September 22nd CMER Meeting Summary for Policy

In April of 2017, TFW Policy approved alternative #3 from the BAS alternatives document for the ***Unstable Slopes Criteria Project*** consisting of five related studies (Compare Mass Wasting Map Units/Rule Identified Landforms, Landform Mapping, Empirical Initiation, Empirical Runout and Physical Modeling). The TWIG has completed study designs for the 1st two and provided CMER with a presentation to begin their 30-day review period. The first study will 1) examine mapped landforms (MWMUs) in terms of their effectiveness in identifying landslide-prone terrain, measuring the potential for landslide occurrence using landslide density (the number or are of mapped landslides per unit landform areas) and 2) evaluate landform criteria and spatial relationships of inventoried landslides to other, non-RIL MWMUs delineated in the LHZ watersheds. The basic LHZ data sets will be useful to calibrate and/or test results of the object-based landform mapping study (Section 3 below) in areas with pre-existing LiDAR for both current RIL and for landforms previously identified as potentially unstable but not meeting RIL criteria. The landform mapping with high resolution topography study seeks to develop an automated, computer generated landform mapping tool to systematically detect and delineate landforms across a variety of terrain types. The study seeks to develop a more systematic method to delineate landforms, reduce bias, and improve consistency in delineation of all MWMUs. The tool developed from this study will be used to test the accuracy and bias of the MWMU. Once CMER has approved (potentially at the November meeting), the study designs will be sent to ISPR. The TWIG will concurrently develop study designs for the remaining study designs.

CMER approved Chapters 7 (Stream Temperature) and 17 (Summary and Discussion) as well as the Executive Summary for the ***Type N Buffer Effectiveness Study in Basalt Lithologies.*** CMER has now approved all chapters of the study and seeks to approve the Findings Report and 6 questions in November.

CMER approved the Findings Report and 6 questions for the ***Extensive Riparian Vegetation Report***. This is now ready for Policy review. Dr. Moskal has prepared a Proposal for Scoping the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Implementation Pilot that CMER will review and seek approval of at its next meeting.

CMER identified reviewers for the ***BTO-Add on Report*** – *Stand Structures, Tree Mortality and Large Wood Recruitment in Riparian Buffers of Fish-Bearing Streams in Eastern Washington: Comparison of the Standard Rule and the All Available Shade Prescription for Bull Trout Habitat.* This begins the 30-day review of the report. CMER will receive a presentation on the report in October. Pending the extent of comments and revisions needed, CMER could approve this at their November meeting. The report would then go to ISPR.

After revisions from the 30-day comment period, CMER received a request from SAGE to approve the ***Fire Salvage Literature Review and Synthesis***. CMER members discussed the need for additional revisions related to the opinions of commenters. It is anticipated that these revisions will be made in time to seek approval at the October CMER meeting. The Findings report and 6 questions will follow.

CMER approved the Findings Report and 6 Questions for the ***Non-Glacial Deep-Seated Landslide Literature Synthesis***. This literature review and synthesis provides information to aid UPSAG in the development of a Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy to assess the effectiveness of the Forest Practices Rules, to evaluate the Forest Practices Board Manual 16 guidelines for deep-seated landslides, and to determine what degree performance targets specified by Schedule L-1 are being met. The synthesis identifies knowledge gaps and provides recommendations for filling those gaps. This can be forwarded to Policy for approval.

CMER staff provided an update on the ***DNR CMER website***. The updates to the website have proceeded slower than usual due to the discovery of and desire to use a contractor that Geology Division has utilized. However, DNR is ready to populate the site with completed CMER documents.

CMER discussed the need and desire to have a ***2018 Science Conference***. There have been multiple products from CMER that may be presented over the last 2 years. March was identified as the earliest that a conference could be scheduled. CMER would like some input from TFW Policy and the FP Board related to the timing of the conference.