Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
January 24, 2017
Department of Ecology Headquarters/Lacey WA

Attendees	Representing
§Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe – CMER Co-Chair
§Bell, Harry	Washington Farm Forestry Association
Berge, Hans	Adaptive Management Program Administrator
§Dieu, Julie	Rayonier
§Ehinger, Bill	Department of Ecology
Flintcroft, Rebecca	US Forest Service
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Gibbs, Heather	Department of Natural Resources
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
§Hayes, Marc	Department of Fish and Wildlife
§Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology
Hooks, Doug	WFPA – CMER Co-Chair
Johnson, Angela	Department of Natural Resources
§Kay, Debbie	Squaxin Tribe
§Knoth, Jenny	Green Crow
§Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protections Association
Miller, Dan	M2 Environmental
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	Merrill Ring
Regmi, Netra	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commissions – CMER Staff
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
Turner, Ted	Weyerhaeuser
Walter, Jason	Weyerhaeuser

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

*Indicates Decision

SCIENCE SESSION:

- ***Type F T WIG Study Design** – *presentation and approval*
  Dave Schuett-Hames introduced the other TWIG members (Doug Martin, Chris Mendoza, Rebecca Flintcroft, and Howard Haemmerle). Policy approved a phased approach for the development of the study design. Dave then gave a presentation on the study design, and he and the TWIG members answered questions. The TWIG reviewed

over 150 FPAs to look at the range of prescriptions in order to collect data that will inform a more intense BACI design. Key questions on the design are related to the sample size power analysis and the water quality standards.

Mark Hicks and Todd Baldwin are the only people who submitted comments, which were due today.

Approval of document postponed until the February meeting in order for the TWIG to address Hicks and Baldwin's comments.

Next Steps: TWIG will address comments and send it back to reviewers for approval. The document will go out in the CMER mailing one week before the February meeting with a request for final approval at the meeting.

- **Unstable Slopes TWIG Best Available Science –** *presentation and start of 30-day review*

  Greg Stewart introduced the other TWIG members present (Julie Dieu, Netra Regmi, Ted Turner, Dan Miller, and Howard Haemmerle). The TWIG members gave a presentation on the Best Available Science document and answered questions. The TWIG's objective was to come up with a suite of projects that will inform us whether or not there is a more accurate and consistent method to identify landforms where forest practices activities may cause an impact to public resources or public safety. The BAS indicates that both empirical (drawn from observations) and processed based (modelling based on underlying physics) will be needed to make this determination. Seven projects were presented with hierarchical recommendations.

  Next Steps: The best available science document was distributed on January 17, 2017 to start the 30-day review period. Questions are due to Howard Haemmerle by February 16, 2017. If the TWIG can address and incorporate the comments prior to the mailing date for the February meeting, a request for approval will be on the February agenda. Reviewers: Doug Martin, Mark Hicks, and Chris Mendoza.

DECISIONS:

CMER

- ***2017 CMER Work Plan**
  - **RSAG**

    Joe Murray explained the changes that RSAG made to the Work Plan.

    Chris Mendoza remarked that he is concerned about accepting the changes to the critical questions suggested by the technical editor. Julie Dieu expressed the same concerns about the performance targets.

Hicks moved to not accept technical editor changes to the critical questions and performance targets. Marc Hayes seconded. – **Approved**

Murray moved to approve RSAG Work Plan revisions, Hicks seconded. - **Approved**

- **SAGE**
  Gibbs reviewed the revisions to the SAGE Work Plan and all comments addressed.

  Mendoza moved to approve the SAGE Work Plan revisions, Jenny Knoth seconded - **Approved**

- **UPSAG**
  Gibbs, Dieu, and Mendoza gave a summary of the UPSAG Work Plan revisions and answered questions.

  Harry Bell motioned to approve the UPSAG Work Plan revisions, Dieu seconded – **Approved**

- **ISAG**
  Jason Walter gave a summary of the revisions done to the ISAG Work Plan and answered questions. Hicks remarked that he had issues with the way some of the critical questions are worded. Marc Gauthier remarked that he wanted to go on record that he did not approve some of the critical questions but had agreed to move forward with the idea that they would be worked out later. CMER re-worked the critical questions in the table. Gibbs will change the parts in the rest of the document to reflect the changes in the table.

  Hicks moved to accept ISAGs portion of Work Plan as edited, Martin seconded – **Approved**

  Next Steps: Gibbs will send the changes to the technical editor to combine into one document. Then the link to adaptive management will be removed from the document. The budgets will added at the February meeting.

- ***Protocol and Standards Manual Chapter 7**- *approval*
  Ash Roorbach reported that Hicks and Martin are the only ones who submitted comments by todays due date and he reviewed the comments and changes in the document.

  Hayes commented that these changes drastically change decision-making process. He is okay with it, as long as it does not interfere with the cooperative nature of the program and increases efficiency. Bell and Murray remarked that they also had some issues as well and would like them addressed before approving.

Next steps: Hayes, Bell, and Murray will submit comments to Roorbach within two weeks. This will be the final revision, and if comments are addressed and incorporated there will be a request for approval at the February meeting.

- ***Meeting Minutes Approval** – *December13, 2016 meeting minutes*
  Postponed to February meeting.

- ***2017 CMER Science Conference** – *decision on whether or not to have conference*
  Knoth moved to cancel the science conference due to lack of substance, Martin seconded. - **Approved**

SAGE

- ***Fire Salvage Literature Review** – *Approval of critical questions*
  Angela Johnson reviewed the SAGE request and went over the changes to the critical questions.

  Knoth moved to approve the critical questions, Hayes seconded. – **Approved**

TWIG

- ***Roads TWIG Study Design** - *approval*
  The TWIG is developing a comment matrix to address the extensive comments they received on the study design. The request for approval to send the study design to ISPR was postponed until the February meeting.

Updates:

Report from Policy – *January 5 meeting*
Meeting minutes can be found on the Department of Natural Resources web page at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board/tfw-policy-committee.

- **Update on UPSAG Request**
  Hooks reported that Policy is working with UPSAG to give clearer guidance.

CMER

- **Lean Process** - *update*
  Postponed to future meeting.
- **Budget and Project Status Update of 2015-14 Biennium**
  Postponed to February meeting.
- **Process for Bringing New Projects Forward**
  Postponed to future meeting.

SAG and TWIG Updates

LWAG
Hard Rock – Haemmerle reported that Chapter 18 (Synthesis) is ready to go out for review and LWAG would like comments returned in three weeks**.** Three to four chapters per month will

come to CMER for approval to meet the June deadline. The chapter status document has been updated and is on Box. The PI's of the study have expressed some desire to adjust how the studies may be best delivered to Policy. Policy has already decided on how they want the presentations and findings reports, but this will be a topic at a future CMER meeting.

Public Comment Period
None

Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- Type F TWIG will address comments on the study design and send it back to reviewers for approval. The document will go out in the CMER mailing one week before the February meeting with a request for final approval at the meeting.
- Unstable Slopes TWIG best available science document was distributed on January 17, 2017 to start the 30-day review period. Questions are due to Howard Haemmerle by February 16, 2017. Approval of document will be on the February agenda. Reviewers: Doug Martin, Mark Hicks, and Chris Mendoza.
- RSAG, SAGE, UPSAG, and ISAG Work Plan revisions approved.
- Marc Hayes, Harry Bell, and Joe Murray will submit comments on PSM Chapter 7 to Ash Roorbach within two weeks. This will be the final revision, and if comments are addressed and incorporated, there will be a request for approval at the February meeting. The revised critical questions on the Fire Salvage Literature Review approved.
- April 26, 2017 CMER Science Conference cancelled due to lack of substance.

Adjourned