

To: Forest & Fish Policy
From: Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP) TWIG
Date: August 6, 2015
Re: Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Study

Statement of the Problem

The ENREP TWIG is tasked with designing a study 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 in eastern Washington. The TWIG seeks clarification and modification of the guidance previously provided by Policy.

Purpose of Memorandum

We are requesting that Policy approve our recommendation to not focus on specific harvesting prescriptions in Study Design development. In May 2013 the ENREP TWIG brought Purpose, Objective, and Critical Question statements to TFW Policy for review and in June Policy provided specific requests for the Study Design. The TWIG interpreted those requests as directives, and that interpretation created difficult issues. We would prefer to use the best available science to identify the harvest treatments that will provide Policy new information on the effectiveness of prescriptions in meeting resource objectives.

The TWIG also requests Policy approval for:

- a) not testing elements of the rules which BAS strongly suggests are unlikely to result in meeting performance targets,
- b) not testing resource elements that have previously been adequately tested,
- c) validating elements of the rules in widespread use, which, based on BAS, appear to have a high likelihood of being effective.

Best Available Science (BAS) should play a central, though not exclusive, role in determining the rule elements experimentally examined by CMER. The BAS review should be used to evaluate the strength of our current state of scientific knowledge and include careful consideration of the scientific strength of the findings, applicability to Washington's rules, and the relative resource risks associated with accepting the finding. Since science is never absolute and CMER cannot test every rule permutation, we are seeking the latitude to use BAS backed with professional expertise and judgment in crafting Study Design recommendations with the goal of providing the best overall value to the decision makers charged with ensuring Washington's rules are effective.