

January 28th, 2020 CMER meeting summary for Policy

The AMPA has filled additional staff positions. Jacob Hibbeln is the AMPA Administrative Assistant. Eszter Munes is project manager and Ben Flint is the supervisory Project Manager. The AMPA stated that the East Side Scientist position has been filled with a start date of mid-March. The NWIFC is in the process of filling the wetland scientist position and will subsequently seek to fill the Riparian Ecologist position.

Andrew Cooke presented a summary of his work on the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Model Transferability Project. The goal of this project is to test the transferability of forest inventory models developed from data collected in the Mashel watershed pilot study and forest inventory data from the DNR state lands Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). The model predicted the DBH (diameter at breast height), Basal Area, and Stand Density derived from the Mashel data to the OESF, and that derived from the OESF to the Mashel. It is hypothesized that forest stand structure and associated with eco-regional forest types affect the predictive accuracy of forest inventory models, limiting their transferability from one forest type to another. The transferability of the models was completed with little to moderate success, depending on the model used for transferability and/or input variable predicted. He also provided some recommendations for CMER and Policy to consider if interested in continuing this effort.

CMER subsequently approved the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Model Transferability Testing Final report. RSAG will work on drafting the answers to the 6 questions for CMER approval as part of the Findings report over the next month. Andrew is anticipating providing a presentation to Policy either in March or as part of the Extensive Monitoring Workshop that Policy asked for. RSAG is preparing a draft agenda for the Workshop for Policy to review that may be available in March.

At the request of the AMPA, CMER will form a subgroup to discuss if and when the answers to the 6 questions in the CMER / Policy Interaction Framework should be developed when they are not large-scale projects referenced in the CMER Work Plan that potentially impact forest practices rules and/or Board Manual guidance (e.g., pilot projects, exploratory reports, short term projects utilizing unspent funds, etc.). The co-chair (Mendoza) raised the concern that since Policy must respond to CMER's answers to the 6 questions as part of a Findings Report with their own timeline for answering questions 7, 8, and 9, that this would place an unnecessary burden on Policy's workload and task list.

CMER approved sending the Type N Soft Rock Study report to ISPR after debating whether an additional question was needed in addition to our standard 8 questions. After a failed motion to approve without the additional question, it was added in order to get the report to ISPR. The additional question asks an ISPR reviewer to assess the applicability and adequacy of the prediction modeling methods used to estimate temperature responses to treatments. Note: This was the same question that accompanied the Westside Type N Effectiveness Hard Rock Extended Study when it was sent to ISPR. It was pointed out by CMER staff that this question will have already been answered by ISPR with Hard Rock Extended so adding the question is unnecessary. However, CMER has not seen the ISPR response to Hard Rock Extended yet. The AMPA noted that there have been challenges and delays with finding ISPR reviewers and this may be expected with the review of Soft as well. Bill Ehinger will assist the AMPA in preparing the report and identifying reviewers for more efficient ISPR by grouping similar response variables.

CMER approved the Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Project Charter. This will be forwarded to Policy for review and approval.

CMER approved a series of budget requests for 3 active projects: Roads BMP effectiveness Study (FY20 \$124,724 & FY 21 \$76,400), Forest Wetlands Literature Review (\$8,000), and Eastside Modeling Evaluation Project (EMEP) (\$4,000). Details regarding the budgeted increases for these projects can be found in the project summary sheets provided at the TFW Policy budget workshop February 6th.

CMER reviewed the list of additional projects developed by SAGs that may be implemented to utilize unspent funds for this biennium should they be available. The AMPA reported that the previously estimated FY20 fund balance (December 2019) was corrected for January and available funds will now be utilized within the biennium and therefore, there are currently no surplus funds. However, CMER will still prioritize these projects for Policy's consideration should the funding status change later in the biennium. Summaries of these projects and CMER's prioritization of them will be provided at the TFW Policy budget workshop February 6th.

Patti Shramek provided an overview of CMER project contracting options and the processes and timelines required to implement them. This highlighted the need to ensure that CMER projects clearly identify their deliverables. This was Patti's last meeting with CMER. She will now be able to focus on her contracting work. CMER recognized her dedicated support to the program over the last 8 years.

The meeting closed with a presentation of DNR plaque to Dave Schuett-Hames to commemorate his 32 years of service associated with the CMER program. His contributions are greatly appreciated.