

Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

Thursday, January 9, 2025 // 9:00AM – 10:20AM

Virtual: Zoom

Motions	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
<p>December 2024 Meeting Notes</p> <p>Motion: Chris Briggs moved to approve the December 2024 meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Saboor Jawad</p> <p>Up: Dave Roberts, Saboor Jawad, Rico Vinh, Chris Briggs/Deidre Hayward*, Cody Thomas, and Court Stanley</p> <p>Down:</p> <p>Sideways: Doug Hooks (proxy for Darin Cramer)</p> <p>Absent: Rob Purser</p>

*Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife share one State Agency vote.

Action Items	
Action Items	Responsibility
Westside Type F discussion next after disputes and prioritization is completed.	Natalie Church to put on agendas
Budget Workgroup to start meeting again after this month.	Natalie Church put on agendas
Share the AMP Fact Sheet that may be used in meeting with legislators: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/em_leg_ada_ptive_2024.pdf	Lori Clark

Caucus Updates

- Doug Hooks will act as Darin Cramer’s proxy for the meeting today.
- Rico read Ground Rule B. 6. Staff members, guests and visitors are encouraged to attend meetings as they choose but defer to those at the Policy Committee table for discussion and decisions.
- Saboor Jawad explained that the new commissioner is going to be starting January 15th and there will be a public activity at the NRB.

Staff Updates

- No staff updates

Action Items

Action Items were reviewed.

- Natalie sent out Compass Management’s PowerPoint Presentation

- AMPA began the Outside Science dispute memo. Lori is working with Rico to finalize the characterization. This will be discussed at the TFW Policy standing workgroup meeting on January 15th.

CMER Updates

Ash Roorbach, CMER co-chair, reviewed the CMER SAG Updates document and what was discussed at last month's CMER meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments

Westside Type F Next Steps

Continue discussion from November's TFW Policy meeting, "TFW Policy to initiate a dialogue with CMER on the Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project (ex. 25-27 CMER Work Plan 5.3.7.3). Lori said that it will be helpful to have TFW Policy weigh in on what information is needed to inform the Forest Practices Rules for Westside Type F. RSAG has expressed interest in developing the windthrow study (25-27 CMER Work Plan project 5.2.6.5) which includes building a database of existing windthrow data from previous and ongoing CMER and DNR projects. TFW Policy requested to initiate dialogue with CMER regarding the next steps for the Westside Type F projects. However, it will be most effective if TFW Policy establishes which critical questions they would like answered and then allow CMER to make recommendations back to TFW Policy before a joint meeting is scheduled. This will ensure the conversation is productive and focused on an outcome.

Lori shared that she and Jenelle will present the Westside Type F report, findings package, and TFW policy recommendation for no action to the Forest Practices Board on February 12th, tentatively scheduled for 9:25am.

Cody agrees that TFW Policy should establish the CQs before meeting with CMER.

Would be valuable to know more about windthrow before we do experimental buffers, these are two separate studies. Wait until we figure out budget and have time in a future workgroup meeting. CMER and RSAG can continue to have discussions about Westside Type F next steps (including windthrow) until TFW Policy circles back.

2025-2027 CMER Work Plan Delivery

The Science Advisory Groups and CMER worked diligently from September – December to complete the 2025-2027 CMER Work Plan. There are improvements to this biennium workplan including: a project assessment exercise to recommend withdrawn projects and project add-ons, completed and/or withdrawn projects were moved to an appendix, appendix A was updated to reflect approved Work Plan changes and identify CWA projects, and projects that were not assigned to a SAG (e.g., forest chemicals program, Roads project) were verified by CMER to ensure these projects are still relevant to the AMP priorities. The 2025-2027 CMER Work Plan may be used to inform TFW Policy's prioritization process and the refinement of MPS. Compass Resources Management will support TFW Policy in the prioritization process in February and March. Once TFW Policy has completed this process, the criteria for prioritizing projects included in the MPS and in the CMER Work Plan needs to be consistently applied and may be suggested as an addition to Board Manual, Section 22, for the Board's consideration.

Saboor – two CMER Work Plan are still expected to be completed by 2040. Lori indicated that this information was confirmed at the August 2024 Board meeting, but that it is still good to confirm that those directives are on track.

Doug Hooks expressed concern about the projects that have been established as a priority by the FPB, particularly Extensive Monitoring. Lori explained that FPB priority projects will be given a high weight in the part of the prioritizing process.

Governer's Budget

Governor Inslee's proposed budget for the 25-27 biennium is an early indication of a potential budget shortfall for the AMP. The General Fund-State (GF-S) proviso sustaining the program has been replaced with a FFSA proviso, contingent on the passage of House/Senate Bill Z-0258.1/25, which proposed to temporarily increase the surcharge rate on timber and wood product manufacturers, extractors, and wholesalers. If this bill is enacted, the AMP is projected to receive \$14,823,000 in FFSA appropriations. The Board approved two budget scenarios: Scenario 1 MPS at \$19.9 million and Scenario 2 at \$16,090,874. Thus, the program may face a budget shortfall ranging from \$1.1 million to \$3.9 million. Lori is working with budget staff to monitor funding levels during the legislative session. Lori shared that we are in a good place with the current approved MPS scenarios and the TFW Policy approved Contingency Plan. She reminded TFW Policy that the Contingency Plan has sequential steps for reducing the AMP budget down to \$16 million. The current proposed 25-27 budget falls within the two scenarios.

A \$3.7 million proviso GF-S is in the DNR base funding with condition that it is not a proviso. If DNR proviso is reduced, the AMP funds will be reduced. Budget bill is likely to change.

Cody asked if there are any stipulations on the amount of AMP funding. Saboor responded that it is everyone's interest that the AMP is fully funded. Outreach and advocacy will be required from all TFW Policy representatives.

Cody recommended we make clear to the new CPL. TFW Policy representatives should meet with CPL to express the need to fully funding the AMP.

Saboor – we need a predictable, stable funding source for the program for the rule effectiveness studies. Also, getting more funds from within the DNR budget is very unlikely since that would involve taking funding and deprioritizing other programs within the agency.

Doug responded that landowners are not in support of the tax increase. SFL caucus does not support the draft BNO tax.

The TFW Policy approved Contingency plan includes the following steps for how to sequentially work through prioritizing reductions are as follows (shared in the Zoom chat):

1. If an existing AMP staff position becomes vacant, consider implications of workload shift versus rehiring.
2. Delay/reduce administrative expenditures (remove funding for Biennial Fiscal & Performance Audit, and Science Review).
3. Delay/pause expenditures on all projects not in active field implementation; this includes FPB directed projects although they should be at the bottom of the list and CMER staff should work to advance them as much as possible (see project prioritized list below).
4. Eliminate state agency pass-through funding for activities unrelated to the AMP (advocate for agencies to secure necessary funding in their own budgets)
5. Reduce active project expenditures by 20%
6. Reduce participation grants to Counties, NGOs, and State agencies by 20%.

TFW Policy will be working on prioritization with Compass Resource Management in February and March which may be used to inform further budget cuts, as needed. The TFW Policy Budget Workgroup will meet in March following the completion of the prioritization workshops and when we have more information about the 25-27 biennium budget numbers.

List of Attendees

Attendees**Representing**

§Briggs, Chris*	Department of Ecology
§Hayward, Deidre*	WDFW
§Jawad, Saboor	DNR
§Miller, Ken	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
§Stanley, Court	WSAC
§Thomas, Cody	Eastside Tribe Caucus/UCUT
§Vinh, Rico	WCA/Conservation Caucus/TFW Policy Co-chair
Austin, Brandon	WDFW
Church, Natalie	Administrative Assistant/DNR
Clark, Lori	Adaptive Management Administrator
Franquemont, Maggie	DNR
Heimburg, John	WDFW
Henkel, Theryn	Supervisory Project Manager/DNR
Hooks, Doug**	WFPA/Caucus Alternate (Proxy for Darin Cramer)
Kay, Debbie	CMER Member/WetSAG Co-chair
Kroll, A.J.	Large Industrial Landowners
Knoth, Jenny	CMER Voting Member
Lower, Adam	Chehalis Tribe
Mahan, Donelle	DNR
McIntyre, Aimee	WDFW/CMER Voting Member
Mitchell, Robert	Member of the Public
Murray, Joe	RSAG Co-chair
Prescott, Alexander	Project Manager/DNR
Roberts, Dave**	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA/SFL Caucus Alternate
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Co-chair/NWIFC
Toledo, Anna	DNR Project Manager
Vogel, William	Member of the Public

§TFW Policy Voting Member

*Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife share the State Agency vote

**TFW Policy Caucus Alternate