

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
December 13, 2016
DNR/DOC Compound/Tumwater, WA**

Attendees	Representing
§Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe – CMER Co-Chair
Beckett, Leah	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
§Bell, Harry	Washington Farm Forestry Association
Berge, Hans	Adaptive Management Program Administrator
chesney, charles (ph)	Member of the public
Danehy, Bob	Independent Consultant
§Dieu, Julie	Rayonier
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Gibbs, Heather	Department of Natural Resources
Haemmerle, Howard	Department of Natural Resources
§Hayes, Marc	Department of Fish and Wildlife
§Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology
Hooks, Doug	WFPA – CMER Co-Chair
Johnson, Angela	Department of Natural Resources
§Kay, Debbie	Suquamish Tribe
§Knoth, Jenny	Green Crow
§Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protections Association
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	Merrill Ring
Regmi, Netra	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commissions – CMER Staff
Rogers, Luke	University of Washington
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Schuett-Hames, Dave	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Shramek, Patti	Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator
Stewart, Greg (ph)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Walter, Jason	Weyerhaeuser
Yahnke, Amy	Department of Ecology

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

*Indicates Decision

Science Session:

Wetland Mapping Tool

Amy Yahnke gave the background of the project that Ecology is working on (National Wetlands Inventory Layer). She reported that it is extremely out of date (30ish years). The Washington layer is miss-represented and they are working on updating it. The Ecology project (funded by the EPA) ends in June 2018.

Luke Rogers presented the technical aspects of the mapping tool and explained how what Ecology is doing fits into it.

Presentation on Phase I

Debbie Kay explained that the mid-year project last year was to feed data into the open-source tool with UW to help obtain better data of wetlands.

Overview of subsequent phases with a description including budget and schedule.

Kay reported that the data has been gathered and is ready to hand off to a third-party vendor to develop the tool. Once the tool is developed it goes back to UW to complete. Rogers explained all that UW did to get the project to this point. Kay, Rogers, and Yahnke answered questions.

Kay explained that it might be able to help find Wetlands for future projects. Yahnke remarked that this could augment the National Wetlands Inventory and could help local jurisdiction management and the volunteer stewardship program.

Chris Mendoza remarked that he would like CMER to have a larger discussion in the future regarding having long term funding (Master Project Schedule) for “mid-year” projects that extend beyond a single fiscal year. Having larger mid-year projects limp along year to year in hopes of taking advantage of CMER unspent funds, in this case to develop a rule tool, is not feasible.

Wetlands Mapping Tool – *request for funding for completion of Phase I of project

Marc Hayes moved that CMER approve the WetSAG request, Todd Baldwin seconded - **Approved**

Roads TWIG – *Study Design Presentation & new members update*

Bob Danehy and Julie Dieu gave a presentation on the study design and answered questions.

Next Steps: The Study Design will be sent out after the meeting and comments are due to Howard Haemmerle by January 12, 2017. Reviewers: Jenny Knoth, Doug Martin, Mark Hicks, Marc Hayes, and Chris Mendoza.

Decisions:

CMER

***Meeting Minutes Approval** – November 2016 meeting minutes

Patti Shramek asked for approval of the November 2016 meeting minutes. Kay moved to approve, Knoth seconded – **Approved**

***2016 CMER Accomplishments** - approval

Shramek asked for approval of the 2016 CMER Accomplishments document. Knoth moved to approve, Kay Seconded - **Approved**

SAGE

***Fire Salvage Literature Review** – *request for funding*

Angela Johnson gave background on the request and asked for approval.

Martin asked what they hope to discover with this literature review and what they plan to do with it. He remarked that a report was just released by PNWCG that has a part that addresses this. He asked for some investigation on what is already out there. He suggests partnering with PNWCG in this effort. A.J. Kroll said he agreed with Martin and also thought the questions in the request were too specific. Mendoza replied that he thought the points were valid, but the literature review will call out where there is a lot of information and where there are gaps. He also pointed out that CMER had ranked this as number three in the fiscal 2016 mid-term project ranking, after the Wetland Mapping and the Timber Habitat projects. Hans Berge agreed with Kroll that the questions were too specific and recommended that SAGE broaden the scope. He also agreed with Mendoza on the project ranking. Hicks remarked that the questions are so specific because SAGE has the experience and knows where there are gaps. Kroll remarked contacting people that have already done similar work to help cut the costs. Hooks remarked that he thinks it needs to be a synthesis. He also remarked that he is aware that this project was ranked last year and is part of the Master Schedule, but is unclear on how CMER decides what projects are approved when funds become available.

Hicks moved to approve the request, Kay seconded, Martin opposed – **non-approval**

Martin requested a revision to add another question to include restoration of riparian function after fire. Mendoza replied that he didn't think this was fair to SAGE, as UPSAG and WetSAG didn't go through a similar process. Baldwin replied that he didn't understand what Martin was requesting and he would prefer that it is just voted down. He would like Martin to work with WFPA members of SAGE to get his concerns addressed so this can get completed at the next SAGE meeting.

Mendoza moved that CMER approve SAGE request to go to Policy for approval funds, contingent upon further review of SAGE and CMER consistent with their approval process outlined in the CMER PSM. Kroll seconded. - **Approved**

UPSAG

***Request for Policy Guidance – approval**

Hooks gave the background on the UPSAG request. Berge replied that this request didn't need CMER approval but asked CMER how they would like this presented to Policy. Mendoza said he felt it should come from the CMER Co-Chairs.

Next Steps: Co-Chairs will ask Policy for a formal request at the January Policy meeting.

2017 CMER Work Plan – schedule update; develop a process for prioritization of projects

***WetSAG – review and approval - Approved**

***LWAG – review and approval - Approved**

***RSAG – review and approval – postponed to January meeting.**

Updates:

Report from Forest Practices Board – November 8 Meeting

Minutes for the meeting can be found on the Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board>.

Report from Policy – November 1 meeting

Minutes for the meeting can be found on the Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board/tfw-policy-committee>.

2017 CMER Science Conference – Hooks requested that SAGS be prepared to present list of topics at the January CMER meeting for a decision on whether or not CMER will have a conference in April 2017.

October 25 Forest Chemicals Science Session – status of presentations – Berge reported that the presentations will be posted on the DNR webpage. Link will be sent out to CMER listserv when posting is completed.

Protocol and Standards Manual Chapter 7 – Haemmerle reported that this will be coming to CMER for approval in January.

Lean Process Recommendations and Analyses – Haemmerle is scheduled to give a presentation to Policy at their January meeting.

Budget and Project Status Update of 2015-17 Biennium – update postponed to a future meeting

Process for Bringing New Projects Forward – discussion postponed to a future meeting

SAGS

ISAG – ISAG is completing work plan update for submittal to CMER for review in January. Mark Gauthier replaced Caprice Fasano as co-chair. Jason Walters (co-chair) will be sending out meeting schedule for 2017 to ISAG members in early January.

RSAG

- **Hardwood Conversion** – Contract with Cramer Fish Sciences to incorporate the 10-year resample information into the report is still waiting for signature at DNR. Once that is completed a kick-off meeting will be scheduled.
- **Remote Sensing** – UW Precision Forestry Cooperative continuing to make progress on the project and will be providing regular updates to RSAG. Still on track to finish by June 30, 2017.

LWAG

Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study – Basalt Lithologies (Hard Rock) – PIs continue to work on the synthesis chapter and are making good progress. Several chapters have completed the ISPR review process and are now with the technical editor. Once they are through that process they will be sent to CMER for approval to move on to Policy.

Public Comment Period

None

Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- Wetland Mapping Tool request approved.
- Patti Shramek will send out the Roads TWIG Study Design PowerPoint Presentation.
- Comments on Roads TWIG Study Design due to Howard Haemmerle January 12, 2017.
- November 2016 meeting minutes approved.
- 2016 CMER Accomplishments document approved.
- Fire Salvage Lit review/synthesis request approved to go to Policy.
- Co-Chairs will request clarification from Policy on Board motion for UPSAG.
- WetSAG and LWAG Work Plan revisions approved.
- RSAG Work Plan review and approval postponed to January meeting.
- Patti Shramek will send out SAGE and UPSAG Work Plan revisions December 14.
- Discuss issues with ISPR at January meeting.
- Patti will send CMER Science Conference draft agenda out to SAGs for comment at January 2017 CMER meeting.

Adjourned