

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
August 26, 2014
DNR/DOC Compound/Tumwater WA**

Attendees	Representing
§Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe of Indians, CMER Co-Chair
chesney, charles (ph)	Member of the Public
Hayes, Marc	Department of Fish & Wildlife
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
§Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology, CMER Co-Chair
Jaspers, Kodi-Joe (ph)	Colville Confederated Tribes
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protections Association
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
§Mobbs, Mark	Quinalt Indian Nation
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
Schuett-Hames, Dave	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Shramek, Patti	Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator
Stewart, Greg (ph)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
§Sturhan, Nancy	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Terwilliger, Karen	WFPA
Walter, Jason	Weyerhaeuser

§Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone.

*Indicates Decision

Science Session:

Discuss revisions to CMER Master Project Schedule made by Policy

Mark Hicks reviewed the Policy/Board approved CMER Master Schedule and explained how Policy decided what to keep, remove, or put on hold.

Mark commented that with the change to biennial budget planning the CMER Workplan will only need to be done biennially. Mark noted that we may want to capture the recent changes to the CMER Master Schedule this year even though it is not required. Chris Mendoza was also concerned that things would be missed if we waited until next year to make all the updates, and other expressed the same concern. Mark suggested we go ahead and make changes this year anyway so CMER doesn't lose focus on what they are doing even though we would not need to send it to Policy and the Board until the following year.

This was an item of discussion and no decision was made.

Coordinators Corner:

- *Approval of May and June 2014 Meeting Minutes
May - **Approved**
June - **Approved**

- CMER Science Conference – Review of planning schedule
Patti Shramek went over the draft planning schedule for the 2015 science conference, which is tentatively scheduled for February 11 and 12. There was discussion about whether or not there should be science presentations on reports that haven't completed the independent scientific peer review (ISPR) process.

The decision was made that it didn't matter if ISPR was completed and the presentations would be on the status of the projects at that point in time.

Next Steps: The planning schedule for science projects that will be presented at the 2015 science conference will be finalized at the September 2014 CMER meeting.

Decisions:

LWAG

- *Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study in Hard Rock Lithologies Study: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 – **CMER approval**
Marc Hayes reported that reviewer comments have been incorporated and approved by all authors and asked that CMER approve the final drafts of the chapters. He reminded everyone that the chapters will not go through ISPR alone but be bundled as background information to the other chapters when they go through ISPR. **Approved**

- *Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study in Hard Rock Lithologies Study: Chapters 15 (Fish) & 16 (Trophic Pathways) – **Request for CMER review**
Marc Hayes reported that chapters 15 & 16 are completed and ready for CMER review. Reviewers for Chapter 15 are Caprice Fassano (Tribal Caucus Reviewer, Quinault Indian Nation), Mark Hicks, Chris Mendoza, Doug Martin, and Pete Bisson (Small Landowner Caucus Reviewer). Reviewers for Chapter 16 are Mark Hicks, Doug Martin, Chris Mendoza, and George Wilhere (State Caucus/WDFW Reviewer). **Comments are due September 16, 2014.**

- *RMZ Re-Sample (Bird) Report – **Request for review of ISPR comments**
Marc Hayes reported that ISPR comments have been incorporated into the report and requested CMER review of document and response matrix. The report was approved by LWAG in August to be submitted to CMER for consideration of approval. Marc Hayes

answered various CMER questions pertaining to on how ISPR comments were addressed in the final report. Mark Hicks moved that final report be approved and Chris Mendoza seconded. – **Approved.**

Next Steps: Marc Hayes will draft the Findings Report (containing the six questions) for CMER approval to be forwarded to TFW Policy. The PI/Authors will likely present to TFW Policy in October/November 2014.

SAGE

- *Eastern Washington Type N Forest Hydrology Study – **Approval to send to ISPR**
Kodi Jo Jaspers reported that CMER Reviewer comments (Marc Hayes & Doug Martin) have been incorporated into the report. She requested that CMER approve the report to be forwarded to ISPR.

Chris Mendoza asked if the report needed to go through ISPR since it is just a tool to select sites. Marc Hayes replied that the approach for selecting sites in the Report is a relatively predictive approach that can be used in a variety of circumstances, it could be useful, and should go through ISPR to see if can be used in broad applications. Doug Martin and Nancy Sturhan agreed. Nancy replied that if it is going to be a foundation for future studies it should be ISPR reviewed. Greg Stewart said that the contractor (Dan Miller) was concerned whether he would get useful comments and argued that there may not be much value for the money. He went on to say that the data collection this summer should validate the model. Todd Baldwin expressed two concerns; (1) Would the PI/author be available in the future if the report is forwarded onto ISPR; and, (2) could there be cause for concern if this approach is used in other studies and it doesn't go through ISPR?

Mark Hicks moved to send the Report to ISPR, Todd Baldwin seconded – **Approved.**

Gregg Stewart requested if the review could be an open review. Mark Hicks moved that the review use an open review if permitted, Chris Mendoza seconded – **Approved.**

Updates:

Report from Forest Practices Board – August 12 special meeting – CMER Master Project Schedule and Approval of Small Forest Landowner CMER member

Mark Hicks reported that the Board approved the CMER Master Project Schedule, and approved Harry Bell as the Small Forest Land Owner Representative CMER voting member.

Report from Policy – July and August Meetings

Mark Hicks reported that the main work at both meetings was around the CMER Master Project Schedule and he expressed his appreciation for the amount of work Policy put into it.

SAG UPDATES:

RSAG

➤ **Hardwood Conversion Study**

Ash Roorbach reported that no comments were received on the report, but Todd Baldwin contacted him and said the report looked good and to move forward. Todd Baldwin moved to approve the report, Chris Mendoza seconded - **Approved**.

Ash asked if they should wait to send the report through ISPR until the 2016 re-sample is completed and the data is incorporated into the final report.

Next Steps: Todd Baldwin moved to send the report to ISPR when the 2016 re-sample data is collected and incorporated into the report, Marc Hayes seconded – **Approved**.

➤ **Extensive Riparian Monitoring: Stream Temperature Study – *Update***

Howard Haemmerle reported that Bill Ehinger (PI) won't be able to address the CMER comments until October 2014.

SAGE

➤ **EWRAP**

Ash Roorbach reported that a draft analysis and report has been provided to SAGE in four chapters for their review and comment. They have reviewed the first three chapters and have provided comments. Chapter 4 was discussed at the August 2014 SAGE meeting. SAGE had questions about how timber types were derived. Ash has submitted the data to SAGE so they can review it independently. He is working on the outline of what the final report should look like while he is waiting for comments on Chapter 4.

WetSAG

➤ **Wetlands Systematic Literature Review and Wetland Strategy**

Ash Roorbach reported that ISPR comments for the literature Synthesis were reviewed by WetSAG at the August WetSAG meeting. They have been forwarded to Paul Adamus (PI) for incorporation. Paul will give a presentation at October CMER meeting.

TWIG

➤ **Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Study Design TWIG**

Gregg Stewart reported that the data collection is going well. Greg answered CMER questions. They have collected the first two rounds of data from the tidbits and cameras and are currently collecting the third set of data. The fourth set will be completed in October 2014.

➤ **Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project TWIG**

Dave Schuett-Hames reported they are doing their best available science review. The TWIG has reviewed around 40 articles between the four of them. The TWIG will be meeting early Fall to discuss what they have found in their literature search and to work on the options document.

➤ **Unstable Slopes TWIG – Initial Writing Team**

Howard Haemmerle reported that IWT memo requesting the informal seven day review period was sent to listserve with recommended qualifications and possible candidates for TWIG participation. Comment period deadline is August 29, 2014.

CMER

➤ **Update on DNR staff availability and Public Disclosure Requests**

Patti Shramek reported that the DNR Adaptive Management Program staff is working on a large PDR request so it may take a while to get things completed. She also reminded CMER that CMER work is dis-closable.

➤ **Discussion on how to handle future cancellations of monthly CMER meetings**

Chris Mendoza requested that more than a week's notice be given for future cancellations of CMER meetings. Mark Hicks and Todd Baldwin replied that every effort is made to give earlier notice but is isn't always possible. Scheduling of CMER meetings is dependent on seeing if anything comes out of the SAG, TFW Policy or Forest Practices Board meetings for CMER to address.

CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study in Hard Rock Lithologies Study: Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 – **Approved**
- RMZ Re-Sample (Bird) Final Report – **Approved**
- Eastern Washington Type N Forest Hydrology Study – **Approved to send to ISPR**
- Hardwood Conversion Study – **Approved** – report will go to ISPR after the 2016 re-sample has been completed and the results have been incorporated into the report.
- Due date for comments on Hard Rock Chapters 15 & 17 is September 16, 2014.
- September CMER meeting agenda items:

- ◆ Finalize projects that will be presented at the February 2015 CMER Science Conference
- ◆ How to handle nominations for co-chairs
- ◆ Dates for 2015 meetings in Ellensburg