

# Forest Practices Board Projects and State Auditor's Recommendations on the Adaptive Management Program

Prepared by  
Washington State Department  
of Natural Resources

Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, Hilary Franz  
Saboor Jawad, Forest Regulation Division Manager  
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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

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# Executive Summary

This report provides requested information to the natural resource policy committees of the Washington State Legislature about the status of Forest Practices Board (Board) projects and progress made to address recommendations from the 2021 state auditor's report on the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP).

The report was required through a proviso in the 2021-23 biennial operating budget (2021 [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5092](#) Section 310 (23)), which states:

(23) Within amounts appropriated in this section, the department on behalf of the forest practices board must provide an update to the natural resource policy committees of the legislature on the progress of its projects, including progress made to address recommendations from the 2021 state auditor's report on the adaptive management program, by December 1, 2021, and December 1, 2022.

This is the first of the two reports required through this budget proviso.

## Progress on Board Projects

This report describes the status of two major Board efforts and implementation of the 21-23 biennium AMP research project work plan. During this reporting period, the Board acted on both efforts advancing both to rule making analysis stage.

The first major Board effort is *consideration of adoption of a permanent administrative rule pertaining to establishing division points between segments of watercourses that provide fish habitat and those that do not*. This work is well underway.

During the previous reporting period, the Board was awaiting a recommendation from its TFW Policy Committee (TFW Policy) on the single remaining unresolved component for inclusion in the proposed rule: the characteristics of an “anadromous fish floor” (AFF). The AFF refers to a location in a watercourse below which the presence of fish that migrate to and from saltwater, such as salmon, would be presumed. The Board has now received the recommendation and has acted on that AFF recommendation. At their August 2022 regular meeting, the Board advanced two AFF alternatives for rule analysis. At their November 28, 2022 special meeting, the Board also approved a definition of AFF, acknowledged key elements of the water typing system rule and requested Board chair to initiate rule analysis. Approximately eighteen months would be required to complete a series of necessary actions before a new permanent rule could be put into effect

The Board's second major project entailed overseeing completion of a number of AMP research studies that are *evaluating the effectiveness of rules that establish the extent of riparian management zone buffers (buffers) required adjacent to perennial watercourses that are not fish habitat* so that the Board can use the results to decide whether to initiate formal rulemaking to adjust existing rules.

In November 2021, the Board voted to issue a CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry to notify the public of potential rule making. Acting on a 2018 Board decision that action to consider modifying existing rules is warranted based on results of a research study that

demonstrated temperature increases in certain streams protected by current rule-required buffers, TFW Policy worked on Type Np riparian buffer recommendation for the Board in first half of 2022. TFW Policy completed the task of developing these recommendations in July 2020 in a dispute resolution process. The Board received [majority and minority recommendations](#) in October 2022 to make the final determination on this dispute.

The Board made the final determination at their November 09, 2022 meeting. The Board accepted the majority recommendation and requested the chair to direct staff to begin rule making analysis. This required process will take approximately twenty-four months leading up to the possible enactment of a new rule.

The Legislature's funding support for *the AMP's research program* is greatly appreciated, and the AMP is now using that funding to implement the Board-approved work plan for the 21-23 biennium. As of October 30, 2022, three projects had been completed and another twelve were assessed to be progressing as originally planned. Three projects were behind schedule but expected to be on track by spring 2023. One project has significant, project-specific issues that could impact progress as intended during the current biennium; the particular factors causing the difficulties are different for each project and are described in Table 1.

AMP staff are actively attending to the delayed projects, working closely with co-chairs of the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER), committee members, and CMER's associated Scientific Advisory Groups (SAGs) to address the identified issues and barriers to intended progress. These efforts, including providing additional support where needed, have a reasonably high likelihood of bringing delayed projects back on track by December 2023 legislative report. The Guided Decision Making Process, for example, was utilized to bring the Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy Project back on track this reporting period.

## **Progress on addressing recommendations from the 2021 state auditor's report on the AMP**

In February 2021, the State Auditor (SAO) acted on a Board request and produced a [performance audit](#) of the AMP. The report outlined eleven recommendations for the Board to consider in order to improve decision-making and accountability. The Board then adopted a [plan of action](#) to address the recommendations, with actions segregated into three categories for lead responsibility:

- *Timber, Fish and Wildlife Leadership Engagement*: Over twenty years have passed since the passage of the Forest and Fish Act and its associated rules, and few leaders who originally participated remain active today. Public Lands Commissioner Franz has assumed an active leadership role and convened a meeting in December 2021 and a two-day meeting in April 2022 of the principals of the caucuses that participate in the TFW environment. The initial objective was to renew relationships and commitments to the TFW process, and then turn attention to SAO recommendation 1 on considering alternatives to the consensus-based decision making model of the AMP, and SAO recommendation 2 concerning appropriate participation of caucus

principals in the TFW environment including the AMP. The principles forum continues to meet in small groups and are expected to address SAO recommendation in early 2023.

- Standing Board Committee Actions: The Board’s action plan directs initial work on SAO recommendations 5 and 6 to the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA) and the co-chairs of TFW Policy and CMER. Significant progress has been made leading to a consensus TFW Policy recommendation to the Board on adopting net gains options for TFW Policy.
- Board and AMP Staff Actions: As staff to the Board, DNR is assigned to perform initial work on all or portions of seven SAO recommendations (3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11) that are primarily administrative in nature. Much of the work will be performed in collaboration with TFW Policy and CMER, and will ultimately go to the Board for consideration and decisions. Staff utilized existing resources to develop technical guidance changes in existing [Board Manual Section 22](#) to act on aspects of three individual SAO recommendations. The Board accepted these changes at their February 2022 meeting. During this reporting period, staff also made significant progress on the implementation of the remainder of SAO recommendations that are administrative in nature.

The Board’s action plan had identified a number of recommendations that would require additional resources to implement, and so the Board asked DNR to submit a funding decision package to OFM for consideration in the Governor’s 2022 supplemental operating budget. DNR did so, requesting \$680,000 for FY2023 to address all or portions of six SAO recommendations that are directed at improving AMP program accountability, decision-making and transparency.

The legislature did not provide funds in the 2022 supplemental operating budget. Staff worked with TFW Policy to request Board approval to use existing program resources to accomplish some of the tasks with the approved budget for 21-23 biennium and to also request additional funds in the 23-25 biennium operating budget. The Board approved this consensus TFW Policy recommendation:

- SAO recommendations #1 and 2: Provide logistical support for anticipated meetings among the caucus principals to be convened by Commissioner Franz during FY2023 and FY 2024. The Board approved the AMP master project schedule (MPS) with funding to cover the cost of logistical support. DNR has also submitted an AMP funding decision package to OFM for consideration in the Governor’s 23-25 biennium operating budget (Appendix 1).
- SAO recommendations #11 and 12: Improve AMP research project transparency and accountability by developing an accurate, real-time system for tracking CMER research project budgets and progress relative to goals, and displaying that information on an on-line public dashboard. The Board approved a TFW Policy request to use existing resources from the 21-23 biennium operating budget. Significant progress has occurred during this reporting period. DNR issued a request for proposal (RFTP) and is currently finalizing a contract with an information technology firm to develop the dashboard. Staff expect the dashboard to be online by end of June 2022.
- SAO recommendation #8: Create an on-boarding and training program for new

members of the TFW Policy and CMER committees, so that participants know their roles and responsibilities and are better prepared to make decisions. The Board approved a TFW Policy request to include funds in 23-25 biennium MPS. DNR has now submitted an AMP funding decision package to OFM for consideration in the 23-25 biennium operating budget.

- SAO recommendation #7: Conduct a peer review of the science program as required by rule ([WAC 222-12-045\(2\)\(e\)](#)). Although required, more than 15 years have passed since the last one was conducted. The goal would be to identify where changes might be made to help the AMP effectively accomplish its legislative directive to test whether forest practices rules are meeting established goals and performance targets. The Board approved a TFW Policy request to include funds in 23-25 biennium MPS. DNR has now submitted an AMP funding decision package to OFM for consideration in the 23-25 biennium operating budget.

Consistent with the Board's action plan, the AMPA provided a six-month status report on progress on the SAO recommendations at the Board's May 2022 and November 2022 meetings. During the latter presentation, he reported implementation of the plan to be on-track except for two recommendations.

## **Rulemaking to Establish the Division between Fish- and Non-Fish Waters**

One of the Board's primary areas of focus is considering adoption of a permanent rule (and associated Board Manual technical guidance) aimed at improving the objectivity and consistency of identifying the division points between segments of streams in the forest that provide fish habitat and those that do not. The Legislature's interest in this rulemaking effort is signified by a proviso in the 21-23 operating budget law that requests DNR to report on rulemaking progress before June 30, 2022 (see Section 310(23)). DNR provided a detailed accounting of progress and status in the June 2022 report; this section simply highlights the background, status and anticipated timelines.

This rulemaking effort is aimed at better addressing the Forests and Fish Report foundational goal for protecting fish habitat. In doing so, the objective is to reduce reliance on electrofishing and increase decision-making objectivity when establishing the division point between fish- and non-fish habitats. These goals support the statutory objectives endorsed in the Forests and Fish Report and Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan.

### **Background and Status**

In 2016, the Board accepted several TFW Policy consensus recommendations for key elements to be included in the rule language, and requested that DNR file a CR-101 Preproposal Statement of Inquiry to notify the public of potential rule making. In 2017, the Board accepted for inclusion in a water typing system rule recommendations from TFW Policy Committee for additional elements and a new field protocol process – the fish habitat assessment methodology (FHAM) – for delineating the upper extent of fish habitat while reducing electrofishing. It also determined that the remaining elements of the water typing

system rule would be developed under the Board’s direct guidance.

In early 2018, the Board approved additional key rule elements by approving three “potential habitat break” (PHB) alternatives and two anadromous fish floor (AFF) alternatives for analysis and possible inclusion in the rule. In June 2019, recognizing numerous challenges to progress, the Board formed a Water Typing System Board Committee (Committee) to lead and facilitate discussions for resolving PHB metrics issues and to develop a refined and, ideally, a consensus-based AFF alternative. Between then and January 2022, through the Committee’s oversight the outstanding issues were resolved and potential AFF alternatives were presented to the Board for consideration and action.

The Board considered and approved two AFF alternatives for inclusion in the draft rule and resolution of the remaining issues including the key elements of water typing system rule and a definition of AFF. The Board made these decisions at their August, 2022 and November 28, 2022 meetings respectively. With the Board approval of AFF alternatives, the Board also requested the chair to direct DNR staff to resume analysis and other work to finalize the water typing system rule information packet required to commence formal rulemaking through the filing of a CR-102 Proposed Rule Making Form. It is anticipated that about twelve months will be needed to complete the analyses and documents required for the rulemaking packet.<sup>1</sup>

After the filing of the CR-102 that begins formal rulemaking, approximately six additional months of time would be required before a new water typing system rule, if adopted, would take effect. During that time, DNR would: conduct public hearings to invite comment on the rule proposal; consider what is learned from the hearings and comments; and, prepare a concise explanatory statement for the Board to use in deciding whether or not to adopt a rule.

# **CMER Studies on Effectiveness of Rules Concerning Perennial Non-Fish Watercourses**

## **Background**

The 2018 CMER Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project on Hard Rock Lithologies (Phase 1) (Hard Rock) study demonstrated a temperature increase in Type Np waters flowing through the streams on certain landscapes managed under current forest practices riparian management zone (RMZ) buffer rules. The Board voted to accept TFW Policy’s recommendation that action to consider revising the rules was warranted as a result of the

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<sup>1</sup> The rulemaking packet will include five related documents: draft rule language; draft Board Manual Guidance; a Cost/Benefit Analysis; a Small Business Economic Analysis; and a State Environmental Policy Act analysis.

findings, and approved an action plan proposed by TFW Policy for developing Type Np RMZ alternatives for possible inclusion in a new or revised rule.

The plan recognized that findings from a suite of five additional on-going CMER Type Np studies were important to compliment the Hard Rock study and inform a Type Np riparian buffer rulemaking proposal. Titles of the other studies are:

1. *Buffer Integrity – Shade Effectiveness (Amphibian);*
2. *Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function (BCIF);*
3. *Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Temperature Monitoring – Type N/F (Westside and Eastside);*
4. *Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Hard Rock Lithology - Phase II Extended Monitoring;* and
5. *Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Soft Rock Lithologies.*

All CMER studies listed above have now been completed. TFW Policy received the findings reports of the last two studies in January 2022.

## **Status**

Relying on final results<sup>2</sup> from the first three studies listed above and on preliminary results from the final two, a technical workgroup delivered a final report to TFW Policy in June 2021. In January 2022, TFW Policy received the final reports of the remaining two studies (numbers 4 and 5). Citing lack of progress on developing Type Np buffer recommendations, TFW Policy members invoked dispute resolution. The dispute resolution process was completed in July 2022 without consensus. The Board received [majority and minority recommendations](#) emerging out this dispute at their October 31, 2022 meeting. The delivery of majority and minority recommendations also concluded the process at TFW Policy. The Board makes the final determination on all TFW Policy disputes.

The Board approved the majority recommendation at their November 09, 2022 meeting. At the same meeting, the Board requested the chair to direct DNR staff to prepare the Type Np buffer rule packet (with contents as described in the prior section) in advance of initiating formal rulemaking through filing a CR-102 Proposed Rule Making form.

Now that the Board has initiated formal rulemaking, it is anticipated that it will take about eighteen months to prepare the rulemaking packet.<sup>3</sup> After that, the new rule, if adopted, would take effect about six months following the Board decision to file a CR-102 to begin formal rulemaking. During that time, DNR would conduct public hearings to invite comment on the rule proposal and prepare a concise explanatory statement, after which the Board would decide whether or not to adopt a rule. The new Type Np buffer rule would take effect after the filing of a CR-103 – Rule-Making Order.

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<sup>2</sup> Each study was approved by consensus by CMER and then TFW Policy, and subsequently presented and accepted by the Board.

<sup>3</sup> The rulemaking packet will include five related documents: draft rule language; draft Board Manual Guidance; a Cost/Benefit Analysis; a Small Business Economic Analysis; and a State Environmental Policy Act analysis.



# Update on AMP CMER Research Program

## Background

The Salmon Recovery Act of 1999 ([ESHB 2091](#)) directed the Forest Practices Board ([Board](#)) to adopt rules consistent with the 1999 Forests and Fish Report ([FFR](#)), including rules for a scientifically based [AMP](#) used “... for evaluating the impacts of forest practices on aquatic resources.” Revised Forest Practices rules consistent with the FFR and ESHB 2091, including the AMP, were adopted by the Board in 2001 (Washington State Forest Practices Rules, ([WAC 222-12-045](#))). In support of the AMP, the Board established the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research ([CMER](#)) Committee to oversee research necessary to determine the effectiveness of contemporary Forest Practice Rules in meeting aquatic and riparian resource targets.

ESHB 2091 also directed the state to seek “federal assurances” from the appropriate agencies that the revised rules, including the AMP, were adequate to meet Endangered Species Act ([ESA](#)) and Clean Water Act ([CWA](#)) requirements. The Department of Natural Resources submitted the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan ([FP HCP](#)) in late 2005 and received approval in the form of incidental take permits ([ITPs](#)) from the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in June 2006. Similarly, the Washington Department of Ecology, through authority delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provided CWA assurances upon adoption of the 1999 FFR by the Legislature. This action was taken with the presumption the revised rules would either meet state water quality standards or put impaired water bodies on a trajectory to meet standards, and it is a key factor for providing landowners with regulatory assurance.

In May 2012, the DNR, Department of Ecology, Forests and Fish Conservation Caucus, and Washington Forest Protection Association announced that a settlement agreement had been reached to avert litigation over the state’s programmatic FP HCP before the statute of limitations to challenge the FP HCP under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The issues addressed in the final agreement revolved primarily around covenants not to sue in exchange for clarification of a minimum program funding level and clearer enforcement language in federal agreements, firm commitments to a schedule of science and adaptive management projects, and an improved collaborative process in evaluating science information for implementation (known as the [2012 Settlement Agreement](#)<sup>4</sup>).

The Board approved the MPS as a strategy to implement research projects through 2030 as a result of the 2012 Settlement Agreement. The schedule contains a comprehensive list of projects with budgets and timelines for completion. It is designed to carry out a long-term research plan developed by the CMER research

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<sup>4</sup> See 2012 Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan Annual Report - Appendix 6: the 2012 Settlement Agreement (beginning on page 21).

committee, as prioritized through recommendations from TFW Policy to the Board. Following public input, the schedule was reviewed and adopted by the Board in May 2015. Since then, it has been updated annually.

The specific areas (“rule groups”) of research included in the MPS are:

- Fish habitat modeling to explore enhancing establishment of the regulatory break between fish- (Type F) and non-fish (Type N) waters;
- Effectiveness of Type F and Type N riparian prescriptions;
- Monitoring to evaluate status and trends of indicators of resource condition across lands covered by the FP HCP;
- Evaluation of landforms regulated as unstable slopes;
- Effectiveness of road best management prescriptions to reduce surface erosion; and
- Timber harvest effects on forested wetlands, remote mapping of wetlands, and effectiveness of wetland buffers.

It is important to understand that research projects of this complexity take multiple years to complete, often crossing several biennia, particularly if they rely upon study designs requiring monitoring conditions both before and after the implementation of the treatment prescriptions being tested. The *Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project* is an example of such a study. This study is progressing within the proposed timelines and budgets but will take approximately six years to implement in the field. This level of scientific effort is essential to provide policymakers with high-quality results they can use to confidently assess the effectiveness of forest practices rules.

### **Description and Status of 21-23 Biennium CMER Research Program**

With its adoption of the recommended MPS for the 21-23 biennium in August 2020, the Board asked DNR to request funding to carry out the program. DNR did that, and the legislature provided funding consistent with that request for the 21-23 biennium. The program is funded at \$16.1 million for the biennium. Nearly two-thirds<sup>5</sup> comes from the Forest and Fish Support Account (FFSA), 27 percent comes from General Fund-State (GF-S), and 7.8 percent comes from the Model Toxics Control Operating Account (MTCOA) (Figure 1).

The [CMER Work Plan](#) presents an integrated strategy for conducting research and monitoring to provide scientific information to support the AMP. The overarching purpose is to inform CMER participants, TFW Policy members, the Board, and other interested parties about CMER research and monitoring activities.

For the nineteen ongoing projects approved for FY 2022 and FY 2023, there are:

- two in the Stream Typing Rule Group;
- nine in the Type N Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group;
- three in the Type F Prescriptions Rule Group;

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<sup>5</sup> As required in an operating budget funding proviso, \$5,500,000 of the FFSA must be allocated for tribal participation in the overall Forest Practices Program (including the AMP) but for simplicity all has been included here for illustrative purposes.

- two in the Unstable Slopes Rule Group;
- one in the Roads Rule Group; and,
- two in the Wetlands Protection Rule Group.

CMER projects cover a range of research topics related to the forest practices rules. The current CMER work plan includes 101 projects, including multiple phases of some projects. Original priority research topics were identified in 1999 in [Schedule L-1](#) of the Forests and Fish Report. Since then, the plan has been changed annually as existing projects have been completed and new ones added.

The Board-approved MPS for the 21-23 biennium, including as amended in February and May 2022, includes nineteen projects and associated budgets. Table 1 lists these projects by Rule Group and summarizes individual project status as of October 30, 2022 (that is, the end of the fifth quarter of the 21-23 biennium, when about 75 percent of the biennium had passed).

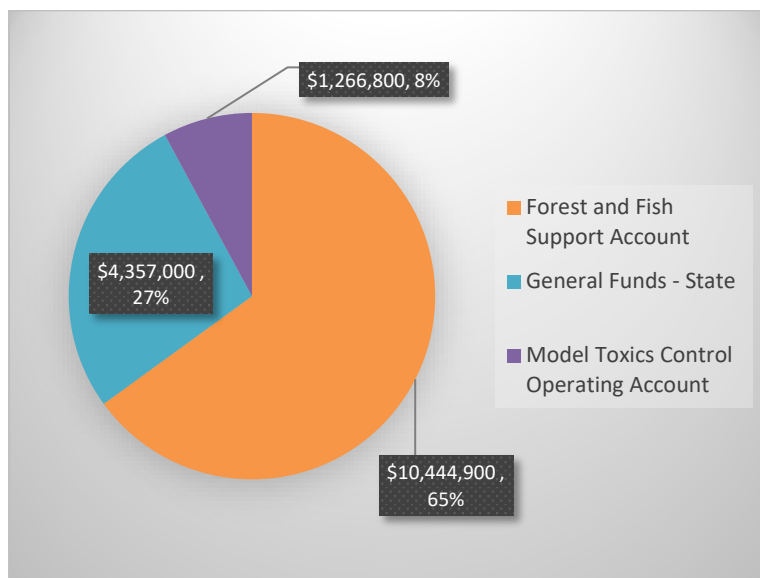
As of October 30, 2022, three projects (Projects 2.3, 2.4, and 2.6) had been completed and another twelve were assessed to be progressing as originally planned. Three projects were behind schedule but expected to be on track by spring 2023. One projects, Project 3.2, has significant, project-specific issues that could impact progress as intended during the current biennium; the particular factors causing the difficulties are different for each project and are described in Table 1.

AMP staff are actively attending to the delayed projects, working closely with CMER and its associated Scientific Advisory Groups (SAGs) to address the identified issues and barriers to intended progress. These efforts, including providing additional support where needed, have a reasonably high likelihood of bringing delayed projects back on track by the December 2023 legislative report. The Guided Decision Making Process was utilized to bring the Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy Project (Project 4.2) back on track this reporting period.

The findings report of the studies on the Effectiveness of Forest Practices Buffer Prescription on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Marine Lithologies in Western Washing (Soft Rock Study) and the Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hard Rock Lithologies Phase II Extended Monitoring (Hard Rock Phase II) were delivered to Policy in January this year (Projects 2.2 and 2.3). The completion of Hard Rock and Soft Rock Studies is a major milestone for the Adaptive Management Program. These studies provide a substantial gain in understanding of the degree to which Type Np Forest Practices rules meet the Resource Objectives and Performance Targets outlined in Schedule L-1 of the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan.

The Water Typing Strategy projects, Project 1.1 and 1.2, made significant progress this reporting period, including the development of a Study Design to assess Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB), which was approved by CMER in September 2022, and has entered an interactive (open) scientific review process. The study design that will allow an assessment of the Default Physical Criteria (DPC) is expected to be delivered to CMER to initiate a concurrent CMER/ISAG review in February 2023. Once these two projects are complete, the results would then be used in the development of a study to create an effective LiDAR-based water typing model.

**Figure 1: Fund sources and amounts for the AMP operating budget in the 21-23 biennium.**



**Table 1. Summary and status of the Board-approved CMER projects for the 21-23 Biennium.**

AMP PROJECTS BY RULE GROUP	PROJECT PROGRESS	COMMENTS
<p>1. <b>Stream Typing Rule Group:</b> prescriptions for identifying fish-bearing and non-fish-bearing streams. <a href="#">WAC 222-16</a> provides the rule context. Projects funded in the 21-23 biennium include:</p>		
1.1. Default Physical Criteria Assessment Project	ON TRACK	The Project Team is currently working on the Study Design, which is expected to be delivered to CMER to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in February 2023.
1.2. Evaluation of physical features that define fish habitat in forested landscapes/potential habitat break validation study	ON TRACK	The Study Design was approved by CMER in September 2022 and has entered an interactive Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR).
<p>2. <b>Type N Rule Group:</b> prescriptions for identifying non-fish-bearing streams and management of adjacent riparian areas. <a href="#">WAC 222-30</a> provides the rule context. Projects funded in the 21-23 biennium include:</p>		
2.1. Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hard Rock Lithologies - Amphibian Demographics/Channel Metrics	COMPLETED	
2.2. Type Np Hard Rock Phase III – Amphibian Demographics	ON TRACK	This project is currently in the implementation phase. Amphibian sampling and handling began June and continued through early October this reporting period.
2.3. Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Hard Rock Lithologies (temperature, sediment, vegetation, litterfall)	COMPLETED	This project was completed FY22. Findings package was delivered to TFW Policy in January 2022.
2.4. Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Soft Rock Lithologies	COMPLETED	This project was completed FY22. Findings package was delivered to TFW Policy in January 2022.
2.5. Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)	ON TRACK	This project is currently in implementation at five study sites.
2.6. Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Temperature, Type F/N - Westside	COMPLETED	
2.7. Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring- Riparian Vegetation and Stream Temperature, Type F/N- Westside and Eastside Project	ON TRACK	<p>In April 2022, Policy transmitted a memo to CMER requesting the development of an Extensive Monitoring proposal for stream temperature and riparian stand conditions. In June 2022, the CMER assigned the project to Riparian Science Advisory Group (RSAG).</p> <p>RSAG drafted a memo to TFW Policy in August 2022 and a joint workshop was convened intending to continue the conversation to refine and seek clarity on the questions posed by Policy, outline some of the extensive monitoring options and to provide critical background documents that are relevant to initiating a meaningful iterative conversation between RSAG/CMER and Policy. TFW Policy is planning to formally respond to the memo and workshop on the November 2022 meeting. The content of said response should indicate whether additional memos/workshops are needed prior to the project team developing scoping documents.</p>

AMP PROJECTS BY RULE GROUP	PROJECT PROGRESS	COMMENTS
2.8. Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study	ON TRACK	The status of this project has changed from Concerns to On Track . The ISPR-approved Study Design was approved by CMER in March 2022. A field trial was conducted in summer 2022, and project implementation is planned to start in summer 2023.
<u>2.9 Riparian Function Literature Synthesis</u>	ON TRACK	This project was due to be completed this biennium. TFW Policy and CMER are working together to determine the scope of the Riparian Function Literature Synthesis. TFW Policy approved a CMER scoping document and the project is expected to be completed this biennium.
<b>3. Type F Riparian Prescriptions:</b> prescriptions for managing fish-bearing streams and adjacent riparian areas. <a href="#">WAC 222-30</a> provide the rule context. Projects funded in the 21-23 biennium include:		
3.1. Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation (ETHEP)	ON TRACK	The Study Design is currently under review with the Science Advisory Group Eastside (SAGE), and is expected to be delivered to CMER in December 2022.
3.2. Westside Type F Riparian Effectiveness Prescription Monitoring Project	CONCERNS	The status of this project has changed from Delayed to Concerns due to the failure to complete the project’s exploratory report on time. The principal investigator and the Project Team are expediting the completion of the Exploratory Report with the goal of bringing the Final Report to CMER in November 2022. The project is expected to be on back on track by winter 2022-3.
<b>4. Unstable Slopes Rule Group:</b> prescriptions for identifying and managing areas potentially susceptible to mass wasting/erosion processes. <a href="#">WAC 222-24</a> , -30 provide the rule context. Projects funded in the 21-23 biennium include:		
4.1. Unstable Slope Criteria Project	DELAYED	The status of this project has changed from On Track to Delayed because there has been a delay in the delivery of Project 1 report. The Unstable Slopes Criteria Project consists of five distinct projects. Project 1 has not yet been completed and has been delayed by one year. Projects 2 and 3 are on schedule and expected to go through ISPR in Spring 2023.
4.2. Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy Project	ON TRACK	The status of this project has changed from Delayed to On Track. The Study Design is under development and this project is back on schedule.
4.3. LiDAR Acquisition for Unstable Slopes	ON TRACK	Collaborating with WGS on LiDAR flights to inform the Unstable Slopes Rule Group projects.
4.4 Eastside Forest Health Strategy	DELAYED	The status of this project was Delayed last reporting period because it was not being worked on. The project has advanced since last reporting period although the status remains Delayed because TFW Policy and CMER are working together to determine the scope of the Eastside Forest Health Strategy.
<b>5. Roads Rule Group:</b> prescriptions for identifying and managing erosion and runoff from forest roads. <a href="#">WAC 222-24</a> provides the rule context. The single project funded in the 21-23 biennium is:		
5.1. Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project	ON TRACK	The third year of data collection has been completed and the project team is actively implementing the main experiment as parameterization experiments such as ditch line hydraulics, micro-topography, and short-timescale interactions, A revised Project Management Plan and Project Charter were approved in June 2022.
<b>6. Wetlands Rule Group:</b> prescription for identifying and managing wetlands. <a href="#">WAC 222-30</a> provides the rule context. Projects funded in the 21-23 biennium include:		
6.1. Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project	ON TRACK	This project has an approved Study Design and Project

AMP PROJECTS BY RULE GROUP	PROJECT PROGRESS	COMMENTS
		Management Plan. CMER Wetland Scientist, along with the Project Team are currently working on implementing 4 sites as part of a staged implementation process. Additionally, landowner outreach, site selection, and validation for the additional 20 sites is ongoing. These additional 20 sites are planned for implementation in early spring 2023.
6.2. Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring	ON TRACK	The status of this project has changed from Concerns to On Track because the AMP successfully recruited a wetland scientist in spring 2022 . The project team is in the process of revising the Project Charter and is starting to plan the development of Scoping Document.

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

In February 2021, the State Auditor acted on a Board request and published a [performance audit](#) of the AMP. The report outlined eleven recommendations for the Board to consider in order to improve AMP decision-making and accountability.

The Board considered the report at its February 2021 meeting, and in May 2021 adopted a [plan of action](#) to address the recommendations. It received a status report at the May 2022, and November 2022 meetings. The action plan established relative priorities and timelines among the individual recommendations and identified costs for acting on them (where applicable). A summary of SAO audit recommendations is provided below as background information. The implementation status of all SAO audit recommendations is provided in Tables 2-4.

### Background

#### *Timber, Fish and Wildlife Leadership Engagement*

Over twenty years have passed since the Legislature passed the Forest and Fish Act and the Board adopted associated administrative rules, and few of the leaders who participated remain active today. Public Lands Commissioner Franz has assumed an active leadership role, and has held two separate meetings of the principles group. These meetings have focused on reinvigorating the AMP and finding consensus on the high-priority Board projects described previously. The group is expected to continue meeting in 2023 to address two of the SAO recommendations:

- SAO recommendation #1: Consider an alternative to the consensus-based decision model required by the Board’s TFW Policy and CMER committees, so that decisions are made more rapidly.
- SAO recommendation #2: Consider the future role that caucus principals might have on the Board and the TFW Policy committee.

Standing Board Committee Actions

The Board’s action plan directs initial work on two SAO recommendations to be led by the AMPA and the co-chairs of TFW Policy and CMER:

- SAO recommendation #5: Consider a “net gains approach” to decision making to help caucuses see a “win” from compromising on *a package of projects* rather than focusing on individual projects on a one-by-one basis. TFW Policy has completed the development of net gains options and have delivered an options paper to the Board for their review and approval.
- SAO recommendation #6: To improve future decision-making, *develop AMP study decision criteria or pre-determined thresholds for action upfront for study results*, so that participants agree on what results mean. Initial work is being performed by the AMPA, in consultation two workgroups of TFW Policy and CMER, to develop an options paper for the Board’s consideration.

Board and AMP Staff Actions

Acting in its role as staff to the Board, DNR’s forest practices team has been assigned to perform initial work on all or portions of seven SAO recommendations that are primarily administrative in nature. Much of the work is being performed in collaboration with TFW Policy and CMER and will ultimately go to the Board for consideration and decisions.

- SAO recommendation #3: Increase use of the *dispute resolution process* to improve decision making by updating Board Manual technical guidance to be consistent with rule ([WAC 222-12-045\(2\)\(c\)](#) and (h)).
- SAO recommendation #5: To help ensure that *required biennial fiscal and performance audits* are conducted, expand existing language in Board Manual Section 22(6) to include a description of the purpose and broad scope of the audits, and that such audits may be performed by a contracted private entity, another state agency, or an internal auditor with appropriate expertise.
- SAO recommendation #6: To help *ensure that required peer reviews of the CMER science program are conducted* each five years, expand existing language in Board Manual Section 22(6) to add this requirement, describe the purpose, and outline the broad scope of such reviews.

**Implementation Status of SAO Audit Recommendations**

TFW Policy, Board staff and AMP staff have made significant progress on SAO audit recommendations during this reporting period. Implementation status and progress is summarized in Tables 2-4 below.

**Table 2. 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 consensus decision making model: 2) Require participation by caucus principals	1 and 2	<b>Delayed</b> Expected to be completed next biennium.	The status of these two recommendations have changed from on-track to delayed since the last update. This is primarily because any changes to the decision making model would require a rule-change. A rule-change in the remainder of the current biennium is unlikely.



				Two rounds of TFW Principals meetings have been held this biennium. Meetings focused on reinvigorating the AMP and focusing on two of the Board’s high priority projects. The Board approved the MPS with funds to continue facilitating the Principals meeting in the next biennium. The principles group continues to meet and are expected to address these recommendations in 2023.
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**Table 3: 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 that will occur depending on project results before those results have been found	6	<b>Delayed</b> But expected to make significant progress in the remainder of this biennium	TFW Policy workgroup on SAO Audit Recommendations has started discussions on developing decision criteria for projects in the program. Developing decision criteria is more complicated than anticipated. TFW Policy will have joint sessions with a CMER workgroup on this recommendation. The Board expects to receive a consensus recommendation at their May 2023 meeting.
Decision making process	Implement a “net gains” approach to each proposal, project, and decision that benefits more than one caucus by considering packages of projects instead of individual projects	5	<b>Completed</b>	Based on recommendations from a TFW Policy workgroup and the AMPA, TFW Policy has now identified and approved a list of five net gains options for the program. These options align well with the intent of auditor’s recommendation #05 on adopting a net gains model for TFW Policy. Implementation will commence with Board approval of the options paper at their November 2022 meeting. Board approval will also allow TFW Policy to fully develop each option leading to important changes in Board Manual Guidance for the AMP.

**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 language in the board manual to reflect WAC which says dispute resolution is required when consensus cannot be achieved within the Science or Policy committees.	3	<b>Completed</b>	Board Manual 22 has been updated. Board staff presented revisions to the Board in February 2022 and obtained the Board’s approval
Decision making process	The board should set a trigger for dispute resolution. It should work with the Adaptive Management Program Administrator and the chairs of the committees to determine the appropriate amount of time:  1- Identify and recommend to the Board schedule or	4	<b>Completed</b>	Board staff have completed drafting mark-up language for Board Manual Section 22 for item number 1 on this list. Presentation to the Board is delayed until February 2023 when Board manual revision is expected to be on the Board’s agenda.  Items number 2 through 5 are completed. The program now has on-call dispute resolution contracts for both TFW Policy and CMER committees. Benefiting from the on-call contracts, TFW Policy concluded six disputes in 2022 and CMER concluded one dispute in 2022.

	<p>process based triggers for invoking dispute resolution</p> <p>2- Add line item for dispute resolution in the Master Project Schedule</p> <p>3- Establish on-call contracts for dispute resolution for Policy Committee</p> <p>4- Establish on-call contracts for a CMER technical arbitration panel</p> <p>5- Establish on-call statistical assistance contract for CMER</p>			
Transparency and Accountability	<p>1) Tracking system for life cycle of projects</p> <p>2) Public facing dashboard</p>	10,11	<b>On track</b> Significant progress made since last update.	<p>AMP staff have started work on a project tracking system and on introducing cost and schedule metrics for continuous monitoring of projects. A DNR supported SharePoint Online platform has now been created. CMER and TFW Policy members will receive training in the remainder of this calendar year. Members of both committees will be provided access to the platform in calendar year 2022.</p> <p>DNR also issued a request for proposal (RFP) to build a public-facing dashboard. The RFP has now closed and the resulting contract will be signed in November 2022. AMP staff expect to complete the development of the dashboard by June 2023.</p>
Transparency and accountability	Complete biennial fiscal and performance audits of the AMP every two years	9	<b>On track</b>	Status has changed from planned to on track since a last update to the Board. Draft language is ready to be reviewed by Board at their <b>February 2023</b> meeting when Board manual revision is expected to be on the Board's agenda.
Transparency and accountability	Peer review science program every 5 years	7	<b>On track</b>	<p>Status has changed from planned to on track since a last update to the Board. Board staff have developed 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 2023</b> when Board manual revision is expected to be on the Board's agenda.</p> <p>The rule-required science review of the program will be fulfilled this biennium through a separate project lead by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.</p> <p>The Board has also approved adding funds in the MPS to cover the cost of the next five-year science review.</p>
Decision making process	Onboarding and training for new members	8	<b>On track</b>	<p>Status has changed from planned to on track since a last update to the Board.</p> <p>Board staff have completed a draft mark-up language for Board Manual Section 22 that would require training for new AMP participants. Board manual revisions will be presented to the Board at their February 2023 meeting when Board manual revision is expected to be on the Board's agenda.</p>

				Funds are added in the MPS for the next biennium to develop training materials.
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# **Appendix 1** DNR 2023-25 Funding Decision Package – Policy Level – AM – Adaptive Management Program



## Agency Recommendation Summary

This proposal requests \$2.3 million of state general fund monies to provide research funding of the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP), which is a core commitment of Washington’s Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan. The proposal is submitted by DNR at the unanimous request of the Forest Practices Board (FPB), which approved a 23-25 biennial operating budget request at its August 2022 meeting. This proposal will ensure that the AMP is funded to carry out the entire scope and scale of the work program approved by the FPB.

## Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Summary <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
<b>Operating Expenditures</b>						
Fund 001 - 1	\$1,794	\$463	<b>\$2,257</b>	\$1,794	\$463	<b>\$2,257</b>
Total Expenditures	<b>\$1,794</b>	<b>\$463</b>	<b>\$2,257</b>	<b>\$1,794</b>	<b>\$463</b>	<b>\$2,257</b>

## Decision Package Description

This proposal is made on behalf of the Forest Practices Board (FPB) to increase the on-going funds in the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program (AMP). The proposal requests \$2.3 million to fund on-going activities that together provide for:

- a) uninterrupted operation of the AMP as required by the Forest Practices Act (chapter 76.09 RCW) and its implementing rules, and as required by Washington State’s Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP);
- b) full participation of stakeholders in the program and in the FPB’s rule-making process
- c) implementation of ongoing multi-year scientific research projects that lead to adaptive management recommendations to the FPB
- d) adequate staffing so the program can function effectively
- e) functioning of key components of the program including; the scientific peer review process; the dispute resolution processes; and the functioning of two rule-required AMP committees: The Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER); and the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (TFW Policy)
- f) statewide Forest Practices Applications review through the interdisciplinary teams (ID teams)

The AMP produces technical information and science-based recommendations to assist the FPB in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust forest practices rules and guidance to achieve Forests and Fish (FFR) goals, resource objectives, and performance targets. AMP is a required component of the State’s HCP.

The AMP is a key priority of the State’s Forest Practices Program based on the Legislature’s recognition that federal and state agencies, tribes, county representatives, and private timberland owners have spent considerable effort and time to develop the FFR (RCW 76.09.055). The Legislature further authorized the development of forest practices rules based on the analyses and conclusions of FFR including the development of an adaptive management program to:

*“... make adjustments as quickly as possible to forest practices that are not achieving the resource objectives . . . (and) shall incorporate the best available science and information, include protocols and standards, regular monitoring, a scientific and peer review process, and provide recommendations to the board on proposed changes to forest practices rules to meet timber industry viability and salmon recovery. (RCW 76.09.370(7))”*

This funding proposal is intended to allow the program to implement the entire \$17.9 million Master Project Schedule (MPS) approved by the FPB at its August 2022 meeting. The program needs an additional \$2.3 million of dedicated General Fund-State funding for the 2023-25 biennium to supplement its \$15.9 million carry forward funding. The program will use the requested funds to fund on-going research projects and other integral work included in the MPS. The program is currently implementing fifteen FPB-approved scientific research projects (summarized by rule-group in an attachment to this proposal).

### **Consequences of Not Funding this Proposal:**

Not funding the proposal would interrupt the ongoing implementation of the AMP's research projects and other on-going work. The scientific research projects have gone through many years of review and approval stages. The majority of these projects are either already being implemented or are ready to be implemented in the 2023-25 biennium. Significant delays could call the validity of the studies into question and/or introduce rule-making uncertainties leading to more risk of litigation. The following would be specific consequences from not funding this proposal:

- Scoping and study design development would halt on two research projects: Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project, and Extensive Temperature Monitoring. These priority projects have broad support among the program's stakeholders. Consensus MPS recommendation at TFW Policy was partly based on the expectation that the program will continue the development work of these projects.
- There would be inadequate funding to move the water typing group of projects to the implementation stage. These include the validation of Potential Habitat Breaks for accurately and consistently identifying the upper extent of fish habitat; and the Default Physical Criteria (DPC) project that compares and quantifies how the current DPCs correspond to the uppermost point of fish presence. The study designs for these projects are ready for final review at CMER and independent science peer review. As reported to the legislature in a [June 2022 report](#), the FPB is actively contemplating water typing rule making. Although delaying this group of projects would not directly prevent doing that, it could complicate FPB's and stakeholder deliberations and would be a significant setback for the program.
- The FPB approved the MPS with funds to implement the 2021 State Auditor recommendations for improvements to the AMP. Not funding this proposal would prevent completion of implementation of recommendations on: 1) training for new Board, Policy and CMER members; 2) statistical support for CMER; 3) review of the program's consensus based on decision making model; and 3) continued maintenance of a public-facing dashboard developed to increase program transparency and accountability.
- Funds available for dispute resolution would be reduce by half. This rule-required element would continue to function without an on-call contract as recommended by the State Auditor's Office. Disputes in the next biennium would take longer to conclude. In the 21-23 biennium, adequate funding facilitated conclusion of seven disputes. With reduced funding, the program would be unlikely to conclude a similar number of disputes in the next biennium.
- Disagreements over priorities are more likely at TFW Policy when the program has inadequate funding. Further disarray in the program would be expected, along with a cycle of disputes that the program wouldn't be able to conclude in a timely manner.

**Review of Alternatives:** Two scenarios were considered as potential alternatives:

1. Alternative 1: request no additional funding: DNR would not request any funding for the AMP under this scenario. The immediate consequences listed above would arise.
2. Alternative 2: request adequate funding for the program as approved by the FPB: This alternative relies on the AMP's consensus priorities for the 2023-25 biennium to determine the overall level of funding needs. Under this alternative, the program, and all its key components, would function as intended by the FPB and as specified in rule and statutes.

DNR elected Alternative 2 because the additional funding sought is needed to fulfill the FPB's intent for the scope and scale of the work program of the AMP during the 23-25 biennium.

## **Assumptions and Calculations**

### ***Expansion, Reduction, Elimination or Alteration of a current program or service:***

The proposal would have the effect of increasing the AMP program's operating budget by \$2.3 million.

### ***Detailed Assumptions and Calculations:***

This proposal identifies 100% of General Fund-State as the Forest & Fish Support Account (11H) does not have the available revenue to support additional expenditures. These funds will be used for AMP Research contracts.

### ***Workforce Assumptions:***

This request would not be used to fund DNR staff.

## Strategic and Performance Outcomes

### **Strategic Framework:**

The AMP is a significant contributor to the effective stewardship of Washington’s forest resources. Of the Governor’s five strategic goals, the AMP closely aligns with and contributes to Goal 3: Sustainable energy and a clean environment. Additionally, the AMP continuously identifies areas of reform and implements measures that improve efficiency and effectively use state resources. The program’s focus on implementing recommendations of State Auditor Office is a good example of the program’s efforts to continuously improve and to manage its performance, thereby contributing to Governor’s Goal 5: Efficient, effective and accountable government. As a collaborative forum, the AMP shares the same mission as Results Washington by focusing on finding solutions to complex issues through collaboration and continuous improvement.

DNR’s Strategic Plan:

This proposal contributes to the following DNR Goals and Strategies:

DNR Goal A 1: Empowered and supported employees with the resources and tools necessary to accomplish the Department’s mission

The AMP has implemented a number of Lean processes that that improves program efficiency and performance. This effort of making the program more efficient continues with the implementation of the recommendations provided by the Statue Auditor Office. These efforts are aligned with *DNR Strategy A1.4: prioritize and address core business challenges*.

DNR Goal D4: Restored ecosystem health in areas such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and biodiversity

The AMP tests the effectiveness of forest practices rules to determine whether the rules are protecting public resources including clean water and salmon habitat. This aspect of the program provides critical information to policy makers on the need to adjust or amend forest practices rules. The program directly contributes to *DNR Strategies D4.1 restore and protect high-priority habitats*; and *D4.3. reduce contaminants from DNR-managed or regulated roads and other facilities entering state waters*.

DNR Goal E2: Increased awareness about the importance of sustainable natural resource management and the wide-ranging value of public lands for Washington’s communities:

- DNR Strategy E2.2. Make DNR’s scientific expertise and body of research more readily available to tribes, partners and the public
- Strategy E2.1. Engage and educate the public about the value of sustainable natural resource management and public lands.

DNR Goal E3: strong partnerships with educators, businesses, non-profit organizations, and tribes that engage the next generation of natural resource stewards and public lands advocates.

Performance Measures	Incremental Changes 2024	Incremental Changes 2025	Incremental Changes 2026	Incremental Changes 2027
001192 - Forest Practices - Manage Adaptively	100	100	100	100

### **Performance Outcomes:**

#### A015 Forest Practices – Manage Adaptively

This activity produces technical information and science-based recommendations to assist the Forest Practices Board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust forest practices rules and guidance in order to achieve Forest and Fish goals, resource objectives and performance targets. This is a required component of the State’s Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan and the federal Clean Water Assurances.

#### Expected Results:

- o FP-1192 Number of scientific investigations completed by the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) and evaluated by the Forest & Fish Policy Committee (Policy) to determine whether an adaptive management response is needed.

## Equity Impacts

### **Community outreach and engagement:**

The AMP hasn’t conducted direct community engagement or outreach. The program does, however, provide the forum for the participation of caucuses who represent the interests of forest dependent communities and forestry interest groups. These include tribal governments, conservation groups, state agencies, small forest landowners and large forest landowners. This proposal is based on the program’s MPS that was a consensus recommendation of TFW Policy to the FPB.

This proposal is submitted with the recognition that that AMP has environmental justice elements and considerations. Program staff are planning to integrate environmental justice into AMP activities. Initial screening of environmental justice issues will be completed in calendar year 2022. DNR’s community engagement plan, moreover, may also be relevant to the AMP. The AMP will implement DNR’s provisional community engagement plan where it is applicable to the program’s activities.

### **Disproportional Impact Considerations:**

This proposal, as presented, couldn’t identify populations or communities that may be adversely or disproportionately affected by the activities of the AMP. This proposal supports the continued implementation of open, transparent and science-based adaptive management program. The program is designed to be inclusive and none of its activities purposefully exclude populations or communities from engagement or participation. The program does, however, need to complete its environmental justice screening and to determine whether there are barriers (education, language, socio-economic status or geographic location) for communities or populations to meaningfully participate in the program or, at a minimum, become aware of the program and the program’s impact on how forest resources are managed in the State of Washington.

### **Target Populations or Communities:**

Forest practices rules guide logging, road construction, brush control and other work in the woods on about 12 million acres of non-federal and non-tribal forestlands across the entire state. These forest lands are owned by more than 218,000 individual owners. The AMP plays a key role in assisting the FPB ensure that the forest practices rules protect public resources like water, wildlife and human infrastructure while maintaining a viable wood products industry. By testing the effectiveness of forest practices rules, the AMP contributes to goals of the FFR that have significant equity considerations including: ensuring the forest practices rules provide harvestable levels of salmon; protect endangered species; meet water quality standards; and maintain a viable timber industry. These objectives support tribal communities and subsistence fishers across the state. Guidance generated through the program, furthermore, enables small forest landowners and other forest dependent communities to understand and apply forest practices rules or become aware of proper application of forest practices rules in their communities.

## Other Collateral Connections

### **Puget Sound Recovery:**

**This proposal is directly aligned with multiple Strategies, Actions, and Key Opportunities in the 2022-2026 Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda**, through determining whether forest practices rules are meeting aquatic resource objectives which include: 1) compliance with endangered species act; 2) restoring and maintaining riparian habitat to support a harvestable supply of fish; 3) to meet the



requirements of Clean Water Act on non-federal forest lands and 4) to keep the timber industry economically viable. This work will also result in improved human health by supporting natural sector jobs, and climate resilience by maintaining forest cover, particularly in riparian and headwater areas. The Actions and Key Opportunities directly advanced by this proposal include:

Strategy 2: Support the long-term viability and sustainability of agricultural lands and working forests to reduce pressure for conversion from the current use to a more developed use (ID #4)

- *Key Opportunity:* Improve regulations, policies, and plans that maintain a working lands base, particularly for those areas that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Strategy 4: Establish and implement science-based riparian protection, restoration, and management policies that result in a minimum '1 Site Potential Tree Height' forested riparian area standard. (ID #11)

- *Key Opportunity:* Gather and evaluate riparian management, guidance, and implementation data

Strategy 12: Facilitate the increased use or performance of best management practices to reduce pollutants and the volume of runoff from agricultural lands and working forests. (ID #5)

- *Key Opportunity:* Increase shade and amount of vegetation

Strategy 25: Support natural resource sector jobs and production opportunities. (ID #164)

**The proposal directly implements recommendations of the Statewide Salmon Strategy (SSS):**

SSS 1: Protect and restore vital salmon habitat

- Protect and restore fish habitat by avoiding and /or mitigating site-specific and cumulative negative impacts of continuing growth and development.
- Establish a statewide standard for fully functioning riparian habitat, which requires actions through growth management, agriculture, forest lands, water quality and quantity and riparian strategies.
- Fully support forest and riparian programs that restore and protect habitat to support healthy, harvestable quantities of fish.
- Maintain a viable timber industry and provide long-term regulatory certainty.

SSS 4: Build climate resiliency

- Increase carbon sequestration by planting trees, preserving forests, restoring estuaries and kelp forests, improving agricultural soil health and other carbon storage opportunities to absorb existing high levels of carbon in the atmosphere and prevent more carbon release.
- Implement water quality plans for temperature in high priority salmon recovery areas to restore the baseline temperature needs of salmon today.

**State Workforce Impacts:**

N/A

**Intergovernmental:**

Tribal and county governments as well as state agencies (Department of Ecology, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife) are represented on the program's two standing committees: TFW Policy and CMER. This proposal was collaboratively developed with all participants of the AMP who made a consensus recommendation to the FPB to approve the program's MPS and associated budget as presented in this decision package.

Department of Commerce and Department of Agriculture, moreover, are members of the FPB. The FPB's unanimous approval of the MPS also carries the support of these state agencies.

**Stakeholder Response:**

This proposal is made based on the consensus vote of approval by the 13 members of the FPB in August 2022. Members include representatives of large and small forest landowners; conservation groups; tribal governments; state agencies; and general public members. The 13 members of the FPB are expected to continue supporting the full funding of the program.

The following key stakeholders, additionally, have all supported this proposal and are expected to continue to support the full funding and continued functioning of the AMP. This is evident from their favorable votes on TFW Policy and, for WFPA and WFFA, through their public testimonies before the FPB as well. Supportive stakeholder groups include:

- Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA)
- Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA)
- Washington State Association of Counties (WSASAC)
- Washington Conservation Caucuses

**State Facilities Impacts:**

Program staff are existing and so already have work space.

**Changes from Current Law:**

N/A

**Legal or Administrative Mandates:**

N/A

Reference Documents

[List of ongoing AMP scientific research projects.pdf](#)

IT Addendum

**Does this Decision Package include funding for any IT-related costs, including hardware, software, (including cloud-based services), contracts or IT staff?**

No

Objects of Expenditure

Objects of Expenditure <i>Dollars in Thousands</i>	Fiscal Years		Biennial	Fiscal Years		Biennial
	2024	2025	2023-25	2026	2027	2025-27
Obj. C	\$528	\$463	\$991	\$528	\$463	\$991
Obj. E	\$1,266	\$0	\$1,266	\$1,266	\$0	\$1,266

Agency Contact Information

Nicole Dixon  
(360) 485-7451  
nicole.dixon@dnr.wa.gov