

CMER SAG UPDATES

July 2020

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- **Prospective Six Questions for FWEP Study Design:** WetSAG and Four Peaks drafted the Six Questions document and initially submitted the document to CMER for approval in February. Significant revisions were requested at the February meeting. Revisions were completed and approved by CMER in April. Contractor plans to present the Six Questions document to Policy in August, agenda permitting.
- **Literature Review:** CMER approved additional funds (\$8,001) to complete the FWEP Literature Review in February. The Four Peaks contract was amended accordingly and contractor resumed work on revisions to the initial draft, per WetSAG comments. Revisions were reviewed by WetSAG and the document was approved with final modifications. WetSAG submitted the Literature Review document and webmap tool to CMER for a 30-day review in April and the document was approved during the May meeting, on the condition of minor editorial revisions. Contractor plans to present the literature review package to Policy in August, agenda permitting.
- **Implementation Plan:** WetSAG discussed strategies for FWEP implementation during their March meeting. The group voted to conduct site selection in FY20-21 and initiate fieldwork in FY23..
 - A subgroup was formed to initiate work on the Site Selection and Data Management document (Harry B., Debbie K, Jenelle B., Eszter M., and Amy Y.). Members have agreed to draft individual sections and reconvene in late July to merge information and discuss.

Wetland Mapping Tool (Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool; WIP)

- UW is under contract and has begun working on responding to WetSAG members' edits for the Phase II deliverables.
- Plan is to finalize this project in late 2020.

Wetlands Management Zone

- WetSAG has voted to move forward with scoping for WMZ in FY20-21. Debbie Kay has taken the lead on developing a task list for the process. The first of which is to generate a list of wetland functions that the group will evaluate for testability and inclusion in the study. Additional tasks and a work plan will be forthcoming. Task list will be developed for the group during WetSAG's June meeting to initiate work on the document.

UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- The scoping document entitled “Deep-Seated Research Strategy: Landslide Mapping and Classification Project Draft Scoping Document” and the attached prospective 6 questions document were presented to CMER during their May 26th meeting and are currently in formal review by CMER. Initial reviewer comments were addressed and the document was revised and approved to send back to reviewers at the July UPSAG meeting with potential final drafts being provided to CMER for approval at their August meeting.
- UPSAG approved a Charter for the Landslide Mapping and Classification project which will be provided to CMER for their approval at their July meeting.
- All three documents (Charter, Scoping and 6 questions) will go to Policy at the same time (anticipated to be the September Policy meeting).
- UPSAG has designated a writing team to start on the study design for the Landslide Mapping and Classification project and will begin revising a study design outline at the August UPSAG meeting.

Road Sub-Basin-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project

- Decision was made to post-pone this study pending the completion of the Road BMP study. The Road BMP study will have a strong impact on the scoping and study design of this project.

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

AMP Project Manager: Teresa Miskovic

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The Project Team and SAGE approved the new outline for the alternatives analysis for the scoping document. Malia Volke further developed the alternatives analysis and completed the rest of the scoping document.
- The scoping document is being reviewed by the Project Team with comments due July 21st.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- University of Idaho completed equipment maintenance and winter temperature, sediment, and meteorological data has been downloaded at Tripps Knob, Blue Grouse, and Springdale sites.. During these site visits the crew also made it out to the Fish Creek sites and they look like they will be viable but extensive trail work will be needed to install equipment.
- Large woody debris, shade, and channel profile surveys are completed. Data QA/QC protocols and field operating procedures are completed and being reviewed.
- Utah State University completed spring benthic invertebrate sampling the last week of June.
- WCC crews began trail clearing at the Fish Creek sites.
- HPA and collection permits have been received.

- West Fork Environmental completed the protocol survey at the Coxit sites mid-June and the fish end point was determined to be roughly where the project team estimated it would be. They have also completed flume fabrication and DNR is working on timber sale layout at these sites.
- The West Fork Environmental contract is being amended to add the additional flume fabrication and installation at the Fish Creek sites.
- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest.
- On June 23rd DNR gave approval to begin data collection following safety procedures put in place due to Covid-19. Previously DNR had only given approval for equipment maintenance and data downloads.

Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Contractor is reviewing last three ISPR questions and plans to return their answers back to ISPR this month.
- Plan is to finalize this project in late 2020.

RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic, Eszter Munes, Ben Flint (Smart Buffer)

Hardwood Conversion Report

- RSAG is discussing the potential for additional Hardwood Conversion research. Harry Bell provided RSAG information regarding the number of FPAs submitted that were hardwood conversions. RSAG concluded that it appears there aren't enough hardwood conversions being implemented at this time to warrant further investigation or study by CMER at this time.

BTO Add-on Report

- The CMER approved final report was delivered to Policy at their January 2020 meeting along with a presentation from Dave Schuett-Hames. At the February 2020 Policy meeting, they approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report, and a presentation will be given to the FP Board at their August meeting.
- A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study will also be provided that states the TFW Policy process be officially completed. The Board never received a formal recommendation or presentation when this final report was completed.

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- A RSAG workgroup is working on resolving the remaining issues and revising the study plan to prepare it for ISPR.

Type N Soft Rock Final report

- The PIs have incorporated the comments received from RSAG/CMER (Chris, Doug, Patrick, Harry) concurrent review. The revised report was sent to the reviewers to re-review to ensure their comments were adequately addressed. Re-review is completed and the PIs met with the reviewers to discuss any remaining concerns. The PIs have revised the report to incorporate the remaining comments and the reviewers are reviewing the revisions.

- During the January CMER meeting, the RSAG request for ISPR review was approved. CMER agreed by consensus to add a question to the standard eight.
- The AMPA submitted the Final Report to ISPR on February 10th, with a request that Reviewers and Associate Editors who are, or have, reviewed the Hard Rock Study be used to review this report. Reviews for at least two sections are currently underway.
- **Extended Monitoring:** Ecology staff has recently gained approval to move forward with field work. Tasks, including spring/fall temperature downloads, canopy closure measurements, and vegetation surveys are expected to occur slightly behind schedule, but still within reasonable timeframes. During the July RSAG meeting, the group discussed 1) options about how to report the data (addendum to current report, separate report, etc.), and 2) ability of RSAG to make data reporting recommendation to CMER. RSAG recommends that the data should be included as an addendum to the current report. There was disagreement to the appropriateness of RSAG making this recommendation to CMER. RSAG agreed to continue the discussion about extended monitoring data at the upcoming CMER meeting.

BCIF Post-Harvest Report

- The CMER approved final report was delivered to Policy at their January 2020 meeting. They approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report, and a presentation will be given to the FP Board at their August meeting.

Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

- RSAG is considering a large woody debris project to inform LWD recruitment. RSAG is currently working on a draft charter and discussing the potential of including this with the Type F Effectiveness Project.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project

- Greg Stewart took on the task of completing the exploratory analysis and writing the first draft of the exploratory report. Jenelle Black took on the task of completing the DFC model runs and completing the final report for the exploratory project. She has revised the report a couple times based on the project team comments and the project team received the latest revised draft June 12th.
- Greg gave a presentation at the May RSAG meeting and RSAG received the exploratory report to review June 19. Comments are due to PM by July 17th and will be forwarded to Jenelle Black for revisions
- The project team will be meeting July 20th to initiate work on the BACI study design.

Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring Workshop

- RSAG prepared an Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring approach based on recommendations made at the November 2018 Policy meeting. This document was approved by CMER in March 2019 and presented to Policy at their October 2019 meeting. Policy asked RSAG/CMER to prepare a workshop on extensive monitoring to inform the approach.
- RSAG prepared an agenda for this workshop that was approved by RSAG and CMER at their February 2020 meetings and presented to Policy at their March 2020 meeting. At this meeting, Policy requested each caucus prioritize their top three focal questions for the workshop. It is anticipated they will bring their recommendations to the August Policy meeting.

- The UW contract was amended through FY 21 (it expired June 30, 2020) to extend the funding for Andrew Cooke to develop and give a presentation at the workshop if this is requested.

ISAG

Co-Chairs: Jason Walter, Cody Thomas

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

Water Typing Strategy

- Projects currently included in the Water Typing Strategy are: Default Physical Criteria Assessment (DPC), Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB), LiDAR Based Water Typing Model (LiDAR), and Fish/Habitat Detection Using eDNA (eDNA).
- DPC and LiDAR both have draft study designs, and PHB has a final, ISPR-approved study design. These three study designs were removed from the MPS as line items in April 2019 and tabled until a Water Typing Strategy could be determined.
- At the Nov 5, 2019 WFPB meeting, the Board passed a motion to: “Recommend the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) to develop study designs for the PHB validation, physical characteristics, and map based Lidar model studies. Design the studies for cost savings, including the phasing of the studies with eastern Washington to be initiated first, and the possibility and advisability of combining the PHB validation, physical characteristics and map based Lidar model studies, and then to report on the study designs to the Board by their May, 2020 meeting”. CMER voted that ISAG should lead the response to the motion and develop a CMER-based Water Typing Strategy.
- ISAG drafted a framework for the water typing strategy during a subgroup meeting in early March. They discussed strategy and project elements, definitions, needs, and limitations. Each study design will be discussed in detail by the full group in late March. A memo containing an update on the water typing strategy was drafted by ISAG, approved by CMER in April, and presented to the Board on May 13, 2020.
- ISAG has formed a subgroup to work on PHB and DPC study designs in FY21. They initiated work on the study designs during their first meeting in July.

eDNA Pilot Study

- ISAG reviewed the eDNA pilot report in January and discussed comments during their February meeting. Comments were retained, modified, or removed by consensus. The group voted to request edits from Brooke Penaluna, P.I. and moved the document with embedded comments to CMER for concurrent review in February, at which time \$5,500 was requested and approved to complete the work. CMER review was completed, but the motion to return the document to the Brooke did not pass in April. The dispute resolution process was initiated, with the first meeting held on May 15, 2020. CMER members then agreed to send the report back to Brooke and Eszter M. is currently working with her to negotiate a contract to do the work.

WFPA Smart Buffers

- At the June CMER meeting, CMER voting members decided to complete a concurrent review of the proposed study design for the WFPA smart buffer project. They assigned 3 formal CMER reviewers and opened the concurrent review to CMER and all SAGs. Comments are due to the project manager by July 23rd.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

Hard Rock Extended

- ISPR comments have been returned to PIs/authors and work to respond to comments and edits are underway.
- The Executive Editor at ISPR agreed to the recommendations from the PIs and authors on how to fix the formatting concerns from ISPR.

Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- Charter was approved at the January CMER meeting and delivered to Policy at their February meeting.
- Contract has been executed and work on gathering references and CMER work related to this project has begun.
- First team meeting will be held in July and an updated Charter with proposed team members will be coming to CMER in August.

Hard Rock Phase III – Amphibians Demographics

- The extended sampling prospective 6 questions proposal was approved at the May CMER meeting.
- Policy approved the request to complete extended monitoring and provided funding within the MPS for data collection to begin in FY 22.

Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Bob Danehy, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Manaster, Jenelle Black.

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint, Heather Gibbs (Field Coordinator)

- Seasonal water sample data collection was completed in March.
- Annual tub draining and data collection equipment maintenance began on July 13th, with training being completed by USFS RMRS staff on July 13th and 14th.
- A contract amendment was executed with West Fork Environmental to complete two specific maintenance items while they are on-site completing the tub draining and sediment weighing. The two maintenance items are the replacement of all tipping bucket axles with a rust resistant stainless steel alloy and the installation of bump stops on each tipping bucket to prevent the significant damage to the tipping buckets that was seen during the previous data collection season. Similarly, a direct buy contract with West Fork was executed to have them fabricate the replacement axles and bump stops for installation under their contract amendment.
- Water sample testing resumed the week of June 15th following a 3 month gap due to a COVID-19 based closure at the DOE lab in Manchester. All water samples that were delivered to the lab prior to its closure have been tested and the results were provided to the project team. All year one monthly lab results have been received by the project team.
- Site maintenance checks were completed in late June and early July. Only one major issue was found; whereby, 3 sites had data loggers vandalized and will need to be replaced. To help mitigate

this issues, the data loggers from all sites that are not behind locked gates will have the data loggers removed for the summer and they will be reinstalled prior to beginning year 2 data collection in October/November.

- Some samples were collected at sites with full SST tanks during the site maintenance checks. These samples were transported to the Manchester Lab at the beginning of July.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, all Public Works contracting was delayed to the fall. Work has already begun on the contracting required to complete the public works, as they will require substantial posting and contract bidding procedures under public works contracting laws.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, the parameterization experiments did not begin in March and have been delayed until next spring.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by CMER science staff. The next round of surveys will be completed following the completion of the fall Public Works contract.
- Preliminary data reduction and analysis is being completed by project team members following QA/QC.
- Following the tub weight data collection in July, the PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with a science presentation, at their August Meeting, to review the results from year 1 of data collection.

Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Dan Miller, Ted Turner, Greg Stewart (CMER Staff)

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

- Implementation is on-going for project # 2 “Object-based Landform Mapping...” The implementation is being completed by CMER Staff with some technical assistance, primarily in the generation and provision of algorithms and pro-python scripts to assist in the mapping efforts. Data analysis is expected to be completed by the end of the summer with a draft findings report provided by CMER staff to the project team for review in October/November.
- Due to the budgetary decisions made in connection with the AMP budget cut, a contract amendment was executed to remove the drafting of the study design for phase 3 of the criteria project “...shallow landslide susceptibility...”. The intent was to get the phase 3 study design completed by a contractor while CMER staff was focused on implementation of phase 2 to speed up the criteria project. However, the funding was removed and thus we will not be able to have overlapping activities within the Criteria project.
- UPSAG has agreed to pick up the slack from the budget reduction and will form a sub-group to begin working on the study design for phase 3 upon confirmation of the landform mapping techniques from the CMER scientist. This is anticipated to begin in September or October.

PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

- Several meetings were held with CMER reviewers to discuss and resolve comments that were received during the CMER review of Ch. 8 of the PSM. The last meeting was held June 19th and final revisions were agreed to. A final review by the reviewers was due July 14th with no additional revisions received. The document will be distributed for approval at the July CMER meeting.

CMER Work Plan Improvement Group

AMP Support: Heather Gibbs

- The Workgroup met and discussed the work plan and possible improvements that could be considered.
- The group is reviewing the work plan document and will be meeting again in late July or early August.
- A decisions was made to focus on two separate efforts. The first is the revision (if needed) of the CMER work plan ahead of the planned biennial update this fall. The second is to create a document that can better transfer information from the CMER work plan to Policy, in an effort to provide something to Policy that is more functional for their needs.