

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
September 5, 2014 Meeting Summary

Decisions and Actions from Meeting

Decision	Notes
1. Accepted August 6 & 7, 2014 meeting summary with edits.	Agreement by all caucuses
2. After some changes, accepted the problem statement, objectives, and critical questions for the Roads Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Study.	Agreement by all caucuses
3. The 45-day review period for the BTO Report will begin on September 5, 2014 (decision on action or no action by October 20, 2014).	Agreement by all caucuses, with some concerns expressed (see page 6)

Action	Assignment
1. Circulate the updated AMPA job announcement to Policy.	DNR
2. Identify additional job boards DNR should consider posting the AMPA job announcement and send to DNR.	Policy caucus representatives
3. Confirm meeting dates for October and November Policy meetings.	Policy Co-Chairs
4. Schedule a conference call with Joe Murray and Mark Hicks to confirm the direction of the Extensive Alternative (Remote Sensing Approach) project.	Policy Co-Chairs
5. Confirm with SAGE when the EWRAP Report will be available.	CMER
6. Confirm conclusion of mean shade contribution for trees beyond the 75 foot buffer zone with the findings report author and report back to Policy.	Bill Eihinger
7. Add CMER discussion on forwarding findings reports to ISPR to Policy's parking lot.	Triangle

Welcome & Introductions – Stephen Bernath, Co-Chair of the Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy), led introductions (*please see Attachment 1 for a list of attendees*) and reviewed the agenda.

Announcements

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is re-posting the job announcement to fill the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (APMA) position. They will circulate the job announcement to Policy on Monday, September 8, 2014 and they hope to have the interview pool selected by the end of September.
- The Washington Forest Protection Association's (WFPA) meeting is scheduled for the same day as the November Policy meeting. All Policy members are invited to attend the WFPA meeting.

The Large Landowner Caucus asked Policy to consider moving Policy's November meeting because of this scheduling conflict.

- The next step in the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) budget and funding is to determine how Policy can work together to discuss with the Washington State Legislature funding priorities for this program.

August Meeting Summary – Policy reviewed and commented on the meeting summary from August 6 & 7, 2014. Edits had been submitted prior to the meeting, which were reviewed, and a few additional edits were made at the meeting. With those changes, Policy accepted the August 6 & 7, 2014 meeting summary.

CMER Update

Mark Hicks and Amy Kurtenbach provided a status update of the CMER projects and highlighted issues CMER wanted Policy to know.

- The Buffer Characteristics Integrity and Function (BCIF) project is in the data and statistical analysis stage. Results should be available in early 2015. This project will first go through the Riparian Scientific Advisory Group (RSAG) and then through the CMER process.
- The Hard Rock Report will likely be reviewed by CMER but not ISPR before the CMER science conference on February 11 & 12, 2015. CMER considered delaying the science conference; however it decided to move ahead with the conference as it is common for papers to be presented without going through the peer review process at these types of events.
 - The budget for this project is large because the effort to write 17 chapters is significant. There is the potential for the project to come in under budget, but it depends on the amount of disputes or controversy around the chapters. CMER expects the budget to be accurate for the level of effort required.
- The Amphibian Genetics Component project will begin again in 2016.
- The Amphibian Demographics & Channel Metrics project is on track.
- The Hard Rock – Extended Sampling – Temp/Sediment/Veg./Litter Fall is on track.
- The Experimental Buffer Treatment – Soft Rock is on track and harvesting is on schedule.
- The Forest Hydrology Study has undergone CMER review and the report will be forwarded to ISPR. CMER is working on additional questions that may need to be asked as a part of this Study, as well as identifying forest professionals that may be available to assist in the review of the project.
- The Type N Perennial & Dry study is currently in the third round of sampling. The fourth round of field sampling for the dry will occur in October. CMER and TWIG will meet in November to determine next steps, which includes determining how to combine the two projects back together.
- The Buffer Integrity – Shade Effectiveness (Amphibians) went through CMER for final approval but there was non-consensus. CMER is currently looking at the revisions to the document.
- The Amphibians in Intermittent Streams project is on hold until 2019.
- RSAG is scoping out a monitoring pilot for the Extensive Alternative (Remote Sensing Approach) project, however, this project is on hold until confirming the direction of this study with the Policy Co-Chairs. RSAG has also developed a matrix on the methods and parameters to use to monitor the methods. The matrix starts with the coarsest technique (NAIP Imagery) and moves toward NAIP plus canopy LiDAR. This study will examine what resolution and

parameters an investigator can get with particular tools. Eventually, cost considerations will be added to the analysis.

- The Policy Co-Chairs will schedule a conference call with Joe Murray and Mark Hicks the week of September 8, 2014 to clarify and confirm Policy's guidance in writing. For this project, the work will be contracted out, likely to a University of Washington (UW) professor, once RSAG finishes with scoping.
- This project is not a TWIG project, as RSAG has the capacity to complete the project and had already completed this type of work. The TWIG process is a pilot and CMER is only authorized to move a certain number of projects to this framework. CMER has not discussed how to assess the TWIG process at this point, but it will likely be a qualitative review focusing on how fast projects can move through the process.
- The Eastern Washington Riparian Assessment Project (EWRAP) was broken into four sections, which have all gone through SAGE. CMER is working on the conclusion chapter. The report is a summary of the data collection process and CMER expects the report to go through ISPR. Amy Kurtenbach will check with Ash Roorbach and SAGE to confirm when the report will be available. It was noted that this report may be beneficial to inform other current data collection efforts.
- **XXX TWIG** is in the process of identifying preferred alternatives for the Riparian Prescription Monitoring project for CMER's and Policy's consideration.
- The Bull Trout Overlay project is complete and is awaiting action by Policy.
- Data collection is complete and report writing will begin soon for the Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring (BTO Add-on) project.
- CMER is working with DNR contracting to move ahead with the resample Policy approved in the budget for the Riparian Hardwood Conversion project. The draft report is on hold until the resample is complete. ISPR will not see the draft report at this point in time because the ISPR review timeframe will overlap with the resampling efforts and CMER agreed it would be more efficient to wait until all the data is in the report before sending it through ISPR.
- The Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Temperature – Type F Westside, Type N Westside project has been delayed until the author has more time to devote to this effort. ISPR has provided comments.
- The writing team for the Unstable Slopes Criteria Evaluation and Development project completed the memo outlining the qualifications and potential candidates for the TWIG. CMER has seven days to comment on the document. Once CMER responds, all individuals on the memo will be considered potential candidates. Candidates will be selected based on availability and interest in the project.
- The Glacial Deep-Seated Landslide Program Strategy Review/Scoping project is estimated to begin in 2015.
- The Roads Sub-Basin Effectiveness (Resample) is on hold until 2021.
- The Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness (BMP) Monitoring (TWIG) will begin in September 2014.
- CMER reviewed the Wetlands Systematic Literature Synthesis and asked the consultant to incorporate their comments. This document will not be reviewed by ISPR because it is a policy document, not a scientific document. CMER anticipates forwarding the document to Policy in November 2014.

- ISPR commented on the Wetlands Program Research/Monitoring strategy and CMER and the consultant are finalizing the document. CMER anticipates that the document will be approved in October or November 2014.
- CMER is currently working on the RMZ-Resample (Birds) findings report which will be forwarded to Policy in October/November 2014.

Additionally, CMER continues to struggle with determining if every funded report should go through an ISPR review, as ISPR is an expensive, time consuming process. This came up most recently for the Forest Hydrology Report. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requires final reports to go through a blind review, which is provided by ISPR, as opposed to open reviews that are adequate for study designs. There is a lot of inflexibility in the existing WAC language and a need to determine a solution and then pursue change through formal channels. This is a reoccurring issue and should be added to Policy's parking lot.

Roads Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Study – Julie Dieu and Amy Kurtenbach presented to Policy the updated problem statement and critical research questions from the Roads Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Study TWIG.

Discussion

- The TWIG will analyze best management practices (BMPs) that are frequently used and poorly parameterized.
- It is not anticipated that the results of this study will impact BMPs that were not studied (e.g. barring the use of BMPs that were not studied). The study does have the potential to improve guidance on BMPs in the Board Manual.
- One caucus expressed concern over the scope and broad nature of the critical questions and indicated that these questions could frame a research program, as opposed to a more focused research study.
- Policy discussed the potential inclusion of the word “prevent” in the critical questions in addition to the use of “minimize” in order to capture the intent of the water quality standard. However, it was decided that the use of “minimize,” which is the language used in the WAC, would be adequate.

Decision: After some changes, Policy accepted the problem statement, objectives, and critical questions for the Roads Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Study at the September Policy meeting.

Bull Trout Overlay Temperature/Shade Final Report

Bill Ehinger gave an overview presentation of the final report outcomes of the Bull Trout Overlay (BTO) Temperature/Shade Final Report. Highlights include:

- The two objectives of the study were to 1) quantify and compare differences in post-harvest shade and canopy closure between the Standard Rule (SR) and All Available Shade Rule (ASR); and 2) quantify and compare differences in stream temperature effectiveness for both the SR and the ASR.

- The study found very small changes in temperature when comparing 1) SR harvested land to the unharvested reference reach, 2) the ASR sites to the SR sites, and 3) ASR harvested land to the unharvested reference reach.
- The site-specific results are likely spurious as the change in environmental factors' variability and the change in temperature were about equal. This means the study does not give a clear indication of how much the temperature will rise when a given amount of shade is removed. However, the pooled analysis of the sites is consistent – if a small amount of shade is removed, the increase in temperature is small.
- If there is more than 6 to 7 percent shade removal, more significant temperature changes are seen.
- On sites where only the RMZ was harvested (no harvest in the uplands), the mean shade contribution from trees beyond 75 feet was less than 1 percent (*see discussion below*).
- This study cannot address if canopy closure could be an index of solar energy attenuation because the changes in both canopy closure and solar radiation were so small. However, very small changes in mean canopy closure resulted in very small mean changes in stream temperature, indicating that canopy closure would probably work well as an index of solar energy attenuation.
- Changes to riparian stand and channel attributes following harvest were not significantly correlated with changes in shade, solar radiation, or stream temperature. This is likely due to the very small changes seen in riparian shade and stream temperature.

Discussion

- There was a significant amount of discussion on the conclusion that “the mean shade contribution from trees beyond 75 feet was less than 1 percent.” One caucus stated that this conclusion was meant to answer the question “does removing trees that do not qualify as All Available Shade affect solar energy in the stream?” and that “beyond 75 feet” was likely a typo, as All Available Shade applies to trees within the 75 foot zone.
 - The All Available Shade “solar” question was originally added to the study to help determine if the current densiometer methodology was adequate for determining “all available shade” given the fact that trees can still be harvested within 75 feet if they do show up as shade trees using the densiometer. The study design assumed that upland areas would also be harvested. In some of the sites, however, only the Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) was harvested. Therefore, the investigators wanted to see how harvesting only the RMZ might affect or bias the results of the study.
 - In light of this, one caucus commented that the conclusion “mean shade contribution from trees beyond 75 feet was less than 1 percent” should actually read “the mean shade contribution from trees beyond 75 feet in the RMZ-only sites was less than 1 percent.
 - More clarification around this topic is needed and Bill Ehinger will confirm the conclusion with the author of the report.
- In the future, it will be important to understand which landscapes are more sensitive to temperature changes.
- One caucus would like to see the results of this study extrapolated to moderately stocked and poorly stocked basal areas. It may be possible to use the results of this study, along with the EWRAP study to determine this, as opposed to commissioning another study.

Decision: Policy decided that the 45-day review period to determine if an action should be taken or not on the Bull Trout Overlay Report will begin today (September 5, 2014). The Large Landowner Caucus and the County Caucus expressed unease with starting the 45-day review period today due to workload concerns. More discussion at a future Policy meeting is needed to determine the specific actions that are needed.

Forest Practices Board Meeting Debrief

Marc Engel and Stephan Bernath reviewed the motions made by the Board.

- The Forest Practices Board approved Harry Bell as the Small Landowner Caucus member for CMER.
- The Board approved the Master Project Schedule (MPS) as presented by Policy.
- Before the end of September, DNR will contact all the caucus leads to ask who they want to attend a meeting to discuss the draft rule language related to unstable slopes. When available, Marc Ratcliff will send the Rule out to the Policy mailing list.
- The Board Manual will be completed in two phases. The draft of the Board Manual will be released as soon as possible, likely around September 26, 2014, as September 19th is the final review date. Phase 2 will begin as soon as Phase 1 is complete but it will not be done by the November Policy meeting.
 - Policy requested that DNR send a draft of the Board Manual before the September 24, 2014 Policy meeting. If the Board Manual is not available before September 23, 2014, a meeting may need to be scheduled in October before the Board Manual is presented to the Board. If deemed necessary, a doodle poll will be sent out.
- The Board requested that DNR present the full draft of the Board Amendments for Phase 1 when available as there are some concerns that DNR went beyond the scope of the Board's motion. Those developing the Board Amendments noted that to change the current processes there is a need to add additional information and new sections. These changes only apply to glacial deep-seated landslides.

The Board provided two additional directions to Policy:

1. As Policy finishes its work on mass wasting recommendations, the Board would like to know what can be done and what should be prioritized related to glacial deep-seated slides. Specifically the Board would like Policy to:
 - Complete a comprehensive literature review on glacial deep-seated slides.
 - Determine where geologic mapping information related to glaciated areas in the State is missing, particularly areas where glacial deep-seated slides may occur.
2. After finishing existing assignments, the Board would like Policy to determine where there are potentially active, highly unstable glacial deep-seated slide areas and where there are public interests in place. This item was brought up related to the precision of delineating groundwater recharge areas. Additionally, the Board is interested in further recommendations from Policy to provide direction for the FPA decision-making process, particularly in highly uncertain areas.
 - This is something Policy will discuss once the Board Manual is available and the updated application process is understood.

Additionally, the Board indicated the need to consider compliance information in effect for the Adaptive Management Program. Policy may need to consider this question at an upcoming meeting.

Next Steps – Policy needs to confirm the following dates for upcoming meetings:

- September 24 (need to confirm if full Policy or Policy subgroup on unstable slopes)
- October 2, 2014: Regular Policy Meeting (there was a request to make this a two-day meeting, particularly one day dedicated to the Board Manual)
- November 6, 2014: Regular Policy Meeting (may need to be re-scheduled due to WFPA meeting)
- December 4, 2014: Regular Policy Meeting

The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.

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Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 9/5/14 Meeting

Conservation Caucus

*Mary Scurlock

County Caucus

Laura Merrill, Washington State Association of
Counties

*Kendra Smith, Skagit County

Federal Caucus

*Marty Acker, USFWS

Landowner Caucus – Industrial (large)

Adrian Miller, Olympic Resource Management,
Co-Chair

*Karen Terwilleger, WFFA

Landowner Caucus – Non-industrial (small)

*Dick Miller, WFFA

*Caucus representatives

Others

Julie Dieu, Rayonier

Bill Ehinger, CMER

Howard Haemmerle, DNR

Amy Kurtenbach, DNR

Shanese Crosby, Triangle Associates

State Caucus – DNR

Marc Engel, DNR

*Chris Hanlon-Meyer, DNR

State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW

*Stephen Bernath, Ecology, Co-Chair

Mark Hicks, Ecology

*Terry Jackson, WDFW

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

*Ray Entz, UCUT/Kalispel Tribe (phone)

Tribal Caucus – Westside

Mark Mobbs, Quinault Tribe

*Jim Peters, NWIFC

Nancy Sturhan, NWIFC

Curt Veldhuisen, SRSC

Attachment 2 – Ongoing Priorities Checklist

Priority	Assignment	Status & Notes
Type N	Type N policy subgroup	On hold until other workload lessens.
Type F	Policy	On hold until other workload lessens.
Adaptive Mgmt Program Reform Rule Changes		Accepted by Board at August meeting, CR-103 process initiated. Implemented initial changes at November 2013 meeting, will tweak changes for subsequent meetings.
Ongoing CMER reports reviewed by Policy	Mark Hicks & Todd Baldwin, CMER Co-Chairs	CMER Co-Chairs to give update(s) as needed at Policy meetings; AMPA to give quarterly reports for when CMER studies to come to Policy

*This table notes the Policy Committee priorities that were sent to the Forest Practices Board and any other major topics or issues that arise during the year.

Attachment 3 – Entities, Groups, or Subgroups: Schedule and Notes

Entity, Group, or Subgroup	Next Meeting Date	Notes
Forests & Fish Policy Committee	September 24, 2014 and October 2, 2014	September 24: special full Policy meeting on unstable slopes October 2: regular monthly Policy meeting
CMER	September 23, 2014	
Type N Policy Subgroup	TBD	On hold due to workload constraints.
Type F Subcommittee(s)	TBD	On hold due to workload constraints.
Forest Practices Board	November 12, 2014	