

BOF Monitoring Study Group Update

March 2015

MSG Meetings

The MSG has not met since the last Board meeting. Our last meeting was held in December. The next MSG meeting is tentatively scheduled for April or May. No location has been selected at this time.

FORPRIEM Report

Clay Brandow and Pete Cafferata summarized the Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring (FORPRIEM) results in presentations to the Board in May and June of last year and a brief summary was presented at the last BOF meeting in January. The report was finished at the end of December and underwent Departmental review in January and February. **We released the final version on February 27th and posted it on the BOF MSG website under MSG Reports. We are pleased to present hard copies of the report to you today.**

Rather than re-summarize the results again, the report's recommendations will be briefly covered during the Board's March meeting. The report includes 14 recommendations, including four related to training and enforcement needs, six addressing modifications needed for the next iteration of FORPRIEM monitoring, and four that list work needed to complement FORPRIEM monitoring conducted in 2015 and beyond. *(Note that some of the following recommendations have been shortened for this MSG update report)*

TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT

1. Develop a **Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) training program** for roads and watercourse crossings that can be used at logging conferences and posted on the CAL FIRE/BOF websites.
2. **Continue to provide training** to CAL FIRE Forest Practice Inspectors, RPFs, and LTOs on (1) the Road Rules, 2013 rule package; (2) watercourse crossing design, construction, maintenance, and abandonment; and (3) proper design and construction of road drainage structures and facilities.
3. **Stress increased enforcement** of the new Road Rules, 2013 rule package requirements, including hydrologic disconnection of roads at watercourse crossing approaches.
4. Promote the use of the Handbook of Forest, Ranch, and Rural Roads (Weaver et al. 2014) and similar **guidance documents** as excellent sources of information regarding forest roads and watercourse crossings.

MODIFICATIONS FOR THE FORPRIEM PROGRAM

5. **Modify the FORPRIEM methods** to accommodate changes to the Forest Practice Rules, including the ASP rules and the Road Rules, 2013 rule package.

6. **Continue to sample NTMP-NTOs** to build a more robust sample for future monitoring reports.
7. Arrange for CAL FIRE's Forest Practice Inspectors to enter their revised FORPRIEM monitoring measurements and observations into **field personal digital devices** that can be downloaded directly into a revised FORPRIEM database.
8. **Update the FORPRIEM database** to accommodate the changes made in the FORPRIEM field forms.
9. Gather input from the BOF's **Effectiveness Monitoring Committee** on revisions to FORPRIEM and attempt to better utilize the other Review Team agencies to collect field data.
10. Investigate using a **stratified random sampling approach** for the next iteration of FORPRIEM to better test the effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules on a larger percentage of higher risk sites.

WORK NEEDED TO COMPLEMENT THE FORPRIEM PROGRAM

11. Continue to support the implementation and funding of **cooperative instream monitoring projects** to complement future revised FORPRIEM results. Ideally, FORPRIEM methodologies should be used within the monitored watersheds to link BMP implementation and effectiveness to downstream response.
12. **Work with and encourage the Board's Effectiveness Monitoring Committee to undertake specific projects** to determine the effectiveness of FPRs related to WLPZ, road, and watercourse crossing requirements. The goal is to have more rigorous and scientifically defensible tests of individual practice effectiveness.
13. Perform **post-mortem monitoring** specifically for roads and watercourse crossings after large hydrologic events (e.g., storm recurrence intervals exceeding 20 years covering a large hydrologic basin).
14. Complete the production of a revised, **updated watercourse crossing design guidance document** for RPFs and agency personnel (the original version is Cafferata et al. 2004).