

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
February 25, 2014
DNR/DOC Compound**

Attendees	Representing
Adams, Joel (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians, CMER Co-Chair
Beach, Eric	Green Diamond
Bell, Harry	Green Crow
Ehinger, Bill	Department of Ecology
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	UCUT
Hayes, Marc	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
*Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology, CMER Co-Chair
Hotvedt, Jim	Department of Natural Resources, AMPA
*Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser
Kurtenbach, Amy	Department of Natural Resources
*Lingley, Leslie	Department of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protections Association
McIntyre, Aimee	Department of Fish and Wildlife
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
Miller, Dick	WFFA
*Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Schuett-Hames, Dave (ph)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Shramek, Patti	Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator
Stewart, Gregg	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, CMER Staff
*Sturhan, Nancy	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Veldhuisen, Curt (ph)	Skagit Cooperative
Walter, Jason	Weyerhaeuser
Woodsmith, Rick	WFFA Consultant

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

Science Session:

- ◆ Eastside Type N Buffer Effectiveness – Presentation of Field Implementation Plan (Summer 2014)

Gregg Stewart gave a presentation and answered questions on the field implementation plan for summer 2014. The study will include 40 of the 160 sites from the Eastside Hydrology Study but will be more intensive. They will be using wildlife cameras to help determine when the streams go dry. The total budget for the study is \$450,000.

Mark Hicks requested that they be very clear on exactly how they plan to manage the cameras over the entire field season and how they will use the photo documentation in their analyses before deploying so many cameras.

◆ *Review and Approval of CMER 2015 Budget

Jim Hotvedt reviewed the FY 2015 CMER Budget highlighted the changes that were made since the last meeting.

Jim explained that the Forests and Fish Account from which CMER is funded was supposed to get \$4,000,000 a year from timber tax revenue and that the Department of Revenue (DOR) cuts it off after that point. Jim was not sure why, but by the end of the year less than the \$4,000,000 was transferred from DOR to the Forests and Fish Account, resulting in a lower fund balance to start out FY15 with than was anticipated. As a result, funds available in FY15 to support the AMP program are projected to be short \$825,000. He said that CMER and Policy will need to look at the different projects and other AMP costs and determine where to make cuts.

Mark Hicks proposed that the AMPA and Co-Chairs reach out to PIs and SAG Co-Chairs to figure out how and where to take cuts then have a special meeting to go over the recommended cuts. CMER will hold a special meeting before the next CMER scheduled monthly meeting (March 25) to go over the budget previously approved by CMER in January to discuss a strategic plan for alternative budget if the shortfall becomes a reality. **Approved.** The Co-chairs will schedule a special CMER meeting.

Chris Mendoza expressed concern that Policy and the Board are the ones that ultimately decide which CMER projects to fund, and that CMER should not be put into the position of doing their job. CMER can make recommendations on which projects would suffer the greatest consequences from acute funding shortfalls like currently ongoing field research, but that's different that making a recommendation not to fund a specific project from the CMER work plan and/or the CMER Master Schedule.

Business Session:

***Decisions:**

Coordinators Corner

- ◆ *Approval of January 2014 Meeting Minutes - **Approved**

CMER

- ◆ *Approval to Move May 27, 2014 Meeting to May 20th.

Non approval – the meeting will remain on May 27th.

LWAG

- ◆ *RMZ Resample (Bird) – Approval of additional questions, review of list of potential reviewers
Marc Hayes requested CMER approval of the extra questions and potential reviewers for ISPR review. **Request Approved**

RSAG

- ◆ *Type N Solar Temperature Report – *CMER Final Approval*
Amy Kurtenbach requested CMER final approval of report to be forwarded on to Policy. **Approved**

RSAG will work on the six questions and findings report to be forwarded to Policy.

Updates:

Report from Forest Practices Board – February 11th Meeting

Jim Hotvedt reported on the following:

- ◆ Mass Wasting – the report was accepted by Policy in May of 2013 and they put together a sub-group on how to respond to the report and recommend an action as per the CMER/Policy Interaction Framework part of Section 22, AM Board Manual. They recommended no action (no rule change or change in guidance) be taken upon receipt of the Post Mortem Report in order to give them more time to develop specific recommendations. Policy decided to develop a Charter prior to making a formal recommendation to the Board.
- ◆ Type F/N Break – Policy has been trying to establish a set of objectives and associated tasks to include in a charter. Because progress was slow and there was a lack of agreement on what to include in the charter, Policy went through both stages of their dispute resolution process. Following the dispute resolution process, Policy still did not come to an agreement so they went to the Board with split recommendations. Jim reviewed the Board motion that passed at the 2/11/2014 meeting.

Report from Policy – January 9th Meeting

There was nothing of note related to CMER

CMER

- ◆ CMER Projects Coordinated Review Spreadsheet – Update and assign CMER reviewers
Amy Kurtenbach and Howard Haemmerle reviewed the CMER project review schedule and requested reviewers for upcoming reports.

LWAG

- ◆ Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Hard Rock Lithologies Study – Update and schedule review
Amy McIntyre reviewed the revised schedule for chapter completions. She reiterated that this is a very large report and that the chapters will be divided six main groups and go through ISPR accordingly.

TWIG

- ◆ Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project TWIG – Update on project objectives, problem statement, and critical questions being sent to Policy
Howard Haemmerle, Chris Mendoza, and Doug Martin reviewed the document and answered questions from CMER members. As per the LEAN Process, there is no official CMER approval at this stage, although several comments were received and incorporated by the TWIG. This memo will be going to Policy for approval in March.

WetSAG

- ◆ Wetlands Systematic Literature Review – Status of CMER review comments
Harry Bell reported that WetSAG is close to having CMER review comments incorporated into the report and it should be back to CMER for review at the April or May meeting. He also reported that WetSag is working with Paul Adamus on scoping of The Wetlands Strategy, which will use to revise workplan. This should be done and presented to CMER at the May meeting.

Dick Miller asked about the status of the CMER Wetlands CMER PI will be hired. Dave Schuett-Hames replied that they hope to have someone hired by the end of April.

CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- ◆ AMPA and CMER Co-Chairs will reach out to PIs and SAG Co-Chairs to figure out how and where to take budget cuts. A special CMER meeting will be held to go over recommended cuts prior to the next CMER meeting.
- ◆ May meeting will remain on May 27th.
- ◆ RMZ additional questions approved and report will go to ISPR.
- ◆ Type N Solar Temperature Report received final CMER approval and RSAG will work on the six questions and findings report to be forwarded to Policy.
- ◆ Wetland Systematic Literature review should be ready CMER approval to go to ISPR review in April/May.
- ◆ Wetland strategy should be ready for CMER review in May.
- ◆ Leslie Lingley requested future discussion for ISPR protocols and standards.