

August 6, 2020

To: Forest Practices Board

From: Marc Engel, Senior Policy Planner, DNR on behalf of Bob Guenther, Jeff Davis, Dave Herrera, Tom Nelson, and Paula Swedeen

RE: Report on eastern Washington stream data for inclusion in PHB spatial analysis and Committee update for the Board

The Forest Practices Board (Board) directed by motion, the Water Typing Rule Committee (Committee) to explore if there is additional eastern Washington fish data which could contribute to the potential habitat break (PHB) spatial analysis needed for rule making. The Committee was also requested to complete the review of the anadromous fish floor (AFF) with tribes and landowners. The Committee reported the status of these workgroups to the Board at the May 2020 meeting regarding the scope of work for the AFF GIS contract and their direction to the Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data Technical Group to finish the Qa/Qc process they had initiated and bring forward potential data to the Committee.

Since the May 2020 Board meeting, the Committee conducted meetings on July 14 and August 3 to review the work and recommendations of the eastern Washington technical group and the AFF workgroup. A draft Committee report was not available for the Committee to review during the August 3 meeting. As a result, the Committee requested staff prepare a memo outlining the Committee's recommendations for the Committee to present to the Board. The Committee decided they would address their agreement or concerns regarding the decisions outlined in the memo at the August Board meeting.

Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data

At the August 3 meeting, the Committee received a summary of the work completed by the Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data Technical Group including a presentation by Chris Mendoza on the evaluation protocol and the results of the screened eastern Washington CMER data. The Committee also received input from the Qa/Qc subgroup, the Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data Technical Group members and the public to determine if the data could be used in a PHB spatial analysis. The Committee discussion acknowledged:

- The screening protocol is consistent with how PHBs will be used with the fish habitat assessment method (FHAM).
- It is appropriate to exclude fish data where the end of fish point was located at a culvert, at a transient woody barrier or where surveys were conducted when fish were seasonally downstream;

- The Qa/Qc process is consistent with how the stream data screening occurred for the initial PHB spatial analysis.
- The Qa/Qc group has identified approximately 150 streams meeting the screening protocol.
- Of the 150 eligible streams, more information is needed to finalize those points, which can be used in the eastern Washington PHB spatial analysis. Unfortunately, the data does not contain the geo-referenced spatial location for each stream point; this information will need to be acquired from the contractor who performed the stream survey. In addition, each eligible stream needs to be checked to confirm they are in an area with high quality lidar coverage;
- Funding will be required to obtain the spatial location for each eligible stream.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee passed a motion, “that the Committee move the screened data presented by Chris Mendoza forward to the Board.”

During the initial scoping phase of the technical team meetings, participating team members provided stream data from The Upper Columbia United Tribes and Yakama Nation that could be used in addition to the CMER data. Although not included as text in the above motion, most Committee members acknowledged that this data should be included and considered for the Board’s acceptance and used in DNR’s spatial analysis.

Anadromous Fish Floor

The Committee oversaw the work being done by the AFF Workgroup to develop a scope of work for a contract to perform an AFF spatial analysis. DNR has advertised the contract and received seven eligible quotes from qualified companies. The proposals have been scored, the top companies have been interviewed and DNR is in the final stages of establishing the contract. DNR will provide a status update at the August Board meeting.