

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee  
June 23, 2009  
DNR/DOC Compound - Tumwater  
Meeting Notes**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
*Almond, Lyle (ph)	Makah Tribe
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Black, Jenelle	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Cahill, Candice	Rayonier, WETSAG Chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, Adaptive Management Program Administrator
Ehinger, Bill	WDOE
Hayes, Marc	WDFW, LWAG Co-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
*Hicks, Mark	Ecology
Hitchens, Dawn	DNR/ CMER Coordinator
*Jackson, Terry	WDFW, CMER Co-Chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	DNR, Project Manager
*Martin, Doug	WFPA Contractor
McIntyre, Aimee	WDFW
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
*Miller, Dick	WFFA Contractor
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Tribe
Moon, Teresa	DNR, Project Manager
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Stewart, Greg	CMER Staff, NWIFC
*Sturhan, Nancy	NWIFC

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

**Agenda:** There were no changes made to the agenda.

**Science Session:** Ten Percent CMER Budget Reduction Exercise

Background – Last month Policy requested that CMER look at reducing the budget of existing projects in FY10 by at least 10% as a method for dealing with the budget shortfall. CMER decided to dedicate this session to discuss the proposed reductions and the possible implications to the projects. SAGs were directed to develop reduction options and priorities while maintaining the scientific integrity of projects. SAGs presented their respective responses to the reduction request and CMER developed recommendations to send to Policy. The following table outlines the CMER approved budget reduction to share with Policy for FY10.

Policy gave CMER the discretion to apply the 10% reduction to individual projects and/or the overall cost of all projects combined to ensure the scientific integrity of individual projects would not be jeopardized or weakened. CMER's total proposed budget reduction for FY10 = \$130,677, which is actually a little less than the target of 10% (an 8.2% reduction).

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>FY10 Original Budget</b>	<b>\$ Reduction</b>	<b>% Reduction</b>	<b>Reduction Description</b>
Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment – Basalt Lithologies	\$811,000	\$28,800	4%	Discontinue pre-treatment sampling at 2 basins with delayed harvest treatments.
Buffer Integrity – Shade Effectiveness	\$120,000	\$9,540	8%	Conference presentation, salary and benefits for 2 weeks of field time and for one scientific technician - partial season.
Bull Trout Overlay Temperature	\$202,000	\$20,105	10%	Loss of 4 study sites
Solar Radiation/Effective Shade	\$88,000	\$8,732	10%	Loss of one study site
Eastside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring (BTO Add-on)	\$32,000	\$12,000	38%	Loss of one study site
Hardwood Conversion	\$22,000	\$1,500	7%	Remove quarterly progress report from contractor deliverable. CMER staff will pick up.
Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring – Temperature Component	\$320,000	\$50,000	16%	Delay Eastern Washington Type N Temperature Monitoring.

**SAG /CMER Items:**

➤ *RSAG/LWAG Harvest Delays Statistics Memo – Update*

Teresa Moon reported that this follow-up memo is a continuation of the issues that CMER was briefed on at their April meeting. One of the three delayed basins has started harvest, so they are now dealing with two delayed basins. Both SAGs have discussed implications for the statistical analysis. Despite the harvest delays in some study basins, they are able to retain a balanced study design but have incomplete blocks, which impacts comparison of treatments. Both SAGs think it is important to keep the blocks intact, even if harvests are delayed. The buffer treatment in the South Cascade block was identified as a substitute if harvest continues to be delayed. SAGs are considering a fourth year of pre-treatment data so that annual variability can be assessed equally for all blocks.

- RSAG -UCUT Proposal for responding to Desktop Analysis Report ISPR comments – ***CMER approved this request***

Lyle Almond reported that this proposal has been brought to CMER several times by Steve McConnell. The proposal is to establish a contract with McConnell to respond to ISPR comments for the Desktop Analysis and FPA Field Check Reports. RSAG seeks CMER approval to set up a contract with McConnell.

Darin Cramer added that this is a two-step proposal: 1) prepare the ISPR comment response matrix for RSAG review; 2) RSAG will review and then submit the response matrix to CMER for approval.

Discussion Points:

Ash Roorbach stated that a project manager has not yet been identified. Darin Cramer replied that RSAG will need to assign a project manager or have a volunteer. Chris Mendoza added that with Steve doing the bulk of the work, perhaps the RSAG co-chairs can identify who will work with Steve to get the job done. The author responds to the ISPR comments and walks the SAG through the response steps.

Jenelle Black added that RSAG does not yet know the full extent of changes that will be required. Doug Martin suggested a two phase contract: phase two of the contract is contingent upon success of phase one.

Chris Mendoza and Terry Jackson emphasized that we need to make sure that the contract clearly specify that the matrix must first be approved by RSAG and CMER before moving to Phase 2.

CMER members reached consensus and approved that RSAG move forward with the contract.

- Landowner Data Request Memo - ***CMER approval was delayed***

Chris Mendoza reported that he reviewed the CMER protocol and standards manual (PSM) and incorporated pertinent information on data sharing into the draft memo for Policy. The reason for this is due to the fact that a couple of landowners have requested data before projects have been completed. This is an issue for CMER-funded studies because the contracts clearly identify that the data is not in the public domain until a final product has been completed. Handing out data before it has been QA/QC'd, analyzed, and/or incorporated into a CMER-approved final report is problematic. The PSM outlines that a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) should be deployed at the time of developing the access permit and agreement with landowners. CMER has not yet implemented a formal MOU. It may be possible for CMER to add some language to the access permit agreement that would include a data disclaimer, instead of having a separate MOU.

Pete Heide suggested that CMER use something simple at the time of implementation and that the disclaimer be used as the MOU. He also stated that the main concern is with DNR getting the raw data and developing a model; DNR should only use final data.

Jenelle Black stated that there are more than two recent examples of landowners interested in the data. She suggested revising the section of the PSM to accurately reflect how to address this issue. She suggested a data disclaimer section.

Chris Mendoza will take all of this feedback, rewrite the memo and share with CMER staff, project managers, and active CMER members before a final review. He will have the revision sent out by next week.

CMER approval of the landowner data -sharing memo has been delayed.

➤ DFC (20 tpa) Board Assignment – *Update*

Chris Mendoza shared with CMER last month that a subgroup was working on this task. The sub-group is meeting regularly and will have a draft by July 21<sup>st</sup>.

➤ CMER Summary of Policy Assignment: CMER Summary of Accomplishments – *Update*

Terry Jackson reported that at the last Policy meeting, the co-chairs discussed that it would be helpful to have a 2-3 page summary of CMER accomplishments. The summary would be a helpful communication tool for seeking future funding. The development of the summary is to be completed by the end of this month. The summary will be high level and not very detailed. The summary will reflect what we have learned relating to CWA, LWD, and stream temperature. A spreadsheet with all of the projects will be developed. The sub-group working on this includes Dave Schuett-Hammes, Ash Roorbach, Greg Stewart, Chris Mendoza and Terry Jackson. They will have a draft for the AMPA to review and then bring this to CMER for review. Darin Cramer clarified that Policy wants it for the July 24<sup>th</sup> Principals meeting.

➤ AMP Board Manual Training– *Update*

Nancy Sturhan reported that she has been facilitating the AMP trainings with Policy. The last training session highlighted the processes. The next training session for Policy is the ISPR and Dispute Resolution. Terry Jackson and Chris Mendoza suggest that CMER have the same training. CMER members agreed to have the AMP training scheduled for the next science session at the CMER meeting.

➤ SAGE EWRAP Phase II – *Update*

Jenelle Black reported that EWRAP is an ongoing project and that SAGE is using the remaining balance from the MB&G contract. An agreement will be set up with UCUT to complete the work.

Dick Miller added that this project is taking an existing model, will use 103 randomly selected stands and run data over next years under various scenarios. Apply different prescriptions to the stands to see what happens, and predict future stand conditions.

➤ Policy Meeting - *Update provided by Darin Cramer*

- No action items from CMER
- Policy discussed the co-chair situation and the ideal to have staggered appointments.
- Policy was updated on the FPB May meeting. Two outcomes from that meeting are: CMER is to evaluate one of the components in the DFC proposal (including the 20 tpa located along

the outer edge of the Inner Zone in calculating basal area requirements meeting DFC) and have Policy work on the fixed width buffer template for SFLOs.

- The Weyerhaeuser letter about their landslide report going through ISPR was re-circulated to Policy. Policy may take action on it at the next meeting.
  - Nancy Sturhan facilitated the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the AMP training. Policy is keeping track of parking lot issues so as to review them after the training.
  - The Watershed Analysis packet will go to the FPB in August; there may be another AM request by the FPB.
  - Policy worked on the AMP Strategic Plan Implementation after lunch.
  - Policy gave the budget assignment to CMER (10% budget reduction).
  - Policy wants to work on near-term tasks associated with the Principals meeting topics.
  - July 24<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date scheduled for the Principals meeting.
- Independent Scientific Peer Review – *Update provided by Darin Cramer*
- Type N Characterization Study: Forest Hydrology – this is done; the matrix is in the final steps.
  - Desk Top Analysis Report and FPA Field Check Report – this is done.

➤ CMER Report to Policy – *Discussion*

Items being taken to Policy for its July 2, 2009 meeting:

- CMER 10% Cost Reduction Response.
- Landowner Data Sharing Memo - Update
- RSAG ISPR Desktop and Field Check Reports – Approach
- CMER Accomplishments - Communication Tool for Budget

***Meeting Adjourned.***