

TFW Policy Committee
Co-Chairs' Draft Initial Recommendations on Off-Channel Habitat
Draft v.7-19-16

Process

1. At the August 4 meeting, Policy works toward agreement on the general direction for off-channel habitat rule and guidance (below).
2. DNR (Marc Engel) writes draft rule language based on Policy's direction, including the Entz & D. Miller draft from 2015.
3. Policy reviews draft rule language at September meeting (September 8 or TBD meeting).
4. Policy submits draft rule language to Board at November Board meeting.
5. Policy asks DNR to draft the Board Manual based on this revised rule language.

Rule Language

TFW Policy recommends the following direction be incorporated into the Forest Practice Rules regarding off-channel habitat (Policy will recommend draft rule language based on initial drafting by DNR):

- Off-channel habitat is part of the Type F stream designation.
- Off-channel habitat can be defined as something like "Off-channel habitat consists of habitat features connected to and draining into Type S and F waters by inundation at bank full elevation/bank full width (or other agreeable term) of the Type S or F water." This also requires definition of bank full elevation/bank full width in the rule or Board Manual.
- Field methodologies for determining off-channel habitat are described in BM XX.

Board Manual

TFW Policy recommends that DNR revise the Board Manual to reflect the new definition of off-channel habitat and include the following:

- A diagram illustrating off-channel habitat and features (similar to what DNR has created already);
- Pertinent definitions of hydrologic terms (bank full elevation and width);
- Field indicators to identify bank full width and elevation; and
- Guidance to determine area of inundation at bank full width and elevation.

Research

Refer to the Off-Channel Habitat Technical Group's draft report (July 2016).