"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

Washington Forest Practices Board
May, 14, 2025

Chairman Young and members of the Forest Practices Board, my name is Victor Musselman. I am a Past President of the Washington Farm Forestry Association and a current chapter president. I am retired after spending 51 years as a consulting forester specializing in forest appraisal and providing economic analysis to the forest products industry.

I am here today to address the tremendous cost to the forest land owners of Washington that the proposed Type Np rule will impact on them. You will hear from the firm IEc today reporting on their cost benefit analysis of the proposed rule. They estimate that a total of $320 million to $1 billion of value will be lost in private forest lands if the new rule goes into effect. This represents approximately a 40% drop from the loss in value estimated in their preliminary report issued in February of this year. While this number is not insignificant, it pales when compared to a recent analysis completed by the University of Washington Natural Resources Spatial Informative Group. They estimate the total loss in timber value to the private forest land owners of Western Washington would range from $1,474,000,000 to $1,884,000,000. Adding in the land value would raise the estimate of loss to between $1,644,000,000 and $2,068,000,000.

When you stack this up against the total loss in value of Western Washington private forest lands since the start of riparian regulation under the Forest and Fish Act of 1999 that has resulted in approximately a $6.5 billion loss to date, a decision to proceed with the Type Np proposed rule would add an additional 32% of lost value to the private forest land owners. This is quite significant, especially when compared to only qualitative benefits of the new rule as will be reported by IEc. This is something the landowners should not be asked to bear without appropriate compensation. If you proceed with authorizing this new regulation, then you should also recommend the DNR pursue compensation to all private landowners.

Thank you for your time and I'm willing to answer any questions.