

Summary of Forest Practices Board Staff Recommendations for Desired Future Condition, Fixed Width and CMER Budget and Work Plan
May 19, 2009

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Since the Forest Practices Board's (Board) April 10, 2009 meeting, Board staff has been attentive to concerns expressed by some Board members and caucus representatives as to what action the Board will take on Desired Future Condition (DFC) at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 20, 2009. Staff has attempted to address a major concern that has been expressed: that the alternative recommended to the Board (Alternative 3) was generated for the Board after the petition for rule-making was delivered to the Board by the Forests & Fish Policy Committee, and has not been reviewed by the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation & Research Committee (CMER). To address this concern, staff has modified its recommendation as follows:

1. Staff recommends that the Board defer action on DFC until its August 12, 2009 meeting.
2. Staff recommends that the Board direct CMER to estimate whether implementation of Alternative 3 would result in environmental impacts that are significantly different from the environmental impacts of implementing Alternative 1, and provide the Board with a written report at least 1 week prior to the Board's August 12, 2009 meeting.
3. Staff recommends that the Board request refiling of the CR-102 with a new anticipated adoption date to provide public notice of the ongoing rule making.

CMER WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Policy is requesting approval of the FY10 CMER Work Plan and budget, as well as Board support and commitment in addressing the future funding need.

FIXED WIDTH ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL INITIATION

At the March 31st meeting staff was directed to develop a proposal initiation packet for Board review and approval to forward to the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA) to begin Adaptive Management Program review. In this packet is a copy of a proposal initiation memo from the chairman of the Board to Darin Cramer, AMPA, and a copy of the proposed fixed width rule option for riparian zones.

The memo requests the adaptive management program investigate a fixed width, no entry management option for riparian areas adjacent to Type S and F Waters in western Washington. Specifically, the adaptive management program is asked to review the environmental impacts of a fixed width, no entry option available to all forest landowners with a maximum unit size of twenty acres, maximum harvest length of 1000 feet, and a minimum required distance between harvest units of three hundred feet.

The memo also asks for the Adaptive Management Program Administrator to provide a status report to the Board at their August meeting and to submit a rule proposal and petition for rule making from Policy to the Board at their November meeting.

Staff recommends that Board forward to the Adaptive Management Program Administrator the fixed width riparian buffer proposal to initiate Adaptive Management program review.