APPENDIX 1. Interview guide. including introductory statement, open-ended questions, and prompts.

Thank you for making time to talk with us!

As we said in our interview request, we’re working with CAMNet to document lessons-learned by practitioners who have worked with adaptive natural resource management efforts that were complex and challenging enough to require cooperation and joint effort among many government agencies at different levels, non-governmental organizations, and key stakeholders. This type of NRM effort is what we think of as “collaborative adaptive management” or CAM.

Our specific focus is on the planning and management process, particularly interactions among the people involved in the process. The biophysical science continues to be documented elsewhere; we’re trying to capture hard-won and hard-to-document experiential knowledge.

We would like to hear about your experiences so that we can learn how projects get started in the ‘real world’ and get your insights into what worked and didn’t work in projects you were involved with. We are planning to take what we learn from you and put it together with what we’ve learned from others in a form that can help other NRM practitioners be more effective in similar projects.

Before we get started, do you have any objection to me recording this interview? The recording will just be used to ensure accuracy. Jim and I will be the only ones who will listen to it.

We will keep what you say to us confidential. We plan to aggregate and anonymize the information from all of the interviews and present the results in the form of generalized guidelines for practice. If we wish to use a quote from this interview to illustrate a point, we will contact you and ask for permission first.

Do you have any questions?

→ Please tell us just a little about your professional background. How were/are you involved in natural resource management?

→ Have you been involved in any natural resource management projects that fit with our study? [Refer to the list of criteria included in the information sheet.] Is there one that stands out in your mind as particularly instructive, either as a “how-to” or a “how-not-to” example?

→ We’ll focus on that project now.
What was the scale of the effort? For example, did it focus on a 30 sq. mile watershed, a 500 sq. ft. forest management area, a much larger ecoregion, etc?

Please briefly describe the issue or problem that was the focus of this effort.

What was your role in this effort? Were you involved in the early planning of this project?

Why was this effort initiated? What was the ‘trigger’ for this process?

How did the planning effort get started? Was a particular organization or person instrumental in getting things going? Please describe the sequence of events and the key people involved in them as you remember them.

[Prompt to keep focus specific barriers to progress, with a particular emphasis on interactions among key actors]

How was the problem to be solved defined? Who was involved in coming up with the problem description that formed the starting point for project planning? How and by whom were those people selected and recruited?

[Prompt to keep focus on process and interactions among key actors]

What do you consider to be the most important effects and impacts (positive or negative) of this project? What factors, actions, and/or events do you think contributed most to these important effects and impacts?

[Prompt to encourage inclusion of both bio-chemical-physical and human system impacts as well as process and interactional effects and impacts]

What useful lessons have you learned from your experiences about planning such efforts? What advice would you give other practitioners who are starting to work with such an effort?

[Prompt to keep focus on process and interactions among key actors]

What type of training did you have that you feel best prepared you for this type of work?

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

Who else involved in this project should we talk to? Who from other projects?

Thank you again for being willing to help us with this project. We’ll share our findings with you once we complete our first set of interviews.