



Washington State Forest Regulation COOPERATIVE MONITORING, EVALUATION, and RESEARCH COMMITTEE (CMER)

MEMORANDUM

February 28, 2023

To: Timber Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (TFW Policy)

From: Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER) and Riparian Scientific Advisory Group (RSAG)

Subject: Response to Riparian Characteristics and Shade (RCS) Study Alternative Site Selection Criteria for Eastern Washington Sites

At the February 28th 2023 CMER meeting, CMER approved RSAGs recommendation from February 12th 2023 RSAG meeting as outlined below.

RSAG accepts the Policy proposal outlined in the January 17, 2023, memo for site selection prioritization in Eastern Washington. However, we note that the recommended site selection prioritization could result in a bias or other limitation on the scope of inference. Therefore, the study report Discussion section will address how the Policy directive affected, or not, inferences of study findings.

Dr. Rachel Rubin, the RCS PI, stated:

“I understand that stakeholders at the TFW Policy Committee have voiced concerns about the application or extrapolation of results drawn from Np sites to type F sites in a rulemaking context. I believe I understand this concern, but I would say that site to site variability, as well as ecoregion variability are likely going to be the most important sources of variation to be considered in resultant scope of inference discussions. In other words, two Np sites from different ecoregions are likely to be more different in stand composition (and thus, the shade response to thinning), than an Np and F stream from the same ecoregion. All original site selection criteria would still apply (bankfull width between 5-25 feet site class 2-3), so in theory we could be choosing RCS sites that have the potential habitat to host fish species on the east side, but just have no observed fish.”