

# **Adaptive Management Program**

## **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides a brief background on the adaptive management program (AMP) and accomplishments to date. Those accomplishments in large part occur through CMER research projects. The CMER work plan presents an integrated strategy for conducting research and monitoring to provide scientific information to support the AMP. Section 3.6 lists websites that give detailed information on the CMER work plan and projects.

Section 3.7 contains information on electrofishing activities associated with AMP projects. The Services specifically requested this information through the ITP conditions.

## **3.2 Purpose of Adaptive Management Program**

The purpose of the AMP is to produce technical information and science-based recommendations to assist the Board in determining if and when it is necessary or advisable to adjust forest practices rules and guidance in order to achieve program goals, resource objectives and performance targets identified in the FPHCP. As a result, a successful AMP is essential to ensuring the ongoing development and implementation of measures that effectively conserve the habitats of species covered under the FPHCP. A full description of the AMP, the components, process, as well as the research and monitoring programs can be found in Chapter 4, Section 4a-4 of the FPHCP.

The current AMP has been formally in place since the adoption of the Forests and Fish Rules in 2001. Schedule L-1 from the Forests and Fish Report served as the foundation for the AMP, and more specifically guides the development of research and monitoring projects described in the FY 2009 CMER Work Plan. Key questions - and therefore research and monitoring priorities - are likely to change over time as adaptive management proceeds and new information becomes available. However, the research priorities presented in the CMER Work Plan have not changed substantially since the most recent program prioritization in 2002. Changes to resource objectives, performance targets and research and monitoring priorities, while at the discretion of the Board, would typically be reviewed and agreed to by Forests and Fish Policy.

## **3.3 Adaptive Management Program History**

Since 2001 the AMP has completed more than 30 projects. Many of these projects are posted on the AMP website (see section 3.6). Much of the program's early work was in support of rule tools designed to develop, refine or validate protocols, models and targets used to facilitate forest practices rule implementation. These projects did not necessarily result in a final project report or rule change, but did result in a draft report, GIS products or other types of databases.

Over the last few years the AMP has focused much of its effort on effectiveness monitoring projects. However, work has recently begun on extensive monitoring and CMER is in the process of scoping an intensive monitoring project. The effort to more fully integrate research and monitoring across spatial and temporal scales is ongoing and will continue in FY 2009.

### **3.4 Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee Work Plan**

The CMER Committee produces an annual work plan that describes the various AMP research and monitoring programs, associated projects and work schedule. The plan can be found on the AMP website (see section 3.6 below) under the “files” header. The CMER work plan is intended to inform CMER participants, the Forest Practices Board, Forests and Fish Policy and members of the public about CMER Committee activities. The programs in the work plan have been prioritized based on the level of scientific uncertainty and resource risk associated with the priorities of Schedule L-1 in the Forests and Fish Report and incorporated into the FPHCP. CMER has worked to implement the high priority programs first to ensure that the most important questions about resource protection are answered before the questions with lower scientific uncertainty or lower resource risk. The plan is a dynamic document that is revised annually in response to research findings and changes in Forests and Fish Policy objectives and funding.

Forests and Fish Policy held a budget retreat in March 2008 and created a FY 09 CMER Work Plan and budget. The Board approved it at the May 2008 meeting. Of the proposed FY 09 Tier One projects (14), approximately nine are projects which have been in place for a year or more, one is in the final review stages, and the rest are in start-up mode. i.e., in the scoping, study design, or peer review phase.

The status of active CMER projects can be found on the AMP website under the “related links” header. There is also a link to final reports for completed projects under this same header. Agendas and minutes of CMER meetings can be found by clicking on the CMER link under this header. A link for Policy agendas and minutes will be added soon.

### **3.5 Forests and Fish Policy Activity (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)**

#### **Desired Future Condition**

While Forests and Fish Policy has no formal adaptive management role in the DFC rule making process, Policy representatives from each caucus are involved as stakeholders. This affects their availability for other work in the AMP.

#### **General Forests and Fish Policy Activity**

CMER completed several project reports during the 2007-2008 FPHCP reporting year. None resulted in a Policy action recommendation to the Board because they were reports on methods development or the initial phases of multi-phase projects. Policy considered one action recommendation associated with DFC supplemental reports to the Forest Practices Application Desktop Analysis Final Report (see completed CMER Projects website provided in 3.6 below). However, to date the supplemental reports associated with this primary report have not yet undergone the Forests and Fish Policy review steps. If/when Forests and Fish Policy completes its review and agrees upon a recommendation, Policy will forward it to the Board.

Given the substantial Forests and Fish Policy workload and the limited capacity of Forests and Fish Policy representatives, the committee prioritized their work list in the late summer of 2007 and presented that prioritized list to the Board in October 2007. High priority work items include re-initiating Forests and Fish Policy discussion on a long-term solution to water typing, including a Type Np prescription and Np/Ns demarcation method that addresses operational issues of repeatability and enforceability. One of the other high priority work items is to complete an AMP strategic planning/prioritization effort. This effort will help Forests and Fish Policy representatives become more informed about the science arm of adaptive management, strengthen the communication and linkage between Forests and Fish Policy and science, and better prepare the program for the future.

Over the last few months a considerable amount of Forests and Fish Policy time has been devoted to the strategic planning/prioritization effort with the intent of producing a list of strategic goals, objectives and tasks by or before September 2008. To date Forests and Fish Policy has created a draft list of goals, objectives and tasks covering four main topic areas: 1) caucus relationships; 2) program funding and communications; 3) program efficiency and effectiveness; and 4) research capability and knowledge. The intent is for the tasks associated with each goal and objective to be implemented beginning as soon as agreement is reached on final wording.

### **3.6 Adaptive Management Program Website**

Adaptive Management Program Website:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp\\_am\\_program.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp_am_program.aspx)

[CMER Website:](#)

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/AboutDNR/BoardsCouncils/CMER/Pages/Home.aspx>

Active CMER Projects Website:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp\\_cmer\\_active\\_projects.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp_cmer_active_projects.aspx)

Completed CMER Projects Website:

[http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp\\_cmer\\_completed\\_projects.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/FPAdaptiveManagementProgram/Pages/fp_cmer_completed_projects.aspx)

### **3.7 Electrofishing Report**

One of the conditions of the ITPs relates to electrofishing. The Services asked for an accounting of any electrofishing related to AMP research.

#### **Electrofishing Activity**

The project reported in last year's 2007 annual report is ongoing and continues to use electrofishing. There were no new electrofishing activities related to AMP research over the past year. There were no new projects involving electrofishing related to AMP research between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. There is only the one project that was

active July through October of 2008. The completed form describing this project is included at the end of this section.

### **Pre Electrofishing**

**1. Name of project:** Type N Experimental Buffer Study

**Date of project implementation:** July-October, 2008

**Primary contact for project:** Bill Ehinger/Marc Hayes

**Names of watersheds where surveys will be conducted:**

Extreme headwater tributaries to: Willapa River, North River, Wishkah River, Clearwater River, Humptulips River.

**2. Estimate the number of listed fish or miles of listed-species habitat affected by electro fishing activities:**

0 miles.

**3. Provide names and qualifications of the staff, contractors, or cooperators who will be supervising the field work:**

Aimee McIntyre, Project technician, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.  
Jason Walter, Senior Aquatic Research Technician, Weyerhaeuser Company.

**4. Provide a copy of the operating protocols designed to reduce effects to listed fish while maintaining the efficiency of the surveys and monitoring (operating protocol includes guidelines by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS 2000) and any subsequent updates):**

None required. No sampling in streams containing listed fish.

### **Post Electrofishing**

**1. Document the length of stream-survey and electrofishing activity:**

800 meters total stream length sampled twice yearly.

**2. Document any listed-fish encounters:**

None.

**3. Document any effects that rose to the level of incidental take (harm to habitat or listed species) including mortality:**

None.

**4. List the apparent condition of all listed fish specimens encountered:**

N/A