

CMER SAG UPDATES

February 2024

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield (WMZ/FWEP)

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- Spring field work is ongoing.
 - Data downloads, data QAQC and water quality analysis from instrumented sites is ongoing and will continue for the next two water years.
 - Hemispherical photography is complete for 2023, will be repeated in summer 2024.
 - WetSAG is looking into contracting options for upcoming forest and vegetation surveys.

Wetlands Management Zone

- Policy approved the WMZ Charter at the May 2023 meeting, with the expectation that any lingering questions and comments be addressed during the scoping process.
- Scoping is ongoing, WetSAG is currently reviewing the first draft.

UPSAG

Chairs: Jennifer Parker (new Chair) & Mike Maudlin AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Rachel Pirot, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The DSL Mapping and Landform Classification Study Design was approved by CMER and sent to ISPR at the September CMER meeting. A response from ISPR was received in November, the contractor, BGC, Inc, has responded to ISPR comments. The project team reviewed BGCs responses and requested some further edits. The document was returned to ISPR on February 9th.
- The Project Team is developing the Prospective 6 Questions and Project Management Plan Documents.

Unstable Slope Criteria Project

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Dan Miller, Ted Turner, Jeff Keck, Elise Freeman,
Susan Shaw, Tiffany Justice

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The Object-Based Landform Mapping with High-Resolution Topography Study mapping is ongoing. The report is currently being rewritten by the Criteria Project Team and UPSAG. Some analysis comparing manual mapping to computer mapping has begun. Project is slightly delayed due to the manual mapping.
- The Study Design for Empirical Evaluation of Shallow Landslide Susceptibility and Frequency by Landform (Project 3) and Empirical Evaluation of Shallow Landslide Runout (Project 4) received final approval at the September CMER meeting. The Prospective 6 Questions document was approved at the December CMER meeting. Implementation has begun, but most people power is focused on Project 2.
- The Charter revision was approved at the January meeting.
- The Project Management Plan revision was approved at the February UPSAG meeting and is up for approval at the February CMER meeting.

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo (ENREP), Jenny Schofield (ETHEP, Eastside Forest Health)

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The ISPR-approved study design was approved by CMER in November and delivered to Policy in December. Ben Spei presented an overview of the project to Policy.
- CMER approved the Prospective 6 Questions document, and the document will be delivered to Policy in the April mailing.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- Due to logistical complications, the Fish Creek harvest will be completed in 2024, a year later than originally planned. The Project Team is discussing the budgetary and timeline implications of this delay. The Project Team is also discussing the possibility of extending monitoring of some metrics across all sites. The Project Team is developing a memo discussing these items and any proposed budgetary and timeline adjustments. This will be discussed at SAGE's March meeting.

Eastside Forest Health Strategy

- SAGE is currently working to develop the full Eastside Forest Health Strategy after approval of strategy guidance document in Spring 2023.
- Rachel is currently gathering literature and geospatial datasets for a preliminary analysis.

RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Anna Toledo (RCS, Riparian Function Literature Synthesis), Alexander Prescott (Westside Type F, Extensive Monitoring)

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- PI Rachel Rubin is coordinating with Weyerhaeuser for implementation at two sites within the

Northwest Coast ecoregion this summer. Plot layout has been completed at both sites.

- Rachel presented an overview of the RCS project and a pilot rule request to the Forest Practices Board in February. The Forest Practices Board approved the pilot rule request to implement the RCS experimental harvest treatments at two sites (plus a backup site) this year.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- The Final Exploratory Report was approved by CMER and was sent to ISPR for review. The project team received the ISPR response on January 25th, 2023. Revisions, including a clean and markup version of the revised report, comment matrix, and summary letter were due back to ISPR by 3/10/23. This due date, and multiple subsequent targeted due dates have not been met and the report continues to be significantly delayed. The project team intended to complete and resubmit the necessary documents back to ISPR by end of the 2023, however that deadline was not met, and a new targeted completion date has not been provided.

Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Riparian Vegetation and Stream Temperature, Type F/N Westside and Eastside Project

- The ExMo Project Team continues to make headway on scoping the project through preliminary GIS analyses, conversations of fundamental design criteria, and evaluating critical questions and the measurements necessary to provide scientifically robust answers.
- The PT drafted and delivered a final draft of the revised critical questions to RSAG in February for their consideration. RSAG again provided limited, but valuable, feedback which the project team will consider.
- The PT will now focus on making progress on scoping document development while also considering the option of an interim PI which was recommended at the February FP Board meeting.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- The Riparian Function Literature Synthesis is in RSAG review. RSAG provided initial comments on August 11, 2023. The authors responded to comments and returned the document to RSAG in December 2023. RSAG identified comments that had not been adequately addressed and returned the document with follow-up comments to the authors in January. The authors are addressing the follow-up comments and will return the document to RSAG in March.

ISAG

Co-Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- In December, CMER directed ISAG to winnow the proposed Project Team and work on the technical summary for TFW Policy that clarifies how the AFF Validation Study would best fit as a companion or add-on study to the existing PHB Study. ISAG will present a proposed Project Team makeup to CMER in February and the requested technical summary in March.

Water Typing Strategy

- Projects currently included in the Water Typing Strategy are: Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB), Default Physical Criteria Assessment (DPC), LiDAR Based Water Typing Model (LiDAR), and Fish/HabitatDetection Using eDNA (eDNA).
- The PHB Project Team has initiated desktop site selection. The Project Team has been discussing the need for a PI and has made outreach to gauge the interest of potential PI candidates.
- The DPC Project Team is working on the DPC Study Design and expects to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in spring 2024.
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. is supporting ISAG with statistical consultation for the PHB and DPC Study Designs.
- ISAG is looking for a new Co-Chair.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre AMP

Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Hard Rock

- The Phase III Amphibian Demographics project is in implementation. The first of two field seasons of amphibian demographic sampling has been completed at all historic Type N Study sites.
- Field work to support the second amphibian demographic sampling season began in July 2023 and concluded September 2023.

Discontinuous Np Surface Flows

- The Scoping Document is under development Summer 2023, with anticipated delivery to CMER in Spring 2024.
- The Charter will be updated to reflect Project Team changes and any other relevant changes, including updating the timeline.

Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Alvis, Jenelle Black.

AMP Project Manager: Alexander Prescott

- The Project Team has begun to build an outline for the 2024 interim report, projected to be completed in June.
- The PT completed the turbidity element of the Short Time Scale Interaction Experiment but was unable to complete the pumping element due to inclement weather (frozen roads). Final decisions on whether we will try to re-run the experiment again depend on pending data analysis.
 - The “STS” Experiment will improve our understanding and ability to model traffic impacts during discrete rain events. Knowledge about the short-time scale will inform

our recommendations about seasonal haul restriction.

- The PT is in the early stages of collaborating with Neptune and Company, Inc (using the AMP Statistician Contract) to develop a work order to process traffic camera and count data using machine learning.
- The PT is working on executing a new access agreement for some of our project sites after a land ownership change.
- The PT reviewed footage of a new break in attempt at our Toutle Pipeyard storage area. New locks stopped the would-be thief from succeeding, although the lock was damaged and needed replacing. Newly installed cameras captured the event but did not provide any identifiable suspect details beyond very basic demographics.
- The PT is addressing continued vandalism at a recurring problem site (culvert and surfacing rock were previously stolen, now tipping bucket housing and counter broken), and are considering “abandoning” the site due to ongoing issues.
- The PT continues to work on numerous data analyzation efforts related to microtopography, flow imputation, flow calibration, turbidity, suspended sediment concentration, etc.
- Amanda Alvis’ paper has been published, *Using additional roughness to characterize erosion control treatment effectiveness in roadside ditch lines*
 - <http://doi.org/10.1002/esp.5763>
- The PT expects that additional project funding will be needed to complete the scheduled and necessary activities of FY24. Alexander plans to share supporting details in the CMER meeting.

Anticipated Documents for CMER Consideration/Review Next 12 Months						
Project Name	Document Type	Project Manager	Science Lead/PI	Oversight Committee	Original Anticipated Date	Anticipated Date of Delivery
Unstable Slopes Criteria Project - Landform Mapping	Final Report	Henkel	Elise Freeman (CMER)	UPSAG	Feb- 2023	Feb-2024
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	Final ISPR-Approved Report	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	Mar-23	TBD
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	CMER Six Questions Document	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	Mar-23	TBD
DPC	Study Design	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Feb-23	Spring-24
Discontinuous Np Surface Flows	Scoping	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)	LWAG	Sept -22	Spring-24
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	TBD	RSAG	Dec-24	Dec-24
Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	Interim Report/Presentation	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	CMER	Jun-24	Jun-24
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG		May-24
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis	Literature Synthesis	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Oct-23	Mar-24
Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy	Revised Study Design	Henkel	Elise Freeman (CMER)	UPSAG	July- 23	Feb – 24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Prospective 6 Questions	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	January-24	Feb-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	April-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						