Passages Defining Type N Waters

FFR Appendix B, B.1(e)(iii):

“Type N waters' include all segments of natural waters within the bankfull widths of defined channels that are not Type S or F waters and which are either perennial streams (as defined below) or are physically connected by an above-ground channel system to downstream waters such that water or sediment initially delivered to such waters will eventually be delivered to a Type S or F water. Type N waters include two subcategories of waters: seasonal and perennial streams. As used in this Report, ‘perennial streams’ include all Type N waters which do not go dry at any time during a year of normal rainfall. In many cases, field practitioners and scientists do not have the experience necessary to make a field determination of the initiation point of perennial Type N waters. Making the determination will require a better understanding of the natural variability of the spatially intermittent component of perennial streams. Factors such as stream associated amphibian habitat, sediment deposition patterns, channel morphology, water flow, non-migrating seeps or springs, and position in the basin will be observed in preparing a protocol for perennial stream identification. In those cases where non-migrating seeps or springs as the point of initiation of perennial flow cannot be firmly identified with simple, non-technical observations: (A) on the Westside, Type N waters will be 'perennial streams' if they have a basin size in excess of the following minimums: 13 acres in the coastal zone (which corresponds to the sitka spruce zone defined in Franklin and Dyrness 1973) and 52 acres on the rest of the Westside; and (B) on the Eastside, Type N waters will be 'perennial streams' if they have a basin size in excess of 300 acres. The basin size thresholds identified in the preceding sentence, may, at the request of any author and subject to adequate funding and prioritization, be subject to review through adaptive management.”

WAC 222-16-030(3) and 222-16-031(4) specify:

“Type Np Water”; “Type 4 Water” means all segments of natural waters within the bankfull width of defined channels that are perennial nonfish habitat streams. Perennial streams are waters that do not go dry any time of a year of normal rainfall. However, for the purpose of water typing, Type 4 Waters include the intermittent dry portions of the perennial channel below the uppermost point of perennial flow. If the uppermost point of perennial flow cannot be identified with simple, non-technical observations (see board manual, section 23), then Type 4 Waters begin at a point along the channel where the contributing basin area is:

(a) At least 13 acres in the Western Washington coastal zone (which corresponds to the sitka spruce zone defined in Franklin and Dyrness 1973);
(b) At least 52 acres in other locations in Western Washington;
(c) At least 300 acres in Eastern Washington.