

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

Tuesday, November 17, 2009 -- 9:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.  
Tumwater Fire Department, 311 Israel Rd. SW

## **Attendees**

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### **Agriculture, WA State Dept. of**

- Ann Wick

### **Black Hills Audubon Society**

- Sue Danver

### **Citizen Representative**

- John DeMeyer

### **Capitol Lake Improvement and Protection Association (CLIPA)**

- Jack Havens

### **Ecology, WA State Dept. of**

- Mark Hicks
- Chuck Hoffman
- Kim McKee
- Lydia Wagner

### **LOTT Alliance**

- Karla Fowler
- Chris Cleveland

### **Natural Resources, WA State Dept. of**

- Jack Shambo
- Kristi Tausch
- Zoanne Thomas

### **Olympia, City of**

- Laura Keehan
- Joe Roush

### **Olympia, Port of**

- Joanne Snarski

### **Olympia Yacht Club**

- Jim Lengenfelder

### **People for Puget Sound**

- Dave Peeler

### **Puget Sound Partnership**

- Roma Call

### **Thurston County Environmental Health**

- Sue Davis

### **Thurston Public Utilities District**

- Chris Stearns

### **Tumwater, City of**

- Dan Smith

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

- Dave Ragsdale

### **Washington State Society of American Foresters**

- John Walkowiak

### **Washington State University Extension Offices**

- Bob Simmons

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## **Washington State Society of American Foresters**

Guest speaker: John Walkowiak, Chair-Elect for the Washington State Society of American Foresters. He provided an overview of the Society of American Foresters and the subgroup, Washington State Society of American Foresters (WSSAF).

*John talked about.*

- Core Values and Code of Ethics
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Forest Practices Regulations
- WSSAF Foresters Support
- Working Forests Challenge
- Incentives for Water Quality

General points:

- Clean water and more salmon are key goals.
- Examples of incentive programs include the Enhanced Aquatic Resource Requirement (EARR) and Forest Riparian Easements.
- The SAF posts their position statements online. The latest one, "*Sustainable Forest Management can achieve and maintain Healthy and Productive Forests in the State of Washington*", is not yet available online. (Until it is, contact John Walkowiak, WSSAF, or Lydia Wagner, Department of Ecology, for a copy.)

Helpful website links for the Society of American Foresters:

- Oregon and Washington State Society of American Foresters: <http://www.forestry.org/>
- The *Western Forester* newsletter: <http://www.forestry.org/wf/>
- *Western Forester*, March/April 2005 edition: <http://www.forestry.org/pdf/0405.pdf>. Check out the article titled, "**Water, Fish and Forests**" by Maryanne Reiter.
- SAF Position Statements: <http://www.forestry.org/wa/position/>.

Helpful website links from the WA Department of Revenue (DOR):

- Washington State Forest Land & Timber Tax: <http://dor.wa.gov/docs/pubs/foresttax/forestmgmt.pdf>
- Harvest Statistics (Statewide): [http://dor.wa.gov/content/findtaxesandrates/othertaxes/timber/forst\\_stat.aspx](http://dor.wa.gov/content/findtaxesandrates/othertaxes/timber/forst_stat.aspx)

*(This presentation is available online at*

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/WSSAFWalkowiak11709.pdf>.)

## Maintaining Clean Water Act Assurances for Washington's Forest Practices

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Guest speaker: Mark Hicks, Forest Water Quality Coordinator, Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, provided a review of the Clean Water Act (CWA) Assurances for Forest Practices.

### *Mark talked about:*

- History of Forests & Fish Rules
- The Four Forests & Fish Goals
- Clean Water Act Assurances
- CWA Assurances 2009 Review and Findings

### General points:

- Ecology doesn't generally develop TMDLs in watersheds that are primarily forest lands. For mixed-use watersheds, Ecology refers to the Forests & Fish Rules in the Water Quality Improvement Report to address the forestlands.
- Ecology conducted a review, completed in July 2009, of the CWA Assurances. A report was prepared, the "**2009 Clean Water Act Assurances Review of Washington's Forest Practices Program** – *Examining the effectiveness of Washington's forest practices program in bringing waters into compliance with state water quality standards and the federal Clean Water Act*", July 15, 2009. It is available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/nonpoint/ForestPractices/CWAassurances-FinalRevPaper071509-W97.pdf>.
- The review in 2009 recognized that there was not sufficient time for completion of the necessary field studies. Controlled field studies can take up to seven years to design and develop a final report. Included in this effort is the study design, pre-harvest monitoring, harvesting sites, post-harvest monitoring, data analysis, and report development, review, and finalization.
- Milestones: If any are not met, Ecology will review and evaluate the need to withdraw the assurances. Allowances are included in the milestones to consider the cause for delays.

*(This presentation is available online at*

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/CWA-MHicks111709.pdf>.)

## Forests Practices Forest & Fish Rules

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Guest speaker: Jack Shambo, Chehalis District Manager, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Pacific Cascade Region. He gave an overview of the DNR Forests Practices Forests and Fish Rules.

*Jack talked about:*

- Forest Practices Review
- Goals of the Forest & Fish Rules
- Riparian Functions
- Water Typing System
- Protection Measures and Management Options
- Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans Program
- Forests & Fish Protection Measures

*(This presentation is available online at*

*<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/deschutes/advisorycomm/DNRShambo111709.pdf>.)*

General points:

- The DNR gets their direction from the Forest Practices Board.
- One goal of the Forests and Fish Rules is to address all the Endangered Species Act issues in one overall plan instead of numerous individual ones.
- Roads are a huge contributor of sediments to stream networks. The Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) Program is the mechanism used to address this issue.
- The DNR has a sparsely staffed Small Forest Landowner Office.

Helpful website links from the **WA State Department of Natural Resources:**

- Forest Practices home page:  
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/ForestPractices/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Forest Practices Board:  
<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/BoardsCouncils/FPB/Pages/Home.aspx>
- Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAP) Program:  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp\\_sflo\\_rmap.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_rmap.aspx).
- Small Forest Landowner Office:  
[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp\\_sflo\\_contacts.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/SmallForestLandownerOffice/Pages/fp_sflo_contacts.aspx)

*Acronyms and abbreviations used in the presentations:*

- **AMP:** Adaptive Management Program
- **CMER:** Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, & Research Committee
- **CWA:** Clean Water Act
- **DFC:** Desired Future Condition
- **DNR:** Washington Department of Natural Resources
- **DOR:** Washington Department of Revenue
- **EARR:** Enhanced Aquatic Resource Requirement
- **ECY:** Washington Department of Ecology
- **EPA:** United States Environmental Protection Agency
- **ESA:** Endangered Species Act
- **F&F:** Forests and Fish
- **FFR:** Forests and Fish Report
- **FP:** Forest Practices
- **FPA:** Forest Practices Act
- **FPB:** Forest Practices Board
- **HCP:** Habitat Conservation Plan
- **NRCS:** Natural Resources Conservation Service
- **PC:** Pacific Cascade
- **RMAP:** Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans
- **RMZ:** Riparian Management Zone
- **SAF:** Society of American Foresters
- **SAPR:** Stream Adjacent Parallel Roads
- **TMDL:** Total Maximum Daily Load
- **WA:** Washington
- **WQ:** Water quality
- **WQS:** Water Quality Standards
- **WSSAF:** Washington State Society of American Foresters

### **Open Comment**

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This was the opportunity for anyone attending the meeting to offer comments, suggestions, or ask questions regarding this water cleanup plan effort. No comments were given.

### **Next meeting**

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

Potential agenda items:

- Thurston County Critical Area Ordinances (CAOs) and how they relate to small forested lands. What happens to lands converting from forest to other land uses? How does the county work with landowners? Is this a big problem in the watershed? Are there a lot of lands converting from forest to other use?  
**Update:** *Lydia is working with Thurston County Health Department and is working on having a guest speaker come to the next meeting.*

- Ban on placement of exempt wells: The question was asked if Ecology's Water Quality and Water Resources Programs and working together on this issue. The main concerns are water rights and how their issuance. **Update:** *Lydia followed up on this issue. At this time there is no direct relationship between water rights, exempt wells, and the water cleanup plan. If anyone has questions about the first two items, they are encouraged to contact Ecology's Water Resources Program, Southwest Regional Office, at 407-6859, or online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wrhome.html>.*
- Thurston Conservation District (TCD) – What role do they play in forested land areas? **Update:** *Lydia has contacted the TCD and is working on having a guest speaker come to the next meeting.*