

# CMER SAG UPDATES

April 2020

## WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

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### Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- **Prospective Six Questions for FWEP Study Design:** WetSAG and Four Peaks drafted the Six Questions document and submitted for CMER approval in February. Revisions were requested and have been completed. WetSAG will re-submit a revised document for CMER approval in April.
- **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 will submit the Literature Review document and webmap tool to CMER for a 30-day review in April. The contractor is expected to present to Policy in June.
- **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 FY22. The group will discuss other implementation topics at their next meeting (April 29), including specific site selection tasks and potential Project Team members.

### Wetland Mapping Tool (Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool; WIP)

- UW and Terrainworks are currently working on WIP and updates on their own.
- Funds for completion of WIP deliverables and presentations have been approved at both CMER and Policy. UW will be contracted to finalize both Phase I and Phase II deliverables and complete this project by fall 2020 once the budget from Policy has been amended.

### Wetlands Management Zone

- A subgroup has been formed to consolidate previous work and begin the scoping process. WetSAG will explore opportunities to make progress on scoping prior to the hiring of a CMER Wetland Scientist during their meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

## UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

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### Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- Continued work on a Scoping Document for the Landslide Mapping & Classification Project (4.5 – 4.6 DSL Strategy). Deliverable anticipated to be provided to CMER for the 30 day review in the June mailing. Great progress has been made in the last few months, delivery to CMER in the June mailing seems very likely.

## 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

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## Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The Project team is working on the alternatives analysis for the scoping document and development of the preferred alternative. Malia Volke has joined the project team and is taking a lead role in revising the scoping document.
- The SAG has reviewed the project charter and approved it at their April meeting. It will come to CMER for approval at the April meeting.

## Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- **Northern Rockies Ecoregion Sites:**
  - All six sites were visited to collect stream sediment samples, replace batteries, download data, perform site maintenance, clean flumes and turbidity sensors.
  - Benthic invertebrate processing and identification continues. Stream sediment samples are being processed. Preparations are beginning for the upcoming field season such as personnel hiring and refining data QA/QC and field protocols.
- **Eastern Cascades Slopes & Foothills and Northern Cascades Ecoregion Sites:**
  - The project team prioritized six replacement basin pairs due to the loss of the Rattlesnake Ridge and Sedge Ridge basin pairs. Permission has been received from IEP to include one of these basins pairs in the study, it just needs to be validate in the field once it's accessible. The other five basin pairs are not viable due largely to containing non-merchantable timber or being included in an existing harvest unit where unit boundaries cannot be adjusted.
- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest. Access agreements have been secured for all but one basin pair.
- Two contracts are finalized for WestFork; one for a stream protocol survey (\$5,436) in one of the Coxit basins and one for fabricating two flumes (\$38K) for the Coxit basin pairs.
- The project team continues to revise budget estimates for FY 21 and beyond. The project is estimated to go into FY 28 due to the delay in finding East Cascade basin pairs.

## Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Currently at ISPR in review. Expected to be returned to Contractor for response in spring 2020. Additional funding request to complete the ISPR process was approved by CMER at their January meeting.

## RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic, Eszter Munes

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### Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring

- CMER has completed review of the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Model Transferability Testing final report that was developed by UW. Andrew Cooke gave a presentation and the final report was approved by CMER at their January 2020 meeting.
- RSAG approved the 6 questions document and it will come to CMER for approval at their April 2020 meeting. If approved, Andrew Cooke will give a presentation at the May 2020 Policy meeting.

### Hardwood Conversion Report

- The findings report and a presentation was given to the FP Board at their February meeting. RSAG is discussing the potential for additional Hardwood Conversion research.

### 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 May 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

- At the February RSAG meeting, they discussed the latest revised study plan from Siskowet and how to resolve the remaining issues in the document. Siskowet is no longer working on revising the document. RSAG will need to make any necessary revisions to the study plan to prepare it to go to ISPR. During this discussion, it was recommended that a study design for Alternative 2 from the scoping document not be pursued. At the February 2020 CMER and the March 2020 Policy meetings, it was approved to develop a study plan for only Alternative 1 and to drop Alternative 2.
- A RSAG workgroup is working on resolving the remaining issues and revising the study plan for only Alternative 1.

### 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.

### BCIF Post-Harvest Report

- CMER approved the final report at the October 22, 2019 meeting. The 6 questions document was approved by RSAG at the November 15, 2019 meeting. This document was distributed to CMER for review and approval at the December 17, 2019 CMER meeting.
- Dave Schuett-Hames gave a project presentation at the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 TFW Policy meeting. 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 May meeting.

### Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

- It was proposed that RSAG consider a large woody debris project that addresses LWD recruitment. RSAG is currently working on a draft charter and scoping.

### Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project

- The short-term capacity issue with Emily and Dave leaving has been resolved with CMER staff but the project team and RSAG continue to discuss how to fill the longer-term needs to scope and design the experimental study once the exploratory report is completed. Chris Mendoza has rejoined the project team to assist with finishing the exploratory report and designing the experimental study.
- 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 based on the project team comments and the project team is currently reviewing the new draft. It is anticipated that RSAG will receive both the exploratory report to review and a presentation of the material at the May meeting.

### 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 June Policy meeting.

## ISAG

Co-Chairs: Jason Walter, Cody Thomas

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

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### 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 to the Board has been drafted and will be submitted for CMER review in April.

### eDNA Pilot Study

- ISAG reviewed the eDNA pilot report in January and the group 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. If the comments are approved, ISAG will request a contract agreement with the P.I., pending the availability of \$5,500 of CMER-approved funds.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

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### Hard Rock Extended

- A section of the Hard Rock Phase II report was returned from ISPR on April 10, 2020. PI's will work with the AMPA and PM to get any clarification on editors' comments before May 10th.

### Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- Charter was approved at the January CMER meeting and delivered to Policy at their February meeting.
- Draft SOW with DFW has been created and is being reviewed with the PM and DFW. Work is expected to commence in late spring 2020.

## Extended Sampling – Amphibians Demographics

- LWAG will be piloting this request for extended sampling from the Hard Rock study through the new Extended Monitoring process that was approved last summer by CMER and Policy. The first step is to revise/generate a prospective six questions report. This report was approved at LWAG in April and is being reviewed by CMER with comments due to PM by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Bob Danehy, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Manaster  
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint, Heather Gibbs (Field Coordinator)

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- Seasonal water sample data collection was completed in March. Field technicians completed the fix of a broken tipping bucket and completed other site maintenance activities.
- Planning has begun for the June data collection effort. In June the project team will syphon the large tubs and weigh/sample all of the sediment that has collected at the bottom of the tubs across the data collection season. West Fork Environmental is under contract to complete the actions at the direction of the USFS RMRS staff.
- Water sample testing has been postponed due to a COVID-19 based closure at the DOE lab in Manchester. This closure also includes the processing, summarization and reporting of results from water sample testing that has already been completed. The lab is in possession of all samples collected to date.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19 the project team chose to delay all Public Works contracting until the fall. With the delay, we will be able to achieve some cost synergies by combining the site fix and installation public works project with the general pre-data collection road maintenance public works contract that was already planned for the fall.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19 the parameterization experiments did not begin in March and have been delayed until next spring. This delay will have two side benefits. The first is that a delay will provide additional time for the project team to finalize and present to CMER the methodologies for the individual parameterization experiments. The second is that the delay will reduce the needed funding for the Biennium allowing for a contribution to be made from the roads project to the budgeting crisis.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by CMER science staff.
- Water sample suspended sediment data has started to arrive with some preliminary data analysis being completed following QA/QC.

## Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team

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

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- Implementation is on-going for project # 2 “Object-based Landform Mapping...”. Contract work has been delayed due to the cancellation of the eCognition training but will begin, pending budgetary decisions, in late April/early May.
- The prospective 6 questions document was presented to Policy at their March meeting.
- The current contract with Dan Miller also covers the drafting of the study design for project #3 “Shallow Landslide Susceptibility...” A completed *initial* draft of the study design is expected to be

presented to the Sag/Project Team by their June meeting. This action could be delayed and/or cancelled pending the finalization of the revised MPS.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

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- The report was distributed at the September 24, 2019 CMER meeting to initiate review. CMER comments were received and Teresa and Ash Roorbach incorporated those comments along with recommendations based on discussions on how to incorporate several of the comments. The PSM workgroup and CMER reviewers are reviewing the revised document.