

# Small Forest Landowner Buffer Width Dispute

Forest Practices Board

November 10, 2022

# Summary of Dispute

- WFFA submitted a proposal initiation request to the Board in February 2015
- The Board accepted Policy's plan to address this proposal and directed Policy to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria of an alternate plan template (WAC 222-12-0403)
- Policy formed three workgroups to address the proposal

## **1- Alternate Plan Template Workgroup (2015):**

- This workgroup delivered its recommendation to Policy in 2019
- Board accepted Policy recommendation that the proposal, in whole, does not meet the criteria of a template.

## **2- Alt. Harvest Pres. Workgroup (2020):**

- Formed to develop experimental, site-specific, alternative harvest prescriptions for conifer thinning and restoration
- Two products were delivered to Policy: alternative harvest prescriptions and a monitoring plan for CMER

## **3- SFL Prescription Technical Workgroup (2020)**

- Under what site specific conditions 75 ft and 50 ft buffers would be acceptable prescriptions for Type F streams and a 25 ft buffer as a prescription for Type Np streams
- No consensus in the workgroup. SFLs invoked dispute in June 2020

# Summary of Dispute

- Both stages of dispute completed without consensus by May, 2021
- Majority and minority recommendations were delivered and presented to the Board at their August, 2022 meeting
- The Board is requested to make the final determination on **whether there are elements of the proposal that may meet the alternate plan requirements**
- Policy panel will present their positions to the Board today
- Panel also available to have a discussion with the Board and answer questions