

Agenda Item No.:	13
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	Annual Forest Practices Monitoring Update
Date of Presentation:	September 5, 2024
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This agenda item summarizes the efforts of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Monitoring Unit, including the completion of the 2023-2024 reforestation compliance monitoring study, the development of future compliance monitoring studies on key Forest Practices Act (FPA) rule sets, the implementation of the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and other notable monitoring projects and collaborations.

CONTEXT

The updated FPA rules prioritize compliance monitoring of the new riparian management areas, roads, and steep slopes rule divisions. ODF monitoring staff are responsible for implementing the ODF-DEQ MOU, signed in December 2021 to improve communication and collaboration associated with implementing the state's water quality goals.

BACKGROUND

In January 2024, staff updated the Board of Forestry on monitoring program efforts. Key topics included the 2023-2024 reforestation compliance monitoring study, the development of a long-term compliance monitoring program, the efforts of the Compliance Monitoring Program Committee (CMPC), a literature review on post-disturbance harvesting, and the ongoing implementation of the 2021 ODF-DEQ MOU.

ANALYSIS

High-Priority Monitoring Projects

ODF monitoring staff successfully completed field work for the 2023-2024 reforestation compliance monitoring study. Data collection for this study took place from October 2023 to May 2024. Mount Hood Environmental (MHE) is currently analyzing the data and working collaboratively with ODF staff to finalize a report summarizing study findings.

Future ODF compliance monitoring audits will focus on three prioritized FPA rule sets, including riparian areas, harvesting on steep slopes, roads, and other rules in accordance with Oregon

Administrative Rule 629-678-0110. Monitoring staff, with assistance from other Forest Resource Division subject matter experts, and the CMPC, selected specific riparian rules for inclusion in this upcoming compliance monitoring audit. Using these rules selected for inclusion, MHE developed a study design and field protocols for the riparian rules pilot study. Currently, monitoring staff are collaborating with the CMPC to select specific road and steep slope rules for inclusion in future compliance monitoring audits. We anticipate the riparian rules pilot study will be initiated in the spring of 2025.

ODF continued to collaborate with DEQ staff to implement the ODF-DEQ MOU. Agency managers and staff meet every other month to share important updates on legislative activities, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) by rule, and the status of Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment efforts. Fulfilling the obligations of the MOU, monitoring staff participated in DEQ Rule Advisory Committees for the following temperature TMDL replacement projects in 2024: Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin, Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries, and Willamette Subbasins. Monitoring staff also attended Umpqua River Basin temperature TMDL public meetings. In addition, ODF and DEQ staff collaborated on the Forestry section for the new draft Oregon Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program plan.

Private Forest Accord Associated Work

- Supported the development of the Private Forest Accord Aquatic Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Assisted with planning the Abandoned Road Inventory program.
- Conducted Post Disturbance Harvest Literature Review

Other ODF Monitoring Program Work

- Reviewed grants as part of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- Coordinated with state natural resource agencies on the Strategic Enterprise Approach to Monitoring “Stream” Team.
- Served as a subject matter expert for the Oregon Water Data Portal, led by DEQ.
- Continued developing the Compliance Monitoring Program website.
- Planned the Climate Smart Award.
- Supported the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard and Emerald Ash Borer monitoring efforts.
- Supported the Adaptive Management Program Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.