

To: TFW Policy Committee Members

From: Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Chair, SFL Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup

RE: **August 6, 2020 SFL Experimental Alternate Harvest Rx Workgroup Update**

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At the December 5, 2019 TFW Policy meeting, TFW Policy approved formation of:

“a technical workgroup including the State caucuses and other interested parties to continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER”

The original intent was that this workgroup would provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

At their February 7, 2020 TFW Policy meeting, Policy approved a charter for this workgroup, officially named the “Small Forest Landowner Experimental Alternate Harvest Prescriptions Workgroup”. That charter changed the end date for the Workgroup to September 24, 2020, in order to provide recommendations to TFW Policy at the October 1, 2020 TFW Policy meeting.

The two deliverables from the Workgroup are as follows:

1. Technical recommendations for experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions for SFL in western Washington that include on-the-ground prescriptions, the necessary site-specific conditions in which the prescriptions could apply, qualification criteria for SFL, and limitations for site-specificity.
2. Monitoring and evaluation components to inform subsequent CMER project development. Components include the identification of Schedule L-1 functional objectives and performance targets for the six riparian functions, and key monitoring elements such as pre-existing stand conditions to qualify, windthrow, reforestation, canopy response, residual tree species, diameter-breast-height, and tree spacing; as well as preferred evaluation criteria and reporting needs necessary to inform Policy’s future decision-making process

The following are the technical expert participants in the Workgroup:

- State Caucus – DNR: Marc Engel
- State Caucus – Ecology and WDFW: Brandon Austin and Don Nauer
- Westside Tribal Caucus: Jim Peters, Ash Roorbach
- Small Forest Landowner Caucus: Steve Barnowe-Meyer

The Workgroup’s first meeting was on June 11<sup>th</sup> and there have been three additional three-hour long workgroup meetings since. Beyond the initial review of the Workgroup charter and deliverables, the Workgroup has concentrated the bulk of their time on the improving the draft State Caucus thinning proposal document labeled “**Low Impact Conifer Thinning Prescription for Western Washington For Small Forest Landowners**”. Much of the discussions to date have dealt with clarifying the prescription eligibility requirements, user-friendly landowner data collection requirements within the thinning buffer, tree retention prescription alternatives, fixed / variable buffer width options, and making the prescription processes as simple, understandable and implementable as possible for likely small forest landowner users, while producing desired public resource outcomes.

The Workgroup will need to complete work during the next one or two scheduled meetings on the remaining thinning proposal issues and move right into finalizing potential changes to the State Caucus “**Conifer Restoration (Hardwood Tree Harvest) for Western Washington**” document, in order to complete the Workgroup’s assigned tasks.