

Agenda Item No.:	D
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	Annual Forest Practices Monitoring Update
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## **SUMMARY**

This agenda topic summarizes Forest Resources Monitoring activities since staff reported to the Board in November 2021. This includes projects that assess compliance monitoring, other monitoring work, and work on revising Forest Practices Act (FPA) rules directed by the legislature in Senate Bills 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055.

## **CONTEXT**

The Board's 2011 Forestry Program for Oregon supports an effective, science-based, and adaptive FPA as a cornerstone for protecting forest resources on private lands (Objective A.2). Goal A recognizes that the FPA includes best management practices to help ensure that forest operations meet state water quality standards. The Board's objectives 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 adopted administrative rules that emphasize effectiveness monitoring for riparian management areas, landslides and public safety, and pesticides.

## **BACKGROUND**

In November 2021, staff updated the Board on the Division's compliance and effectiveness monitoring work. Topics included drafting of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to improve water quality, the Mount Hood Environmental (MHE) assessment of past studies, and revising the reforestation pilot study.

## **ANALYSIS**

Many new Monitoring Unit staff were hired since the last update to the Board. The unit has one monitoring specialist position left to be filled, it will be filled by January 2023. The unit will focus on compliance monitoring projects given the new Compliance Monitoring Program (CMP) and Independent Research and Science Team in effectiveness monitoring.

High-priority Forests Practices projects over the last year include:

- Pilot reforestation project implementation and report.
  - Implemented 2021 MHE report recommendations
  - Monitored reforestation rules at 37 private industrial harvest units
  - Planning for a reforestation project covering private industrial and non-industrial
  
- Developing new CMP as laid out in the Private Forest Accord report and OAR 629-678
  - Drafting protocols to assess compliance with FPA rules prioritized by Accord
  - OAR 629-678 describes forming the CMP stakeholder committee.
  - Drafting Request for Proposal for CMP statistical review, which aligns with the MHE recommendation.
  
- Implementing DEQ MOU. See July 2022 Agenda Item 6 for more details.
  - Development of a draft Willamette Mercury TMDL implementation plan
  - Participation in the Upper Yaquina Watershed TMDL Rule Advisory Committee
  - Reviewed and provided comment on draft DEQ Nonpoint Source Plan
  - Attended Aquatic Life Rule Making Advisory Committee meetings

#### Private Forest Accord Associated Work

Monitoring Unit staff led drafting of FPA rules for two divisions mandated in Senate Bill 1501: Division 678 Compliance Monitoring and Division 603 Adaptive Management Program. Staff also edited draft FPA rules for other rule divisions and used GIS to create stream layers to aid in implementation of new riparian rules. Monitoring staff worked with other units on identifying data collection/information tracking needs for revised rules and newly required reporting. Staff are participating on the HCP steering committee to support HCP planning and provide feedback on the draft HCP. Staff also helped in writing a grant proposal for the HCP Planning Assistance Grants through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support the Private Forests HCP work.

#### Other Work

Monitoring staff worked on additional projects, including:

- Onboarding new staff members
- Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) grant review team participation
- OWEB 2020 Post Fire Recovery grant review team participation
- Tribal Government-to-Government Natural Resources Work Group
- Climate Smart award planning
- Seed orchard support, including Oregon Ash seed collection
- STREAM Team – participating in a State natural resource agencies coordination planning, monitoring, and communication of water-related data
- FERNS data visualization and reporting

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

This agenda item is informational only.