

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee  
(CMER)  
November 16, 2010  
NRB – Room 175 A&B  
Meeting Notes**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
*Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Hitchens, Dawn	Dept. of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator
Hotvedt, Jim	Dept. of Natural Resources, Adaptive Management Program Administrator
*Jackson, Terry	Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, CMER Co-Chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	Dept. of Natural Resources, Project Manager
*Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser, LWAG Co-Chair
*Lingley, Leslie	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forestry Protection Association
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
McGinnis, Mike	Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Miskovic, Teresa	Dept. of Natural Resources, Project Manager
*Miller, Dick	Washington Family Forest Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Tribe
Murray, Joe (ph)	Merrill & Ring, Pysht Tree Farm, RSAG Co-Chair
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, North West Indian Fisheries Commission
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, North West Indian Fisheries Commission
*Sturhan, Nancy	North West Indian Fisheries Commission

\* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone & v indicates attended by video conferencing.

**Science Session**

There was no science session for this meeting. Instead discussion focused on topics for future CMER meetings. The Headwaters Study Results by Pete Bisson has been confirmed for the December CMER meeting. The presentation on the impacts of forest harvest on stream temperatures by Michael Pollock, et al, is confirmed for the January CMER meeting. The ALSEA watershed results study is tentatively scheduled for the CMER March meeting. The LiDAR remote sensing tool to detect wetlands is tentatively scheduled for the CMER April meeting. These topics will be reflected in the CMER work list and science session topics spreadsheet.

**Business Session**

➤ Policy Update – November 4, 2010 meeting:

Terry Jackson reported that the main topic of importance for CMER was the Accuracy & Bias study. This decision remains on hold due to non-consensus over which option to take. Policy expects to make a decision next month.

The Soft Rock charter was approved by Policy with some minor edits.

In terms of the SAGE co-chair position, Policy has requested that DNR and DOE look for someone in eastern Washington to provide leadership assistance to this SAG.

Todd Baldwin announced that Steve McConnell's last day with UCUT was two weeks ago.

## **SAG /CMER Items**

### ➤ CMER Science Conference

The CMER science conference topics discussion was revisited. Eight possible topics were submitted by three SAGs. So far, there are enough topics for a half-day session.

### Discussion Points:

The discussion turned to hosting a scaled back “workshop” on mass wasting studies related to the December 2007 storm event. The main purpose of the workshop would be to present other field studies and relevant research that investigated landslides related to the 2007 storm. It would be most useful to organize this workshop around the same time that the Post-Mortem Study is out of the CMER and ISPR peer review process.

A discussion occurred on the need to develop a synthesis relevant to the Post-Mortem Study. This originally emerged from the dispute resolution work within Policy. The CMER co-chairs and the AMPA are working on draft guidelines for development of a synthesis, which will be brought to CMER for review and input. This draft will provide guidance on how to conduct a synthesis of relevant information for final CMER Reports.

One suggestion was that the Post-Mortem synthesis be drafted before the mass wasting workshop so as to have a meaningful dialogue. Another viewpoint was to use the workshop to help facilitate the synthesis. A pre-workshop synthesis may help to provide a framework for participation and content of the workshop. The synthesis would then be revised to incorporate relevant information from the workshop.

CMER agreed that UPSAG will take the lead in organizing the workshop while also working on defining what a synthesis might entail. Chris Mendoza proposed to hold off the decision for cancelling the Annual CMER Science Conference until next month since it was not on the CMER agenda as an action item. If cancelled, CMER would host a science conference the following year, at which time more studies will have been finalized and more topics would be available. CMER agreed to wait to make a decision about the science conference until the December CMER meeting and to place it on the agenda as an action item.

### ➤ CMER Meeting Notes – July 27, 2010 & August 24, 2010 - ***CMER Approved to finalize the July & August meeting notes.***

### Discussion Points:

Todd Baldwin asked for clarification within the August meeting notes about SAGE’s role with the nomograph study. Is SAGE supposed to do something with the nomograph paper, or provide information on this project in the Lessons Learned document? The language will be revised in the August meeting notes to reflect that the nomograph study will be identified in the Lessons Learned project. CMER agreed to have further discussion on *lessons learned* from past projects at a future meeting.

### ➤ CMER work plan revisions & project budgets - *Update*

Terry Jackson stressed the importance of planning ahead for February 2011 as this is the month to have the CMER work plan approved. SAGs need to work on revisions to their relevant programs and projects and be prepared to share their primary revisions at the February 2011 meeting. She emphasized the importance of having SAG co-chairs schedule the work plan revisions on their monthly meeting agendas.

SAGs need to look at their projects and fine tune expected expenditures for FY2012 and also to project the budget out into future years.

➤ **CMER Information Systems Project – Update**

SAGs need to get project information into Nancy Sturhan by November 30. The information would be for specific projects approved by CMER for inclusion in 2011 and consistent with information specified within the Table of Contents. This will allow NWIFC to have a budget estimate in January for CMER to approve for developing the interagency agreement to continue this project.

LWAG

➤ **RMZ Resample Report –*CMER approved final report, with the ISPR comments & memo as attachments.***

AJ Kroll reported that the RMZ Resample report was approved by LWAG. The SAG requests approval of the report by CMER. Teresa Miskovic stated that the SAG memo with this report asks for CMER approval of the report, and that the memo and ISPR comments, which have yet to be incorporated into the report, be attached to the report as an addendum. This will document the process and progress that LWAG has taken in preparation for finalizing this report.

Discussion Points:

The issue of publishable data was revisited. AJ Kroll reported that, in his opinion, the bird data is worthy of further analysis. However, the RMZ resample data would need to be compared with the original pre- and post-harvest data, and analyzed before producing a publishable report. Questions remain concerning acquisition of the original data, and the availability of staff and resources to complete the work.

Teresa Miskovic emphasized that the LWAG memo outlines that it is not cost-effective for LWAG to salvage the data, and that LWAG would prefer to have the original author do this work. Since their last meeting, LWAG has found out that the Scott Pearson, one of the original authors, is not available to do this.

LWAG needs to complete the six questions, which will accompany the final report when submitted to Policy. The six questions will identify what has been learned from this study and identify existing information gaps.

Terry Jackson asked for CMER approval of the final report and to attach the ISPR comments and memo. Leslie Lingley abstained from voting because she was not a participant of CMER during the time that this study was developed and implemented.

CMER approved the report, with the ISPR comments and memo as attachments.

➤ **Buffer/shade Project – Presentation by Jim McCracken at the CMER Science Conference – *CMER held approval of travel reimbursement until next CMER meeting***

Jim Hotvedt stated that this request is supported. In this case, the principle investigator has been intricately involved in the study and is requesting travel reimbursement. CMER has the funding for this.

Mark Hicks moved to approve this request, contingent upon the decision to be made in December about hosting a CMER Science Conference in 2011.

#### SAGE

➤ Type N Characterization Project: Forest Hydrology - *Update*

Todd Baldwin apologized that SAGE is unable to present on the results of site validation work conducted during the last field season at this meeting. Not all of the data was submitted in time. Jim Mathews will get the rest of the data in by November 19<sup>th</sup>. SAGE will be prepared to present the results at the next CMER meeting (December).

#### SRSAG

➤ Soft Rock Study – *Update*

Mark Hicks reported that the charter was approved by Policy with minor revisions. The study design is approaching the first draft stage. He got clarification from EPA on their quality assurance plan, and that EPA has agreed that DOE's quality assurances meet EPA requirements.

#### UPSAG

➤ Road Sub Basin-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring – *Six Questions*

Julie Dieu reported that Curt Veldheusin found the six questions from the study design. UPSAG has made some revisions will share them at the CMER December meeting

➤ Testing the Accuracy of Unstable Landform Identification - *Update*

UPSAG is waiting for direction from Policy.

➤ Mass Wasting Prescription-Scale Monitoring (Post-Mortem Study) - *Update*

Julie Dieu reported that UPSAG is close to being complete with a new draft. UPSAG is planning to meet with CMER reviewers after the CMER meeting to go over those changes.

#### WETSAG

➤ Wetlands Mitigation Study - *Update*

Ash Roorbach reported that WETSAG is in the process of preparing a white paper which will be brought to the next CMER meeting (December) with a SAG request for approval of the alternate approach. This will be fully discussed at the December CMER meeting

➤ CMER Authorship for CMER Final Reports – *Discussion*

Dick Miller & AJ Kroll shared some guidelines and standards used by other research entities. CMER will not be taking action on this item. The guidelines will be available for use on a case-by-case basis and further considered when updating the Protocols and Standards Manual.

➤ Clean Water Act Assurances (CWA) – *Update*

Mark Hicks stated that the milestones are broken into different types of groups: compliance, operational, and CMER-related. The main challenges with the timeline reside with the CMER-related milestones. The long-term funding for the AMP, Soft Rock study, and the Accuracy & Bias study are behind schedule. The Eastside Type N Effectiveness Study is not likely to get

done on time. CMER will need to figure out a plan of action for addressing these CWA milestones.

- CMER Report to Policy – *Discussion on Items to take to Policy for December 2, 2010:*
  - CMER Science Conference considerations
  - UPSAG - Testing the Accuracy of Unstable Landform Identification (Accuracy & Bias study) – Policy decision on direction for focus.
  
- CMER/SAG *Recap of Assignments:*
  - CMER Work plan & budget revisions – SAGs schedule this on their monthly agendas; be prepared to approve their revisions at their January meetings and be prepared for approval of Work Plan at February 2011 CMER meeting.
  - Decision at December CMER meeting on CMER Science Conference.
  - CMER Information System –project information submitted to Nancy Sturhan by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - SAGE - Forest Hydrology Study site validation presentation at December CMER meeting.
  - CMER Co-chairs work on the synthesis guidelines.
  - UPSAG – organize the mass wasting workshop and develop draft synthesis paper.
  - LWAG – Six questions on RMZ Resample for Policy approval.
  - WETSAG – white paper to be brought to CMER at December meeting.
  - UPSAG - Roads sub basin – Six questions on report for Policy approval.

***Meeting Adjourned.***