

November 5, 2019

To: Forest Practices Board

From: Water Typing Rule Committee
Bob Guenther, Paula Swedeen, Tom Nelson, Dave Herrera and Jeff Davis

RE: Recommendations

At the Board's June meeting, the Board passed a motion to establish a Board committee to work on the outstanding issues associated with the water typing system rule effort.

The committee has met 8 times since the June special Board meeting to develop recommendations for the issues identified in the motion. However, more time is needed to work through all the issues.

Based on the Board's motion of June 4, 2019, the following are recommendations thus far.

1. *Understanding and working to resolve the spatial analysis for the width-based PHBs;*
The committee was able to gain full understanding of how the width-based PHB is intended to be applied as well as a process to determine when a width-based PHB exists for the PHB spatial analysis. The committee acknowledges that DNR will re-do the spatial analysis for all three PHB (width, gradient, and barriers) options accepted by the Board.
2. *Determining how the rule making should be applied in eastern Washington (considering eastside data);*
In progress.
3. *Determining if and when the potential habitat break validation study should be done and whether it should be combined with the study to determine default physical characteristics;*
In progress. A re-evaluation of the process of PHB study for cost savings and improving accuracy is being considered.
4. *Determining if rule language, Board resolution, or other non-rule options would suitably encourage moving toward a lidar modelled map-based water typing rule; and*
In progress.
5. *Gather and analyze data for inclusion in any recommendations on an anadromous fish floor.*
Recommend Board support the establishment of the AFF work group and charter. Also consider funding for the group.

The committee agreed that the technical group should continue working on the data requirements and that the committee provide oversight to the work group.

6. The committee recommends the Board retain the Water Typing Board Committee to continue working through the issues and providing recommendations to the Board.

Attachments:

Committee Charter
Committee meeting summaries
Anadromous Fish Floor Workgroup Charter