

June 8, 2020

**To:** TFW Policy

**CC:** Forest Practices Board

**From:** Darin Cramer, WFPA, Type Np Workgroup Co-Chair  
Jim Peters, NWIFC, Type Np Workgroup Co-Chair

**Subject:** Type Np Workgroup Status Update

TFW Policy formed a technical Type Np stream workgroup in response to the preliminary findings of the Type N Hardrock Study, Phase I. The workgroup is charged with developing Western Washington Type Np riparian management zone (RMZ) alternatives for TFW Policy consideration. Several other Western Washington Type Np stream related CMER studies anticipated to be completed in 2019/20, as well as other relevant literature and data are to inform workgroup deliberations. The workgroup's charter can be found at [bc\\_tfw\\_typencharter\\_20190710.pdf?0z3ica](#).

The workgroup began meeting in late 2019 and has generally met monthly since that time. Several meetings were spent interacting with CMER project principal investigators. The workgroup has had one field trip to a CMER study site and has met with one large and one small landowner who have implemented alternative Np stream RMZs through a federally approved Habitat Conservation Plan and Alternate Plans, respectively. Two additional field trips were planned but were postponed due to COVID19 work restrictions. The workgroup has also spent considerable time clarifying and fleshing out the objectives alternative RMZ proposals are intended to meet, brainstorming different RMZ configurations, and outlining a written report.

The workgroup is currently discussing several RMZ alternatives of varying lengths and widths, as well as opportunities for management within the RMZ. Two meetings planned this month are intended to finalize RMZ alternatives and establish the process to be used in evaluating the effectiveness of these RMZ alternatives at meeting the objectives. Subsequent meetings are currently being scheduled to begin RMZ alternative evaluations. This is expected to be an iterative process. There may also be interest in rescheduling one or more field trips. Finally, the workgroup has requested a follow-up discussion with Ecology regarding the application of state water quality standards in the forestry context, particularly clarification of how the antidegradation standard for temperature will be implemented and the scale at which this standard will be applied.

The charter approved by TFW Policy and accepted by The Forest Practices Board (FPB) estimated the workgroup would be convened in July 2019 and conclude work in September 2021. The workgroup actually convened in late October 2019. Nonetheless, they have been making steady progress and are on or ahead of schedule at this point. There are still two CMER project reports, the Type N Hardrock Phase II and Soft Rock Phase I, working their way through the independent peer review process. While the workgroup has received CMER approved draft versions of these reports, they will want to review the final approved versions before delivering their recommendations and report to TFW Policy.

If you have any questions I can be reached at (360) 280-5425 or [dcramer@wfpa.org](mailto:dcramer@wfpa.org). Jim can be reached at (360) 485-2352 or [jpeters@nwifc.org](mailto:jpeters@nwifc.org).