



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF
PUBLIC LANDS**
1111 WASHINGTON
STREET SE
OLYMPIA WA 98504

360-902-1000
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

MEMORANDUM

September 29, 2022

TO: TFW Policy Committee

FROM: Saboor Jawad, Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA)
Saboor.Jawad@dnr.wa.gov | 360-742-7130

SUBJECT: Smart Buffer Study Design Dispute: Arbitration Panel's Final Decision

The Smart Buffer Study Design (SBD) – the proposal for which was accepted by TFW Policy on June 04, 2020 and sent to CMER for review - became the subject of a CMER dispute that could not be resolved in the informal stage.

The Guided Decision Making Process as outlined in CMER's Protocols and Standards Manual (PSM) was followed leading to the formation of a technical arbitration panel in June, 2022. Prior to panel formation, the Forest Practices Board (FPB), at their February 2022 meeting, approved funding to establish an on-call contract providing technical arbitration services to CMER.

The technical arbitration panel has now released their final decision. This memo is intended to update TFW Policy and share the final decision. Following the PSM's guidance, the panel's final decision is binding and ends the dispute over the Smart Buffer Study Design.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need more information.

Attachments:

- Final decision of the arbitration panel