

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)
October 26, 2010
DNR/DOC Compound - Tumwater
Meeting Notes**

Attendees	Representing
*Almond, Lyle	Makah Tribe, RSAG Co-Chair
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	Department of Ecology
Heide, Pete	Washington Forestry Protection Association
*Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology
Hitchens, Dawn	Dept. of Natural Resources /CMER Coordinator
*Jackson, Terry	Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, CMER Co-Chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	Dept. of Natural Resources /Project Manager
*Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser, LWAG Co-Chair
Kubo, Teresa (ph)	Environmental Protection Agency
*Lingley, Leslie	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forestry Protection Association
*McConnell, Steve (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
*Miller, Dick	Washington Family Forestry Association
Miller, Ken	Washington Family Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Tribe
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Stewart, Greg	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
*Sturhan, Nancy	North West Indian Fisheries Commission
Todd, Steve	Suquamish Tribe, WETSAG Co-Chair
Veldhuisen, Curt	Skagit River Systems Cooperative
Walters, Jody	National Oceanic and Aeronautics Association - Fisheries

* 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

Doug Bateman & Chris Surfleet from Oregon State University presented on the Hinkle Creek Paired Watershed Study – Temperature and Fish Responses to Timber Harvest.

Policy Update

Chris Mendoza provided an overview of the October 7th Policy meeting. The RMAP & WSA (Watershed Analysis) work groups gave an update. The rule making schedule for the FPB was highlighted. The task list and work load priorities for Policy was discussed and reviewed. An update was given on the Soft Rock Study scoping document.

UPSAG presented the Accuracy and Bias Study, concerning the issue of two different interpretations on the critical questions (from Schedule L1). UPSAG needs direction from

Policy before they can complete the study design. This will be taken to the Policy Committee in November.

Jim Peters from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission accepted the Policy Co-Chair position. Tom Robinson stepped down as Policy Co-Chair, effective October 1st.

SAG /CMER Business Items

➤ CMER Science Conference Topics

Dawn Hitchens reviewed the potential topics submitted by SAGs for the CMER Science Conference. CMER decided to hold off on a decision about topics until the next CMER meeting, due to the limited number of topics submitted so far. The SAGs need to send their science conference topics to Dawn by November 9th.

➤ CMER Meeting Notes for May & June 2010 – ***CMER approved the May & June 2010 meeting notes***

The CMER meeting notes for May 25 & June 22, 2010 were approved with one revision made to the June 22 meeting notes.

➤ CMER Work Plan Revisions - *Update*

Terry Jackson requested that each SAG co-chair include CMER Work Plan revisions on their monthly SAG meeting agendas. She emphasized that SAGs need to work toward getting all revisions made and approved at SAG meetings in January. At the February CMER meeting, SAGs will need to have representatives present to share their significant revisions, and CMER will be approving the Work Plan and budget at that meeting. She encouraged SAG co-chairs to contact her or Chris Mendoza if they have any questions or need assistance.

➤ CMER Information Systems – *Update*

Terry Jackson stated that CMER approved the new projects to be incorporated next year and agreed to the table of contents. SAGs need to compile information for these projects and send the materials and data to Nancy Sturhan by November 30th.

➤ UPSAG – *Update*

Amy Kurtenbach reported that UPSAG is working on the six question Policy document for the Road Sub Basin-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring.

UPSAG is waiting for a decision from Policy relating to the interpretation of the primary critical research question for the Accuracy and Bias Study.

UPSAG is still working on incorporating CMER comments into the Draft Report for the Post-Mortem Study and will have more to report to CMER in November.

➤ SRSAG - Soft Rock Study Charter – ***CMER Approved the Soft Rock Study Charter***

SRSAG requests CMER approval of the Soft Rock Study charter and that it be submitted to Policy for acceptance at their next meeting. This charter defines how the project will proceed and the roles of CMER and Policy. The initial funding for this project is from the EPA grant and from DOE. CMER needs to consider adopting shorter timelines so as to meet the EPA grant timeline requirements and expectations. The charter specifies that the Soft Rock Study Design will not be sent to ISPR due to the fact that it is similar to the Hard Rock study design which was sent through ISPR, the Quality Assurance Project Plan (required by EPA) will go through EPA review and approval, and the final study report will go through ISPR. If there are any statistical

issues with the study design, SRSAG will seek assistance from the CMER contracted statistician. This will essentially simplify and expedite the review process without losing scientific integrity.

Points of Discussion:

Main areas of discussion centered on project headings that are referenced in the EPA standards and guidelines; date corrections; and the recommendation to set up a table for the estimated budget.

Amy Kurtenbach stated that the charter is a project management tool for laying out the goals, resources, critical deadlines, assumptions and expectations.

Dick Miller motioned to send this charter document with the agreed-upon changes to Policy. Chris Mendoza seconded the motion.

RSAG

- Teresa Miskovic reported that RSAG is requesting to initiate the CMER review on the Westside Type F and N Extensive Temperature Monitoring Final Report - ***CMER Approved moving forward with the CMER Review***

The Westside Type F and N Extensive Temperature Monitoring Final Report CMER Reviewers are: Leslie Lingley, Dick Miller and Mark Mobbs. The CMER reviewer comments are due to Teresa Miskovic by November 9th.

- The Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function Study Final Report – ***Initiated CMER Approval & ISPR***

Dave Schuett-Hames reported that the comments are being addressed from the concurrent RSAG and CMER review. RSAG would like CMER to approve sending this on to ISPR, contingent upon final approval by CMER reviewers. RSAG would like to get this report to ISPR before the holiday season. Dave also recommended that this report undergo an open ISPR review.

Points of Discussion:

Terry Jackson stated that as long as RSAG addressed the CMER reviewers' comments then it should be ready for ISPR.

Dave Schuett-Hames reported that RSAG may get better feedback with an open process rather than a closed process. Some past experiences with ISPR have been that reviewers have not understood the basis of the study adequately, resulting in reviews that have not been very helpful. An open process would provide an opportunity for explaining the context and for having meaningful dialogue.

Doug stated that he did not see the benefit for an open review. It takes more time, costs more, and has to have a facilitator (the AMPA). Usually open reviews have been for study designs only.

Terry Jackson stated that CMER needs to improve their process for asking questions of clarity and getting responses from ISPR, when needed, as soon as possible. If this is not done immediately after receipt of the review comments, the contract will be expired and the opportunity for feedback and more meaningful comments will be lost.

Dick Miller motioned that this final report be sent to ISPR for a closed review. CMER approved to move forward with ISPR, as a closed review.

SAGE

➤ Type N Characterization project: Forest Hydrology – *Update*

Todd Baldwin reported that SAGE is almost finished with analyzing the site validation data results. At this point, SAGE has only 50 sites, which is only half of what they hoped to get with three times the effort. SAGE will give a presentation on the final results and the main reasons for rejecting sites at the CMER November meeting.

➤ SAGE Co-Chair - *Discussion*

Todd Baldwin reported that no one in SAGE is stepping up for the co-chair position. This issue will be taken to Policy at their November meeting

WETSAG

➤ Wetlands Mitigation Study - *Debrief on field trip*

Steve Todd reported on the field trip with Tom Hruby on Sept 29th. Tom H. is the main wetland ecologist at DOE. Three main issues were looked at on this field trip: study design, methods, and indicators.

Mr. Hruby stated that the physical act of harvesting forested wetlands is a greater resource risk than potential impacts caused by road construction. He stressed the importance of looking at risks on a landscape-scale. He also recommended conducting a literature review/synthesis to help focus the forested wetland research on the areas of most resource sensitivity and risk at the landscape level. WETSAG will set up a meeting with interested CMER members, and write up a white paper with recommendations in time for the CMER November 16th meeting.

➤ Clean Water Act Assurances – *Update*

Mark Hicks reported that many of the CWA milestones are related to operational and compliance issues and will be completed before the end of this year. The CMER milestones are behind schedule. Mark Hicks will share the updated CWA milestones document with CMER.

➤ CMER Report to Policy - *Discussion* - Items to take to Policy for November 4, 2010:

- Type N Soft Rock Study - Approve Charter
- Accuracy and Bias Study - Discussion on approach and interpretation of research questions for study design
- Co-Chairs needing replacement – SAGE & CMER

➤ CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments

- SAGs send science topics to Dawn Hitchens by November 9th.
- CMER Information Systems Project – send materials to Nancy Sturhan by November 30th.
- SAGE presentation on Forest Hydrology scheduled for November 16th CMER meeting.
- ISPR – possible meeting with CMER co-chairs and AMPA
- CMER Work Plan revisions at SAG level

Meeting Adjourned.