

# Water Typing System Rule-Making Update

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# Water Typing System Rule Packet Update

- Board Manual Guidance
- CBA/SBEIS
- Board Water Typing Committee
- Rule Goals and Objectives



# Water Typing System Rule Goals and Objectives

This rulemaking was initiated through the Adaptive Management Program in January, 2013 when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA-Fisheries Service, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Conservation Caucus raised concerns about continuing the electrofishing practices under the interim water typing system.

This rulemaking seeks to better address the Forests and Fish Report foundational goal to protect accessible fish habitat. Additionally, the rulemaking aims to develop a field applied method of reliably identifying accessible fish habitat in an objective and repeatable manner. By maintaining all essential elements of the methodology in rule, this rulemaking will also convert any key long-standing Board guidance into rules where appropriate. *See, RCW 34.05.230(1)*

A sound water typing system ensures that riparian buffers are properly placed at each stream, protecting aquatic resources and their respective habitats. These goals support the statutory objectives endorsed in the Forests and Fish Report and Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan.

