Forests & Fish Policy (FFR) Meeting
January 8, 2009

Attendees:

Stephen Bernath, WDOE
Darin Cramer, DNR / Adaptive Management Program Administrator
Chase Davis, Upper Columbia United Tribes (via video)
Karl Forsgaard, Washington Forest Law Center
Bob Gilrein, Spokane Tribe (via video)
Linda Heckel, DNR / Forests & Fish Policy Coordinator / CMER Coordinator
Pete Heide, WFPA
Terry Jackson, WDFW/CMER Co-Chair
Chris Mendoza, Conservation Caucus / CMER Co-Chair
Miguel Perez-Gibson, Conservation Caucus
Dave Powers, EPA (by phone)
Tom Robinson, Washington Association of Counties /Policy Co-Chair
Josh Weiss, WFPA
Matt Wynne, Spokane Tribal Council member
David Whipple, WDFW

Agenda Review

The group reviewed the agenda. It was agreed that the business section of the agenda should be scheduled prior to the Adaptive Management Strategy section.

Policy Work list

Linda presented the current work list. There were no changes made.

Linda will send out meeting notes, of the prior month's meeting, with the draft agenda.

Workgroup Updates

PIP/DFC "Post-Mortem" Discussions:

- Darin will work with Josh, Miguel, and Tom to revise the scope of work and bring a new draft to the February Policy meeting.
- This new scope should illustrate the issue of where Policy wants to be: a climate for negotiation and cooperation; recognizing that there might be relationship issues; rebuild the relationships, and education on the AM process listed in the AM Board Manual what we have learned.
- This group will also rename the project so as not to be confused with the CMER "Post-Mortem" project.

Fish Passage:

- David will bring a recommendation from the Fish Passage Policy subgroup to the February Policy meeting

Legislative agendas/intentions/communications
(This portion of the agenda will be continuing for a few months to keep all Caucuses aware of everyone's issues for the 2009 Legislative Session.)

DNR Forest Practices – State Caucus:

- Linda gave a brief update on the DFC Public Hearings that are being held

Counties:

- Working on cleaning up the language of the Transfer of Class IV General
- The language will come out of WSAC and they are still open for input.
- Tom will email their draft language to Linda who will send it to the entire Policy group.
- Their goal is to lay it out for full disclosure. They would like to have everyone on board before going to the legislature.

Conservation Caucus:

- Priorities include: transportation, climate, energy efficiency, and growth management
- Working with the Commissioner-Elect on environmental issues such as fire, forest health, biofuel, and climate change. They would like to find ways to cooperate in these areas.

WFPA – Landowner Caucus:

- Right to Forestry bill
- Looking at potentially amending the Riparian Open Space Program language to allow for acquisition of Board-designated critical habitat of threatened & endangered species
- WFPA requested that WDOE and WDFW draft a description of what the F&F Support funding from DNR pays for, so that other caucuses can lend support with a budget request from the legislature

UCUT – Tribal Caucus:

- Sending in a letter of support to the legislature for: forest health, expert forestry assistance, FFFPP, LLWA, and unstable landforms

CMER Update
December Meeting Update

- Science session - Temperature and shade literature review discussion
- Proposed for January science session - Adaptive management and the role of science and monitoring (USFS). If USFS is not available for the January CMER meeting, CMER will devote the science session to the FY 10 CMER Work Plan.
- Sub-group working to clearly define "CMER-funded final reports".
- Discussion of the DNR website and making reports, etc. more accessible. Changes have already been made and working towards future improvements.
- Working on updating the FY 10 CMER Work Plan to more clearly show the pathways from Rule Group Critical Questions to Programs to Projects.
- CMER science conference to be held on 3/18/09 in OB2
- Soft rock study update – the CMER subgroup is making progress. The subgroup hopes to bring a study plan to Policy in March.

Adaptive Management Strategy

- Reviewed the program strategic goals, objectives, and tasks document dated 10/6/08

- Preparatory work needs to continue in order to make the necessary decisions at the next Policy Budget Retreat
- Future budgets are going to be stretched thin, and Policy will have a big challenge prioritizing CMER projects
- Two days aren't enough for the budget meeting and more preparatory work needs to be completed prior to the retreat
- Need to have a discussion about what each caucus' priorities are relative to the critical questions that need to be answered under F&F
- Use the next scheduled strategy meeting (1/22) to get started on the budget work
- Each caucus should be prepared to share their adaptive management priorities, where is the most resource risk, where is the most scientific uncertainty

Continuation of Post-Mortem Discussion

- Dave did some research on internal contracts available for facilitation, and found that it would be very expensive to use the EPA contract.
- EPA dollars could only come up with $10,000-$15,000 if Puget Sound Partnership agrees to it
- The EPA process might not be a good route to go, because policy would have no control over the selection process
- If we use external funds for obtaining facilitation, it adds more complications
- There are interagency agreements with Ecology but not sure how they work. Tom Eaton may know how those agreements work
- Darin passed out the list of contractors from the GA website for Management Consulting Services. If anyone is familiar with other recommended consultants, they should be contacted to get on the vendor list with GA

Continuation of Adaptive Management Strategy

- Policy needs to decide how best to use of their limited time in order to be prepared for the budget retreat.
- Each caucus needs to decide what their priority questions are before the 1/22 special meeting.
- Bring priority questions to the meeting (top 3, next 3 wiggle room, bottom 3) to discuss, regardless of what projects are already on the table.
- Use the L-1, L-2 questions as sideboards, determine which questions are the most important per caucus, and attempt to come to consensus about the most important questions. Are original priorities still important? Are we missing anything? Then ask whether the current CMER research and monitoring projects are adequately addressing the most important questions? Linda will send out the 6/5/07 L-1/L-2 crosswalk and the Rule Group charts for the 1/22 meeting.
- This will help policy be more prepared for the budget retreat.