

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item No.:	6
Work Plan Title & #:	State Forests Management – Issue 2
Objective # & Title	Objective #3, Systematic Evidence Review Pilot Project
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SUMMARY

This agenda item reports on a “Systematic Evidence Review” (SER) pilot project, covers some key findings, and describes possible next steps.

CONTEXT

Following a 2006 report on SER from the Institute of Natural Resources (INR) at Oregon State University, the Board of Forestry directed staff to explore the SER concepts through a pilot project.

The pilot project is a way of learning about the process, pros and cons of SER. The pilot project and other material will also provide a basis for staff to develop draft *principles* that will guide the development of a general but consistent agency process for synthesizing “best available science” that comes before the Board.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In developing a work plan with the Board, program staff identified the following Board and program work products associated with SER:

- The Board (and agency) will act as *a catalyst for the exploration and development of SER-like approaches for natural resources.*
- If the Board is interested – staff will identify *a set of principles and a generalized agency process for synthesizing the “best available science” that comes before the Board.* The original INR report will be used to develop these principles and process, in addition to information and perspective gained from the pilot project.

Staff has worked with INR to initiate a small scale pilot of an SER-like approach to learn more about the process through direct application. While the science assessment product of the pilot will be useful, the main objective is to learn more about applying an SER-like process.

The SER question being addressed in the pilot project is: “Does instream wood placement affect salmonid abundance, growth, survival or habitat complexity?”

Attachment A is the Executive Summary of the Institute of Natural Resources final report on the pilot project. An additional document, the technical review, is still in development by the science reviewers.

This agenda item will primarily address the process used in the pilot project, and the lessons learned.

ACTION

If the Board requests, staff will return to the Board with some draft principles on principles that will guide the development of a general, but consistent, agency process for synthesizing “best available science” that comes before the Board.

Otherwise, the programs will continue to explore these concepts for internal business and in cooperative work with other agencies and entities.

NEXT STEPS

The agency plans to further explore the concepts and use of systematic reviews in the conduct of internal business, and in cooperative efforts with other agencies and entities.

If the Board requests, staff will return to the Board in September 2008 with draft principles for conducting science assessments.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Systematic Review Pilot Project, Executive Summary - Final Report, January 2008