

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)

**June 28, 2011
DNR/DOC Compound**

Attendees	Representing
Almond, Lyle (ph)	Makah Tribe
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Heide, Pete	WFPA, Director of Forest Environmental Program
*Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology, SRSAG Co-chair
Hitchens, Dawn	Dept. of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator
Hotvedt, Jim	Dept. of Natural Resources, AMPA
*Jackson, Terry	Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, CMER Co-Chair
Kay, Debbie	Suquamish Tribe, WETSAG Co-Chair
*Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser, LWAG Co-Chair
*Lingley, Leslie	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forestry Protection Association
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
Miskovic, Teresa	Dept. of Natural Resources, Project Manager
*Miller, Dick	Washington Family Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Tribe
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Stewart, Greg	CMER, NWIFC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
*Sturhan, Nancy	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Silver, Jill	10,000 Years Institute

* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone & v indicates attended by video conferencing.

Recognition: Terry Jackson was presented an award for her three years of co-chairing CMER.

Agenda: There were no changes made to the agenda.

Business Session:

➤ CMER Science Topics – *Update*

Chris Mendoza reviewed the CMER science topics listed in the CMER task list. CMER will need to identify science topics for September to the end of the year. A variety of new suggestions were added to the list of prospective guest speakers and science session topics.

Doug Martin announced that the American Fisheries Society of s will hold their conference in September.

➤ Coordinator’s Coordinator – *CMER approved April, May 2011 & June, Oct., Nov., Dec. 2009 meeting notes*

CMER members approved all of the meeting notes with edits for the May 2011 notes.

CMER/SAG Items:

➤ LWAG

RMZ Re-Sample Re-Analysis - *Update*

Terry Jackson emphasized that this is an update as CMER approved the budget and scope of work in previous meetings. This has been presented to Policy. The budget has been revised to \$20,564 from the Project Development Fund to complete re-analysis of bird data from the RMZ Re-Sample Project.

Marc Hayes added that the principal investigator has addressed some of the key issues associated with further data analysis. The focus of the project will be to re-analyze data collected in 2003-2004 (10-11 years after the original harvest treatments occurred) as well as data drawn from the initial study. The in-kind contribution from industry will increase which will further decrease CMER's project costs.

➤ RSAG

Type N Westside BCIF – *CMER approved RSAG to work on addressing the ISPR comments in the response matrix*

Teresa Miskovic reported that this report has received positive feedback from ISPR. RSAG requests CMER approval to address the ISPR comments in the response matrix.

CMER approved RSAG to work through the responses from the ISPR.

➤ WETSAG

Forest Practices and Wetlands Literature Review Project Charter – *CMER approved the project charter*

Debbie Kay reported that WETSAG is resubmitting the project charter for the wetlands literature review for approval.

CMER members approved the Forest Practices and Wetlands Literature Review Project Charter.

Teresa Miskovic announced that the Request for Proposals for the Forest Practices and Wetlands Systematic Literature Review closed last Thursday. A total of six proposals have been submitted by the due date. Next week seven readers will meet to score and rank the proposals and recommend the apparent successful candidate.

Science Session

Dr. Monika Moskal, faculty at the University of Washington – School of Forest Resources – College of the Environment presented on the use of remote sensing and Lidar for wetlands research.

➤ SRSAG

Type N Experimental Buffer Study in Incompetent Lithologies in Western Washington (Soft Rock Study) – *CMER approved the QAPP (study design)*

Mark Hicks reported that the project is making good progress on site selection. SRSAG conducted a concurrent review on the QAPP with CMER. SRSAG received comments and they have been reasonably addressed.

Bill Ehinger added that the comments from a technical point of view have been addressed. He asked for CMER to approve the scoping document called QAPP as presented to CMER in the EPA format.

Points of discussion:

Dick Miller stated that he would not support it without including a commitment to analyze whether or not the water quality standards of these streams have been exceeded.

Mark Hicks replied that he met with Dick and did commit that DOE will do an analysis, but it will be a separate analysis. Mark added that the project can answer only some of the water quality questions and CMER needs to avoid slowing down this project. Also from a process point of view he does not feel SRSAG should be forced to connect a WQ standards analysis to the approval of the CMER study plan. Mark further added that he did not want ISPR reviewers to get confused by adding discussions about the water quality standards and anti-degradation.

Chris Mendoza added that during the nearly year long development of the Soft Rock scoping document this issue was not put forth as a deal breaker, and to bring CWA standards in at the last second as a placeholder after nearly a year of negotiations by stakeholders, is disingenuous and goes against CMER's ground rules.

Bill Ehinger added that the CMER study will focus on daily maximum temperatures, rather than 7-day average maximum temperatures, in order to reduce the effect of serial correlation on our ability to statistically detect significant change. The project will report the 7-DADMax temperatures but that would not be the basis for the statistical analysis.

Dick Miller responded that it seems the main issue is trust. If this is an effectiveness study and an effectiveness study is supposed to inform the Forest Practices Board, then the question is if the Clean Water Act or water quality standards are being met. Chris Mendoza stated that most Policy members are well aware of the implications of WQ related CMER projects on Clean Water Act assurances and WQ standards. He will bring Dick's issue up at the next Policy meeting to help alleviate any concerns to the contrary. Mark is asking Dick to trust that DOE will conduct the analyses while identifying the workload and timing issues. Dick stated that this is the arena where he has the most leverage, and it may be time to invoke the dispute resolution process.

Mark Hicks replied that he will produce a letter from his agency that reflects its commitment to conduct a water quality standards review of the results from the Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study in Incompetent Lithology within 6 months of the ISPR review.

Chris Mendoza motioned to approve the SRSAG request to approve the QAPP (study design) contingent upon the Department of Ecology's commitment to conducting the analysis within six months of completing the final draft report for this study following ISPR review.

Terry Jackson seconded the motion.
There were no objections from CMER members.

➤ *Inside Cover to Published CMER Reports – Discussion*

Jim Hotvedt reported that CMER has been using the research publication format dated as of December 20, 2005. DNR received feedback from their attorney general about the language to use in the CMER publications; the proprietary statement has been revised.

Chris Mendoza motioned to approve the CMER report inside cover template for published CMER Reports. CMER members agreed to this format. This revision will be incorporated into the PSM.

➤ *Protocols and Standards Manual – Discussion on Chapters 1-3 proposed revisions*

Ash Roorbach reported that he and Nancy Sturhan have revised the first three chapters with input. He opened the floor for discussion for further input. The plan is to bring the revisions and comments back next month for CMER approval. CMER members suggested eliminating extra words in Chapter 1. In Chapter 2, re-align standards with the Adaptive Management board manual and the WACs. The roles and responsibilities need to be aligned with the AM board manual; this retains the references. The research section is new and attempts to line up with the AM board manual. The reference to rule tools will be further elaborated.

CMER members will provide comments to Ash and these will be discussed and reviewed by CMER at the next meeting. The week of July 12th is the target time frame for comments to be submitted with the understanding that this project is not on a fast track compared to other CMER project tasks and comments may also be submitted after that week.

➤ *CMER co-chair's Report to Policy – Discussion on Items to take to Policy*

- RMZ re-sample revised budget to fund analysis of the avian portion of the RMZ Re-Sample Project, based on the request from Policy (Hayes & Kroll).
- CWA standards in the context of SR study design.
- Wetlands Project Charter.

➤ *CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments from June 28, 2011 CMER Meeting:*

- Protocols and Standards Manual comments into Ash the week of July 12th.

Meeting Adjourned.