

Forest Practices Board
Committee on Water Typing Rule
November 5, 2019
Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington

Committee Members Present:

Bob Guenther, Committee Chair and General Public Member
David Herrera, General Public Member
Paula Swedeen, General Public Member
Tom Nelson, General Public Member

Committee Members Absent:

Jeff Davis, Director's designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Staff

Marc Engel, Marc Ratcliff, Colleen Granberg, and Patricia Anderson, DNR
Steve Renaud, ATG

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Guenther, Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

This committee approved the September 24, 2019, meeting minutes with no changes.

Committee Recommendations and Report for the Board

The committee members were convened to discuss and refine draft recommendations based on previous committee meetings to develop final recommendations for presentation to the Board at the November 13 meeting. The recommendations are based on the committee's work with DNR and stakeholders to resolve Board identified outstanding issues with the permanent water typing rule effort.

Several edits were made to the draft list of recommendations initially developed at the October 14 committee meeting. The committee agreed to bring the following recommendations to the Board:

1. Clarifying the goals and targets for the water typing system rule. The target for the rule implementation needs to be consistent with fish habitat as it is defined in rule and the targets for implementation need to also align with the intent of the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan and be provided to TFW Policy and the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER).
2. Acknowledging that DNR will re-do the potential habitat break (PHB) spatial analysis to include the width, gradient and natural obstacles based PHB's as approved by the Board. DNR will also re-do the anadromous fish floor (AFF) analysis as approved by the Board.
3. Requesting DNR to engage with the TFW Policy caucus leads on the implementation of the PHB and AFF spatial analyses.
4. Delaying adoption of the permanent water typing system rule for eastern Washington, phasing the PHB validation study to start in eastern Washington. Form a cooperative work group, modeled on the AFF charter and consider funding options for the group. The committee discussed, without consensus, the need for potential administrative solutions to protect fish habitat, in the interim.

5. Requesting CMER develop revised study designs for the PHB validation, map based lidar model and physical characteristics studies. The studies are to be designed for cost savings, including the phasing of the studies with eastern Washington to be initiated first, and the possibility and advisability of combining the PHB validation, map based lidar model and physical characteristics studies.
6. Acknowledging a map-based modeled water typing system is one of the goals of a permanent water typing system rule. DNR will coordinate with WGS to acquire lidar on forest lands and recommend a funding request to the Legislature for the 21-23 biennium to complete the acquisition of lidar and complete the development of a map-based hydrology layer improved by lidar coverage.
7. Supporting the establishment of the AFF workgroup and their charter, and consider Board support for funding options for the group.
8. The Water Typing Rule Committee be retained to provide oversight and continue working on water typing rule making issues to provide recommendations to the Board, through regularly scheduled reports.
9. Acknowledging that hiring the Center for Conservation Peacebuilding would be beneficial to improve relationships throughout the Adaptive Management Program and resolve issues which are best addressed by the TFW principals.

Committee Presentation to the Board

Committee chair Guenther suggested and all committee members agreed to assist in the presentation of the recommendations that were finalized today to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.