

PROJECT CHARTER

Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring Program April 2022

1. PROJECT CHARTER OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Project Charter is to describe the project and give the Project Manager and the Project Team the authority to begin utilizing program resources and spending allocated project funds.

OVERSITE COMMITTEE

Wetlands Science Advisory Group (WetSAG)

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS

Alexander Prescott- Project Manager
Tanner Williamson- Principal Investigator
Debbie Kay
Joseph Murray
Amy Yahnke
Douglas Martin

2. APPROVAL DATES

	SAG Approval Date	CMER Approval Date
Charter Version 1	3/13/17	5/23/17
Charter Version 2	4/11/22	4/26/22

3. PROJECT TITLE

Wetlands Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring

4. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Forest Practices and Wetlands Systematic Literature Review (CMER #12-1202) highlighted the lack of applied research projects focused on the effectiveness of wetland management zones (WMZs) for Type A and B wetlands for meeting the Forest and Fish aquatic resource objectives and performance targets. Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (FP HCP) functional objectives under the Hydrology Resource Objective as stated in Schedule L-1 include:

- Maintain surface and groundwater hydrologic regimes (magnitude, frequency, timing, and routing of stream flows) by disconnecting road drainage from the stream network.
- Prevent increases in peak flows causing scour, and maintain hydrologic continuity of wetlands.

There are two performance targets under the Hydrology Resource Objective that include wetlands:

- Westside: Do not allow forest management activities to cause a significant increase in peak flow recurrence intervals resulting in scour that disturbs stream channel substrates providing actual or potential habitat for salmonids.
- No net loss in the hydrologic functions of wetlands.

Adamus notes in the Wetland Research and Monitoring Strategy (2014, CMER #12-1203) that extrapolations from studies examining effects of forest practices on streams are “fraught with many interpretive difficulties.” Some of these difficulties are attributed to variations in sampling and data analysis, short duration studies that would be ineffective at monitoring wetland functions, and variations in buffers from those prescribed specifically for wetlands. There is little research specific to forest practices and wetlands in the Pacific Northwest and no TFW Policy or CMER research relative to the effectiveness of forest practices WMZs for large woody debris contribution (LWD), shade, meeting water quality targets for receiving streams, or other functions. Thus, this study will build upon the Forest Practices and Wetlands Systematic Literature Synthesis to further test whether the functional objectives for fish, wildlife, and water quality are met through the application of WMZs and BMPs for WMZ management.

5. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring Program is to evaluate the effectiveness of WMZs for Type A and Type B wetlands in meeting the targets outlined in the FPHCP, namely no net loss of functions of wetlands by half of a timber rotation cycle while meeting water quality standards. Similar work is being done with forested wetlands for the Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project (FWEP).

6. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

This project will evaluate wetland functions to determine if the target of no net loss of hydrologic function, water quality standards, assurance targets, and hydrologic connectivity are being achieved.

This would include informing two Schedule L-2 research questions:

1. Test whether the wetland prescriptions are effective in preventing downstream temperature increases above targets.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of current WMZs in meeting in-stream LWD targets.

7. CRITICAL QUESTIONS

CMER Work Plan Critical Question

Are current Forest Practice Rules-specified wetland buffers (WMZ) for Type A and B wetlands effective at meeting the Forest and Fish aquatic resource objectives and performance targets, and the goal of no-net-loss of functions of those wetlands by half of a timber rotation cycle?

Program Research Critical Questions

1. What are the magnitude and duration of effects of timber harvest occurring upslope of Type A and B wetlands on processes, functions, and aquatic resources within and downstream of those wetlands?
2. How effective are current forest practice wetland buffers at facilitating no net loss in wetland functions following timber harvest?

8. CMER RULE GROUP AND PROGRAM

Rule Group	Wetlands Protection
Description	Prescriptions for identifying and managing wetlands
Rule Context	WAC 222-30
Program	Wetland Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring

9. PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Task	Deliverable	Responsible Team Member	Estimated Completion Date
1. Scoping			
1.1 Best Available Science (BAS) Summarize data from existing CMER projects and review published literature to provide best available science for study context and development.	BAS Document	Project Team /PI	FY23
1.2 WetSAG. Draft scoping document for WetSAG approval.	WetSAG approved scoping document	Project Team /PI	FY23
1.3 CMER. CMER review, document revisions, and CMER approval	CMER approved scoping document	Project Team /PI	FY24
1.4. Prospective Six Questions. Draft document; gain WetSAG and CMER approval	WetSAG/CMER approved Prospective Six Question document	Project Team /PI	FY24
1.5 TFW Policy. Presentation of scoping document and Six Questions document to Policy and Policy approval	Policy approved scoping document	Project Team /PI	FY24
2. Study Design			
2.1 WetSAG. Draft study design for WetSAG approval	WetSAG approved Study Design	Project Team /PI	FY24
2.2 CMER. CMER review, study design revisions, and CMER approval	CMER approved study design	Project Team /PI	FY25
2.3 ISPR review, study design revisions, and ISPR approval	ISPR approved study design	Project Team /PI	FY25

10. BUDGET

Budget/Cost Items	Estimated Budget by Fiscal Year*								
	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28
Scoping	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-	-	-	-
Study Design	-	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-	-
Field Implementation	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$100,000	\$360,000	\$360,000

Budget/Cost Items	Estimated Budget by Fiscal Year (continued)*				
	FY29	FY30	FY31	FY32	FY33
Field Implementation	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$100,000	\$45,000

*Budgets beyond FY22 are estimates only. CMER staff are utilized in all phases of the project but cost for their time is not included in budget estimates.

11. PROJECT TEAM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Name, Title, Affiliation, Contact Info	Roles and Responsibilities
<p>Project Manager (PM): Alexander Prescott Alexander.Prescott@dnr.wa.gov WA Department of Natural Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor project activities and the performance of the Project Team. • Communicates progress, problems, and problem resolution to the Adaptive Management Program Supervisory Project Manager and Administrator (AMPA), and CMER. • Work with WetSAG/CMER, and Project Team to help develop Project Charters and Project Plans, and keep them updated as needed over time. • Work with WetSAG, CMER, and Project Team (including PI, contractors, and other Team members) to resolve problems and build consensus. • Work with PI and Project Team members to develop interim and final reports. • Ensure communication between all team members is clear, concise, and consistent. • Maintain contact and process access agreements, once site access is granted. • Ensure coordination between WetSAG/CMER, Project Team and landowners. • Coordinate all technical reviews and responses in a timely fashion. • Facilitate archiving of all data and documents. • Works with PI to manage documents on Microsoft Teams. • Work with the AMPA, WetSAG/CMER, and Project Team to develop and review proposals, RFPs or RFQs, review contractor proposals, monitor contract performance, and provide input on budgeting, schedule, scope changes, and contract amendments. • See that contract provisions are followed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide direction and support to the Project Team to achieve clear and specific scopes of work, schedules, and budgets within approved contracts. • Communicate and/or authorize communication with all project-related contractors. • Maintains sole responsibility for all aspects of project management even if other individuals are completing or helping complete parts of the project.
<p>Principal Investigator (PI): Tanner Williamson twilliamson@nwifc.org CMER Scientist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends WetSAG and Project Team Meetings. • Oversees the technical aspects of the project including protocol refinement, site selection, data collection, analysis, and reporting. • Works with PM and field manager in overseeing data collection by field crew. • Oversees and conducts data analysis and QA/QC of data provided by field staff. • Leads in developing, writing, and preparation of the final report. • Lead author of findings report. • Responds to comments by reviewers of reports. • Prepares quarterly summary and progress reports of project status, as needed. • Presents technical findings to WetSAG, CMER, TFW Policy, and the Board as necessary. • Communicates concerns or issues that arise with PM.
<p>Project Team Members: Debbie Kay dkay@Suquamish.nsn.us Squamish Tribe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends WetSAG and Project Team Meetings. • Provides technical support and document review as needed.
<p>Joe Murray abies@olypen.com JMurray Forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends WetSAG and Project Team Meetings. • Provides technical support and document review as needed.
<p>Amy Yahnke amy.yahnke@ecy.wa.gov WA Department of Ecology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends WetSAG and Project Team Meetings. • Provides technical support and document review as needed.
<p>Douglas Martin doug@martinenv.com Martin Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attends WetSAG and Project Team Meetings. • Provides technical support and document review as needed.

REFERENCES

Adamus, Paul R. (2014), Effects of forest roads and tree removal in or near wetlands of the Pacific Northwest: a literature synthesis. Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Report CMER 12-1202. https://file.dnr.wa.gov/publications/bc_tfw_forestwetland_20140108.pdf

Adamus, Paul R. (2014), Wetland Research and Monitoring Strategy: Forest Practices and Wetlands. Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Report CMER 12-1203. https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/fp_cmer_wetlnd_2014.pdf

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research (CMER) Committee. (January 2019), 2019-2021 Biennium Work Plan.

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Protocols and Standards Manual (PSM). (2020), Chapter 7, Sections 4 and 6.3.

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