Agenda Item No.: 8

Work Plan: Forest Resources Division

Topic: Implementing Legislative Direction

Presentation Title: Legislative Report on Private Forest Accord Implementation

Date of Presentation: September 4, 2024

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SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1501 (2022) requires the Board to submit annual progress reports regarding the implementation of the Private Forest Accord to the legislative committees related to forestry. This agenda item seeks board approval to submit the report included as Attachment 1 as the statutorily required report.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and the forest practice rules through a memorandum of understanding to include mediated discussions, known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). Later that year, the Legislature passed SB 1602 which set helicopter pesticide application requirements and required the Governor to facilitate mediated sessions between conservation and forest industry groups. As a product of this collaborative process, the 2022 PFA Report was drafted and released by an author group comprised of representatives from those discussions. During the 2022 Legislative Session, SB 1501 and SB 1502 passed making substantial changes to the FPA and requiring the Board to incorporate the recommendations of the PFA Report into the forest practice rules through the adoption of a single rule package to support the development of a habitat conservation plan and prescribed two additional rulemaking efforts.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends the Board direct staff to submit the report in Attachment 1 to the relevant legislative committees in the manner prescribed by law.

ATTACHMENTS

1) Private Forest Accord Implementation: 2023 Progress Report

Private Forest Accord Implementation: 2023 Progress Report



Background

In February 2020, conservation and forest industry groups offered to revise the Forest Practices Act (FPA) and forest practice rules through a memorandum of understanding known as the Private Forest Accord (PFA). In June 2020, the Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 1602 which increased helicopter spray buffers; directed rulemaking for salmon, steelhead, and bull trout streams in the Siskiyou Region; and set communication laws for spraying pesticides by helicopter. The bill set the accord timeline and led to mediated sessions between representatives of the forest industry and representatives of environmental interest resulting in the PFA Report.

In March 2022, the Legislature adopted the PFA Report recommendations through SBs 1501 and 1502, and House Bill 4055. SB 1501 (2022) amongst other things, made substantial changes to the FPA, required the recommendations of the PFA Report be incorporated into the forest practice rules, requires the pursuit of incidental take permits (ITPs) through a habitat conservation plan (HCP) and requires the Board of Forestry (BOF) to undertake rulemaking related to tethered logging and post-disturbance harvest.

Additionally, SB 1501 (2022) requires the BOF to submit annual progress reports regarding PFA implementation to the legislative committees related to forestry. This report captures the BOF's implementation obligations, the status of each, and any related 2023 activities.

Implementation Activities

| Statutory Requirement | Status | Deadline | 2023 Activities |
|---|-------------|------------------------|--|
| Adopt a single rule package consistent with the PFA Report | Complete | 11/30/2022 | |
| First appoint Adaptive Management Program Committee members | Complete | 11/30/2022 | |
| Submit a proposed draft HCP | Complete | 12/31/2022 | |
| Report implementation progress to legislative committees | Complete | Annually | A report was submitted on 2022 activities in April 2023. |
| If needed, make minor amendments to single rule package | Complete | 7/1/2023 | Revised rules were adopted on June 7 th , 2023. |
| Appoint the first voting members of the Independent Research and Science Team | Complete | Not Specified | The first members were appointed on June 7 th , 2023. |
| Complete post-disturbance harvest rulemaking | Started | 11/30/2025 | Rulemaking was initiated on January 4 th , 2023. |
| Initiate tethered logging rulemaking | Not Started | 3/17/2025 | |
| Report to the legislative committees whether ITPs were issued by 12/31/2027 & if a petition was received from a PFA Report author | Not Started | 2/1/2028 or earlier | |

For more information contact: Nicole Stapp, Forest Resources Division Policy Advisor or Derrick
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AGENDALTEM 8

