

Agenda Item No.:	6
Work Plan:	Private Forests
Topic:	Water Quality
Presentation Title:	Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review – Decision on next steps
Date of Presentation:	September 4, 2019
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SUMMARY

This agenda item presents approaches to collect more information on the sufficiency of FPA rules to protect stream temperature, and the stand structure and shade components of desired future condition of small and medium fish streams in the Siskiyou region.

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 designed to ensure that forest operations would meet state water quality standards adopted under the federal Clean Water Act. Similarly, the discussion of Goal D recognizes that the FPA is designed to protect soil and water resources, including aquatic and wildlife habitat (Objective D.6). 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; OAR 629-635-0110).

BACKGROUND

The Board and the Department of Forestry are committed to using adaptive management in reviewing (and revising, if necessary) the FPA using available science, monitoring and research.

In March 2018, staff presented the results of stakeholder and tribal input on proposed additional monitoring questions, a tally of science potentially relevant to monitoring questions, GIS data on stream miles, acres of ownership by landowner type, voluntary measures, and harvest types, and estimates of cost and time for various approaches to each question. The Board voted in favor of the department's recommendation of conducting a systematic review (SR) on stream temperature and streamside desired future condition (DFC) for small and medium fish streams in the Siskiyou region, and discuss associated contextual info (i.e., fish status and trend, water quality evaluations).

In September 2018, staff presented an update to the Board on this review. In January 2019, staff presented input on the SR protocol received from stakeholders and tribes, and the next steps in the

review process. Partner agencies presented contextual information on fish status and trends (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; ODFW), and water quality status and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality; DEQ).

In June 2019, staff presented the results of the Systematic Review to the Board, along with a suite of additional information. The Board found there was insufficient evidence to make a sufficiency decision on either stream temperature or DFC. They directed the department to gather additional information, including work with DEQ and further evaluation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses.

ANALYSIS

The purpose of the Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review is to support the Board in making a decision on the sufficiency of FPA streamside rules for small and medium fish streams in the Siskiyou Region to achieve goals for:

1. Water quality standards for stream temperature;
2. The stand structure and shade components of DFC.

The Board requested information on a variety of approaches to provide the aforementioned additional information to assess sufficiency. These approaches are:

- Using remotely-sensed data (e.g., Lidar) to estimate shade and stand characteristics;
- Incorporating information about climate change into sufficiency considerations;
- Conducting a field study on DFC metrics (stand characteristics and shade), and/or stream temperature;
- Expanding the geographic scope of the systematic review to include forests similar to western and/or eastern Oregon; and,
- Using a combination of the above points.

Policy decisions for consideration at this September 2019 meeting are detailed in Attachment 1.

An update on monitoring options are discussed in Attachment 2. The Board also directed ODF to collaborate with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on further work to evaluate TMDLs in regards to temperature water quality standards (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATION

The department recommends the Board direct ODF to create an advisory committee with development of a team charter, and implement Climate Change Option 2 (comprehensive policy work) described in Attachment 1.

NEXT STEPS

The department will implement the Board's direction regarding the decisions outlined in Attachment 1. Additionally, the department will create a decision framework for the Board's choices regarding the monitoring options discussed in Attachment 2. We anticipate bringing this framework to the Board in spring 2020.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Policy Options - Decision Support Document
- (2) Siskiyou Streamside Protections Review: Update on Monitoring Options