



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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RESOURCES**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

November 10, 2021

**TO:** Forest Practices Board

**FROM:** Saboor Jawad, Adaptive Management Program Administrator *ASJ*

**SUBJECT:** State Auditor's Recommendations for the Adaptive Management Program

In January 2021, the State Auditor's Office (SAO) completed a Performance Audit of the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The audit provided 13 recommendations for improving program performance. The report referred eleven of these recommendations to the Forest Practices Board (Board).

In May 2021, the Board approved staff suggested relative priorities among the recommendations in the form of a response plan. The plan also identified additional resources that are needed to make and sustain identified changes.

Consistent with the Board's February 10, 2021 letter to the SAO, recommendations are separated into three groups based on entities that would need to complete the critical developmental work. Within each category, those listed first have a higher assigned priority. Recommendations were ranked based on consideration of urgency, benefit, complexity and resource requirements.

In May 2021, the Board also directed the AMP Administrator (AMPA) to provide status reports to the Board at six month intervals.

In Tables 1-3 of the attachment to this memo, I am providing an update to the Board on the status of each action item related to SAO recommendations.

Attachments:

Progress on SAO Recommendations on the AMP

## Progress on the 2021 State Auditor's Recommendations on the AMP

**Table 1:** Recommendations to be considered and acted upon by **caucus principals** that may be aided by third-party neutral assistance focusing on conflict transformation

Focus Area	Action Item	SAO Rec #	Status	Update
Decision making process	1) Review decision making model 2) Require participation by caucus principals	1 and 2	<b>On track</b>	Commissioner Franz is convening a principals' meeting in December 2021. As well, DNR requested <b>\$75,000</b> in a funding decision package for consideration in the 2022 supplemental operating budget. Request covers the cost of logistics support to the CPL for caucus principals meeting(s) anticipated in FY 2023.

**Table 2:** Recommendations involving changes to AMP processes to be evaluated mainly through the appropriate **AMP committees**

Focus Area	Action Item	SAO Rec #	Status	Update
Decision making process	Adopt decision criteria for determining actions	6	<b>On track to meet the November 2022 deadline</b>	CMER work group was formed in October. The work group will begin deliberation in November to prepare an options paper
Decision making process	Net gains model for project planning	5	<b>On track to meet the May 2022 deadline</b>	TFW Policy workgroup was formed in September. The workgroup met in October and work has started on the first draft of an options paper

**Table 3:** Recommendations that are administrative in nature to be evaluated **primarily by Board and AMP staff** and brought to the Board for decision and action

Focus Area	Action Item	SAO Rec #	Status	Update
Decision making process	Update dispute resolution language in Board Manual	3	<b>On track</b>	Work has started on updating the Board Manual Section 22. Board staff will present revisions to the Board for decision in <b>February 2022</b>
Decision making process	Dispute resolution triggers set by Board	4	<b>On track</b>	Board staff are developing draft mark-up language for Board Manual Section 22. Board staff will present revisions for Board decision in <b>February 2022</b>

Transparency and Accountability	1) Tracking system for life cycle of projects 2) Public facing dashboard	10 and 11	<b>Planned</b> to be accomplished this biennium with additional resources	AMP staff have started work on a project tracking system and on introducing cost and schedule metrics for continuous monitoring of projects. DNR has requested <b>\$185,000</b> as one-time cost of developing project life cycle tracking system and public facing dashboard.
Transparency and accountability	Complete biennial fiscal and performance audits of the AMP every two years	9	<b>Planned</b>	Board and AMP staff will develop recommendations for the Board on how to get the audits done on-time and regularly. Options and staff recommendations are being developed and will be presented to the Board for decision at their <b>November 2022 meeting.</b>
Transparency and accountability	Peer review science program every 5 years	7	<b>Planned</b>	Board staff are developing mark-up draft language requiring 5 year review for part 6.1 of Board Manual Section 22. Draft language will be presented for Board decision in <b>February 2022.</b>  AMP staff prepared a draft scope of work for the science review  DNR has requested \$280,000 of additional resources to conduct peer review of the science program
Decision making process	Onboarding and training for new members	8	<b>Planned</b>	Board staff are working on a draft mark-up language for Board Manual Section 22 that would require training for new AMP participants DNR has requested \$140,000 as a one-time cost of creating and implementing on-boarding training for participants in the AMP