

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee  
(CMER)  
November 17, 2015  
DNR/DOC Compound/Tumwater, WA**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Andrade, Charlene	Department of Natural Resources
§Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe – CMER Co-Chair
Beckett, Leah	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
§Bell, Harry	Green Crow
chesney, charles	Member of Public
Dieu, Julie (ph)	Rayonier
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
Hayes, Marc	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Hooks, Doug	WFPA – CMER Co-Chair
Jaspers, Kodi Jo (ph)	
§Kay, Debbie	Suquamish Tribe
Knoth, Jenny	Green Crow
§Kroll, AJ	Weyerhaeuser
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	Merrill Ring
Schuett-Hames, Dave	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Shramek, Patti	Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator
Stewart, Greg	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff

§Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone.

\*Indicates Decision

Add from Marc Hayes - Generalized discussion on CMER process

**Science Session**

**Discussion on future science session topics.**

The following were ideas suggested for future science session topics:

- ◆ CMER Work Plan/Budget – Haemmerle asked to have the SAGS stager – WetSAG will be ready in December
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ WetSAG wetlands mapping project
- ◆ WDFW Forest Land Loss project
- ◆ Preparing for climate change

Doug Hooks mentioned that he, Hans Berge, Todd Baldwin, and Howard Haemmerle met with US Forest Service’s Pacific Northwest Research Station scientists as well as those from the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center. They are engaged in a number of

studies related to ongoing and potential/proposed CMER studies that would be interesting science session presentations in the future. For example, Nate Chelgren (amphibians), Jason Dunham (climate change), Becky Flitcroft (fish and fires in eastern Washington), Sherri Johnson (temperature standards), Brooke Penaluna (eDNA fish work), and Dede Olsen (eDNA amphibian genetics).

### **Decisions:**

#### **SAGE**

- ◆ **\*EWRAP** – *approval of six questions and final report to send to Policy*  
Howard Haemmerle presented the request to approve the EWRAP report, findings report, and six questions. Dave Schuett-Hames reported that he didn't receive any more comments on the report. He hasn't received comments from SAGE or CMER on the findings report or six questions as well. He gave a summary of the report. SAGE's hope for the report was to provide background in developing projects on riparian prescription effectiveness. They don't anticipate any rule changes coming out of this. Chris Mendoza said that he didn't think the six questions were reflective of the report and needed work and he wasn't able to make SAGE meeting. Hooks replied that a time frame was given and he could have provided comments any way. Haemmerle suggested CMER give conditional approval contingent on revising the questions in order to keep the report moving. Schuett-Hames request approval of the EWRAP report and to move the approval of the six questions to the December meeting. Haemmerle changed the request to approval of report only – **Approved.**

**Next Steps** – Chris Mendoza will provide his comments regarding the six questions to SAGE by December 1. Approval of the six questions will be requested at the December meeting.

#### **ENREP TWIG**

- ◆ **\*ENREP Study Design** – approval of project Study Design  
Haemmerle presented the TWIG request to approve the study design. He reported that comments were received from four people (Doug Martin, Marc Hayes, Todd Baldwin, and Chris Mendoza). His hope is that CMER can move forward and approve the study design after discussing the comments. He also stated that the TWIG is in the process of hiring a person to help with the study, primarily the site selection process. Greg Stewart said that there were some major comments and since all the commenters are not present that they won't be asking for approval. The TWIG will be meeting in next two weeks to address the comments. He then summarized the comments and answered questions. Discussion revolved around whether or not this needs to go to Policy for clarification. Haemmerle clarified that the comment period is closed and that no more comments will be accepted. The TWIG will meet with the four commenters to resolve issues and bring the document back to CMER in December for approval.

**Next Steps** - Hooks will meet with Adrian Miller to seek clarification on Policy direction.

## Updates:

### **Report from Board – October 27 Field Tour and November 10 Meeting**

- ◆ **Field tour** – focus was electrofishing and determining if fish are present. Visited sites to show issues with determined fish presence and how to apply the rule.
- ◆ **November Meeting**
  - Debrief on field tour.
  - Most agenda items were removed as most of the day was spent on Board Manual Section 16 and public comment. There was a large crowd and press present. The Board adopted Section 16 and assigned two more steps. DNR will convene a group of qualified experts to look at things that were close to consensus and items that are not near resolution that may need either more science or policy review (or both) will be brought back to the Board at the February 2016 Board meeting as a proposal initiation.
  - Dave Schuett-Hames gave a brief Type F TWIG update.

### **Report from Policy – November 4 meeting**

Hooks reported that:

Meeting was at Nisqually and there was a time constraint.

- ◆ Reviewed Board field tour and had discussion around water typing matrix.
- ◆ Dave Schuett-Hames gave Type F TWIG Best Available Science presentation. Report will be ready to approve at December Policy meeting.
- ◆ Dan Miller gave FHS presentation.
- ◆ Large part of day revolved around the electrofishing technical group purpose statement.
- ◆ CMER budget requests approved.

## **CMER**

- ◆ **Protocols and Standards Manual Chapter 7 – update**

Haemmerle reported that they are still meeting regularly (every other Friday) and are giving Chapter 7 an extensive overhaul. It should be ready for CMER review sometime early 2016.
- ◆ **2016 Meetings - update**

Shramek reported that the February meeting will be held in Room 172 in the Natural Resources Building in Olympia; March, May, and September meetings will be held at the DNR Southeast Region office in Ellensburg; the rest of the meetings will be held at the DNR/DOC Compound in Tumwater.

## **LWAG**

- ◆ **Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study – Basalt Lithologies (Hard Rock) update**

Charlene Andrade reported that the field study was finished this year and is being summarized and analyzed over the next year. Methods had to be changed because of blow down and slash decay. Marc Hayes explained the method changed. Genetics were collected from 1000 individuals, mostly tailed frog.

The PIs are working hard on responding to report comments. All but two chapters have been forwarded to ISPR. The Large Woody Debris chapter should be ready in December, and the Amphibian chapter in January, for approval to send to ISPR. Discharge, Nutrients & Export, Sediment, Channel Characteristics chapters have been received from ISPR and they are working on the response. The Paraphyte chapter was received last month and they will work on response the first part of December.

◆ **Buffer Integrity/Shade Effectiveness Study** – *update*

Hayes reported that they are at an impasse and asked Berge to develop a process for dealing with it. Process has been agreed on by all except Hicks. Hayes summarized process. Berge is working with Hicks.

**WORK PLAN, LWAG** - Work Plan revisions will be ready for review in January.

## **RSAG**

◆ **Remote Sensing Pilot Project** – *update*

Haemmerle reported that he is working on the final document for the agreement with Precision Forestry. The last step needed is deliverables.

◆ **Hardwood Conversion Study** – *update*

Getting ready for 2016 Hardwood Conversion re-measurement.

**WORKPLAN** – will be ready for CMER review possibly in December, will know after next RSAG meeting.

## **UPSAG**

◆ **Glacial Deep-Seated Landslide Project** – Literature Synthesis – *update*

Julie Dieu reported that RFQQ was released a week ago and proposals due December 4. Reviewers have been identified and hopefully the contract will be awarded by December 20.

**WORKPLAN** – The first few sections have been worked on, but they have had member turn over. Their December meeting is the day after the CMER meeting and they will be focused on the RFQQ selection. The Work Plan will hopefully be ready for CMER in January.

## **SAGE**

◆ **Forest Hydrology Study** – *update*

Kodi-Jo Jaspers reported that Dan Miller worked on the six questions and that they are on SAGE December agenda for review and approval. They should be ready for CMER review and approval at the December meeting.

**WORK PLAN** – Jaspers reported that they haven't started working on it, but that she will get it on the SAGE December agenda.

## **WetSAG**

**WORK PLAN** – Debbie Kay reported that the work plan is ready for review and approval at the December CMER meeting.

## **TWIG**

### ◆ **Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project TWIG** – *update*

Leah Beckett reported that the critical questions and recommendations were presented to Policy, but they weren't approved. There were a lot of questions about how they relate to the Work Plan. The TWIG is now waiting for clearer direction from Policy. A meeting is planned with Haemmerle, Schuett-Hames, Berge, and Adrian Miller to figure out how to move forward. Haemmerle added that one of the outcomes of the initial discussion is that the TWIG is focusing on the effects of Forest Practices on forested wetlands.

### ◆ **Unstable Slopes Criteria TWIG** – *update*

Julie Dieu reported that they are somewhere between the scoping document and the best available science document (BAS). They may need additional expertise depending on the alternatives. They hope to have list of good alternatives by January. They have set timelines to bring alternatives to their December meeting then work on them in January. Their goal to have a BAS first draft by April with the draft ready for CMER review a month or so later.

### ◆ **Type F Riparian Prescription** – *update*

No update, an update will be provided at the December meeting.

### ◆ **BMP Roads Effectiveness Project** – *update*

Dieu reported that are they struggling but they do have good alternatives and specific topic areas for alternatives. Two members of the TWIG have been extremely busy so they haven't had time to get together to work on things. She doesn't have an estimated time that it will be complete, but is hoping they will have something to present at the January CMER meeting.

## **Public Comment Period**

No public comment

## **CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments/Decisions**

- ◆ WetSAG will present their Work Plan revisions at the December CMER meeting.
- ◆ Chris Mendoza will get his comments on EWRAP to SAGE by December 1. SAGE will review and approve at December 8 meeting, and it will come back to CMER for approval at the December meeting.
- ◆ EWRAP Report approved.
- ◆ TWIG and Greg Stewart will meet with commenters on the ENREP study design to work on addressing their comments. The document will come back to CMER in December for

approval. Doug Hooks will speak with Adrian Miller to get clarification on Policy request.

- ◆ FHS six questions will be ready for approval in December.
- ◆ UPSAG Work Plan revisions may be ready for CMER review and approval in January.
- ◆ LWAG Work Plan revisions will be ready for CMER review and approval in January.
- ◆ Doug Hooks will work with Adrian Miller to help Leah Beckett get what she needs from Policy to move forward on Wetlands TWIG critical questions.
- ◆ December agenda item – CMER process review.
- ◆ Chris Mendoza is working on removing the link to Adaptive Management from the Work Plan and putting it in separate document for Policy.

**Adjourned**