

**Deschutes River, Capitol Lake, and Budd Inlet
TMDL Advisory Group Meeting**

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 -- 9:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m.
Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd. SW

Attendees

Agriculture, Dept. of

- Virginia Prest

Black Hills Audubon Society

- Sue Danver

Citizen Representative

- Jim Lengenfelder

Ecology (ECY), Dept. of

- Mindy Roberts
- Craig Graber
- Chuck Hoffman
- Kim McKee
- Lydia Wagner

Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Dept. of

- Hal Michael

General Administration (GA), Dept. of

- Nathaniel Jones
- Cip Araiza

LOTT Alliance

- Karla Fowler
- Laurie Pierce

Natural Resources (DNR), Dept. of

- Zoanne Thomas

Olympia, City of

- Laura Keehan

Olympia, Port of

- Joanne Snarski

Squaxin Island Tribe

- John Konovsky

Thurston Conservation District

- Kathleen Whalen

**Thurston County Environmental
Health**

- Sue Davis

Tumwater, City of

- Dan Smith

**Washington Farm Forestry
Association**

- Ken Miller

**Washington Forest Protection
Association**

- Cindy Mitchell

**Washington State University
Extension Offices**

- Bob Simmons

Weyerhaeuser

- Julie Keough
- Steve Barnowe-Meyer

Forest Policy in Washington

Guest speakers Cindy Mitchell, Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA), www.wfpa.org, and Ken Miller, Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), www.wafarmforestry.com, gave presentations about the Washington Forest Practices and the Clean Water Act.

Cindy talked about:

- An overview of regulations directly affecting forest work. These include the Forest Practices Act (FPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Department of Ecology's Water Quality Standards (WQS).
- The relationship between forest practices and water quality. She specifically addressed chemicals, fertilizers, temperature, and sediments. The Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) oversees the use of chemicals and fertilizers. The Washington Department of Ecology addresses issues related to temperature and sediments.
- There is no Habitat Conservation Plan for water. Instead, the Clean Water Act (CWA) Assurances were developed to achieve clean water.

Ken talked about:

- How these regulations and requirements effect a small forest landowner. There are approximately 50,000 privately owned forestlands. They own two-thirds of Washington forestlands.
- Washington has the highest regulated forest industry. "Small landowners want to do the right thing." A big challenge is the complexity of the Forests & Fish Plan to small landowners. On one parcel there are a variety of regulations in place than can come from federal, state, or county entities. The regulations can change for different parts of the property such as streams, creeks, or lakes.
- Mixed use zones: These can include agriculture, timberlands, industrial, or smaller (five-acre) parcels. Some regulations state you can only have one house per five acres. You can have a house and timberlands.
- Sustainable forestry. Our society is trying to protect forests. "Trees are the answer." Keeping lands forested make them sustainable.
- Forestry as an investment.
- Forest practices (tools) used such as tree planting, brush control, pruning, thinning, and harvesting.
- The importance of keeping working forests on the landscape.

(This combined presentation is available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/092909WFPA-WFFAPresentations.pdf> .)

Implementation of Forest & Fish Rules

Guest speaker Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Weyerhaeuser, gave a presentation about how Weyerhaeuser is implementing the Forest & Fish rules.

Steve talked about:

- Changes to forest practices under the Forest and Fish Law
- Forest and Fish Riparian Rules: Fish protection is not limited to salmonids.
- Road construction and maintenance: Anyone who owns forestlands must maintain roads on those lands. “Don’t let dirty water get into clean water.” The 1990 storm of record was a 150-200 year storm event. Roads built before 1990 failed – a lot. The Upper Deschutes generally is not prone to landslides. Many were caused by road construction done under old practices.
- Forest chemical applications
- Western Timberlands Environmental Management System

He also referenced a journal article written by Weyerhaeuser staff addressing turbidity.

Maryanne Reiter, John T. Heffner, Storm Beech, Ted Turner, and Robert E. Bilby, Temporal and Spatial Turbidity Patterns over 30 Years in a Managed Forest of Western Washington, *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, Vol. 45 No. 3, June 2009, pp. 793-808.

The authors have given Ecology permission to share this article with the group. Contact Lydia Wagner at Lydia.Wagner@ecy.wa.gov or 360-07-6329 for a copy.

(This presentation is available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/092909WeycoPresentation.pdf>.)

Forests & Fish – The State Perspective

Craig Graber, Forest Practices Specialist, Department of Ecology, gave a presentation about Forest Practices and Clean Water.

Craig talked about:

- The goals of Forest & Fish
- Link between the Forest Practices Act and the Clean Water Act
- A water quality based approach
- Regulatory authorities and their intentions
- Implementation of forest practices
- Ecology’s technical expertise
- Visual images of problems in forested areas

Acronyms used in Craig's presentation:

- **AMP:** Adaptive Management Program
- **CMER:** Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, & Research Committee
- **CWA:** Clean Water Act
- **DNR:** Washington Department of Natural Resources
- **ECY:** Washington Department of Ecology
- **EPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency
- **ESA:** Endangered Species Act
- **FFR:** Forests and Fish Report adaptive to Forest Practice Rules
- **FPA:** Forest Practices Act
- **FPAB:** Forest Practices Appeals Board
- **NOAA:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
- **RMZ:** Riparian Management Zone
- **TMDL:** Total Maximum Daily Load
- **USFWS:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- **WFFA:** Washington Farm Forestry Association
- **WFPA:** Washington Forest Protection Association
- **WQ:** Water quality
- **WQS:** Water Quality Standards

(This presentation is available online at

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/092909EcyForestryPresentation.pdf>.)

Open Comment

This was the opportunity for anyone attending the meeting to offer comments, suggestions, or ask questions regarding this water cleanup plan effort. None were offered.

Closing Remarks

Following are a couple of paraphrased closing remarks worth noting and considering.

Sue Davis, Thurston County Environmental Health: She asked how, who, and to what degree enforcement and oversight of the Forest & fish Laws is done for the small landowners. What are the laws and standards that apply when harvesting is occurring on properties where the land use is being converted from forestry to another use?

Mindy Roberts, Ecology: She stated that it is very helpful to see what the large and small forestry landowners are doing right now to address issues. This has likely made a big difference compared to what conditions would have been like without those actions. Because problems persist, we still need to discuss what the plan is for addressing, building from the efforts already in place. This will take additional discussions with large and small forestry landowners' expertise and ideas. She hopes that a future meeting could tackle this perspective.

Updates

- The July meeting minutes are in final form. Lydia Wagner will have those posted on Ecology's website in October.
- SharePoint site: Lydia Wagner is working on setting up a site that the advisory group members can access. She will post items such as meeting agendas, draft meeting notes, and other documents in development by or for the group. She will send more information on this item when it is available. Once the items are in final form she will have them posted on the established website for this water cleanup effort.

Next meeting

It is on Tuesday, November 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd. SW.