

Board Manual Sec. 22

PART 6. RELATED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

6.1 Biennial Fiscal and Performance Audits

Biennial fiscal and performance audits of the Adaptive Management Program are required by the forest practices rule, [WAC 222-12-045\(2\)\(e\)](#). The audits may be performed by DNR or other independent state agencies. However, the Administrator is responsible for ensuring the coordination of the development of these audits and reports. Both fiscal and performance audits will generally follow U.S. General Accounting Office auditing standards (GAO-03-673G), or other superseding standards issued by the Office of Financial Management (OFM), DNR, or other specific audit needs conveyed to the Administrator by the Board. Biennial performance audits will evaluate the goals, objectives, and key questions of the Adaptive Management Program.

DRAFT SUGGESTED LANGUAGE for 5-year peer review.

Independent scientific peer review of the Adaptive Management Program are required by the forest practices rule, WAC 222-12-045(2)(f) at five year intervals. This comprehensive independent science review of the entire Adaptive Management (Science) Program improves effectiveness in addressing forestry, fish, wildlife, and landscape process issues and ensures the opportunity for periodic public comment.

Ensure a peer review of the entire science program is conducted every five years. Opportunities for public comment on those five years should also be given, as stated in WAC. Update the manual to reflect this requirement.

222-12-045(f) **CMER five-year peer review process.** Every five years the board will establish a peer review process to review all work of CMER and other available, relevant data, including recommendations from the CMER staff. There will be a specified, but limited, period for public review and comment.

A regular peer review of the Science committee is required every five years by program rules. However, it is missing completely from the manual. While there has been one review of the Science committee, conducted by the Stillwater group in 2009, this does not meet the required every-five-years' time frame outlined in WAC. Part of this requirement also ensures an opportunity for the public to comment on that five-year comprehensive review. If the program manual clearly stated this review as a requirement, program administrators would more likely work toward having the review completed regularly. Ensuring this consistent review would help to bolster the quality of the processes within Science, as reviews would expose deficiencies and propose remedies. (p. 18 SAO report)

II. Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) (WAC 222-12-045(2)(b)(i))

A. General CMER Ground Rules

1. Each of the participants affirmed by the Board to CMER agree to these ground rules, which were developed collectively by CMER to ensure that CMER produces credible scientific results that have a broad base of support. These ground rules are specific to CMER and do not apply to any other portion of the Adaptive Management Program. Board Manual – 2/2022 Guidelines for Adaptive Management Program M22-26

2. CMER core values are predicated upon the agreement of each CMER participant that adaptive management is based upon sound science. It is the responsibility of every participant to follow sound scientific principles and procedures.

3. Participants will also adhere to the purpose of the Adaptive Management Program: ...to provide science-based recommendations and technical information to assist the board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules and guidance for aquatic resources to achieve resource goals and objectives. The goal of the program is to affect change when it is necessary or advisable to adjust rules and guidance to achieve the goals of the forests and fish report or other goals identified by the board. (WAC 222-12-045(1))

4. Individual Policy Committee positions are not the basis for CMER decisions, otherwise the credibility of CMER research can be questioned, resulting in CMER having failed in its function of providing accountable results to the Adaptive Management Program.

B. Specific CMER Ground Rules

1. CMER participants will engage in actions that promote productive meetings and will encourage the active participation of each individual member. Examples of these actions are:

- a. Speak to educate, listen to understand.
- b. Pursue win/win solutions.
- c. State motivations and justifications clearly. Discuss issues openly with all concerns on the table. Avoid hidden agendas.
- d. Ensure that each individual has a chance to be heard.
- e. Help others move tangent issues to appropriate venues by scheduling a time to discuss these issues later.
- f. Start and stop meetings on time.
- g. Take side conversations outside—listen respectfully.
- h. Define clear outcomes for each conversation and appoint a conversation manager.
- i. Be trusting and trustworthy.
- j. Acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of others, even when you disagree.
- h. Attend on-boarding orientation and topic-specific training in a timely manner in order to have the necessary understanding of roles and responsibilities as well as ground rules.**

2. CMER participants agree to spend the time in preparation for meetings so that their participation is both meaningful and relevant and to refrain from participation when they are unprepared.
3. CMER participants agree to participate in the Adaptive Management Program's scientific dispute resolution process when consensus cannot be reached and to make a good faith effort to resolve the dispute.
4. CMER participants recognize that information and results are preliminary until the final report is approved by CMER. Products must be clearly labeled and presented as DRAFT until approved by CMER as a final product.
5. At no time shall any potential contractor for a project be involved in the drafting of an RFP, RFQ or SOW or in the selection of a contractor for that specific project.

DRAFT SUGGESTED LANGUAGE for on-boarding orientation and topic-specific training.

6. All voting members of the Board, TFW Policy, and CMER are to take part in orientation training before formally participating in the AMP, and supplemental topic-specific training soon thereafter, in order to have the necessary understanding of roles and responsibilities as well as ground rules. AMP participants are responsible for reading and being familiar with relevant Washington State government laws and guidelines. It is vital that committee members recognize they are in a critical position to shape and influence board decisions and actions. It is important that each member keeps informed and up-to-date on issues, legislative activity and statutes affecting their board.

Add a directive in the Board Manual for DNR to provide, and for participants to take, on-boarding orientation and topic-specific training. At the bottom of PART 2 where it discusses program participants, add a statement such as: All voting members of the Board, TFW Policy, and CMER are to take part in orientation training before formally participating in the AMP, and supplemental topic-specific training soon thereafter.