

# CMER SAG UPDATES

September 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:** Approved by CMER in May 2020. Delivered to Policy in August 2020, however contractor did not present the document due to time constraints. Eszter Munes is available to answer questions upon request.
- **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.). Subgroup members have made progress on the document and expect to continue working on it through January 2021.

### Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool- WIP

- Contractor will attend WetSAG's October meeting to address members' remaining comments and seek their approval of 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.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, all funding for the WMZ project was delayed until FY 26 (study design) with implementation funding slated to begin in FY 28.

## UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

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### 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 approved by CMER at their August meeting.

- The Scoping document and the 6 questions document were presented to Policy for their review at their September meeting, with a target of gaining approval and having the selection of a preferred alternative being completed at Policy's October meeting.
- UPSAG is continuing to work on the initial outline and structure of the methodology within the study design. UPSAG will utilize their October meeting to complete a field review of a DSL cluster to better inform the development of a field protocol within the methodology. The current target is to have a draft study design prepared for SAG review at their June 2021 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

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### Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- A completed draft of the scoping document was reviewed by the Project Team and their comments were incorporated into the document. SAGE began their review of the scoping document during their August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, comments were due by September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Comments provided during SAGE review of the scoping document were discussed along with agreeing to a preferred alternative at the September 8<sup>th</sup> SAGE meeting. The scoping document was approved at the September 8<sup>th</sup> SAGE meeting.
- CMER review of the scoping document will be initiated at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> CMER meeting.

### Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- Second year pre-treatment data collected to date by the University of Idaho at the Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale basins includes: stream temperatures, large woody debris, hemi photos, densiometer measurements, sediment delivery, and wetted stream widths. Stream cross-section measurements have also been completed. Continuous automated sampling of streamflow, turbidity, suspended sediment, and meteorological data is also ongoing.
- Utah State University completed spring and summer benthic invertebrate sampling at the Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale basins.
- WCC crew trail clearing at the Fish Creek site is complete.
- West Fork Environmental completed flume installations at the Coxit and Fish Creek sites.
- Discussions have been initiated with IEP and Hancock regarding harvest layout and timing for Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale sites
- Hydrometeorological stations and SedEvent Systems are installed at the Coxit sites Installation is currently taking place at the Fish Creek sites and should be complete by the end of September.

### Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- ISPR approved the EMEP report in September 2020.
- Contractor is finalizing the deliverables to be delivered to CMER for final approval in possibly October.

- Plan is to finalize this project in late 2020.

## RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic (BTO, RCS), Eszter Munes (Soft Rock, Type F, LWD), Ben Flint (Extensive, Smart Buffer, SFLO)

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### 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 was given to the FP Board at their August meeting.
- The Board recommended no further action be taken on the BTO Add-on Report at this time.
- A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study is still under consideration by TFW Policy.

### Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- A RSAG workgroup has been working on resolving the remaining issues and revising the study plan to prepare it for ISPR.
- Malia Volke revised the study design based on the workgroup discussions and recommendations. The workgroup reviewed a revised draft of the study plan and provided comments August 17<sup>th</sup>. Malia revised the study plan and it was sent to RSAG September 2<sup>nd</sup> to initiate review with comments due by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Jeremy Groom has been hired to provide statistical expertise on specific questions that remain regarding study design elements.

### 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. Chapter Three, Riparian Stand Structure and Wood Recruitment, was returned for revisions on August 11th. Chapter 7, Benthic Macroinvertebrates was returned August 24th. Additional chapters are expected back sometime in September.
- **Extended Monitoring:** Ecology staff gained approval to move forward with field work in May, putting tasks slightly behind schedule but still within reasonable timeframes. Vegetation data collection is nearing completion, and will be followed by fall temperature downloads.
  - 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 July meeting. Further discussion may take place prior to a formal CMER recommendation to Policy, expected in spring 2021.

### 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.
- At the September 9<sup>th</sup> RSAG meeting it was agreed to send the charter with comments provided so far to the Type F project team for them to discuss if this could be integrated into the Type F Effectiveness Project. RSAG will discontinue work on this project until recommendations from the Type F project team come back if integration is feasible.

### 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 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Greg gave a presentation at the May RSAG meeting and RSAG received the exploratory report to review June 19. Comments were returned to Jenelle Black in July and revisions are nearly complete. Final RSAG review and revisions are planned for October, and delivery to CMER in October or November.
- The project team met in July to initiate work on the BACI study design. The team is currently working on refining study questions. An RSAG reviewed and approved study design is expected to be delivered to CMER in early 2022.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, all funding for the implementation of the Westside Type F project was delayed until FY 25. The project team will continue to work on the study design and other project elements utilizing internal resources in the interim.

### 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. Policy has delayed the discussion on this matter to a later date, due to time and budget constraints.
- 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

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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.
- Following the Nov 5, 2019 FP Board meeting, CMER, and subsequently ISAG, were tasked with developing water typing study designs. 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. 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, focusing first on PHBs. As of September, development of PHB's is ongoing.

### 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. DNR and USFS signed off on a contract on August 28<sup>th</sup> and she has initiated work on revisions. The revised report and all data associated with the study will be returned by December 1, 2020. .

### WFPA Smart Buffers

- All comments on the study design were received by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The comments were incorporated into a redline draft of the document and a comment matrix was generated. Both items were provided to the Author for review. The author anticipates a revised draft will be provided to CMER at their September meeting.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

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### 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

- The revised Charter, including team members, was approved by CMER at their August meeting. The working title for the project is “Water Temperature and Amphibian Use in Type Np Waters with Discontinuous Surface Flow Project”.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, funding for this project will continue through the completion of a scoping document in FY 21. Funding for the completion of the study design and subsequent implementation has been delayed until FY 25.

### 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)

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- Seasonal water sample data collection was completed in March and will resume again in October/November.
- Annual tub draining and data collection equipment maintenance began on July 13<sup>th</sup> and was completed at the end of August. Data collection QA/QC is on-going and data will be provided to the project team as the QA/QC is completed.
- The tipping bucket retrofitting to replace the axles and install bump stops has been attempted at all sites. Over the course of the retrofits, there have been 5 sites found, where the tipping buckets were damaged beyond repair and will need to be replaced prior to having the retrofits installed. The team had 3 tipping buckets on hand and they have been replaced (complete with the retrofits). There are an additional two tipping buckets that will be replaced (one is in Boise and will be delivered during field work in September and another is in Forks and needs the bucket ends pressed). There were additional sites that had spider cracking that was moderate enough that the retrofits were installed but additional maintenance will be needed to reinforce the tipping bucket prior to the data collection season. A fish plate that distributes the load across a larger surface area will be installed at those site to ensure tipping bucket efficacy. The tipping buckets that were replaced will have a new base plate installed and will become the new “spare” tipping buckets moving forward.
- All year one monthly sample lab results have been received by the project team.
- Some additional samples were collected at sites with full SST tanks during the site maintenance checks completed by West Fork as part of the sediment weighing operations. These samples were transported to the Manchester Lab at the beginning of August.
- All water samples for year one data collection (including those taken during tub measurements) will be provided to the project team by the Manchester lab in late September.

- The road maintenance activities that were being planned to be completed via a public works contract for the Volcanic province are no longer going to occur via a public works contract. The Pacific Cascade Region DNR heavy equipment crew has committed to completing the Volcanic province maintenance work by the end of November. There will still be a limited public works contract that will occur for the Siltstone region, but with its limited scope compared to what was planned for Volcanic, the contracting will be far simpler and will not require prolonged delays to complete the work. Both provinces should have the maintenance work completed prior to the end of November.
- A field effort by the project team and AMP staff will occur the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> to stabilize the base of the tipping buckets ahead of the data collection season. This will involve the building of “garden box style” platforms made of 4x4 pressure treated lumber and crushed rock. This will work to stabilize the sites where the tipping buckets notoriously would get out of balance which, if not fixed, would cause impacts in the ability to collect data.
- A proto-type design to cover the troughs was tested during the last part of the data collection season in an attempt to prevent the troughs from getting packed with rock and sediment. The trough covers worked very well and the project team will be putting out an RFQQ to have them built. Current budget constraints will only allow for the covers to be installed at the high-traffic sites where the covers will be most effective.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, the parameterization experiments did not begin in March and have been delayed until spring 2021.
- 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 August, the PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with a science presentation, at their October or November 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

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- 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 this year with a draft findings report provided by CMER staff to the project team for review in February/March.
- UPSAG has agreed to 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 January or February.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

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- 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 19<sup>th</sup> and final revisions were agreed to. A final review by the reviewers was due July 14<sup>th</sup> with no additional revisions received.
- Chapter 8 was approved by CMER at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Next steps for additional work on the PSM were discussed by the workgroup August 21<sup>st</sup> and recommendations will be brought to the September 22<sup>nd</sup> CMER meeting.
- Jacob Hibbeln is working on incorporating the approved chapter 8 into the PSM.

## CMER Work Plan Improvement Group

AMP Support: Heather Gibbs

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- The Workgroup met and discussed the work plan and possible improvements that could be considered.
- With the Work Plan update looming, the focus will be first to have SAGs update current projects in September and October. These updates will be presented to CMER at the October, November, and December meetings for approval. After the update, the Workgroup can plan for possible improvements to the document.

## Small Forest Landowner PI – Outside science review

AMP Support: Ben Flint

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- The small forest landowner PI outside science review was provided to CMER at their July meeting. CMER designated formal reviewers to review the Author's draft responses to the six questions. Reviews of the drafted six questions document and the completion of the responses is anticipated to be provided to CMER at their October meeting.