

**Quarterly Progress Report
October - December 2010**

Project Name: Characterization of Forest Roads and Wetland Interactions Methods Development Project
Project Status: Final study plan
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Sponsoring SAG: Wetland Scientific Advisory Group (WETSAG)

Background:

The overall goal of the Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness Study is to determine whether the current Washington State forest practice goal of no net loss to wetland function is being achieved. The study was originally divided into 3 phases: Pilot Study, Phase I, and Phase II. During review of the Pilot Study plan, several concerns came up that led to re-organizing the project and the Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness program. The program is now organized into 4 separate projects rather than one project with 3 phases. The Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness Program projects are: Characterization of Forest Roads and Wetland Interactions Methods Development project (Methods Development Project), Characterization of Forest Roads and Wetland Interactions Pilot Project (Pilot Project), Characterization of Forest Roads and Wetland Interactions Statewide Project, and Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness Project. The Pilot Project will begin to address the lack of information about the effectiveness of the mitigation sequence by testing and refining site selection, data collection, and data analysis methods. The methods developed in the Methods Development and Pilot Projects will address questions about the effects of road construction on wetland structure, and will use a combination of direct measurements and best professional judgment (BPJ). It is anticipated that the methods developed will also use BPJ to assess potential risks from road construction and maintenance to wetland functions. The scoping document for the Pilot Study was approved by CMER in June 2008.

Current Status:

A field trip was conducted in September 2010 to discuss concerns that were brought up during CMER review of the Pilot Study plan. The CMER review and the field trip generated a lot of discussion on the study design elements and objectives. As a result, this led to taking a step back from implementing the Pilot Study at this time and instead, revisiting the Wetlands rule group strategies, including reconsideration of which project(s) WETSAG should begin to address in the CMER wetland research and program. This will be the last quarterly progress report for the Characterization of Forest Roads and Wetland Interactions Methods Development Project. Progress reports will resume once this project is pursued again.

Budget:

Total project budget through fiscal year 2011:	\$157,000
Total spent through December 2010:	\$0
Total allocated for fiscal year 2011:	\$157,000

Contract end date: Work for FY 11 is not under contract yet.

