

Forest Practices Board
Water Typing Rule Committee
January 15, 2021
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Bob Guenther, Committee Chair and General Public Member
David Herrera, General Public Member
Jeff Davis, Director's designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tom Nelson, General Public Member

Absent:

Paula Swedeen, General Public Member

Staff

Marc Engel and Marc Ratcliff, DNR
Phil Ferester, ATG

Welcome and Introductions

Bob Guenther, Committee chair, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

Zoom Meeting Format Briefing

Marc Ratcliff, DNR

Update on DNR's findings regarding the CMER data and Qa/Qc results for the tribal data that will be used for the PHB spatial analysis for eastern Washington

Marc Ratcliff, DNR, said the goal of the eastern Washington fish data exercise is to supplement the existing sample size of 18 points with additional fish data. This was requested in order to perform a statistically robust PHB spatial analysis for the forested eco-regions in all of Washington State. Members of the eastern Washington fish technical group have screened out approximately 180 points from the 2001 CMER study data for consideration. He reiterated that the Forest Practices Board accepted the Committee's recommendation to use the screened 2001 CMER data and requested a Qa/Qc be completed for the fish data points provided by the Yakama Nation and Kalispel Tribe.

He said DNR has been working in the last couple of months to align the tabular CMER data with the geo-referenced spatial data acquired 20 years ago. Matching those points is necessary to ensure they can be used for the spatial analysis. Cross walking these points has taken longer than envisioned. Of the 180 CMER points DNR was able to confidently match, Chris Mendoza is half way through a final Qa/Qc evaluation of those points. Of the fish data provided by Yakama Nation and Kalispel Tribe, the Qa/Qc effort identified approximately 20 viable points.

He said he had hoped to share these outcomes with the entire technical team prior to today's meeting, but since the results came later than anticipated, he did not have time to convene a meeting. Once the final data has been Qa/Qc and the methodology documented, he said DNR intends to hold a meeting with the technical group to discuss the results.

Update on work being performed for the Anadromous Fish Floor GIS spatial contract

Marc Ratcliff, DNR, said the first task for the contractor (Terrainworks) was to build a synthetic watershed map from various sub-basins in western WA. Part of this involved correcting stream locations and connecting stream flow. The maps provide the foundation to run the analysis once all
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the specific AFF stream metrics are added. He said the AFF project team provided Terrainworks with specific fish distribution and fish barrier data to incorporate into the watershed map. Terrainworks has since populated the maps based on the data provided by the team. He said the AFF project team is currently reviewing the updated maps.

He mentioned that gathering and determining the appropriate fish data to provide Terrainworks has taken more time than originally thought. In addition, the nature of this contract requires a lot of back and forth between the AFF project team and the contractor to refine the product. As a result, the contract is about a month off schedule. He added that the contractor is confident they can still meet the April completion date.

Committee Chair Bob Guenther allowed for members from the technical groups to provide additional feedback.

Public Comment

Darin Cramer, Washington Forest Protection Association, requested the technical group be included in the communication on the spatial analysis. The group has not met for at least three months and it is unclear besides Chris Mendoza who has been working directly with DNR on the screening. He also commented on the anadromous fish floor by asking the Committee to delve a little more into the matter by providing additional direction. There has been very little Policy direction given to that work group and he said he has observed many different objectives at play and a lack of clear direction.

Committee discussion regarding discussion/ memo for February 2021 Forest Practices Board meeting

The Committee agreed to look into the fish floor issue a bit more and acknowledged the need to continue to oversee these efforts.

Marc Engel, DNR re-capped Committee member's discussion and suggestions for the Board's memo to include:

- DNR will convene the fish technical group to discuss the results once final Qa/Qc and matching is completed on the CMER data and tribal data
- Recognize the cost savings accomplished by DNR's ability to locate and utilize the original spatial data from the 2001 CMER study
- Acknowledge the time constraint for the AFF project team to development well-vetted recommendations in time for the May Board meeting.
- Acknowledge the continued Committee oversight on the work being done through the AFF GIS analysis contract and for clarifying the high-level policy direction regarding the AFF

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.