

Agenda Item No.:	2
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Private Forests Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Update
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Contact Information:	Terry Frueh, Monitoring Specialist, Private Forests 503-945-7392, Terry.Frueh@oregon.gov Marganne Allen, Manager, Field Support, Private Forests 503-945-7240, Marganne.Allen@oregon.gov Paul Clements, Training and Compliance Coordinator, Private Forests, 503-945-7475, Paul.R.Clements@Oregon.gov

SUMMARY

This agenda topic provides an update on Private Forests monitoring unit activities since the update in September 2013. The topic also provides an update on the 2014 compliance audit.

CONTEXT

The Board's 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon supports an effective, science-based, and adaptive Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) as a cornerstone of forest resource protection on private lands in Oregon (Objective A.2). The discussion of Goal A recognizes that the FPA includes a set of best management practices to ensure that forest operations meet state water quality standards. The Board's objectives also promote management practices that protect forest soil productivity from losses due to human-induced landslides, soil erosion, and soil compaction (Objective D.8). The Board's guiding principles and philosophies includes a commitment to continuous learning, evaluating and appropriately adjusting forest management policies and programs based upon ongoing monitoring, assessment, and research (Value Statement 11). The Board has also adopted administrative rules that emphasize effectiveness monitoring for riparian management areas, landslides and public safety, and pesticides.

BACKGROUND

At the September 2013 Board meeting, the department presented a general update on Forest Practices monitoring activities. Topics included the riparian rule analysis, Riparian Function and Stream Temperature (RipStream) project, wildlife tree and downed wood compliance report, the FPA compliance audit, the monitoring strategy and the pesticides Water Quality Management Plan Team. Details of the 2013 Compliance Audit results and an update of the riparian rule analysis plan were provided in September 2014 instead of a standard monitoring unit report.

ANALYSIS

High-priority Forests Practices monitoring projects included (see Attachment 1 for details):

- Completion of two compliance audit annual reports.
- Completion of the Leave Tree and Downed Wood compliance monitoring report.
- Initiation of a study of implementation of Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds voluntary measures.
- Ongoing analyses of key RipStream questions such as downstream stream temperature effects and preparatory work for large wood recruitment and riparian stand characteristic and function questions.
- Evaluation of riparian rulemaking alternatives, in terms of their scientific underpinnings relative to the rule objective.
- Completion of Trask Watershed Road Sediment analysis at targeted road crossings.
- Continued participation and support of pesticides monitoring conducted via the interagency Water Quality Pesticides Management Team.
- Initiation of the update to the Private Forests Monitoring Strategy.

The Private Forests division added a Monitoring Specialist position due to a 2013 legislative Program Option Package. Unit personnel have also been involved in various other duties as assigned.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only. Board comments, questions and suggestions are welcome.

ATTACHMENT

(1) Forest Practices Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Update.