WASHINGTON FOREST PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
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May 7, 2019

Washington Forest Practices Board
1111 Washington St SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012
Forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

Re: Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hardrock Lithologies Study Recommendations

Dear Forest Practices Board Members:

Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) is a forestry trade association representing large and small forest landowners and managers of nearly four million acres of productive working forests, including timberland located in the coastal and inland regions of the state. Our members support rural and urban communities through the sustainable growth and harvest of timber and other forest products for U. S. and international markets. For more information about WFPA, please visit our website at www.wfpa.org.

WFPA supports TFW Policy's consensus recommendation regarding the Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hardrock Lithologies (hardrock study). While the temperature response finding of the hardrock study has created much of the excitement and is the primary focus of the workgroup, we encourage Board members to take the time to read the entire study report. There are several notable findings in this and other related studies which have reduced scientific uncertainty, particularly regarding amphibians.

At its core, that's what adaptive management is about, learning and reducing scientific uncertainty. Though we understand the concern about temperature, TFW Policy has decided on a course of action to address that concern. This course of action incorporates thorough consideration all existing and pending, relevant science, which includes at least four more CMER studies. This is the prudent thing to do before recommending any management changes. In the meantime, we would do well to acknowledge the existing and ongoing contributions the Adaptative Management Program makes to reducing scientific uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Darin D. Cramer
Senior Director of Forest and Environmental Policy