TFW/Forests & Fish Policy Committee
Forest Practices Board

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TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Stephen Bernath, Co-Chair
Adrian Miller, Co-Chair

SUBJECT: Policy Committee Priorities Projection for Calendar Year 2015

In the preparation of priorities for the next calendar year, the TFW Policy Committee (Policy committee) continues to face an increasing workload driven by internal process deadlines and external requests, as well as priorities directed by the Forest Practice Board (Board). The Policy committee has focused on Board directed work for the last couple of years and would like to share with the Board what the Policy committee may have for potential priorities over the next calendar year.

There are a number of existing 2014 priorities that will be carried over into the next calendar year as well as new issues that are expected to arrive at the Policy table in 2015. Additionally, anytime a study is finalized at the CMER level for review by Policy, it is considered by the Policy Committee at the subsequent meeting.

Existing Priorities

- **Water Typing:**
  - **Type N -** The Policy Committee approved the Type N Strategy submitted by the Policy Type N subgroup in March 2013. Included in this strategy was a commitment to developing Forest Practice Board Manual guidance to determine the uppermost point of perennial flow in Type N waters. There remains one point of contention with Board Manual development concerning options for identifying the uppermost point of perennial flow during the wet season. The inability to reach consensus on several alternatives and options has delayed presentation to the Board of a draft Board Manual Section 23, *Guidelines for Field Protocol to Locate Mapped Divisions between Stream Types and Perennial Stream Identification*. Other priorities have left little time to actually explore solutions to this issue.
  - **Type F -** As the Board knows, when mediation failed to get agreement on a charter for the Type F issue in late 2013, the Board provided direction to the Policy committee on next

steps at the February 2014 Board meeting. A plan was formulated and was in the process of being implemented when the Oso landslide occurred. All efforts on Type F were redirected by request of the Forest Practices Board Chair and the subsequent Board direction on unstable slopes. It is unlikely that any further work will be accomplished on Type F until the unstable slopes work is complete in November 2014. Type F has been a contentious debate and it is apparent that significant time and effort will be needed to fully address the issues after November.

- **Unstable slopes –** Policy continues to follow the direction provided by the Board at the May 2014 meeting. There is likely to be follow-up work started in 2015, based on what is recommended to the Board in November along with any further Board direction provided.

- **CMER budget for FY16 &17 –** Because of the Board's adoption of the Master Project Schedule, the only work CMER and the Policy Committee will need to consider next spring is based on what actually is authorized for budget by the legislative session in spring 2015. If the legislature finishes on time, CMER and Policy should be able to identify any adjustments needed to the FY16 & 17 budget. No work is planned related to the CMER workplan by Policy until the following year (spring 2016).

New Issues

- **Completion of CMER Research -** The following list of CMER studies could be delivered to Policy in 2015 and may necessitate action by the Policy committee. Policy, in consultation with the AMPA (Adaptive Management Program Administrator), will track and forecast the CMER/Policy process for passing studies to the Board.

  Final Reports:
  - Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Program – Stream Temperature Phase I: Westside Type F/S and Type Np Monitoring Project
  - Bull Trout Overlay Temperature Project (Eastside Riparian Shade/Temperature)
  - Eastside Type N Forest Hydrology
  - Tailed Frog Literature Review
  - Buffer Integrity – Shade Effectiveness (Amphibian)
  - Eastern Washington Riparian Assessment Project (EWRAP)
  - Forested Wetlands Systematic Literature Review

  Scoping Documents or Study Designs:
  - Eastside Type N Effectiveness Study
  - Wetlands Research Strategy
  - Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Monitoring Study
  - Road Prescription Scale Effectiveness Monitoring
  - Unstable Slopes Criteria Project
  - Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Program – Vegetation Pilot study

As described above, the Policy committee workload is heavy, yet must also remain sensitive to the changes in various timelines and to new issues as they arise. The capacity for Policy to accept any new work as assigned by the Forest Practices Board, or taken on for other reasons, will require delaying existing priorities.

Even considering completion of existing priorities will require the scheduling of additional Policy committee meetings and may require (only by mutual agreement or further Forest Practice Board direction) relaxing the dispute resolution timelines as outlined by the Board Manual. Policy's existing workload prioritization and schedule are attached.

cc: Forest Practice Board Liaisons
FFR Policy

Attached:

- *Prioritization of Policy's Workload*
- *Timeline for Policy Committee Workload*