

Agenda Item No.:	F
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	Annual Forest Practices Monitoring Update
Date of Presentation:	January 3, 2024
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**SUMMARY**

This agenda item summarizes the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Monitoring work on the 2023-2024 reforestation compliance monitoring study, development of the long-term compliance program and Compliance Monitoring Program Committee, literature review on post disturbance harvesting, and implementation of the 2021 ODF-DEQ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

**CONTEXT**

The Forest Practices Act rules emphasize compliance monitoring of riparian management areas, roads, and steep slopes. ODF Monitoring staff are responsible for implementing the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that was signed in December 2021.

**BACKGROUND**

In November 2022, staff updated the Board on monitoring program efforts. Topics included implementation of the MOU with DEQ to improve water quality, issuing an RFP for a contract statistician to assess the results of the pilot reforestation compliance monitoring study, and to assist with the development of the design and protocol for the 2023-2024 reforestation study.

**ANALYSIS**

High-Priority Monitoring Projects

ODF Monitoring staff designed and implemented the 2023-2024 Reforestation Compliance Monitoring Study. In early 2023, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued that led to a contract with Mount Hood Environmental (MHE) to assist with the development of study designs and protocols. ODF Monitoring staff began collecting data in October 2023. Future ODF compliance monitoring audits will focus on three prioritized FPA rule sets that include riparian areas, harvesting on steep slopes, roads, and other rules as directed by the OAR 629-678-0110.

The Compliance Monitoring Program Committee was established in early 2023 as an advisory body to the Compliance Monitoring Program. The Committee is made up of representatives from industry, conservations groups, small forest landowners, and individuals well versed in Oregon’s forestry rules. ODF Monitoring staff meet with this committee on a quarterly basis to provide

updates on projects, reports completed by staff and MHE, project planning and direction, as well as to discuss feedback provided by the committee.

ODF worked collaboratively with DEQ staff in carrying out the ODF-DEQ MOU. Agency managers and staff met every other month to provide important updates on legislative activities, Total Maximum Daily Load's (TMDL's) by rule, and status updates on Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA). ODF staff participated in the following DEQ Rule Advisory Committees (RAC's): Upper Yaquina Watershed TMDL, Willamette Tributary Temperature TMDL, Lower Columbia/Sandy Temperature TMDL, and the Aquatic Life Toxics advisory committee. ODF and DEQ staff also worked together on the Forestry section for the new draft Coastal Zone Non-Point Source Plan.

#### Private Forest Accord Associated Work

ODF Monitoring staff worked with other units on identifying informational needs for revised rules and required reporting for new programs. Monitoring staff are also assisting with the Abandoned Road Inventory planning, the E-notification system upgrade development process, internal and external FPA trainings on water quality, and presentations to several local watershed groups, Department of Land Conservation & Development (DLCD), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on new FPA rules and associated programs. ODF Monitoring staff are conducting a literature review on post-disturbance harvest. The literature review will be provided to the Board in early 2024.

#### Other Monitoring Work

- Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) grant review team participation
- STREAM Team – coordination with state natural resource agencies
- Oregon Water Data Portal Subject Matter Expert (SME) Team participation
- Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Advisory Group participation
- Climate Smart Award planning
- Seed orchard and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) monitoring support

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

This agenda item is informational only.