



## MEMORANDUM

August 20, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Ratcliff  
Forest Practices Policy and Services Section

SUBJECT: Board Manual Development Update

To address motions approved at the May Board meeting, Board Manual Section 16, *Guidelines for Evaluating Potentially Unstable Slopes and Landforms* is currently being amended to expand on the descriptions of and methods to identify and delineate glacial deep-seated landslides and ground water recharge areas. The progress to amend this section will be provided to you at your September meeting.

DNR staff will present for Board approval at your November meeting, amending the following sections of the Forest Practices Board Manual in 2015:

- Section 7, *Guidelines for Riparian Management Zones* to coincide with the Board's RMZ rule making timeline
- Section 22, *Adaptive Management Program* to begin when Policy has the capacity to participate in the process to amend
- Section 23 (Part 2), *Guidelines for Field Protocol to Locate Mapped Divisions Between Stream Types and Perennial Stream Identification* to begin when Policy has completed development of a methodology to identify the upper most point of perennial flow of Type Np water during the wet season.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 360.902.1414 or [marc.ratcliff@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:marc.ratcliff@dnr.wa.gov).

MR



August 20, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board (Board)

FROM:  Lauren Burnes, DNR on behalf of the Northern Spotted Owl Implementation Team (NSOIT)

SUBJECT: Update on Activities of the NSOIT

The NSOIT has not held meetings since our last update to the Board; instead, they're using this time to review the draft Technical Team report.

**Technical Team Update:** The Board directed the NSOIT to convene a technical team "to assess spatial and temporal allocation of conservation efforts on nonfederal lands using best available science." We are pleased to report that after a thorough multi-year process, the Technical Team delivered a draft report for Phases 1-3 to the NSOIT for review. The Technical Team has also completed additional project planning that identified needs for analysis for which project funding has not been identified. This analysis, if funded and completed, would assist the NSOIT in implementing a voluntary landowner incentive program. The NSOIT is reviewing and evaluating the draft report prior to final submission to the Board. We thank the Technical Team and contractors from Humboldt State University and Natural Resources Geospatial; their work has been essential to informing the NSOIT's recommendations.

**Incentives & Federal Assurances Update:** Last November, the NSOIT presented a memorandum to the Board with consensus habitat incentive and federal assurance recommendations of the NSOIT. The memo outlined recommended priorities for the best locations of proposed habitat incentives to best support northern spotted owl populations. It also recommended that the Board and the chair play a role in advocating for funding opportunities as laid out in the August 2013 NSOIT interim report, and that the Board pursue a programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service. Last June, DNR released an updated Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. Goal 3-E of the plan is to "Develop and implement a statewide programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement to provide strategically significant actions to Northern Spotted Owl Habitat." This additional agency support will enhance the efforts of the Board and NSOIT to pursue a programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement.

The Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP) application period for state critical wildlife habitat opened on August 1 and ends September 30, 2014. A DNR news release is attached to this memo. For this cycle of funding for RHOSP, the NSOIT will be tasked to assist in evaluating proposals. All areas and features described as critical habitat in the rules may qualify; however, additional focus for this funding cycle will be applications that are responsive to the Northern Spotted Owl habitat incentives priorities identified in the November 2014 NSOIT memo to the Board. Strategic landowner outreach will be conducted during the application period. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact DNR's Small Forest Landowner Office.

I will be available during the September Board meeting should you have any questions.



Attachment A: DNR News Release on RHOSP

NEWS RELEASE

August 13, 2014

**STATE SEEKS TO PURCHASE FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS  
Landowners With Threatened Species Habitat On Their Property May Apply**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking landowners who wish to apply for permanent conservation easements through its Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP). Since 2002, the state of Washington has invested \$3.9 million to purchase easements through the program.

“The program is about finding ways to achieve endangered species protections in partnership with economically viable forest management,” said Washington State Forester Aaron Everett. “This year’s program funds will be targeted in areas where recent science shows us that Northern spotted owls can benefit from strategic habitat protection.”

This year marks the first time funding has been provided by the state legislature since RHOSP was revised in 2013 to include habitat for species protected by the state as threatened or endangered. RHOSP also allows DNR to purchase easements from willing sellers whose property includes areas where a river’s active channel meanders – known as channel migration zones. These islands of timber have high ecological value to species like salmon and steelhead.

Interested landowners must apply by 5 p.m. on September 30, 2014.

**Qualifications And Priorities**

To qualify for a conservation easement purchase through RHOSP, a property must be:

- Located on forestland with critical habitat for state threatened or endangered species designated by the state Forest Practices Board, or include a channel migration zone;
- Identified as either “designated forest land” (Chapter 84.33 RCW) or “current use forest land” (Chapter 84.34 RCW) on county assessor records; and
- Free of unacceptable liabilities such as hazardous substances or other site conditions that may jeopardize the fisheries or environmental quality of the project area.

Applications will be prioritized for funding based on each property’s unique values, such as:

- Ecological value to strategic Northern spotted owl emphasis areas, with special priority on the I-90 corridor and Klickitat County;
- Habitat quality, biological characteristics, and significance;
- Connectivity to other protected lands and areas with conservation agreements; and
- Viability for conservation management.

Instructions and applications have been prepared for both the channel migration zone and critical habitat categories and are available on DNR’s RHOSP web page:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/OtherIndustryLandownerResources/Pages/riparian\\_open\\_space\\_program.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/OtherIndustryLandownerResources/Pages/riparian_open_space_program.aspx)

Properties accepted into the program are ranked in priority for funding. Landowners whose easements are not purchased during the 2013-2015 state budgeting biennium will be offered the opportunity to be considered when future funding becomes available. RHOSP also accepts donations of conservation easements.

Landowners who wish to learn more about the program may reach Dan Pomerenk, RHOSP director, at 360-902-1427 or by email at [dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:dan.pomerenk@dnr.wa.gov)

**Media Contact:** Bob Redling, Senior Communications Manager, 360-902-1149,  
[bob.redling@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:bob.redling@dnr.wa.gov)

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MEMORANDUM

July 22, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Engel, Assistant Division Manager, Policy and Services  
Forest Practices

SUBJECT: Rule Making Activity and 2014 Work Plan

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ME', is placed over the 'FROM' line of the memorandum.

Attached is your 2014 work plan that reflects Board action taken at the May meeting. At this time, no action on the work plan is necessary.

Rule making activity includes one rule making relating to unstable slopes information on Forest Practices Applications. A CR-101 *Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry* was filed on May 21, 2014. Staff is working on a draft rule proposal to vet through a stakeholder process sometime in August. Staff expect to present the rule proposal along with an economic analysis to you at your November 2014 meeting.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 360.902.1390 or [marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov).

MDE  
Attachment

# FOREST PRACTICES BOARD

## 2014 WORK PLAN

Updated 8/2014

TASK	COMPLETION DATE/STATUS
<b>Adaptive Management Program</b>	
· CMER FY 2015 Work Plan and Budget*	May
· CMER Master Project Schedule prioritization*	May & November
· The Mass Wasting Effectiveness Monitoring Project: A Post Mortem Study Examination of the Landslide Response to the December 2007 Storm in Southwestern Washington*	February
· Program Funding	On-going
· Compilation of TFW Caucus Comments on Hydraulic Code Revision*	February
· <i>Process review related recommendations from the Mass Wasting Effectiveness study*</i>	August
· <i>Type F Recommendations*</i>	November
<b>Annual Reports</b>	
· Clean Water Act Assurances	August
· Compliance Monitoring Biennial Report	August
· Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group	May
· Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Report	May
· TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable including WAC 222-20-120	August
· TFW Policy Committee Priorities*	August
· Western Gray Squirrel	May
<b>Board Manual Development</b>	
· <i>Section 16, Evaluating Potentially Unstable Slopes and Landforms</i>	November
<b>CMER Membership</b>	
	As needed
<b>Rule Making</b>	
· <i>Unstable slopes information on Forest Practices Applications</i>	February 2015
· Road Maintenance Clarification	2015
· RMZ Clarification	2015
· SEPA Clarification	2015
<b>Upland Wildlife - Northern Spotted Owl</b>	
	On-going
<b>Quarterly Reports</b>	
· Adaptive Management Program & Strategic Plan Implementation*	Each regular meeting
· Board Manual Development	Each regular meeting
· Compliance Monitoring	Each regular meeting
· Clean Water Act Assurances	February
· Legislative Update	February & May
· NSO Implementation Team	Each regular meeting
· Rule Making Activities	Each regular meeting
· Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee & Office	Each regular meeting
· TFW Cultural Resources Roundtable	Each regular meeting
· TFW Policy Committee Work Plan Accomplishments & Priorities*	Each regular meeting
· Upland Wildlife Working Group	Each regular meeting
<b>Work Planning for 2015</b>	
	November

*Italics = proposed changes*

*\*= TFW Policy Committee*



MEMORANDUM

July 14, 2014

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Tami Miketa, Manager, Forest Practices Small Forest Landowner Office

SUBJECT: Small Forest Landowner Office and Advisory Committee

Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee (SFLAC)

Since my last staff report, the Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee met twice on April 24, 2014 and on June 25, 2014. Issues discussed included:

- Update on the use of Alternate Plans and Long-term Applications
- Potential for regular reporting to SFLAC on the use of Alternate Plans and Long-term Applications
- DNR's Forest Stewardship Plan funding
- Overview of DNR's Landowner Assistance Program
- Presentation on DNR's Urban & Community Forestry Program

Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP)

Since FREP began, funding has not kept up with demand. There has been a backlog of applications waiting for funding for the cost of acquiring the easements. During the 2014 fiscal year, 30 new applications were received. As a result, the backlog of unfunded applications now totals 132.

In the 2013 legislative session, DNR requested full funding to complete acquisition of the FREP backlog, which totaled approximately \$13 million at the time the request was developed. The legislature funded FREP at \$2 million for FY14-15, doubling from FY13 levels. With this \$2 million it is estimated that FREP will purchase 20 easements during the FY14-15 biennium.

The Table on the following page summarizes the Forestry Riparian Easement Program's capital budget since the beginning of the program.

Department of Natural Resources  
 Small Forest Landowner Office  
 Forestry Riparian Easement Program  
 Capital Budget Summary

	FY 2002-2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Totals
	7/1/01-6/30/05	7/1/05-6/30/06	7/1/06-6/30/07	7/1/07-6/30/08	7/1/08-6/30/09	7/1/09-6/30/10	7/1/10-6/30/11	7/1/11-6/30/12	7/1/12 - 6/30/13	7/1/13 - 6/30/14	7/1/14 - 6/30/15	
Holdovers from Waiting List *	-	56	91	110	112	65	75	79	96	108		
Applications during the FY(s)*	143	69	59	44	28	10	16	17	25	30		441
Total Applicants on List at end of FY*	143	125	150	154	140	75	91	96	121	138		
Number of Easements Purchased	87	34	40	42	75	0	12	0	13	6		309
Queue*	56	91	110	112	65	75	79	96	108	132		
Amount Appropriated	\$7,750,000	\$8,000,000		\$10,300,000		\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000		\$30,050,000
Amount used for Administration of Program		\$300,000		\$560,000		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$860,000
Amount Spent	\$7,097,350	\$2,892,000	\$4,808,000	\$4,079,000	\$5,500,000	\$0	\$929,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$600,000		\$26,905,350
Acres Purchased	1,481	602	857	804	1,049	0	148	0	109	105		5,155
Amount Remaining	\$652,650	\$0		\$161,000		\$0	\$71,000	\$0	\$0			
Average Value of Easement per FY	\$81,579	\$85,059	\$120,200	\$97,119	\$73,333	\$0	\$77,417	\$0	\$76,923	\$100,000		
Cumulative Average Value of Easement	\$81,579	\$82,557	\$91,909	\$92,987	\$87,685	\$87,685	\$87,260		\$86,816	\$87,072		
Amount Requested from Legislature	\$10,000,000	\$13,050,000		\$13,800,000		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$13,000,000		

Dollar values include all costs associated with the easement acquisition process.

\*Number of FREP applications

FREPSummary07 08 14.docx

draft document

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (R&HOSP)

No activity in this program since last reporting period. However, the Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to this program for the Fiscal Years 13-15 biennium.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)

The FFFPP was allotted \$2 million from the Legislature for the Fiscal Years 13-15 biennium. For the 2014 construction season, the FFFPP used the remaining funds (approximately \$6 million) from the Jobs Now Act and a portion of the \$2 million allotted to complete projects to eliminate 52 fish passage barriers opening 113 stream miles.

Below is a summary of FFFPP accomplishments since its creation in 2003.

**Family Forest Fish Passage Program Accomplishments Since 2003**

<b>Numbers and Costs</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>Cumulative Since 2003</b>
Eligible Small Forest Landowner Applications	94	759
Eligible Sites	132	1,055
Projects Completed	52	285
Stream Miles Opened Up	113	761.58
Cost of Completed Projects	\$4.9 million	\$29.5 million

Long Term Applications (LTA's)

There are now a total of 168 approved long term applications; which is an increase of 9 approved applications since the end of the last reporting period (04/16/2014).

<b>LTA Applications</b>	<b>LTA Phase 1</b>	<b>LTA Phase 2</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Under Review	7	5	<b>12</b>
Validated	24	0	<b>24</b>
Approved	2	168	<b>170</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>206</b>

Forest Stewardship Program

The following are the summer 2014 Forest Owners Field Day Events:

- Idaho/Washington Interstate Forest Owners Field Day, June 21, Elk, WA. It was estimated that over 400 landowners attended this event, a new record attendance.
- North Puget Sound Forest Owners Field Day, July 26, Arlington, WA.
- SW Washington Forest Owners Field Day, August 9, Salkum, WA.

To date, 11,500 landowners have now participated in these events at 35 venues across the state.

Cost-share funds continue to be available to help family forest owners address forest health and wildfire issues in eastern Washington. State capital funds have been added to existing federal grant funds with priority emphasis on Forest Health Warning Areas designated by the Commissioner of Public Lands.

### Small Forest Landowner Outreach

The Small Forest Landowner Office distributed the May and July issues of Small Forest Landowner News to over 3,000 subscribers. The Small Forest Landowner Survey remains open with many small forest landowners continuing to complete the survey and subscribe to the Small Forest Landowner News. Currently 1,045 small forest landowners have taken the on-line survey.

Staff are broadening their demographic understanding of small forest landowners through the use of the Sustaining Family Forests Initiative Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively (TELE) outreach methodology. The methodology relies on data from the National Woodland Owner Survey for targeted marketing based on landowner type (woodland retreat, working the land, supplemental income, uninvolved) and attitudes. The Small Forest Landowner Office is in the process of developing a targeted marketing campaign for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program and will be using the plan as a model for improving outreach efforts for the Landowner Assistance and Forestry Riparian Easement Programs.

To improve accountability and responsiveness, a common data entry form and customer satisfaction postcard have been developed. The common data form will allow managers to more accurately track and easily document numbers and types of contacts across all Small Forest Landowner Office programs. The customer satisfaction postcard is awaiting final approval to print.

### Small Forest Landowner Grant Applications

SFLO staff members are currently researching federal grant possibilities (Grants.gov) and charitable foundation environmental grants, however finding grants categories that are open to state government remains difficult. The SFLO recently partnered with the Mason County Conservation District for a Salmon Recovery Fund grant for a barrier assessment of portions of the Tahuya watershed. The grant pre-application has been submitted, with the final package due in August of 2014 and final selection anticipated in December of this year.

The Small Forest Landowner Office goal is to continue to provide the highest quality of outreach to the small forest landowners. The SFLO will continue to pursue the use of media and social media to inform the public on the program and the resources offered. The office continues to search for external funding and grants as they become available to provide more assistance to small forest landowners. An important component of this outreach is to solicit feedback from users and track SFLO outreach activities to ensure effectiveness.

Please feel free to contact me at (360) 902-1415 or [tamara.miketa@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:tamara.miketa@dnr.wa.gov) if you have further questions.

TM/



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia WA

August 20, 2014

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Forest Practices Board  
**From:** Terry Jackson, Forest Habitats Section Manager   
**SUBJECT:** UPLAND WILDLIFE UPDATE

The following is a summary of new and ongoing state and federal activities related to upland wildlife in forested environments.

**Western Gray Squirrel**

DNR and WDFW will present the "2013 Annual Report to the Forest Practices Board: The Status of a Voluntary Cooperative Approach for the Western Gray Squirrel" at your September 4<sup>th</sup> Forest Practices Board Meeting. Please see report for further details.

**Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly**

DNR and WDFW will present the "2013 Annual Report to the Forest Practices Board: The Status of a Voluntary Cooperative Approach for the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly" at your September 4<sup>th</sup> Forest Practices Board Meeting. Please see report for further details.

**Pending Federal Decisions**

The following updates are intended to keep the Board abreast of proposed or final actions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding upland wildlife in forested environments. The forest practices rules require that when a species is listed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) consults with WDFW and makes a recommendation to the Board whether protection is needed under the Critical Habitat (State) rule (WAC 222-16-080). In addition to this specific requirement, WDFW and DNR continue to coordinate in order to anticipate such federal actions and/or state action in response to changes in the status of a species.

Fisher

As mentioned in previous reports, the fisher is a member of the weasel family that inhabits coniferous forests and dens in snags and tree cavities. It has been a state endangered species since 1998 and a federal candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act since 2004. Although the fisher has been a federal candidate since 2004, a decision will be made on whether or not to propose the West Coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of fisher for listing in September 2014.

As outlined in the state recovery plan, WDFW is continuing to work with USFWS, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service to return fishers to their historic range. As directed in the state recovery plan, successful reintroductions of fisher occurred in the Olympic National Park in 2008-2010. If animals are available from British Columbia, reintroductions will begin in the Cascades in late 2014, with releases to the South Cascades (Mount Rainier National Park and U.S. Forest lands). Two to three years later, releases will follow in the North Cascades (North Cascades National Park and U.S. Forest lands). As was the case when fishers were released in the Olympics, no forest practice rules are recommended at this time.

In order to prepare for this possible federal listing and ameliorate uncertainty for landowners concerned that reintroduced fishers might move onto their land, WDFW is working with the USFWS to develop a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Landowners will then be able to sign on to the agreement and with their commitment to certain conservation measures for the species, they will not be required to implement additional conservation measures beyond those in the CCAA or have additional land, water, or resource use limitations imposed on them should the species become listed in the future.

#### Selkirk Woodland Caribou

The woodland caribou population in the southern Selkirk Mountains is currently listed as state endangered, as well as federally endangered. This transboundary population occurs only in a very small portion of northeast Washington and moves between British Columbia, Canada, northern Idaho, and northeastern Washington. It is a unique ecotype of caribou based upon its winter diet of arboreal lichens, and is sometimes referred to as the "mountain caribou".

On May 8, 2014, the USFWS published in the Federal Register: (1) a 12-month finding on a petition to delist the southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou; (2) a proposed rule to amend the current listing of this population by defining the Southern Mountain Caribou distinct population segment (DPS), and by listing that DPS as threatened (a change from the current endangered status) under the Endangered Species Act; and (3) a determination that the approximately 30,010 acres, designated as critical habitat on November 28, 2012 for the southern Selkirk Mountains population of woodland caribou, is applicable to the U.S. portion of the proposed Southern Mountain Caribou DPS.

This federal rule change should not have an effect on the current forest practices rule implementation or protection measures. The designated critical habitat occurs on federal lands, and the woodland caribou is already included in the forest practices rules (WAC 222-16-080(d)).

#### Wolverine

In February 2013, the USFWS proposed to list the wolverine in the contiguous United States as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. On August 13, 2014, the USFWS withdrew their proposed rules to list the wolverine as threatened. This withdrawal was based on their conclusion that the factors affecting the DPS as identified in the proposed rule were not as significant as believed at the time that the rule was proposed. Following publication of the proposed rule, there was scientific disagreement and debate about the interpretation of the habitat requirements for wolverines and the available climate change information used to determine the extent of threats to the DPS. While there is significant evidence that the climate within the larger range of the wolverine is changing, affecting snow patterns and associated wolverine habitat, the specific response or sensitivity of wolverines to these forecasted changes involves considerable uncertainty at this time.

The wolverine is a state candidate species that will be reviewed with an initial status assessment before the end of June 2015. That status assessment will determine if: 1) the species warrants a full status review to potentially recommend a protected status, 2) more data is needed to determine the statewide status, or 3) there is little conservation concern for the species and therefore it should be removed from the candidate list. While the wolverine inhabits forested environments, their habitat tends to be located at high elevations and in rugged topography that is generally unsuitable for timber management. Much of the habitat is managed by federal agencies, and is designated as wilderness or national park.