
WORKGROUP CHARTER: SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER EXPERIMENTAL ALTERNATE HARVEST PRESCRIPTIONS

- I. **Date:** February 7, 2020
- II. **Project Duration:** February ##, 2020 through May 28, 2020

III. Introduction

This charter is intended to guide the formation and efforts of an experimental Small Forest Landowner (SFL) Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup (hereafter: Workgroup), which is a subgroup of the Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee (hereafter: Policy). The Workgroup is formed as an outcome of a motion approved by Policy at their December 5, 2019 meeting, as follows:

Form a technical workgroup including the State caucuses and other interested parties to continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

The purpose of the Workgroup is to (1) finish the development of experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL; (2) identify resource objectives and performance targets from Schedule L-1 (Attachment 1)ⁱ that the prescriptions are intending to meet or exceed; and (3) compile associated information necessary to inform the development of a monitoring or evaluation strategy by CMER.

IV. Workgroup Purpose

The purpose of the Workgroup is to evaluate the site-specific conditions (e.g. site class, bankfull widths, forest stand conditions, stream reach lengths, etc.) that are necessary to develop experimental alternative harvest prescriptions for SFL specific to conifer restoration and conifer thinning which will:

- i. meet the alternate harvest (restrictions) as outlined in RCW 76.13.110 (3) to:
 - a. promote the development of small landowner options through alternate harvest restrictions (prescriptions);
 - b. contain criteria to be adopted by the forest practices board into rules and guidance;
 - c. include evaluation of the cumulative impacts of the alternate harvest prescriptions on essential riparian functions at the sub-basin or watershed level; and
 - d. allow for the adjustment of the prescriptions in a manner that will minimize the cumulative, negative impacts on essential riparian functions within a sub-basin or watershed;
- ii. provide protection for public resources at least equal in overall effectiveness to the riparian protection provided in the Forest Practices Rules, including all six riparian functions as listed in WAC 222-16-010;
- iii. are repeatable and enforceable; and
- iv. are operationally feasible.

The workgroup shall:

- Develop technical recommendations for the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL for Policy's consideration at their June 4, 2020 meeting;
- Review existing operational parameters within the Forest Practices rules, Schedule L-1 goals, functional objectives, and performance targets, and scientific literature for the six riparian

functions. These parameters will be used to determine if a proposed prescription does, in fact, meet the requirements of the rules after subsequent evaluation; and

- Identify project goals, and intended outcomes, and metrics associated with prescriptions; specifically identify schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets to inform a subsequent CMER process for the development of a monitoring or evaluation strategy.

The Workgroup will develop and provide these outcomes in the form of technical recommendations for Policy's consideration at their June 4, 2020 meeting.

V. Deliverables

No later than May 28, 2020 the Workgroup shall submit for consideration at the June 4, 2020 Policy meeting:

1. Technical recommendations for experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL in western Washington that include on-the-ground prescriptions, the necessary site-specific conditions in which the prescriptions could apply, qualification criteria for SFL, and limitations for site-specificity.
2. Monitoring and evaluation components to inform subsequent CMER project development. Components include the identification of Schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets for the six riparian functions, and key monitoring elements such as pre-existing stand conditions to qualify, windthrow, reforestation, canopy response, residual tree species, diameter-breast-height, and tree spacing; as well as preferred evaluation criteria and reporting needs necessary to inform Policy's future decision-making process.

VI. Membership & Composition

The Workgroup will consist of one representative from Policy, whom will serve as Chair and four technical experts with alternate plan interdisciplinary team experience and expertise in one or more of the following areas of expertise: biological resource management, physical stream processes, and silviculture/forest engineering. Technical expert participation from the following caucuses is highly recommended: State Caucus – DNR, State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW, Tribal Caucus – Westside, and SFL Caucus. Workgroup members are not authorized to defer participation to proxies or substitutes without prior approval at Policy.

All workgroup members shall operate as technical experts and will not serve specifically as representatives for their caucus. However, an understanding of the field, policy and regulatory context will be valuable. Because familiarity and continuity among members are crucial to timely completion, meetings will require participation by all members. With Workgroup approval, members may invite associates to provide additional information. Associates' role will be technical, short-term, and specific.

Workgroup members agree to:

- Read and understand Forest Practices rules (Title 222 WAC) relevant to Type F and Np prescriptions;
- Acquire a deep understanding of the draft experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions;
- Meet on a regular and timely schedule;
- Attend all meetings (in-person or by phone);
- Adhere to the timeline; and
- Assist the Workgroup Chair in reporting regularly to Policy.

VII. Group Process and Governance

Norms

The Workgroup will follow standard Policy norms and ground rules. However, the small size and technical nature of the work may allow for a more informal approach than occurs at Policy meetings. Members of the Workgroup agree to collectively provide a collaborative space to foster the technical evaluation and development of the objectives outlined in Sections IV and V. Meetings will be open to the public, but with no public comment.

Governance

The Workgroup will actively work toward consensus. If there is a lack of consensus, a simple majority vote can occur to move a decision forward and should be documented as such. Voting is only necessary if decision making is at an impasse. Majority-minority reports will be catalogued for all non-consensus decisions.

It is the role of Workgroup co-chairs to inform Policy of non-consensus issues and to elevate those issues, if needed, for Policy resolution.

The Workgroup has no direct decision-making authority. All products delivered by the workgroup should be in the form of a recommendation for Policy consideration. Should the workgroup operate at an impasse Policy may intervene to ensure timely movement of deliberations.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chair

- Run workgroup meetings that maintain open and productive discussion and decision making;
- Work with the Workgroup to set up meeting schedule in advance;
- Work with Workgroup members to develop a work plan that meets deliverables, expectations, and timelines as articulated in the Charter;
- Ensure that meeting announcements and meeting summaries are prepared and distributed;
- Provide written and oral updates to Policy on Workgroup progress, issues, and decisions according to the timeline; and
- Identify if the Workgroup is at an impasse and notify Policy immediately with a recommended course of action.

Workgroup Technical Members

- Provide understanding of the Forest Practices rules (Title WAC 222) relevant to Type F and Np prescriptions;
- Have a deep understanding of approved Forest Practice Application's (FPA) with alternate plans including the total buffer widths, type of harvest (conifer or hardwood), number of ID team reviews, and final Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) approvals;
- Provide expertise that helps solve technical problems related to the objectives articulated in the Charter;
- Become familiar with the results of pertinent CMER and non-CMER studies, as necessary;
- Attend in person or via conference line/video link all regularly scheduled workgroup meetings;
- Participate in organized field trips, if needed;
- Be prepared for regularly scheduled workgroup meetings and complete assigned tasks within agreed upon deadlines;
- As requested by Workgroup Chair, attend Policy meetings and provide updates to Policy members;

- Follow guidelines established by the Workgroup Charter; and
- Adhere to TFW Adaptive Management ground rules and any other ground rules established by the Workgroup.

ⁱ Attachment 1: Schedule L-1 as approved by the Forest Practices Board on 02-14-2001