



**DEPARTMENT OF  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Forest Practices Board

**FROM:** Garren Andrews, Compliance Monitoring Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Current status of the Compliance Monitoring Program

2021 Compliance Monitoring Spring field reviews completed June 2021. 2020/2021 biennial standard sample data collection will be completed fall 2021. Data will be compiled and analyzed fall 2021.

Field work for the Unstable Slopes prescription is expected to commence September, 20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The CMP has begun to develop Aerial Chemical Herbicide Spray prescription. The CMP intends to commence a pilot study summer/fall 2022, the final design will be instituted in 2023.

If you have any questions please contact me at (360) 902-1366 or [garren.andrews@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:garren.andrews@dnr.wa.gov)

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July 19, 2021

**TO:** Forest Practices Board

**FROM:** Tami Miketa, Manager, Small Forest Landowner Office – Forest Practices

**SUBJECT:** Small Forest Landowner Office and Advisory Committee

**Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee**

Since my last report, the Small Forest Landowner Advisory Committee held one meeting on May 18, 2021 (via Zoom). Discussions focused on the following topics:

- SFLO Program and Staff Updates
- Continued Discussion on Alternate Harvest Prescriptions
- CWA Assurances Update
- Discussion on the 2020 Small Forest Landowner Demographic Report
- Committee Member Term Limits

**SFLO Program Updates**

The FY19-21 biennium was very successful for the Small Forest Landowner Office programs. The Forestry Riparian Easement Program purchased 34 easements covering 352 acres; the Family Forest Fish Passage Program corrected 27 fish passage barriers opening up 155 miles of habitat for fish to access. Finally, the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program purchased two easements, one was 30 acres of critical habitat for state listed threatened or endangered species and the other was 41 acres of an unconfined channel migration zone.

To date, the Forestry Riparian Easement Program purchased 435 easements covering 6,451 acres, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program corrected 424 fish passage barriers opening 1,099 miles of habitat for fish to access, and the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program purchased 23 easements of which 144 acres were critical habitat for state listed threatened or endangered species and 1,146 acres were unconfined channel migration zones.

**Small Forest Landowner Roads Assessment Project**

Initially, 156 landowners volunteered to have their roads assessed by the Regulation Assistance Foresters. Sixteen landowners were removed from the list due to the absence of forestland on their property, or the landowner had fear of contact with individuals because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are now 140 landowners who volunteered to have their roads assessed. Currently, 121 of these road assessments are completed to date (86%) covering 7,486 miles over

almost every county in the State that contains forestland. The acreage distribution of the completed road assessments is shown in the table below. These assessments intend to help determine if there are concerns with forest roads owned by small forest landowners complying with applicable Forest Practices Rules.

**Acreage Distribution of Small  
Forest Landowner Road  
Assessments:**

<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Number</b>
0 ac - 6 ac	1
6 ac - 20 ac	29
21-39	19
40-100	31
>100	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>

With input from Dept. of Ecology, it was determined that a sample size of 200 road assessments would be adequate to conduct a sufficient analysis to determine whether small forest landowners are complying with the applicable Forest Practices Rules. Most road segments assessed were frequently used by the landowner and were maintained using best management practices. There were several segments that contained fish crossing structures and the landowner was active in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program or the Regulation Assistance Forester informed the landowner about the program. To date, no Forest Practices Rule violations have been identified. Of the 1,141 road segments assessed, twelve segments were found to have low delivery potential, with the remaining 1,129 road segments showing no delivery or de minimis delivery potential. Of the twelve road segments with low delivery potential, the landowners were taking active steps to mitigate the potential delivery. Thus, anecdotal observations of the road assessments indicate that small forest landowners are complying with the Forest Practices Rules.

### Long Term Applications (LTA)

There are 300 approved long-term applications, which is an increase of two approved applications since the end of the last reporting period (04/26/2021).

LTA Applications	LTA Phase 1	LTA Phase 2	TOTAL
Under Review	5	3	8
Approved	1	300	301
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>309</b>

## Upcoming Events

### 2021 WSU Extension Forestry Forest Stewardship Summer Webinar Series

- July 29, 2021 – Who lives here now? Wildlife at home
- August 5, 2021 -The Bradley Method of noxious weed control
- August 12, 2021 – Variable density thinning
- August 17, 2021 – Forest health highlights
- August 19, 2021 – Lions and fishers and bears, oh my! Current events in Northwest wildlife management
- August 26, 2021 – Healthy forest understories and the weeds that get in the way

### Wildfires in Western Washington, A Different Animal

Many believe that fire is not a concern west of the Cascades. While it is true that greater rainfall makes these forests more fire-resilient, it also inherently means greater fuel loads will be available when fires do occur. As the climate continues to change and we experience hotter summers and longer dry periods, catastrophic wildfires may become a more pressing concern on the west side. This is an alarming thought, but learning more about how these fires behave is the first step to being prepared. [View a recording of this webinar on Youtube!](#)

### Mushroom Forest Farming Webinar

Forest farming specialty mushrooms like shiitake, lion's mane, oysters, and wine caps present a unique opportunity for farm and forest owners to diversify production and put something new on the dinner table. Today, wild-foraged products supply much of the specialty mushroom market but log-grown operations can provide reliable harvests on minimal acreage while retaining its value as a sustainable, forest-grown product. Whether your interest is as a producer or a hobbyist, this webinar will cover the basics of log-grown mushroom operations. [View a recording of this webinar on Youtube!](#)

### **The Genesis of a Forest**

Interested in learning about how to create habitat diversity or who is going to benefit from your timber harvest? Oftentimes, many people are interested in old-growth forest stands, but what about the beginning of a forest? Known as the “early seral” stage of a forest, the genesis of a forest stand provides an important habitat niche for wildlife and plant growth. Processes such as wildfires, pest and pathogens, extreme windfall events, and a host of other disturbances naturally reset portions of the forest to this early developmental stage. Join Washington State University – Northeastern Extension Forestry and early seral forest ecologist Dr. Mark Swanson to talk about the benefits of early seral habitats, how these vary across different forests, methods you can implement to promote early seral habitat, and listen to his experiences studying Mount St. Helens following the historic eruption.

[Watch the Recording HERE](#)

### **WA Tree Farm Program Educational Videos**

[Estate Planning](#)

[Succession Planning](#)

[Cost Share Programs](#)

[Salmon Restoration](#)

For more information regarding these events, go to <http://forestry.wsu.edu/>

Please contact me at (360) 902-1415 or [tami.miketa@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:tami.miketa@dnr.wa.gov) if you have questions.  
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August 11, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Forest Practices Board  
**From:** Gary Bell, Wildlife Biologist, Forest Habitats Section  
**Subject:** Upland Wildlife Update

The following provides a brief status update for ongoing or pending actions pertaining to priority wildlife species in forested habitats:

### Marbled Murrelet

1992: Federally listed as Threatened  
1993: State listed as Threatened  
1996: Federal critical habitat designated  
1997: FPB enacted State Forest Practices Rules  
2017: State uplisted to Endangered

The species' status has not improved since state listing in 1993. The murrelet population in Washington's marine waters has declined by 3.93% annually (2001-2020) with the strongest annual declines (4.96%; 2001-2020) in the U.S. portion of the Salish Sea. As a result of the 2017 state uplisting to endangered status, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), in consultation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), recommended that the Forest Practices Board (Board) support a forest practices rule (FP Rule) assessment that would involve a group of stakeholders. WDFW subsequently established a Wildlife Working Group (WWG) to evaluate efficacy of the rules, determine whether rule language needs to be modified for clarity or to improve implementation and provide recommendations for FP Rule improvements to the Board. This work is ongoing, and the most recent meeting was held on July 28, 2021.

As previously reported, WDFW continues to monitor Marbled Murrelet populations at-sea in both Zones 1 (Puget Sound and Strait; monitored in 2020) and Zone 2 (Washington coast; monitored in 2019) during the nesting season. Final reports have been produced. Of note is that these are the only data available to assess murrelet abundance and trends. The NW Forest Plan Effectiveness Monitoring team's 25-year report is in press and expected to be released in 2021. WDFW finished the ninth year of Navy funded non-breeding season surveys in Puget Sound. The 2020 at-sea survey report is now available (Lance & Pearson, 2021) and a manuscript has been drafted on winter trends and will be submitted in 2021 for peer review.

### Canada Lynx

1993: State listed as Threatened  
1994: FPB enacted voluntary management approach  
2000: Federally listed as Threatened  
2017: State uplisted to Endangered

The Canada Lynx was uplisted to state endangered on February 4, 2017. It was recommended that no

action be taken to include lynx to the forest practices rule designation for critical habitat (state) and to maintain voluntary protections. WDFW has continued to identify lynx conservation opportunities in collaboration with landowners, Canadian federal and provincial entities, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), conservation organizations, tribes, and academic partners. The goal of those interactions is to refine recovery actions that can be implemented in the near- and long-term to benefit lynx conservation in Washington.

The process of evaluating Forest Practice Applications (FPAs) continues to help identify potential impacts to lynx habitat. Given wildfire impacts to habitat in northcentral Washington, WDFW has worked with partners to heighten awareness of the importance of balancing the need to protect habitat with the need to address fire risk, including on federal lands. The Colville Confederated Tribes have initiated planning for lynx translocations from Canada onto their lands.

The November 2017 USFWS summary of the lynx 5-year Species Status Assessment determined that regulatory improvements addressed the threat that led to the original listing of the lynx distinct population segment (DPS). The proposal to remove lynx from the federal list of threatened and endangered species is still pending.

### **Northern Spotted Owl**

- 1988: State listed as Endangered
- 1990: Federally listed as Threatened
- 1996: FPB enacted State Forest Practices Rules
- 2012: USFWS designation of revised critical habitat
- 2016: State retention of Endangered status

Recognized as a state endangered species, the Northern Spotted Owl population has continued to decline primarily due to ongoing competitive interactions with Barred Owls. The Barred Owl removal experiment in the eastern Cascade Range has been completed. The published results from the experiment, which included study areas in Washington, Oregon, and California, indicated, among other findings, a positive response in survival rates by Spotted Owls following Barred Owl removal.

The USFWS has initiated planning to address Barred Owl management to address conservation of Spotted Owls in all three states. WDFW is a partner in a process to develop management concepts and scenarios that will guide decision making about the scope of Barred Owl management options that will be evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Fisher**

- 1998: State listed as Endangered
- 2016: Federal status: Final decision for west coast DPS - not warranted for listing (April 2016)
- 2018: Ruling on 2017 withdrawal of proposed ESA listing, USFWS ordered to revisit that decision
- 2019: Federal revised proposed rule to list fishers, excluded fisher in Washington

Fisher reintroductions into Washington have been completed by WDFW and cooperating partners. A total of 260 fishers have been reintroduced, including 90 in Olympic National Park (2008-2010), and 170 in other federal lands within the southern and northern Cascade Mountains.

Combined with the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) program administered by WDFW, the reintroductions have returned the species to the state. Non-federal landowners can continue to voluntarily enroll in the CCAA and receive federal regulatory assurances if the fisher were to become listed under the ESA in the future. By enrolling in the CCAA, landowners agree to follow basic conservation measures that protect fishers that may use private lands. At this time, 60 landowners representing 3,427,580 acres of non-federal forest lands are enrolled in the CCAA. WDFW is currently developing options for fisher monitoring to evaluate re-colonization success.

### **Future Updates to the Board**

The forest practices rules require that when a species is listed by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and/or the U.S. Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, WDNR consults with WDFW and makes a recommendation to the Forest Practices Board as to whether protection is needed under the Critical Habitat (State) rule (WAC 222-16-080). WDFW and WDNR continue coordinating to anticipate federal actions and to respond to changes in the status of any given species.

cc: Tom O'Brien (WDFW)  
Hannah Anderson (WDFW)  
Taylor Cotten (WDFW)  
Wendy Connally (WDFW)  
Marc Engel (DNR)  
Colleen Granberg (DNR)  
Joseph Shramek (DNR)