

# CMER SAG UPDATES

October 2020

## WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

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### Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- 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. They are currently determining variables to be measured, equipment needs, and site layout.

### Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool- WIP

- Contractor attended WetSAG's October meeting to discuss remaining comments on the Phase 2 Report. The SAG approved the document on the condition that a few, minor edits are made prior to submittal to CMER.
- The updated draft report will be sent out in the CMER's October meeting mailing and reviewers will be assigned at CMER.

### 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. Update to the project charter is in progress. 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 was approved by Policy at their October meeting. Policy selected the preferred alternative (alternative 2) for execution of the study.
- UPSAG completed a field visit to a DSL cluster in King Co. during their October meeting to help inform the field protocol within the study design. Work is continuing on study design development, with 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 approved at the September 8<sup>th</sup> SAGE meeting.
- CMER review of the scoping document was initiated at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> CMER meeting. CMER comments are due November 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Utah State University completed spring, summer, and fall 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 and Fish Creek 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 has worked with ISPR to complete changes necessary for ISPR approval. The ISPR approved report will be delivered to CMER at their October meeting.
- Final approval of the report is anticipated to occur at CMER's November meeting.

## 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. 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 and was approved at their August meeting.
- A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study is still under consideration by TFW Policy.

## Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- RSAG review of the revised study design was initiated September 2<sup>nd</sup> with comment due October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The study design has been revised to incorporate comments and it was sent back to the reviewers to review revisions on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeremy Groom has been hired to provide statistical expertise on specific questions that remain regarding study design elements. His input has been incorporated into the latest draft of the study design and are being reviewed by RSAG.

## Type N Soft Rock Final report

- **ISPR Review of Final Report:** 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:** Data collection for Spring – Fall 2020 has been completed. Crews are removing the last temperature sensors from sites in mid-Oct.
  - Extended monitoring data will be reported either as an addendum to the Final Report or as a separate report. CMER will make a formal recommendation to Policy after the data is presented, tentatively 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

- Comments were returned to Jenelle Black in July and revisions are nearly complete. Final RSAG review and revisions are planned for November, and delivery to CMER in November or December.
- 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). Following the Nov 5, 2019 FP Board meeting, CMER, and subsequently ISAG, were tasked with developing water typing study designs. 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 October, development of PHB's is ongoing.

### eDNA Pilot Study

- In May 2020, CMER agreed to send the eDNA Pilot Study back to Brooke, PI for revisions. DNR and USFS signed off on a contract on August 28<sup>th</sup> and Brooke has made progress addressing ISAG/CMER comments. The revised report and all data associated with the study will be returned by December 1, 2020.

### WFPA Smart Buffers

- The author provided a revised draft of the study design, along with answers to all comments in early October. The study design, completed comment matrix and an underline/strike-out draft was sent out to CMER on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The author plans to review changes made to the study design at the October CMER meeting.
- CMER will determine the deadline for reviewer responses to the second draft during their October meeting.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

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### Hard Rock Extended

- PIs/Authors are working to return comments/edits to ISPR by the end of October 2020.

### Amphibian in Discontinuous Type Np Waters

- 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".

## Hard Rock Phase III – Amphibians Demographics

- Policy approved the request to complete extended monitoring and provided funding within the MPS for data collection to begin in FY 22.
- Work will begin soon on completing a charter and project management plan for this phase of this project.

## 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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- The Pacific Cascade Region DNR heavy equipment crew is scheduled to begin road work on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Volcanic province.
- A limited public works contract is currently being reviewed internally to complete road maintenance activities for the Siltstone province by the end of November. Contract execution is targeted to occur by November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- A field effort by the project team and AMP staff occurred in late September to stabilize the base of the tipping bucket and tub at 7 high flow data collection sites that had significant issues in the previous data collection season.
- 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. Additional testing with more covers deployed in various locations will occur during the upcoming data collection season. Budget constraints will prevent the purchase and installation of the trough covers until next fiscal year.
- A proto-type design for splitting the flow at the high flow sites was installed and tested during the September field effort. The prototype reduces the flow by 1/6 of what the original system provided. This is a needed adjustment at the high flow sites as the excess flow causes the data loggers to max out during large rain events (causing a loss in data) and causes significant wear and tear on the equipment. During testing, the proto-type functioned very well. A contract will be executed to fabricate and install flow splitters at all 11 high flow sites.
- Year 1 annual data was provided to the project team in late September, data analysis is being completed by project team members.
- The PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with two science presentations, one concerning the current progress of the modeling effort and another to review the results from year 1 of data collection. These presentations will occur at the October and November meetings, respectively.

## 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...” Data analysis is expected to be completed by the end of 2020, with a draft findings report provided by CMER staff to the project team for review in February/March of 2021.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

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- Chapter 8 was approved by CMER at the July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Recommendations for additional work on the PSM were discussed by the workgroup August 21<sup>st</sup> and by CMER at the September 22<sup>nd</sup> CMER meeting. CMER decided to not pursue any additional revisions at this time and revisit next steps in January 2021.
- 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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- With the Work Plan update looming, the focus will be first to have SAGs update current projects in October and November. The updates will be presented to CMER at the October, November, and December meetings for approval. After the completing the biennial update, the workgroup will begin working on possible improvements to the document.

## Small Forest Landowner PI – Outside science review

AMP Support: Ben Flint

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- Reviews of the drafted six questions document and the completion of the responses is anticipated to be provided to CMER at their November meeting. A request will be made to Policy to extend the deadline by 30 days as reviewers continue to work on the structure and substance of the responses.