

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program Staff

DATE: August 28, 2014

SUBJECT: CMER Status Update

Lean Pilot Projects

In February of 2012, the Forest Practices Board (Board) directed CMER to implement a “piloted” Lean process for a limited number of new projects with the intent of increasing efficiency in the scoping and study design phase of new projects. The premise of the Lean pilot was that smaller teams of qualified scientists in the area of expertise specified for the project (referred to as Technical Writing and Implementation Groups or TWIGs), would be assembled. Due to the TWIGs smaller size, focused expertise, and streamlining of some CMER process steps, they could effectively be more efficient at developing study designs. Four projects are currently in various stages of this process. They have completed the following work in 2014:

- ***The Eastside Type N Riparian Buffer Effectiveness Project:*** Policy approved the TWIG’s testable problem statement, objectives and critical questions memorandum in the winter of 2014. The TWIG is conducting supplemental field work over the summer on a subset of sites used in the Forest Hydrology Study project in preparation for commencing development of a study design in the fall of 2014.
- ***The Unstable Slopes Criteria Project:*** A memorandum that includes the qualifications (i.e. experience, technical expertise) necessary for the identification and selection of TWIG participants along with a list of potential candidates is moving through CMER review. Individuals selected will begin work in the fall of 2014. The first deliverable will be the development of a testable problem statement, objectives, and critical questions to guide the development of a study design.
- ***Roads Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project:*** Initial meeting of the TWIG occurred in the spring of 2014. The TWIG has completed their first deliverable which was a memorandum identifying a testable problem statement, objectives, and critical questions to guide the development of a study design. The memorandum is currently in TFW Policy for consideration. Next steps, the team will be working on identifying relevant literature and appropriate study design alternatives in the fall of 2014.
- ***The Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project:*** TFW Policy approved the TWIGs memorandum identifying a testable problem statement, objectives, and critical questions. The TWIG is reviewing relevant literature and is scheduled to complete this work by the end of September of 2014. Information from relevant literature will be used to develop, modify and refine study design alternatives for further evaluation.

As the Lean process evolves, so have growing pains in response to change. Early in the process modifications were necessary to keep the process moving forward. Although it took some time to implement the Lean processes in CMER and Policy, both committees have familiarized themselves with the process and things are progressing. It should be noted, as with all CMER projects, even with dedicated scientist on the TWIGs, limited schedules and stretched workloads seem to be a restraining factor which affects schedules and the completion of deliverables.

On a positive note, of the many efficiencies of the Lean process, two notable points should be acknowledged and celebrated:

- One of the objectives of the Lean process was to maintain open lines of communication with TFW Policy and CMER early in the process and often. Both committees now have the opportunity to provide input earlier in the process as well as at key milestones. This should prove to be valuable as the TWIG invests their time and expertise in developing a study design that meets the various caucuses' expectations.
- Notably our pool of scientific expertise on the TWIGs and within CMER has expanded as scientists are selected for the TWIGs. For example, in the TWIGs we have scientists from NCASI, US Forest Service, University of Washington, as well as within CMER. Always, new perspectives add to the scientific integrity and rigour of our projects and strengthen our program overall.

Status of TFW Policy Committee Action on Selected CMER Final Reports:

Upon acceptance of final reports from CMER, TFW Policy is expected to report back to the Board through the Adaptive Management Program Administrator, on whether or not "action" should be recommended to the Board regarding changes to rule or Board guidance. If TFW Policy agrees that some kind of "action" is warranted, it has up to 180 days to develop a decision, whether consensus or not, and make a recommendation to the Board. If TFW Policy agrees that "no action" is needed in rule or Board guidance, then that recommendation also is reported to the Board.

In 2014, CMER has completed and delivered to TFW Policy the following reports and their associated findings reports (which include answers to the standard set of six questions in Board Manual 22 Appendix B Framework for Successful Policy/CMER interaction):

- ***The BTO Temperature and Solar Radiation/Effective Shade Project*** is the product of two components of one study comparing the two shade prescriptions in eastern Washington (the standard FFR shade rule using the nomographs and the all available shade BTO rule) and determine each rule's effectiveness in protection of shade and stream temperature.

TFW Policy has not recommended changes to rules or guidance based on the results contained in this report. TFW Policy agreed to delay discussion on the results of this report until the fall of FY 2015 due to other prioritize projects they are working on.

- ***Effectiveness of Riparian Management Zones in Providing Habitat for Wildlife: Resampling at the 10-year Post-treatment Interval, re-analysis of bird data.*** In this study,

scientist revisited study sites (10 years post-harvest) to examine longer-term bird community effects. Using the same Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) experimental approach and temporally replicated point counts, they estimated population- and community-level avian responses while incorporating variation in the detection process across treatments and years.

CMER granted final approval of the report at their August 2014 meeting. A findings report will be completed to accompany the study report which will be forwarded to TFW Policy for their consideration this fall.

Two other draft reports were approved by CMER to go through Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) in FY 2014. These reports should be completed this fall and approved by CMER to be forwarded to TFW Policy for consideration this winter of 2015:

- *Stream-Associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading.*
- *Effects of Forest Roads and Tree Removal In or Near Wetlands of the Pacific Northwest: A Literature Synthesis*

Project Status Update Spreadsheet:

Attached is the updated CMER project status report that will be submitted to TFW Policy for their September 2014 meeting. The table format provides a general overview of the status of all projects in CMER, how they correspond to the completion of CWA milestones, and some general information pertaining to next steps in the process.