

Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

Thursday, September 5, 2024 // 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Virtual Only

Motions	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
<p>August 2024 Meeting Notes</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ken Miller moved to approve the August 2024 meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Brandon Austin</p> <p>Up: Rico Vinh, Marc Engel, Darin Cramer, Cody Thomas, Brandon Austin/Chris Briggs*, Kendra Smith (proxy for Court Stanley), Rob Purser, and Ken Miller.</p>
<p>Alternate Harvest Prescription</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Brandon Austin moved to accept the alternate harvest prescription in response to the Board request to develop experimental alt harvest Rx and Policy requests CMER develop a monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the prescription. Additionally, to request the board to allow a minimum number of 75' harvest prescriptions cross all site classes through a pilot rule making.</p> <p>The motion failed</p> <p>Ken Miller called dispute on this motion.</p>	<p>Seconded: Ken Miller</p> <p>Up: Kendra Smith (proxy for Court Stanley), Chris Briggs*, Darin Cramer, Marc Engel, and Ken Miller.</p> <p>Down: Rico Vinh (would like to see science before putting in place)</p> <p>Sideways: Cody Thomas (partially to do with 75 ft buffer across for all site class, the goal of a lot of this can be done through alternate plans and doesn't want to hold anything up) and Rob Purser (Not in agreement with the fact that it includes the 75 ft. buffer)</p>

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

Action Items	
Action Items	Responsibility
Dispute characterized in writing no later than October 4 th . If Ken can get the dispute characterized by September 11 th TFW Policy may use the September 18 th standing workgroup meeting to make progress on this dispute.	Ken Miller (Person who called dispute)
Come with a solution focus to the September 18 th standing workgroup meeting for the Alternate Harvest Prescription dispute discussion.	TFW Policy Voting Members
Send Westside Type F PowerPoint Presentation	Natalie Church

Caucus Updates

- Cody Thomas read the following Group Agreements from the TFW Policy Manual:

- Take space and make space. Cultivate a safe space to ask questions, engage in open dialogue, and promote robust discussion.
- Seek to identify interests. When presented with a position, strive to verbally identify and get affirmation of the unspoken and underlying interests.

Staff Updates

- Lori shared that the ENREP PIs, Tim and Chuck, will not be presenting at the November TFW Policy meeting. Any preliminary findings from ENREP would need to be vetted through CMER before it is delivered to Policy. CMER provided a recommendation to TFW Policy based on the preliminary data from ENREP regarding the Extended Monitoring. Unless there is a specific ask for CMER to do further review, the delivery of CMER's recommendation is complete.
- AMP staff have worked swiftly to be responsive to the Zoom bomb by providing an update to the virtual Zoom platform that will allow a safe environment for the public meetings. With most of TFW Policy successfully logging into this meeting today, it looks like we have overcome the hurdle of figuring out this new platform. AMP staff will be available to assist up until 8:50am before meetings. Please do not expect a response from AMP staff during meetings. The reason for the all-virtual meeting today is that Policy co-chairs decided that because the meeting is expected to take no more than 3 hours and very likely less than 2 hours and because TFW Policy members and AMP staff will be traveling to Spokane in 2 weeks it seemed like a good decision to hold this meeting as virtual-only.
- Reminder that our October TFW Policy meeting will be in Spokane on Tuesday, September 24th.

CMER Updates

A.J. Kroll reviewed the CMER SAG Updates document and what was discussed at last month's CMER meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments.

Alternate Harvest Prescription

Chris, Brandon, and Marc worked with Ken to develop the Alternate Harvest Prescriptions proposal. Only one experimental alternate harvest prescription (not template) option is being proposed, relative density 40 conifer thinning with monitoring. Cody Thomas explained that this was brought forward to TFW Policy in June and was supposed to be a decision item in August, but it was postponed to this month. Marc Engel explained that this started in December 2018 meeting when Policy voted on the SFL alternate harvest. At that point Policy decided to create two workgroups. The second workgroup was to create alternate harvest prescriptions, the workgroup has completed a document being presented to Policy today for approval. Brandon Austin explained that now there is a request to CMER to create a monitoring plan. Chris Briggs explained that the intent is thinning. Ken Miller explained that SFL approves the prescription and appreciates the hard work that went into this, and this is a step in the right direction. Used in conjunction with the fixed width buffer. The request (beyond what is in the current proposal) for 75' buffer and/or lower relative density would be a departure from the current rule and would need Board approval (pilot rule). The RMZ management/thinning widths being proposed are already in practice (FPSs) or in rule. Rico shared concerns about template-scale implications and he stressed the need for monitoring. Ken shared that this buffer width is already in practice and that the difference in this proposal is some level of (conifer) thinning within the RMZs and it adds monitoring for landowners that opt to try this option. Ken also shared that the FREP program allows landowner to get compensated for these RMZs thus the ones who take this route would be ones that are interested in enhancing the RMZ. Marc shared that this could be a part of the Westside Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project that will be

discussed in the next agenda item. Thinning would take place in conifer stands reaching over-stocking in the exclusion zone. Will help get the stand to DFC more quickly and allows harvest in the RMZ while maintaining the riparian function. Brandon share that this would have a limited application. Need to monitor to see if we could develop this into a template. Each one will still be reviewed by IDT. Elaine asked if SFLs could implement this prescription without TFW blessing as a full alternate plan. And the implementation would be the same as an ID team would/could still be called without the requirement for monitoring - which is included here. Marc responded yes. The proposal's goal is to try to get the alternate harvest prescription to a template. Elaine shared that when SFLs have proposed these in the past they have been told no. They want to get closer to DFC. Brandon made a motion: I move to accept the alternate harvest prescription in response to the Board request to develop experimental alt harvest Rx and Policy requests CMER develop a monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the prescription. Additionally, to request the board to allow a minimum number of 75' harvest prescriptions cross all site classes through a pilot rule making". Ken second the motion.

Rico said he cannot support the motion because we do not have the science to back up supporting this prescription. Chris and Lori discussed options for testing this prescription with the next phase of Westside Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project. Policy would have the chance to review the alternatives through the AMP scoping process. A motion could be made to include this specific prescription. Motion failed. Ken second the motion. Motion failed and Ken Miller called dispute. Lori explained that she will use the break to confirm the process and dates for the dispute resolution process. Marc explained that what needs to be clearly defined what is dispute, the next step would be Ken has 30 days to define dispute. Lori shared the Dispute Resolution process and confirmed that Ken will need to clarify the dispute and agree on the issue in writing within 30 days. TFW Policy has a Standing Workgroup Meeting placeholder on September 18th. Lori suggested it would be most helpful to have Ken have the dispute characterized by September 11th, if possible so that this can be a discussion item. Lori reminded Policy that this has been in discussion at the Policy workgroup for over a year. She encouraged Policy members to come with a solution focus. If the dispute has not yet been characterized Lori will work with the Policy Co-chairs and Ken to get this step completed before end of business on October 4th As outlined in the WAC, Board Manual, and the TFW Policy Manual, TFW Policy should work to resolve issues within two months. Any party may move the process to Stage 2 after an issue has been in dispute resolution for two months. At that time Lori would engage Triangle as a mediator.

Westside Type F Exploratory Report Findings Package & Presentation

Lori thanked Jenelle and the Project Team, including Doug Martin and Chris Mendoza, for completing the Westside Type F Exploratory Report. The AMPA memo highlights the approval process and dates that this report has undergone over the past two and a half years. It is not a secret that I have been very uneasy with the pace of the approval of this report. However, today I am happy to report that the PT, RSAG, and CMER are in agreement with the report and the final six questions document as presented in the findings report package. Like many things in the AMP, the journey this report has taken has not been a straight line. Although the results from the Westside Type F Exploratory Study were intended to be used to design a BACI, the study findings and the answers to the Final Six Questions suggest that the next phase of the Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project (Phase 3) could more advantageously if CMER develops a study focused on testing the effectiveness of the current Westside Type F Riparian rule prescriptions. CMER has a project in the [work plan](#), Westside Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project (5.3.7.3) that is aimed at testing the effectiveness of alternative treatments. Lori commended the Project Team for working on a collective, consensus recommendation and she concurs with their recommendations. Jenelle Black, CMER scientist and Principal Investigator for the Westside Type F Exploratory Project, presented an overview of the project and findings and addressed TFW Policy questions. Natalie Church will send out her PowerPoint presentation after the meeting.

Lori shared that TFW Policy received the findings report on August 29, 2024. Per Board Manual, Section 22, “upon receipt of the findings report, the Policy Committee has 45 days to review the findings and to make a consensus decision as to whether the information merits taking action or not”. With this timeline, TFW Policy can discuss the Westside Type F Exploratory Report findings package at the September 24th meeting but would not have to make a decision until October 11th. Since there is not a meeting the first week of October, if TFW Policy is not ready to make a decision at the September 24th meeting, we would need to call a special meeting.

List of Attendees

Attendees	Representing
§Austin, Brandon*	WDFW
§Briggs, Chris*	Department of Ecology
§Cramer, Darin	Large Industrial Landowner Caucus/WFPA
§Engel, Marc	DNR
§Miller, Ken	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
§Purser, Rob	Skokomish Tribe/Westside Tribes
§Thomas, Cody	Eastside Tribe Caucus/UCUT
§Vinh, Rico	WCA/Conservation Caucus/TFW Policy Co-chair
Bell, Harry	CMER Voting member
Black, Jenelle	CMER Scientist
Church, Natalie	Adaptive Management Program Coordinator/DNR
Clark, Lori	Adaptive Management Program Administrator
Franquemont, Maggie	DNR
Freeman, Elise	CMER Scientist
Hage, Vaughn	DNR Field Technician
Henkel, Theryn	Supervisory Project Manager/DNR
Hooks, Doug**	WFPA/Large Industrial Landowner Caucus Alternate
Kay, Debbie	CMER Member/WetSAG Co-chair
Kroll, A.J.	Large Industrial Landowners
Mendoza, Chris	CMER Voting Member/Conservation Caucus
Mitchell, Robert	Member of the Public
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Tribe/CMER Member
Murray, Joe	RSAG Co-chair
O'Neil, Elaine	Small Forest Landowners Caucus Principle
Prescott, Alexander	Project Manager/DNR
Roberts, Dave**	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA/SFL Caucus Alternate
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Co-chair/NWIFC
Rubin, Rachel	CMER Scientist
Schofield, Jenny	Project Manager/DNR
Smith, Kendra**	Skagit County/Counties Caucus Alternate (Proxy for Court Stanley)
Toledo, Anna	Project Manager/DNR

§TFW Policy Voting Member

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

**TFW Policy Caucus Alternate