



January 21, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Darin Cramer, Adaptive Management Program Administrator *DC*

SUBJECT: Adaptive Management Program Staff Report

**Adaptive Management Program Strategic Plan Implementation Status** - As reported at the November 12, 2008 Forest Practices Board meeting, Forests and Fish Policy (Policy) spent considerable time in 2008 developing a strategic plan (plan) for the Adaptive Management Program (AMP). Policy approved a final version of the plan (attached) at their October 2, 2008 meeting. The plan has four major goals, six objectives and 16 tasks. The goals address four main topic areas: 1) program efficiency/effectiveness; 2) caucus relationships; 3) program funding/communications; and 4) research capability/knowledge. Completion of the plan took longer than expected, and many of the tasks are aimed at a revised CMER work plan for fiscal year (FY) 2010 - due to the Forest Practices Board in May - therefore, many of the timelines are ambitious.

Implementation of plan tasks actually began before the plan was presented to the Forest Practices Board at the November 2008 meeting. We are being challenged by the ambitious timelines, and a host of other factors; still, work is progressing on many fronts in order to accomplish plan tasks leading up to the AMP budget retreat in April. Between January and April, Policy intends to use at least half of each month's regular meeting, as well as one special meeting per month, to prepare for and accomplish plan tasks. Although we are working very hard to complete tasks as soon as possible, we cannot sacrifice work quality to do so. Many of the tasks require thoughtful deliberation and full participation to be successful. Therefore, we must be persistent yet flexible in order to ensure decisions made during the course of implementing the plan are meaningful and durable. Status updates on implementation of the plan will be reported at each regularly scheduled Forest Practices Board meeting during 2009. If you have questions about specific tasks in the plan I can be reached at (360) 902-1088.

DC/  
Attachment



## **FOREST PRACTICES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS**

Forests & Fish Report Vision for Adaptive Management: "An Adaptive Management program is necessary to monitor and assess implementation of forest practices rules and achieve desired resource objectives. Adaptive Management is a formal process for evaluating the current resource status and, over time, for evaluating the effectiveness of rules and guidance in protection, maintenance, and enhancement of habitat necessary to meet resource goals and objectives, for making adjustments to forest practices on a regional or statewide basis, and for requiring mitigation, where necessary, to achieve resource objectives." (Forests & Fish Report, p. 70)

### **Goal 1: Assess and improve Adaptive Management Program efficiency and effectiveness**

**Objective 1:** On an ongoing basis, assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the program in meeting the Program's mission and vision.

- **Task 1:** AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By December 2008, develop a timeline estimating when critical questions in the CMER work plan will be answered
- **Task 2:** Forest Practices Operations ADM/ CMP Manager - By December 2008, a steering committee or other collaborative process, shall be established to guide and make recommendations on compliance monitoring efforts. Such a steering committee will need to meet in a timely manner so delays don't occur in the training of survey crews and the collection of field data.
- **Task 3:** AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By February 2009, synthesize CMER work completed since 2000, summarize knowledge gained and assess progress towards answering FFR Adaptive Management key questions.
- **Task 4:** Policy Co-Chairs / AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By February 2009, clarify when and how research and monitoring results will be used to assess current rules and policies, i.e. should action be recommended in response to each project in a program, or should all projects in a program be completed before action is recommended, or something in between? Review and document decision with caucus principals as necessary.
- **Task 5:** AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs / CMP Manager - By March 2009, determine timing and coordination between compliance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring projects, and report results to Policy. (Note - Task 5 is dependent upon the timing of task 2. The intent is to complete task 5 within three months of the compliance monitoring steering committee's (or similar collaborative process) acceptance of the revised compliance monitoring design.)
- **Task 6:** Policy Co-Chairs / AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By March 2009, review the CMER Work Plan to ensure programs/projects are prioritized appropriately, tightly focused on FFR resource objectives/performance targets and key deadlines/time frames are identified.
- **Task 7:** CMER Co-Chairs - By April 2009, revise the CMER Work Plan to incorporate key components of CMER science synthesis, reflect Policy's recommended prioritization of projects and include project schedule estimates.
- **Task 8:** AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By December 2009, synthesize applicable non-CMER research for priority topic areas identified as a result of completing Tasks 1, 3 and 6.

**Objective 2:** Every ten years the structure, process and performance of the Adaptive Management Program will be independently reviewed.

## **FOREST PRACTICES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS**

- **Task 1:** Policy Co-Chairs / AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By January 2010, obtain independent review of the Adaptive Management Program. This review shall be done by representatives of independent, 3<sup>rd</sup> party research organizations and include:
  - An examination of the structure and function for technical performance, fiscal efficiency and overall accountability
  - An assessment of the performance and efficiency of the consensus-based decision processes
  - A review of the rigor of CMER science and the responsiveness of CMER work to body of PNW region science that is applicable to the L-1 Key Questions
  - An evaluation of the interactions of science and policy within the AMP

### **Goal 2: Reestablish and maintain productive, collaborative caucus relationships**

**Objective 1:** In order to more productively resolve contentious forest practices issues, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will lead efforts to renew and maintain cooperation and collaboration among the six caucuses as an alternative to competitive lobbying and litigation.

- **Task 1:** Commissioner of Public Lands - By March 2009, convene a meeting of caucus principals to determine their commitment to the Timber, Fish & Wildlife (TFW)/Forests & Fish Report (FFR) vision and ground rules, review caucus relationships, reinforce responsibilities and recognize capacity challenges of caucus representatives, and review how economic viability intersects with the Adaptive Management Program.
- **Task 2:** Caucus Principals - By March 2009, write a joint letter summarizing outcomes of Task 1 and giving appropriate direction to caucus representatives.
- **Task 3:** Policy Co-Chairs / AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - By May 2009, develop and implement a plan to improve understanding and conformance with WAC 222-12-045, the TFW / FFR ground rules and responsiveness to Board Manual Section 22 guidance.

### **Goal 3: Secure adequate program funding and enhance communications**

**Objective 1:** To ensure funding is available for caucus participation in the AMP as well as priority research and monitoring projects, the Forest Practices Division Manager, in cooperation with caucus principal support, will lead efforts to obtain stable, adequate, long-term funding.

- **Task 1:** F&F Policy / Caucus leads - Support DNR's unstable slopes decision package, which includes a request to double the GF-S Adaptive Management fund from \$1.2M per biennium to \$2.4M.
- **Task 2:** Policy Budget Committee - By June 2009, develop a plan to obtain dependable, long-term funding adequate for participation, research and monitoring projects, and program management.

**Objective 2:** Raise the public profile of the AMP.

- **Task 1:** AMPA / Policy Co-Chairs / CMER Co-Chairs - By July 2009, develop and implement an AMP communication and outreach strategy.

### **Goal 4: Increase research capabilities and scientific knowledge**

**FOREST PRACTICES ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
STRATEGIC GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND TASKS**

**Objective 1:** Strengthen and develop partnerships with other research organizations

- **Task 1:** AMPA / CMER Co-Chairs - On an ongoing basis, explore and develop partnerships with other natural resource research organizations. Report back to CMER and Policy biannually on progress.

