

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATERSHED ANALYSIS MASS WASTING PRESCRIPTIONS

October 19, 2009
Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

Subcommittee Members Present:

David Herrera, General Public Member
Norm Schaaf, General Public Member
Sherry Fox, General Public Member/Independent Logging Contractor
Tom Laurie, Designee for Director, Department of Ecology

Board Staff:

Darin Cramer, Forest Practices Division Manager
Julie Sackett, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
Marc Engel, Acting Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
Paddy O'Brien, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Sherri Felix, Environmental Planner

Guest Presenter:

Scott Swanson, West Fork Timber Company

Operational Updates (Julie Sackett)

Follow-up to the October 12 operational information was given:

- Field reviews of sample FPAs were initiated last November, and most of the regions have received all the FPAs needed for review
- The result of Forest Practices re-review of the 293 approved mass wasting prescriptions found that 61% were specific and 39% were non-specific
- The regions conducted TFW trainings and additional assistance is available to landowners upon request

Questions from the Subcommittee led to the following information:

- Forest Practices re-reviewed the 293 prescriptions following the September 28, 2009 guidance memo titled "Classifying FPAs with Watershed Analysis Prescriptions"
 - The review of prescriptions to determine whether they are considered specific or non-specific was a Forest Practices staff process and did not involve landowners or other stakeholders.
- A new FPA watershed analysis form is required when applying prescriptions

Five Year Review Update (Sherri Felix)

Follow-up to the October 12 5-year review information that was given:

- An updated chart showed that 5-year reviews are included in two (possibly three) of the 6 HCPs that utilize watershed analysis mass wasting prescriptions
- Landowners who sponsored watershed analysis were contacted about their review/monitoring efforts, and 3 responded: Boise – no reviews; Green Diamond – some monitoring; West Fork Timber – 5-year reviews on all their watershed analyses

The Subcommittee agreed that they welcome additional landowner presentations on 5-year reviews or other watershed analysis monitoring.

Update on Completed Watershed Analyses and Prioritized List of Watershed Administrative Units (Marc Engel)

The list of 56 priority watershed administrative units (WAU) was provided and compared to the number of completed watershed analyses (WSA) and completed Landslide Hazard Zonation (LHZ) assessments:

- 13 WSA were completed, 6 WSA started but not completed, and 37 WSA not started
- 6 WAUs have a completed LHZ assessment

Overview of West Fork Timber Company's Five Year Reviews (Scott Swanson)

Background was given on West Fork Timber Company, which was started in 1911 by the Murray family. All 9 watershed analyses on West Fork land were approved, and the land is now covered by an Endangered Species Act Section 10 permit that requires implementation of watershed analysis. All 5-year reviews continue to be completed on time, utilizing DNR Pacific Cascade Region's and West Fork's process. So far no prescriptions have needed to be changed. West Fork recommended:

- deferral to federal permits that incorporate the use of watershed analysis
- DNR set criteria for qualified experts to evaluate watershed analysis prescriptions
- not ignoring years of watershed analysis implementation without following appropriate administrative procedures

Questions from the Subcommittee lead to the following information:

- West Fork asked for a dialog on specific verses non-specific prescriptions, and is willing to assist DNR
- West Fork thought good prescriptions included those with the opportunity for further refinement
- The qualified experts that currently exist per rule could do 5-year reviews

Subcommittee Discussion

The Subcommittee discussed ideas for recommendations. Several points received the general consensus of the subcommittee, subject to review in subsequent meetings. Norm Schaaf provided his notes of the consensus items discussed to staff, which read as follows:

- DNR establish stakeholder review process of specific/non-specific prescription delineation
- DNR review use of licensed geologist as qualification for certification for watershed analysis
- HCPs that use watershed analysis mass wasting prescriptions will maintain Class IV exemptions that currently exist
- DNR establish stakeholder process to prioritize five year review of watershed analysis not in HCPs, for review over a three year period
- Board will utilize CMER and other studies to inform this process, and support completion of studies that are underway
- Board will seek presentation of findings from five year reviews that have been completed

The Subcommittee decided to report the status of their work at the November 10 Board meeting, and to meet again on November 20, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Executive Session

None.