

Agenda Item No.:	G
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Board Updates
Presentation Title:	Annual Forest Practices Division Monitoring Update
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SUMMARY

This agenda topic provides an update on Private Forests Monitoring Unit activities since the last update to the Board of Forestry in September 2018. We address the implementation study regarding reforestation rules, two monitoring projects assessing effectiveness of riparian protections, and other Unit work.

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 their September 2018 meeting, the Board received a general update on Private Forests monitoring activities. Topics included: a compliance audit annual report, and progress reports on reviews for sufficiency of streamside protections (one in the Siskiyou, one in the rest of Western Oregon).

ANALYSIS

High-priority Forests Practices monitoring projects over the last year include (see Attachment 1 for details):

- Progress on development of the next phase of the implementation study (compliance audit), focusing on reforestation rules.
- Culmination of a literature review for an effectiveness monitoring project in the Siskiyou geographic region. This project assesses sufficiency of riparian rules to meet water quality standards for stream temperature, and the shade and stand structure components of desired future conditions (DFC) rules. This information was presented to the Board in June 2019, and is addressed in Agenda item 6 later today.
- Continuation of an effectiveness monitoring project in western Oregon. This project assesses sufficiency of riparian rules in western Oregon (excluding the Siskiyou georegion) to meet DFC for stand structure and large wood in streams. This assessment is based on field data and scientific literature. Forest stand modeling will be conducted if deemed necessary and there is adequate budget and resources. More details on this project are presented in Agenda item 5f today.
- A review of scientific literature on a new technology, called cable-assisted (aka “tethered”) logging. This review focused on potential effects of tethered logging on soil disturbance and compaction, or sediment delivery to streams. The review’s goal was to evaluate whether there is sufficient scientific information to provide guidance in evaluating current rules regarding this technology.
- The department participates on the inter-agency Water Quality Pesticide Management Team (Attachment 1). The goals of this team are: (1) identify and prioritize higher risk pesticides, use patterns, and watersheds; and, (2) achieve these goals in a cooperative, voluntary manner. The department participated in a study assessing concentrations of numerous pesticides and potential sources based on land uses.

The first three bullet points have extensive outreach efforts to include tribes and stakeholders.

Unit personnel have also been involved in various other duties as assigned.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Forest Practices Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring - 2019 Update