

PRESENTATION FACTSHEET

Presentation Title: Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program

Date: 2/1/2024

Board Approval Needed: Discussion

Presenters: Lori Clark, Adaptive Management Program Administrator, Dept. of Natural Resources

Background Materials:

Previous Presentation(s): No

Previous Material(s) Links:

N/A

Date(s) of Presentation: 2/1/2024

Previous Board Action(s) Taken: N/A

Key Points for Forest Practices Board and Adaptive Management Program (AMP)

- Forest Practices Board and AMP overview
- Proposal Initiation
- AMP Process

Forest Practices Board and AMP overview

The Forest Practices Board is an independent state agency chaired by the Commissioner of Public Lands or their designee. The Board was established by the 1974 Forest Practices Act (RCW 76.09) and is responsible for adopting rules that set standards for forest practices such as timber harvests, pre-commercial thinning, road construction and forest chemical applications on both state and private forests. The rules adopted by the Board are implemented and enforced by the Department of Natural Resources.

The AMP was established more than 20 years ago to monitor the effectiveness of forest practices rules through a science-based approach and to provide recommendations and technical information to assist the Forest Practices Board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules and/or guidance. The AMP is a multi-caucus program that includes

representatives from public agencies, tribal governments, the environmental community, forest landowners, and the forest products industry. Figure 1 outlines the structure of the AMP and its relationship to the Forest Practices Board and the Department of Natural Resources.

Three desired outcomes of the AMP are:

- Certainty that changes are needed
- A predictable and stable process of change that landowners, regulators, and interested members of the public can anticipate and prepare for
- Studies with quality design, execution, and results interpretation

Proposal Initiation

The AMP may receive a proposal from the Board, an AMP participant, or the general public (with Board approval) through the Proposal Initiation (PI) process outlined in WAC 222-12-045. Proposals considered for the AMP include: research and monitoring of scientific uncertainty & resource risk, policy interpretations & modifications to improve management and aquatic resource protection, and/or review of completed technical studies or issue analyses.

Proponent will identify:

1. Affected forest practice rule, guidance, or DNR product
2. Urgency based on scientific uncertainty or resource risk
3. Any outstanding Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW), Forests and Fish Report (FFR), or Policy agreements supporting the proposal
4. How the results could address key questions, resource objectives or other rule, guidance, or DNR product
5. Available literature, data, etc. supporting proposal

AMP Process

Figure 2 outlines the 6 stages of the AMP process once a new proposal is received. The AMP is subject to a thorough consensus decision-making process (outlined in the cooperative monitoring evaluation and research (CMER) Protocol and Standards Manual), so it typically takes 6-12 years for a proposal to advance from project initiation (stage 1) to final report approval and policy recommendation (stage 4).

Once a policy recommendation reaches the Board, the Board has discretion to determine what actions (if any) to take in response to those recommendations. All Board actions require a simple majority of Board Members to vote in favor to be approved.

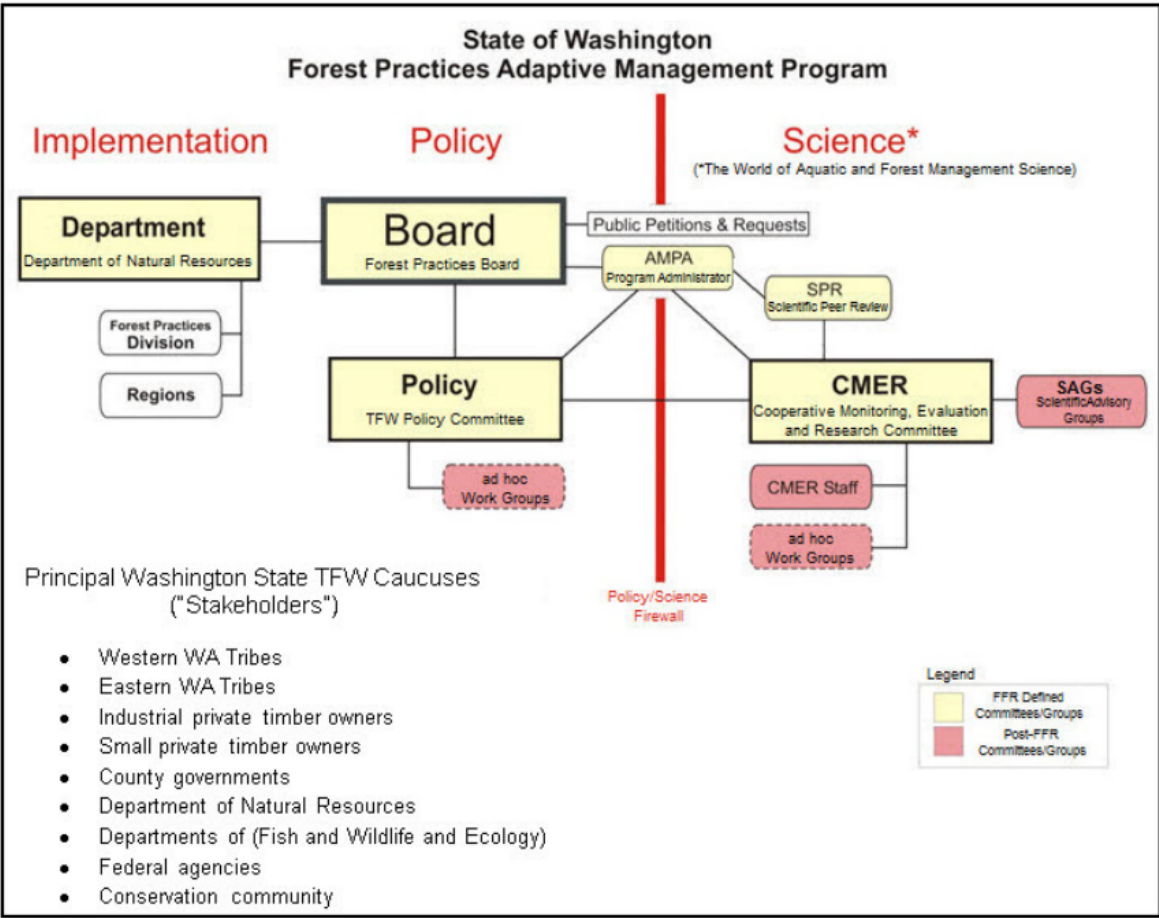


Figure 1. The structure of the Adaptive Management Program

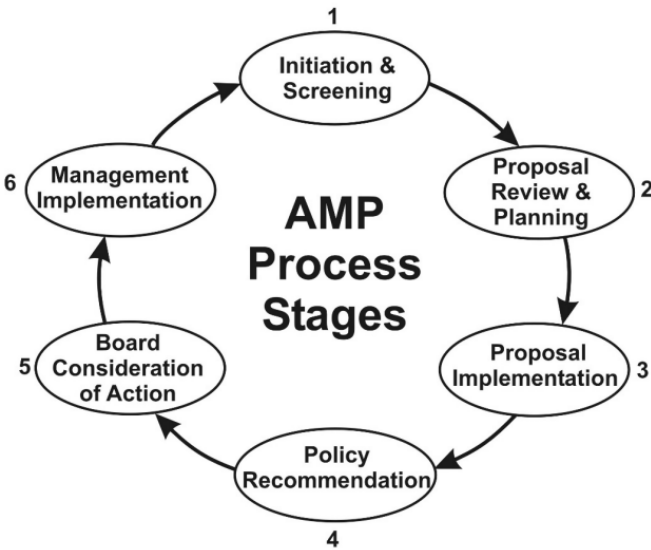


Figure 2. The AMP process is composed of six stages from initiation to management implementation.