



April 29, 2021

**To:** Forest Practices Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "ME", written over a light blue rectangular background.

**From:** Marc Engel, Senior Policy Planner, Forest Practices Division

**RE:** Staff report of Water Typing System Rule Board Committee work regarding the eastern Washington stream data evaluation and the Anadromous Fish Floor GIS analysis

The Water Typing System Rule Board Committee (Committee) received an update on April 28 regarding the work of the anadromous fish floor (AFF) Workgroup and the ongoing work to evaluate additional fish data for inclusion in the eastern Washington potential habitat break (PHB) spatial analysis. At the conclusion of the meeting, Committee members requested DNR staff to prepare a memo summarizing the status of the completed work to date.

#### Anadromous Fish Floor GIS Analysis

The AFF GIS analysis contract was awarded to Terrainworks in August 2020. The time needed to provide data to the contractor and the effort to Qa/Qc the map products has taken longer than originally envisioned. DNR, with the contractor's willingness, has extend the contract to June 30, 2021.

The Committee has been presented with an overview of the Webmap developed by the contactor for the watershed basins to be analyzed. The AFF project team is still in the process of gathering fish data to inform the map and ultimately the analysis. The next steps will involve evaluating the definition of natural fish barriers along with determining the appropriate stream reach for identifying the AFF.

The Committee, in their oversight role of the development of an Anadromous Fish Floor, was presented a memo by the AFF project team requesting clarification regarding how the 5, 7 and 10% gradient thresholds identified in the February 2018 Board motion should be analyzed. There existed confusion over how these gradients, added to the industrial landowner proposal, should be addressed in the development of an AFF proposal. Some project team members recognize the need to analyze the industrial landowner AFF proposal as originally intended and provided the recommendation that the percent gradient thresholds be a separate, but potentially helpful component of a full analysis. The Committee agreed and provided the AFF Workgroup the following direction:

**The AFF project team may analyze all four of the alternatives outlined in the April 14, 2021 AFF project team memo.**

Eastern Washington Fish Habitat Data

The effort to identify additional fish data in order to perform a PHB spatial analysis in eastern Washington is complete. DNR staff shared the results of the process to match the screened CMER data subset with the georeferenced data, and the results of the Qa/Qc evaluation for the Kalispel and Yakama tribal data. The process has added approximately 176 points from the CMER data subset, 23 points from the Yakama Nation and 28 points Kalispel Tribe to the existing 18 fish data points (identified in 2019) for a total of 245 fish data points to perform the eastern Washington PHB spatial analysis. DNR is waiting on the completion of the metrics for AFF proposal to re-run the PHB spatial analysis for the entire state.

It was acknowledged that not all of the technical members in the group, nor a Committee member, support using the screened fish data points from the CMER dataset; they believe that using all of the CMER data provides a more robust and scientifically sound evaluation of the fish data and is consistent with the recommendations in the PHB report. A three (yes) to one (no) Committee member vote carried the following action:

**Accept the eastern Washington CMER data subset and tribal data as presented to the Committee on April 28, 2021 for inclusion in potential habitat break (PHB) spatial analysis.**