

Talking Points: Reject the Type Np Stream Buffer Rule and Ecology's Tier II Analysis:

Adaptive Management should restart the TFW Policy process with the proper resource objective for stream temperature instead of Ecology's misapplied 0.3°C measurable change as the goal.

1. Forest & Fish Works — Don't Break It (Great System)

- Washington's private forestlands meet some of the highest environmental standards in the nation under the Forest Practices Act.
- Landowners have invested \$2.36 billion and set aside 764,000 acres under the Forests & Fish Law to protect streams and fish habitat.
- Any future changes were promised to follow science through the Adaptive Management Program (AMP)—not politics.

2. Science-Based Adaptive Management Was Overridden by Ecology (AMP Interfered With)

- AMP science shows that non-fish streams remain cold after harvest, with only rare (1.4% of time), short-term warming 1°C or less, on average, in extreme cases of harvesting an entire watershed basin.
- Temperatures naturally recover as forest regrows and average 12.2°C—well within the 16°C legal water quality standard. The lowest stream temperature was 10.3°C.
- Ecology hijacked the rulemaking process by wrongly treating 0.3°C as a hard prohibition, blocking lower-cost, science-based alternatives that the Adaptive Management Program was designed to evaluate.

3. The FPB Advancing Rule Lacking Scientific Support (DOE Misinformed the Process)

- Ecology exceeded its legal role by steering the Forest Practices Board toward a single outcome.
- The Board dismissed viable alternatives—like the Minority Report—before public input, under Ecology's influence.
- State law requires selecting the least burdensome alternative that also meets water quality goals. That didn't happen.

4. The Rule Will Cause Massive Economic Harm (Massive Economic Harm)

- The proposal would remove 4–7% of the 2023 private timber harvest—equivalent to 1–2 sawmills, 2,000 jobs, and enough wood for 15,000 homes per year.
- Over 200,000 acres of working forestland would be set aside without compensation.
- The projected economic loss is up to \$8 billion—damaging jobs, tax revenues, affordable housing, wildfire resilience, and small landowners.

5. The Proposed Rule Lacks Scientific Basis (Rulemaking Legally Flawed)

- Adaptive Management Science does not support the proposed rule as the ONLY solution.
- Ecology eliminated other reasonable options through misguidance—not science.
- Politics—not data—are driving this rule.

6. Restart the Adaptive Management Process — Use Science, Follow the Law (Restart AMP)

- The proposed rule lacks scientific credibility, legal justification, and economic fairness.
- The Forest Practices Board should reject Ecology's flawed Tier II analysis and the proposed Np rule.
- **Adaptive Management should restart the TFW Policy process with the proper resource objective for stream temperature instead of Ecology's misapplied 0.3°C measurable change as the goal.**

Written comments for Np:	Written comments for Tier II:
CR 102 Proposed Rulemaking due 5 pm 8/12/25 Online: forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov	Draft Tier II Analysis of FPB Draft Rule due 11:59 pm 8/18/25 Online: You can submit comments online

<https://workingforestscoalition.com/action/>

