

**FOREST PRACTICES BOARD  
COMMITTEE ON WATER TYPING RULE**

July 9, 2019

Natural Resources Building  
Olympia, Washington

**Committee Members Present:**

Bob Guenther, General Public Member/Small Forest Landowner  
David Herrera, General Public Member  
Jeff Davis, Designee for Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Paula Swedeen, General Public Member  
Tom Nelson, General Public Member

**Staff**

Marc Engel, Marc Ratcliff, Patricia Anderson, Phil Ferester

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board Committee (Committee) chair called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

**PRESENTATION OF DNR WATER TYPE MAPS**

Kevin Smith and Dave Wischer, DNR, explained DNR's hydro-layer process and the water type codes. DNR is currently up to date with entering submitted WTMFs. DNR staff answered questions from the Board Committee (Committee) regarding DNR's process and how the GIS data is entered.

The Committee asked DNR staff to (1) check on the consistency of how DNR regions enter their own updates for stream typing proposals and (2) provide stream miles data for how many WTMFs updates have been completed for all Type F/N breaks statewide.

**WIDTH BASED POTENTIAL HABITAT BREAKS**

Marc Engel, DNR presented the three potential habitat breaks (PHB) accepted by the Board at their February 2018 meeting. He briefly gave an overview of the differences between the three PHB options. DNR was unable to accurately assess a width-based PHB over a change in 20 times bankfull width for the spatial analysis similar to how the change in percent or natural barrier were analyzed.

Brian Fransen, Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA), presented the WFPA, small forest landowner and counties' PHB criteria and how WFPA performed a spatial analysis for all PHB options. Their size-based PHB is associated with a tributary junction, not the main stem segment. Their analysis showed that threshold-based PHBs are difficult to analyze accurately and an analysis without using size-based PHBs introduces additional error estimates in performance and final outcomes for an economic and environmental analysis.

Both DNR and WFPA acknowledged that a threshold PHB is difficult to reliably identify on a stream segment.

WFPA always intended that all of the size PHBs be associated with tributary junctions.

Committee members agreed that WFPA's PHB options needs to be accurately captured in the draft rule and agreed that additional work is needed to assess the ability to perform an analysis where size-based PHBs are identified.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ken Miller, WFFA, said that water typing is very complicated for small forest landowners and outside of their comfort zone. He said they need a point on a map or technical assistance in order to comply with the rule.

Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA, said that most small landowners use default physicals and that protocol surveys do add value as another tool. He also noted that the landowner proposal referenced tributary junctions but was not exclusively identified as such.

Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fish Commission, said that tributaries junctions alone may not prevent fish from moving upstream, therefore tributary junctions need to be associated with an elevation change or natural barrier to be considered a PHB. He said the Western Washington tribes PHB options is captured correctly in rule. He included their support for creating incentives for small landowners to keep trees on the ground.

#### **PREP FOR NEXT MEETING – JULY 17, 2019**

Committee members agreed to continue the PHB discussion with the goal to understand the intent of each option. They acknowledged that continued discussion will aid in providing a potential recommendation.

The next meeting will also include a presentation on the Western Washington tribe's anadromous floor option and TFW Policy's response to the Board's June motion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.