokane and to the Kalispel casino. Curt shared a history of the tribe from the 1800's to the present day, and shared how the Northern Quest Casino has been an engine of revitalization for the tribe. Policy sincerely thanked Curt and the Kalispel Tribe for their hospitality.

May 2017 Meeting Summary – Mary Scurlock requested that the caucuses be identified in the votes on the last page of Attachment 4. With that change, Policy voted to approve the meeting summary as amended (all caucuses thumbs up).

Field Trip Discussion – The Small Forest Landowners Caucus reviewed their perspective on what practices could be included in a future small landowner template. Elaine Oneil, Executive Director of the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), presented on riparian management zones (RMZs), similar to those visited on the field trip. While fire is inevitable, fire frequency and intensity has been significantly increasing (potentially due to both historical forest practices and climate change). Forest management has the potential to build resiliency in some stands, but RMZ regulations limit the ability to practice certain forest management techniques, such as reducing ladder fuels (live or dead vegetation that allows a fire to climb up from the forest floor into the canopy) or managing for more fire-resilient species.

Discussion

- Many Policy members understand the desire for lower-density and fire-resilient trees yet wonder how to determine the right treatment for trees and fuels. Elaine distinguished between stands that can be adjusted, as opposed to stands that need a completely different composition to reduce fire risk.
- Several members wondered what capacity small forest landowners have for noncommercial activities such as fuel removal.
- Marc Engel (DNR) reminded Policy that historical forest practices had resulted in timber in areas that were not historically forested with those species, and that, combined with the weaker timber market, resulted in overstocked land. Marc noted that forest health and appropriate tree species are a useful lens to look at goals for east side RMZ functions.
- Rich Doenges (Ecology) noted that climate change forecasts are showing that summer will get hotter and drier, and water quality standards for temperature will be more difficult to achieve. Rich is interested in maintaining adequate shade while also looking to reduce fire in RMZs.
- Hans Berge (AMPA) reminded Policy that CMER will have a presentation on the fire salvage literature review at their June 27 meeting.

May 9/10 Forest Practices Board Meeting – Marc Engel reviewed the Board meeting motions, which were provided in the meeting packet.

Forest Practices Board's Decisions on Water Typing: Next Steps – Hans Berge, the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA), discussed the Board's motion to convene a technical group to analyze and interpret the available datasets to inform the Potential Habitat Break (PHB) criteria for the water typing system. The AMPA asked all the caucuses to forward the names of people to participate, and has now convened a technical group and a science panel. These experts will evaluate if they have a product for the Board in August or will postpone delivery if remaining discussion is needed.

The technical group will consist of Jeff Kirschner, Pete Bisson, Pat Trotter, Ray Timm, Brian Fransen, Joe Maroney, as well as an additional scientist.

Optional work for Policy caucuses and their technical people includes:

- Sharing data;
- Attending the initial open meeting, likely June 12-16;
- Reviewing product in iterative process;
- Attending the second open meeting (to be scheduled later); and
- Potentially seeing the product at the August Policy meeting.

Policy Ongoing Tasks and Parking Lot Review – Policy reviewed the monthly workload for the next year. Policy discussed the proposed process for the SFLOs west side template:

- Reconvene the subgroup in July/August (Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Ken Miller, Mary Scurlock, Marc Engel, Terry Jackson, Kendra Smith) to:
 - Do an historical review of subgroup work to date for Steve Barnowe-Meyer and Ken Miller;
 - Review the draft literature synthesis when available from contractor;
 - Discuss if proposal meets definition of a template; and
 - Review data summarized from alternate plans.
- The AMPA reminded Policy of the ongoing technical work from the Proposal Initiation, including:
 - Literature synthesis (draft available soon, synthesis likely complete by end of year); and
 - Analysis of questions.

Ken Miller reminded Policy that the SFLOs could have pursued a rule process rather than a template process, but chose a template approach to allow for ID teams. The SFLO template subgroup has been trying to understand if the proposal put forward by the SFLOs is indeed a template. If the current proposal doesn't meet the definition of a template, Policy is interested in assisting the SFLOs in developing a proposal that meets the definition of a template.

CMER Update and Hard Rock Study – Doug Hooks, CMER Co-Chair, reviewed CMER's May meeting. Policy discussed next steps for the Hard Rock study:

- Presentation to Policy on the discussion chapter and findings report for the discussion chapter, likely at the October 2017 Policy meeting. This presentation will need adequate time (half day) and the presence of the authors.
- Policy caucuses will review individual chapters prior to the October meeting, keeping in mind any potential requests for presentations or findings reports for specific chapters.
- Policy can request a presentation and/or findings report on any individual chapter at a Policy meeting subsequent to the main presentation in October. These presentations and findings reports will not be produced without a request from Policy.
- In October, Policy will consider whether the decision timeline for acceptance of the Hard Rock study begins at that meeting. If additional information is requested on an individual chapter, Policy will decide at that point to start the decision timeline once that information is received.

Decision: Policy voted on and accepted this proposed process (Federal caucus sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up).

October Meeting – The Co-Chairs proposed a two-day meeting in October. Policy polled itself for availability and determined to hold the second day on October 6.

Budget – The AMPA updated Policy on the current biennial budget. In August, the AMP will have all the remaining invoices processed, but at this point the AMPA projects having a positive balance at the end of the biennium (June 30). All of the general fund state money has been spent. Leftover funds will go into the Forests & Fish Support Account (FFSA) fund balance. This means those funds are not unavailable to the AMP, but are harder to access.

If the state budget does not pass by July 1, contractors will get notices to stop work until the legislature has passed a new budget.

Budget timeline: biennial budget creation and process to reconcile unspent funds within fiscal year

The Co-Chairs brought forward the Timeline for Budget and Master Project Schedule. Policy discussed developing a discrete task list. Policy acknowledged that mid-year spending will have to be strategic so as not to increase the bow wave effect in out-years.

Policy will further discuss the budget process in July.

Legislative Updates – ESHB 1531, “An act relating to the forestry riparian easement program,” passed. This bill modifies the definition of “qualifying timber” under the Forest Riparian Enhancement Program (FREP) to specify that it includes trees that the owner is required to leave unharvested as a result of the forest practices rules, in addition to the fish protection rules. ESHB 1531 directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in the event that the state adopts a climate strategy, to share information regarding the carbon sequestration benefits of the forest riparian easement program, using methods and protocols established in the state climate strategy that attempt to quantify carbon storage or account for carbon emissions. It also directs DNR to promote the expansion of funding for the FREP and the ecosystem services supported by the program. It prohibits the state from reimbursing a landowner more than once for the same riparian easement application.

HB 1275, “An act relating to including fish passage barrier removal 2 projects that comply with the forest practices rules in the 3 streamlined permit process provided in RCW 77.55.181; and amending RCW 77.55.181.” passed, streamlining state and local permitting for fish passage barrier removal projects. This bill requires a forest practices hydraulic project to be approved by DNR. It prohibits a person who is aggrieved by the approval, denial, conditioning, or modification of a forest practices hydraulic project from appealing the decision. It addresses fish passage barrier removal projects that comply with forest practices rules.

Caucuses encouraged each other to address the \$1.1 million cut to the AMP with their legislators.

The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Attachment 1 – Attendance by Caucus at 6/2/17 Meeting

Conservation Caucus

*Mary Scurlock, M. Scurlock & Associates

County Caucus

*Scott Swanson, Washington State Association
of Counties, Co-Chair
Kendra Smith, Skagit County

Federal Caucus

*Marty Acker, USFWS (phone)
*Michelle Wilcox, EPA

Industrial Timber Landowners Caucus

*Karen Terwilleger, Washington Forest
Protection Association (WFPA)
Doug Hooks, WFPA

Small Forest Landowners Caucus

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA
Ken Miller, WFFA
Elaine Oneil, WFFA

DNR Caucus

*Marc Engel, DNR
Marc Ratcliff, DNR

WDFW/Ecology Caucus

*Rich Doenges, Ecology
*Terry Jackson, WDFW
Mark Hicks, Ecology

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

*Ray Entz, Kalispel/UCUT, Co-Chair

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries
Commission (NWIFC)

*Joseph Pavel, Skokomish Tribe
Ash Roorbach, NWIFC
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System
Cooperative

*Caucus representative

Others

Hans Berge, AMPA
Brent Davies, Forest Practices Board
Claire Chase, Triangle Associates
Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

Attachment 2 – Ongoing Priorities Checklist

Priority	Assignment	Status &Notes
Type N	Type N policy subgroup	Caucuses are encouraged to talk offline about the wet season default methodology.
Type F	Policy	At regular meetings and in mediation, Policy is working towards responding to the February 2014 Board motions (specific to off-channel habitat and electrofishing) in addition to other related water typing issues (such as default physical criteria, recovery, habitat, etc.).
Small Forest Landowners Westside Template	SFLOs Template Subgroup	Subgroup is meeting separately; co-chaired by Marc Engel and Ken Miller.
Unstable Slopes	Policy	UPSAG hired a contractor to do a glacial deep-seated literature synthesis. Policy will present their perspective on the unstable slopes proposal initiation to the Board in May 2017.
Ongoing CMER reports reviewed by Policy	Doug Hooks & Todd Baldwin, CMER Co-Chairs	CMER Co-Chairs to give update(s) as needed at Policy meetings; AMPA to give quarterly reports for when CMER studies to come to Policy.

*This table notes the Policy Committee priorities that were sent to the Forest Practices Board and any other major topics or issues that arise during the year.

Attachment 3 – Entities, Groups, or Subgroups: Schedule and Notes

Entity/Group/Subgroup	Next Meeting Date	Notes
TFW Policy Committee	July 6	
CMER	June 27	
Type N Policy Subgroup	TBD	
Type F		The water typing mediation is complete and the AMPA and Co-Chairs presented the outcome to the Board at the May meeting. Additional technical work is ongoing.
Forest Practices Board	August 9	
Small Forest Landowners Template Subgroup	TBD	As workload allows.