March 1, 2024

TO: Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research (CMER) Committee
FROM: Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project Team
SUBJECT: Project Update and Fish Creek Harvest Delay

The Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP) is collecting data "to determine if, and to what extent, the prescriptions found in the Type N Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group are effective in achieving performance targets and water quality standards, particularly as they apply to sediment and stream temperature in eastern Washington" (ENREP Project Charter). The study consists of 5 sets of watershed pairs using a before-after, control-impact (BACI) experimental design with a minimum of 2 years of pre- and post-harvest data. This update provides information on the Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP) status of each site and recommendations from the Project Team. There are five basin pairs included in the study, two of which (Fish Creek and Coxit) were added in 2020 due to the loss of two original basin pairs (Sedge Ridge and Rattlesnake) and the time required to identify replacement sites.

Data Collection Status

Site	Landowner	Treatment Schedule	Data Collection Status	Harvest Plans and Points for Discussion
Springdale	Hancock	Completed June 2021	Completed fall 2023 Automated sensors are still in place.	Reaches below the PIP have 50 foot buffers per the standard clearcut harvest rules. Monitored Ns reaches above the PIP were clearcut to the stream.
Blue Grouse	Inland Empire Paper	Completed August 2022	To be completed fall 2024.	A variance was submitted to the Forest Practices Board to allow the clearcut harvest strategy within 500 feet of the Type F receiving body. The remaining Type N basin was harvested according to the standard clearcut harvest rules. This allowed an opportunity to harvest the maximum number of dry reaches in the basin.

Tripp's Knob	Inland Empire Paper	Completed November 2021	To be completed spring 2024.	RMZ harvest used the partial cut strategy, down to 104 square feet per acre with removal of trees between 14"-20" DBH.
Coxit Mountain	WA DNR	Completed October 2023	To be completed spring 2026.	Due to steep and wet areas that are not feasible or allowable to harvest, approximately 50% of the basin was harvested. Most of the areas outside of the 50' RMZ boundary was clear cut harvested.
Fish Creek	Inland Empire Paper	Scheduled late 2024	Data collection is ongoing and consists of 3 years of pre-harvest data due to harvest delays. To be completed spring 2027	RMZ harvest will use the partial cut strategy, down to 104 square feet per acre with removal of trees between 14"-20" DBH.

Summary and ENREP Project Team recommendations

Springdale and Tripp's Knob
Treatments at these sites were completed on schedule and data collection is currently planned to cease in the spring of 2024.

Blue Grouse
Treatment was delayed so 3 years of pre-harvest data were collected and further data collection is currently planned to cease in the fall of 2024.

Coxit Mountain
Harvest was completed on schedule and post-harvest data collection is currently planned to cease in the spring of 2026.

Fish Creek
Harvest was planned to be complete in the fall of 2023. Due to the loss of the primary contractor and a complex harvest operation resulting from extremely steep and challenging terrain, the schedule was updated to span the 2023 and 2024 harvest seasons. Road building was completed in August 2023, but to date no further harvesting was completed. IEP's contractor is prepared to begin harvest as soon as conditions permit and currently it is anticipated that the harvest will be completed in the fall of 2024. Due to the harvest delay, data collection is projected to be completed in the spring of 2027 based on the approved Study Plan. Current approved project budgets have only projected data collection to continue

through the spring of 2026. One indirect advantage of the harvest timing changes is that 3 years of preharvest data will be available from the basin pair.

Project Team recommendations

The Project Team recommends that a supplemental workplan and budget be developed to provide resources to complete the 1 additional year of data collection and analysis at Fish Creek to conform with the approved Study Plan that specifies 2 post-harvest years of data collection. During this final year of field data collection, the project team intends to initiate data analysis from the other 4 basins and begin preparation of the project report to both reduce delays in the final report submission and increase the fiscal efficiency during the final year of data collection.

Approximate costs associated with the delayed harvest at Fish Creek are listed in the budget table below.

Approximate Projected Additional Costs ($1000s)					
FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	Total
$0	$5	$0	$78	$2	$85

Draft estimates only, subject to University reviews, revisions, and approvals.