



Policy Scoreboard

Editor's Note: To keep SAF members informed of state society policy activities, Policy Scoreboard is a regular feature in the Western Forester. The intent is to provide a brief explanation of the policy activity—you are encouraged to follow up with the listed contact person for detailed information.

SAF Hosts Riparian Science and Management Workshop for Policy Makers.

Spurred by the trend of increasingly restrictive policies for riparian areas in the Pacific Northwest, a group of SAF and other natural resource leaders organized a regional workshop on state-of-the-art riparian science and management focused on policy makers and their staff. The all-day workshop was held on August 10 in Portland at the World Forestry Center for an audience of 105 that included a notable number of local, state, and federal officials and staff. The program was fully sponsored by SAF and several other groups so that participants could attend at no cost. A \$3,000 Foresters' Fund grant was awarded in support of the event. Technical experts reviewed recent study findings, and landowners and managers provided first-hand accounts that highlighted many complexities and challenges in managing these unique areas in the broader landscape. These observations helped show how simplistic or overly restrictive approaches and policies for managing riparian areas can lead to missed opportunities for improving watershed conditions and resources, as well as some significant unintended consequences for both people and resources. Contact: Paul Adams, OSFA Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com.

OSFA to Review Pesticides Position Statement this Fall.

With the coming expiration of OSFA's position statement "Using Pesticides on Forest Lands" (Dec. 2017), the statement will be reviewed for potential changes and updates to the discussion and supporting references. The use of pesticides on forestlands remains a very important issue that continues to stir public controversy and concern, partic-

ularly aerial spraying. For example, although its legality remains in question, a ballot initiative that bans aerial spraying was narrowly approved this spring by voters in Lincoln County, Ore. All OSFA members are invited to review the existing statement (www.oregon.forestry.org/oregon/policy/general) and pass along any comments to your local chapter officers or the Policy Committee. Contact: Paul Adams, OSFA Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com.

New Western Oregon Riparian Rules Now Effective, Other Regions to be Considered.

With the Oregon Board of Forestry's (BOF) decision to increase restrictions in riparian areas on private forestlands in western Oregon, the Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) finalized the specific rule language and related guidelines, which became effective on July 1. Because of persistent concerns about the proposed rules and related research and science concepts, OSFA submitted written input during the public comment period that preceded the final rulemaking. Among the key messages: the added restrictions and complexity of the new rules are likely to discourage rather than encourage resource improvements through active management by landowners and managers. In addition, the new rules rely heavily on tree basal area as a surrogate for stream shade and do not provide explicit allowance and

methods for shade-centric management alternatives, which reflects limited consideration of more cost-effective policy to maintain cool stream temperatures. Such concerns generally persist with the new rules and as potentially similar rules are considered by the BOF elsewhere in Oregon. Details about the new western Oregon rules can be found at www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/LawsRules.aspx and the ODF website should provide updates on rules considered for other regions. Contact: Paul Adams, OSFA Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com.

OSFA Updates Commercial Timber Harvest Statement and Position Statement Booklet.

Earlier this year the OSFA Executive Committee approved an updated version of the position statement on Commercial Timber Harvest on Public Lands in Oregon. The revised text includes more recent facts and figures about economic benefits of timber harvest as well as some fine-tuning of the overall text. The commercial harvest issue remains very timely given widespread management needs and costs on federal forestlands, as well as the statutory and long-held economic obligations to communities with large areas of nearby state or federal forests. Contact: Paul Adams, OSFA Policy chair, adamspaulw@gmail.com. ♦



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