"Stewards of the land... for generations to come."

Washington FARM FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1010
Chehalis, WA 98532
Phone (360) 388-7074
info@wafarmforestry.com
www.wafarmforestry.com

February 14, 2024

Re: Water Typing & Np Draft Rule & SFLO Technical Assistance

Washington State Forest Practice Board

Chairwoman Smith and members of the Forest Practices Board:

For the record I'm Ken Miller, co-representing Washington Farm Forestry Association and small forest land owners (SFLOs) on the TFW Policy Committee. I'm here today to simply remind you of our November testimony (attached to my handout):

- You are required to create a map-based stream typing rule for SFLOs – what's happening?
- Your SFL Office Staff Report rightly talks about the great work of their regulation assistance foresters, including a Fish and Wildlife Biologist dedicated to helping SFLOs with stream typing. Ask staff how many water type modifications were completed last year, AND how many are expected this year?
- The biologist is making the effort and responding to landowner inquiries but unless the landowner owns or has unfettered access to the entire stream reach even the DNR biologist apparently can't do the protocol surveys intended – apparently mission impossible!
- Not having a protocol survey option requires the landowner or DNR's biologist to utilize the current default physicals which are known to be overprotective – systemically discriminatory to SFLOs! Will these default physicals ever get corrected and become shared/balanced risk as required in Forests and Fish?
- The draft Type Np Rule Making is similarly a disproportionate impact on SFLOs in that the draft rule offers some management options or even narrower RMZs in a portion of the stream reach – a portion only determinable if the landowner owns or has unfettered access to the entire stream reach.
- I'm now concerned it feels like some want streams that don't even connect downstream to also become regulated as Np.
- Finally, I also can't resist asking how you expect SFLOs to identify Non-Fish Perennial stream reaches when "Perennial" somehow includes "dry" portions??? If you do triple Np buffers as proposed, imagine the fights in the field between "perennial" and "seasonal".

We need the long promised/required Maps! Where is the progress?? Surely the technology is now "close enough for government work" as my dad used to say. 😊

Ken