

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee**  
**February 27, 2007**  
**9am – 4pm**  
**NWIFC**  
**Minutes**

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**Attendees:**

Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE co-chair
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Butts, Sally	USFWS, BTSAG Co-chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, AMPA
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	Ecology, RSAG Co-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hunter, Mark	WDFW, RSAG
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Josephs, Jessica	Rayonier, WetSAG
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fiber, LWAG co-chair
Martin, Doug	WFPA consultant, CMER co-chair
McConnell, Steve	UCUT
Mendoza, Chris	ARC, RSAG Tri-Chair
Miller, Dick	Farm Forestry Association
Moon, Teresa	DNR, CMER Staff
Pavel, Joseph	NWIFC
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Stewart, Greg	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR, CMER Co-Chair
Veldhuisen, Curt	Skagit River System Coop

**Assignments:**

Brief and prepare your Policy person on CMER issues for the Policy meeting Thursday and for the Policy CMER budget retreat.	all CMER reps
BCIF quarterly progress report	Schuett-Hames
Hardwood Conversion temp study quarterly report	Hunter
Extensive Riparian implementation plan	Ehinger, Black, S-H
Intensive Cumulative Effects scoping doc	Martin; subcomm.
Briefing paper on CMER lands and site selection issues	Black
CMER conference Fish Passage talk title revision	Jackson
Introduce CMER and context of talks/projects; 1-pg send with agenda	Martin
Relate project to forest practices	CMER presenters

**Assignments (cont'd):**

CMER web site – post CMER introductory materials (from workplan? Doug Martin's?)	Cramer
CMER web site – post conference reminder	Cramer
Workplan changes to Sturhan before budget retreat	all SAG chairs
Roads Subbasin – Alternatives analysis for lower cost methods	Black
Update budget sheet (and send to CMER folks?)	Cramer
Develop Short List of forest health experts; draft limited RFP for RSAG	Black

**Morning Business Meeting:**

1. Meeting called to order at 9:15
2. January minutes approved as drafted and sent out on Jan 26, 2007
3. Report back from Policy meeting
  - a) Three Bull Trout papers were accepted; Policy subgroup was assigned
  - b) Tailed Frog paper accepted
  - c) Approved Tier2 → Tier1 money for E-side Type F Riparian study
  - d) Type N experimental exemption from standard rules was approved as a pilot
  - e) Sally and Terry presented bull trout papers with a short project summary. Policy appreciated that. Darin requested that in future we should always do that, with the summary based on the 6-questions
  - f) Small landowner caucus requested that Dick Miller be approved as their CMER delegate (Approved by Policy, forwarded to Board for approval)
  - g) Policy group will be going to 6-hr meetings instead of ½ day, which should allow more time to consider CMER issues
4. Budget/Project Management
  - a) Budget currently has \$6M lined out for FY08;
  - b) not feasible to implement, so we need to rethink this and make our budget and workplan inline with what we can really accomplish
  - c) Further discussion postponed until afternoon
5. ISPR Update
  - a) Darin and Julie discussing questions for Mass Wasting “Post-Mortem”
  - b) RMZ resample upcoming but a ways off
  - c) Reviewers are not all UW people; we can request specific expertise and recommend specific reviewers be considered.

## 6. SAG Requests

- a) \*Sage Type N Scoping
  - i) Comments from CMER reviewers incorporated; final was distributed with comment response table
  - ii) Dick Miller had concerns that scoping was a request for more description rather than quantitative data. It requested a literature review rather than a study plan. SAGE responds that in this case, Greg Stewart (CMER staff) will draft initial study design for SAGE review, then will decide whether to proceed with CMER staff or to put out for outside bid
  - iii) Final Scoping report accepted without abstentions**
  - iv) Request was made for chair to specifically ask reviewers for their approval at CMER meeting when approval is sought (ie – ask Hunter, Dieu, and Martin in meeting whether they are satisfied with response). Done, and all three reviewers are satisfied.
  - v) Next Steps: Greg will work up study design draft
- b) \*RSAG E-side risk assessment request to develop RFP
  - i) Discuss in afternoon**
- c) \*SAGE E-side Type F request for additional funds (FY08)
  - i) Discuss in afternoon**
- d) LWAG/RSAG Type N Experimental request for additional funds for FY07
  - i) Unclear whether RSAG supports this. RSAG support? Yes.
  - ii) The request is for: A) \$39k money to reimburse Ecology which paid for a crew to build and maintain trails. These costs were not anticipated due to site selection issues, delays and unanticipated need for trail construction to haul equipment in to sites; B) \$5k for extra amphibian neighborhood genetic sampling in 2007 required due to inability to locate specimens in 2006 field season.
  - iii) **FYI to PMs** - Tom notes that DNR Honor Camp crews are very flexible and may have been able to accommodate this situation less expensively and perhaps of higher quality. In future, we should consult with them and consider using them more before hiring other, more expensive crews. Ehinger notes that having a list of contact people for these crews would be helpful. Darin can get this information.
  - iv) PM (Teresa) agrees these costs are acceptable.
  - v) Is access to trails disguised to prevent public access and vandalism? Not really. Cameras available inexpensively to monitor setups, may be worth investing in.
  - vi) **Approved funding request**
- e) UPSAG Roads
  - i) Discuss in afternoon**
- f) BTSAG
  - i) Discuss in afternoon**

## 7. Project Updates

- a) McConnell report status and timeline
  - i) Steve just finished responding to comments;
  - ii) RSAG expects document next week; will come to CMER pending RSAG approval
- b) RMZ resample status and timeline
  - i) LWAG reviewed and returned to contractor;
  - ii) LWAG expects to have for approval within one month, then to CMER
- c) \*BCIF quarterly progress report?
  - i) S-H can provide progress report to CMER by end of March
- d) \*Hardwood Conversion temp study quarterly report
  - i) Hunter plans to complete this by end of this week; currently working through statistical analysis process
- e) \*Extensive Riparian quarterly report
  - i) Ehinger, Black, S-H expect to provide by end of March
- f) \*Intensive Cumulative Effects status
  - i) Martin working on scoping doc; expects to have “straw dog” ready for subgroup to work with in a couple weeks

## 8. SAG Issues

- a) SAGE/RSAG joint meeting on remote sensing applications
  - i) Draft notes sent out today
  - ii) Couple project groups discussed specifically:
    - (1) Extensive and Type F assessment – evaluate use of information we currently have (1:32k photos) and readily-available info (QuickBird) and associated costs
    - (2) Eastside – Stewart will look into using FLIR to investigate stream temperature and surface flow presence (esp. in headwater streams)
  - iii) Discussed windthrow; RSAG (and SAGE) will discuss and incorporate windthrow projects into workplan; Eastside not concerned with this issue, so will probably be a Westside RSAG project; OSU did some extensive work on this years ago, look into
  - iv) LIDAR discussed extensively; coverage availability and costs are issues; Next Wednesday PNW having an informational lunch-time presentation on evaluation of canopy structure using LIDAR (by Steve Reutebuch)
  - v) SAGE/RSAG joint meeting perceived to be a success
  - vi) Advantages of remote methods are that one has a record of conditions across a broad area at points in time, and that we are putting all our money into ground work, but these ground data we are already collecting can be used as ground truth
- b) “CMER lands”
  - i) Jenelle and Laura will make- up a briefing paper on issue including recommendation for potential solutions;; next week
  - ii) March Science Session will address CMER lands

9. CMER spring conference agenda
  - a) More talks than time; so two talks now listed as alternates; okay? (No concerns raised)
  - b) \* Fish passage talk title needs revision; Terry will discuss with ISAG and F&W
  - c) Dawn investigating streaming video possibility
  - d) Doug requests that each speaker have ONE SLIDE at beginning of talk that relates project to forest practices and FFR to set context for the talk; Doug will also provide FFR context for studies in his conference Introduction. A one-page introduction about CMER will be included in the conference hand-out.
  - e) CMER consensus on agenda with noted changes
10. CMER Monthly report to Policy
  - a) forward LWAG money request
11. Updates to CMER web site
  - a) Intro materials?
  - b) Reminder of conference
12. Next month agenda
  - a) Policy Budget Retreat results; People need to be sure to get all changes to Nancy before budget retreat
13. Next Science topic
  - a) CMER Lands
  - b) Intensive Monitoring in April
14. SAG Requests2:
  - a) UPSAG Roads
    - i) Increased cost due to 1) original estimate was a guess, now have better estimate on costs
    - ii) Cost increase request very large; some of CMER balked and anticipate Policy will balk at it.
    - iii) Reconsider study design to assess differences in costs versus differences in results/confidence
      - (1) Explore relative variabilities that result from using smaller blocks.
      - (2) Explore using other metrics that don't rely on estimates/model blocks; have Curt write up why RSED% based on model is not the problem
    - iv) Write up for Policy why we can't/shouldn't change things or results of above reconsideration; CMER approves current request conditionally as an upper bound, but state to Policy that we are exploring study design options to reduce the cost.
    - v) Darin has requested that we come back with better explanation of request and alternatives and costs/benefits (monetary and study quality); include cost benefit of incorporating small landowners
    - vi) It was noted that if the study design is changed, it may need to go through SRC review again.

**Afternoon Session: Workplan and budget**

- Budget session
  - Tier 1 is for hard budget numbers that will absolutely be spent this fiscal year. Tier 2 is for other budget numbers.
  - Type N Riparian
    - Basalt project numbers are pretty firm
    - Windthrow assessment is a RSAG project in scoping. Project purpose is to determine the magnitude and spatial distribution of blow-down. First step will be to examine existing literature to identify best approach for the study.
    - Type N Characterization will probably spend 30K in study design, but is unlikely to begin to collect data in 2008.
    - Budget for Eastside N BCIF has been zero'd out until SAGE completes their Type N characterization study.
    - Discussion about the process for determining how CMER projects get prioritized. As it stands, projects seem to get prioritized by getting on the budget sheet. Should we evaluate all existing projects and then prioritize new projects based on the unallocated budget?
    - Buffer integrity shade effectiveness continuation is approved.
    - Amphibians in intermittent streams. Money in 2007 is for Marc Hayes to analyze 10 existing study sites. Based on the results of the analysis, LWAG is planning to request \$156,000 in Tier 1 to collect field data in FY08. Eastside Type N Characterization delineation of intermittent streams should help identify sample sites.
  - Type F Riparian Prescriptions
    - Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project monies moved to Tier 2. Need to move Eastside BTO-Addon (line 36) to Tier 1. This expenditure hasn't been approved by CMER, because they are based on a census of the sites and CMER was interested in the feasibility of sub-sampling sites. The requested money represents the cost of a census and the cost may go down, but the money needs to be in Tier 1 so it is available, even though the total cost may be lower than allocated.
    - Hardwood conversion is just a continuation of a project that is ongoing. Harvest dates are staggered over time and the amounts probably reflect post-harvest sampling
    - Extensive riparian was waiting the Grotfendt report. Study plan went through ISRP review. Study plan probably doesn't require allocated amount for 2007 because it will piggy-back on the Eastside Type F study. A revised budget will be developed this year so funds in Tier 2 are a place holder for FY08.
    - Type F DFC Validation projects. Policy was suggested that we shouldn't do anything with site classes. Tier 2 monies are in case

- policy comes back and asks CMER to develop studies for Site Class and Plot Width Standardization.
- Eastside Riparian Current Condition Assessment is requesting an additional \$70,000 be added to Tier 2 in 2008. This amount would allow SAGE to complete the 200 sites originally allocated. The current budget is \$300,000 and will cover reports, QA/QC and field sampling for a number of sites.
  - Eastside Channel Wood Characterization Project has requested 80,000 for study design in 2008. Actual amount unknown, so funds in Tier 2 are place holder. SAGE is currently scoping this project
  - Bull Trout Group
    - Bull trout solar study is behind schedule because of delay in getting sites harvested. Since study has been pushed out, BTSAG is requesting a budget amendment that will be brought to CMER at the March meeting. BTSAG is probably going to request \$92,653 in FY07 and \$37,019 in FY08.
  - Unstable Slopes
    - Effectiveness of Unstable Landform Identification Project is keeping money in Tier 2
    - Moving the Landscape to Tier 2
    - UPSAG should add money to Tier 2 for Deep Seated in case policy wants a study design for one of the scoped projects.
  - Roads
    - Deferred discussion of Road money in Tier 2 because it was discussed in the morning
  - Fish Passage
    - Money in Tier 2 is place holder subject to Policy decision
  - Intensive
    - 50K in 2007 will probably not get used. Doug Martin thinks the money should be moved to Tier 1 for study design in FY08 plus 200K in Tier 2 as place holder for site selection
  - Forest health
    - RSAG is proposing to pay for a buffer forest health study design out of the project development fund. This would be the development of a study design for modeling future forest health based on buffer stand data