



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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To: Forest Practices Board

From: Marc Engel, Senior Policy Planner, Forest Practices Division

RE: Staff report of Water Typing System Rule Board Committee work regarding the eastern Washington stream data evaluation and the Anadromous Fish Floor GIS analysis

The Water Typing System Rule Board Committee (Committee) received an update on January 14 regarding the ongoing work to evaluate additional fish data for inclusion in the eastern Washington potential habitat break (PHB) spatial analysis, and the work of the anadromous fish floor (AFF) Workgroup. At the conclusion of the meeting, Committee members requested DNR staff to prepare a summary memo of the work progress to date.

Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data

At the November 2020 Board meeting, DNR staff shared that DNR would begin the process of matching the screened 2001 CMER tabular data (approximately 180 points) with the original GIS spatial data collected 20 years prior. Locating this data in DNR's GIS library was a substantial cost savings, as DNR did not have to contract the spatial data collection from the original contractor. Matching the points and verifying the coding language for the two data sets is necessary to ensure that the fish data can be accurately mapped in preparation for the PHB spatial analysis in eastern Washington. The second task, performing a Qa/Qc evaluation for the Kalispel and Yakama data, is ongoing.

Unfortunately, other work priorities and complications delayed a completed evaluation on the CMER data before the January Committee meeting. About half of the screened CMER points have been finalized to date. The Qa/Qc evaluation for the tribal data has yielded 20 fish data points. The final number of CMER data points along with the 20 tribal data points will be combined with the existing 18 fish data points (identified in 2019) to perform a statistically significant PHB spatial analysis.

Since the DNR effort to 'match' the CMER tabular data with the original spatial data and the tribal data Qa/Qc did not produce result until January, there has not been a need for DNR to convene the eastern Washington technical group. Once the results and methodology descriptions are complete, the technical group will be convened to discuss next steps/recommendations.

Anadromous Fish Floor GIS Analysis

The AFF GIS analysis contract was awarded to Terrainworks in August. The first deliverable was for the contractor to create synthetic stream networks (GIS-based maps) using high quality lidar within specific watersheds. The AFF project team provided the contractor with fish distribution data and fish barrier data to populate these maps. Currently, the AFF project team is reviewing this last task for accuracy.

There are several tasks associated with the contract that require important feedback from the AFF project team. The contract is approximately one month behind. This is due in part to the technical nature of the work and additional time to provide the necessary data to the contractor and to review the contractor's products. Although behind, Terrainworks is confident that the April completion date is still feasible. However, the AFF project team may not have enough time to develop AFF recommendations in time for adequate discussions at the May 2021 Board meeting.

In summary, the Committee acknowledges:

- The work to determine the spatial location of the fish data within areas of high resolution Lidar is nearly complete;
- Recognition of DNR's investigation to locate and utilize the original spatial data from the 2001 CMER study – this proved to be a cost savings;
- DNR will convene the eastern Washington technical fish data group when the final Qa/Qc is completed matching the tabular CMER data with the GIS data and the results of the tribal data;
- The need for continued Committee oversight of the work being done through the AFF GIS analysis contract and for clarifying the policy direction regarding the AFF (i.e., confirm the goal of the AFF); and
- The time constraints that AFF Workgroup faces to develop well-vetted recommendations for the Committee to consider in time to present to the Board at the May meeting.