Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
February 23, 2016
Natural Resources Building/Olympia, Washington

Attendees	Representing
Andrade, Charlene	Department of Natural Resources
§Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe – CMER Co-Chair
Beckett, Leah	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
§Bell, Harry	Green Crow
Berge, Hans	Department of Natural Resources - AMPA
Big Eagle, Jerry (ph)	STOI
chesney, Charles (ph)	Member of the Public
§Dieu, Julie (ph)	Rayonier
Ehinger, Bill	Department of Ecology
Garlesky, Jennifer (ph)	UCUT – CMER Staff
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	UCUT
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
§Hicks, Mark	Washington Department of Ecology
Hooks, Doug	WFPA – CMER Co-Chair
Jasper, Kodi-Jo (ph)	CCT
§Kay, Debbie	Suquamish Tribe
§Knoth, Jenny	Green Crow
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
McCray, Chad (ph)	STOI
McIntyre, Aimee	Department of Fish and Wildlife
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	Merrill Ring
Quinn, Tim	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
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
Walter, Jason	Weyerhaeuser

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

*Indicates Decision

Agenda Review – LWAG items moved to 10:30 to accommodate Aimee McIntyre's schedule.

Science Session

SAGE Work Plan – *Review*

The SAGE Work Plan revisions were reviewed and revised. Mark Hicks moved to approve SAGE Work Plan with the revisions. Chris Mendoza seconded. - **Approved**

SAGE has a few extra projects that didn't get consensus and weren't included in the submitted Work Plan. Marc Gauthier asked for guidance on paths available for discussion at CMER when Scientific Advisory Groups (SAG's) don't come to consensus on items. Most felt the best way to have projects move forward is to work through issues at the SAG level before coming to CMER. That would increase the likelihood of CMER approval.

SAGE will work on reaching consensus on the extra projects at their March meeting, and if successful, will present them to CMER at the March meeting.

LWAG Work Plan – *Review*

LWAG Work Plan revisions included references to climate change. Discussion revolved around whether or not the Adaptive Management Program does, or should do, research specific to climate change. It was determined that the climate change references would be removed from the Work Plan revision.

Dave Schuett-Hames moved to approve the Work Plan with the revisions, Debbie Kay seconded. – **Approved**

Work Plan Attachment A – *Review*

Attachment A of the CMER Work Plan was reviewed. Jenny Knoth motioned to approve, Joe Murray seconded – **Approved**.

Link to Adaptive Management – March agenda item – Discussion about Work Plan clean up.

General Work Plan Discussion:

- Funding of mid-year projects and Master Project projects and what needs to go into the Work Plan.

<u>Decisions:</u>

CMER

***Reformation of ISAG**

Doug Hooks and Hans Berge gave an update on the Forest Practices Board (Board) and Policy implementation of a permanent water typing rule. Policy's main focus right now is

electrofishing. Berge would like to re-form ISAG to keep CMER in the loop on these issues. Chris Mendoza replied that CMER hasn't received any direction from Policy, nor does CMER have any projects in the bin. He said that he feels there is no reason to re-form ISAG until Policy or the Board directs it. Jason Walter and Doug Martin said they feel it's time for CMER to re-form ISAG and it's within CMER's purview to do it. Berge said that Policy told him to do it, but Mendoza said they didn't. Todd Baldwin stated that he would support Han's re-establishing ISAG, but did have some concerns about how it would be staffed with co-chairs given the difficulty that other SAG's are having finding replacement co-chairs. All except Mendoza agreed that ISAG should be re-formed.

Berge requested help from CMER for the Type F issues.

LWAG

***Van Dykes –** *Approval of new Scope of Work*

Charlene Andrade gave an overview of the background on the Van Dykes study. She and Aimee McIntyre answered question about the proposal. Some Committee members expressed concern that there isn't enough information in the proposal to approve it at this time. Mark Hicks and Todd Baldwin remarked that they couldn't approve anything past Task 3 in the proposal and asked that LWAG re-do the proposal.

Hooks requested a motion to approve the request. Mark Hicks move to approve up to, and including Tasks 1 through 3.a.i.ii.iii.in Phase I of the proposal. Jenny Knoth seconded. Non-consensus - **Not approved.**

Mendoza moved to approve steps 1 and 2, and their corresponding budgets, of Phase I. Murray seconded. **– Approved**

Murray moved to direct LWAG to itemize task 3 budget for a, b, c, and d following the Protocol and Standards Manual SAG process. Jenny seconded. - **Approved**

***Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study –** Basalt Lithologies (Hard Rock) – *Approval of study modification*

No approval requested at this meeting. Aimee McIntyre reviewed the original sampling methods and explained the proposed study modification for the new sampling methods that will come to CMER for approval in March. Any questions regarding the changes are due to Charlene Andrade by Friday, March 4, 2016.

Updates:

Report from Forest Practices Board – *February 10 meeting*

- Update on Unstable Slopes – work group re-convened to address issues that were not addressed in version that was approved in November 2015.
- Berge was given authority to use discretion to spend 10% of the budget for mid-year projects (with policy consensus) without waiting for next the next Board meeting for approval, assuming it doesn't mess up the other priorities.
- Update of Type F issues. Phil Roni, with Cramer Fish Sciences, will be convening a group of experts on off-channel habitat (OCH). The E-fishing workgroup is winding up, and the modeling is still going on at UW.
- Report on interim Compliance Monitoring Report.
- Review of the selection process for committee Co-Chairs. CMER is the only committee that has a process.
- Update on Department of Fish and Wildlife status review on Spotted Owl. Endangered status maintained.
- The Board is considering filing a CR101 on how they receive information before meetings. The goal is to receive materials with enough time to review them before the meeting.

Report from Policy – *February 4 meeting.*

- Reviewed the ground rule of the month.
- Updates on Type F issues.
- CMER Update.
- SFLO alternate plan update.
- Roads BAS presentation.

CMER

CMER 2015 Accomplishments – *updated*

Patti Shramek reviewed the final accomplishments document. It will be presented to Policy at their next meeting.

Protocols and Standards Manual Chapter 7 – *update*

Ash Roorbach reported that a draft will come to CMER by April. He will send it to Shramek by April 19 to go out in the April meeting mailing. He will present a review schedule for those who would like to meet to go over changes. The goal is to have a final draft for CMER approval in July.

LWAG

Buffer Integrity/Shade Effectiveness Study – *update*

Berge reported that the report is going to ISPR for re-review.

Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study – Basalt Lithologies (Hard Rock) – *update*

Revised review schedule provided at meeting. Andrade asked for update on sub-reviewers as folks have retired.

RSAG

Remote Sensing Pilot Project – *update*

Howard Haemmerle reported that he and Berge are meeting with Precision Forestry February 24 to discuss progress on the project. The next steps are to work on location and sampling sets and develop field manual. A set of comments were provided to Precision Forestry a couple months ago and they have responded to them.

SAGE

Eastside Modeling Evaluation Project (EMEP) – *update*

Haemmerle reported that DNR was made aware of collaborative research approach for contracting and that SAGE was requested to approve Cramer Fish Sciences as the contractor for this project. Hopefully this will be worked out within the next week.

TWIG

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP) TWIG *(study design) – update*

Haemmerle reported that the TWIG has brought proposals to CMER twice with no approval. The last hold up was what prescriptions would be tested in the study design. An update was given to Policy and the TWIG was directed to develop a robust study design based in sound science and to test the eastside rules. At the last SAGE meeting the TWIG was told to bring an updated study design to CMER. The TWIG is requesting guidance on what prescriptions to study. The study has been broken up into wet and dry projects (previously combined). The TWIG is proposing to evaluate three treatments: a 50-ft no cut buffer, a treatment that would further limit shade loss (e.g., a 70-ft no cut buffer), and a treatment with greater shade loss (e.g., a 30-ft no cut buffer). The dry component will be delayed so they can focus on the wet portion. TWIG will meet via conference call on March 4. After this meeting Haemmerle will have a better idea of the next steps. There will not be a completely re-designed study design in the near future.

Literature Database - *update* – Leah Beckett found an alternative to the initial proposal and will bring it to next the meeting.

Public Comment Period

- charles chesney remarked that Okanogan County was not well represented in the Forest Hydrology Study.

Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- Possibility of SAGE Work Plan coming back to March meeting with additional projects.
- Questions regarding the Type N study changes are due to Charlene Andrade by March 4, 2016 so LWAG at the March meeting can be responsive.
- SAGE and LWAG Work Plans approved.
- Phase I Tasks 1 & 2 of Van Dykes proposal approved.
- LWAG directed to itemize task 3 budget for a. b. c. and d following PSM SAG process.
- Agenda item for March – discussion about Work Plan and how to clean it up.
- Literature data base access update.

Adjourned