

In Attendance:

Jim Peters, Co-chair, NWIFC
Stephen Bernath, Co-chair, Ecology
Ken Miller, WFFA
Rick Dunning, WFFA
Mark Hicks, Ecology
Darin Cramer, DNR
Donelle Mahan, DNR
Curt Veldhuisen, SRSC
Charles Chesney, DNR
Mark Mobbs, Quinault Indian Nation
Nancy Sturnan, NWIFC
Peter Goldman, WFLC
Chris Mendoza, Conservation
Amy Kurtenbach, DNR
Peter Heide, WFPA
Chase Davis, UCUT
Teresa Miskovic, DNR
Terry Jackson, WDFW
Jim Hotvedt, DNR
Kevin Godbout, Weyerhaeuser
Marc Engel, DNR
Leslie Lingley, DNR
Ash Roorbach, CMER

By Phone:

Dave Powers, EPA
Anna Jackson, WDFW

Actions:

#1 Annual Budget Meeting: This is scheduled for April 7, 2011 at the Natural Resource Building in room 172. The budget meeting will start at 9:00 am and run to 4:00 pm. The agenda is in the preparation stage. Policy members will receive updated spreadsheets on the CMER budget within the next two weeks. A “Go-To Meeting” will be set up for those Policy members not able to attend in person, to view presentations at the CMER Budget meeting.

#2 The Roads Sub-basin & RMZ Resample Memo to Policy: re: “...provide guidance/recommendations on next steps with the two studies” *Roads Sub-Basin Scale Effectiveness Monitoring, Final Report, and Effectiveness of Riparian Management Zones (RMZ) in Providing Habitat for Wildlife*. Policy agreed that no action is warranted by the Forest Practices Board at this time based on either of these two reports.

Policy members agreed to take advantage of the current effort in revising Board Manual, Section 3-Guidelines for Forest Roads for the roads suggestion. This section will consider language emphasizing the importance of disconnecting roads from streams.

Decisions:

#1 Ash Roorbach presented on the proposed change in the research strategy for the Wetlands Protection Rule Group. Instead of starting a roads mitigation field study, WETSAG proposed a systematic literature review of wetland studies. The first step of this scoping work includes conducting a 'Forest Practices and Wetlands Systematic Literature Review.'

Three primary issues raised in the review of the Forest Roads Mitigation Study (Road Mitigation Project) that led to the recommendation are as follows:

1. Difficulty in assessing the effectiveness of the mitigation sequence rule.
2. The effects of harvesting forested wetlands are uncertain and risks to wetland functions from timber harvest may be greater than from road construction and maintenance activities.
3. The primary question of rate of incursion of roads in wetlands, and the risk that roads pose to wetlands may be addressed through less costly approaches.

Policy members agreed to the change of direction. This will be incorporated into the CMER work plan strategy for 2012.

#2 Ash Roorbach presented on a requested change of scope for the Hardwood Conversion Project. The current study plan calls for final data collection on conifer regeneration to occur four years after planting of conifers. Initial data analysis suggests that four years is too soon to accurately assess the likelihood of seedling survival in the future. RSAG recommended an extended and final collection of conifer regeneration and stocking levels at the eight study sites in FY 2016. This request requires no additional budget monies for FY 2011 or FY2012, but will require Policy review and approval after these years.

Policy members approved the request for monumenting of Hardwood Conversion Project Study sites during the 2011 field season.

Policy Work List:

Policy & CMER co-chairs agreed to the updates to the Policy Work List.