

# CMER SAG UPDATES

February 2020

## WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

---

### Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- FWEP Chronosequence Study Design was approved by ISPR and CMER in December 2019.
- WetSAG and Four Peaks contractor drafted a Prospective Six Questions document and seeking CMER approval at February's meeting. Depending on the need for revisions, the document is expected to be presented to Policy at their April meeting.
- In response to a need for regionally specific wetlands literature, Four Peaks contractor has produced a draft Wetlands Literature Review, with a complementary literature database and webmap tool. WetSAG reviewed and commented on the draft document in January.
- CMER approved additional funds (\$8,001) to finalize the deliverables and progress is pending contract amendment and execution. Contractor will address WetSAG comments in February-March. Deliverables are expected to be submitted for CMER 30-day review in March, seeking CMER approval in April, and presented to Policy in June.
- WetSAG will discuss ongoing UW and Four Peaks contractor roles, preliminary implementation planning, and Project Team formation at their March meeting.

### 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.
- Pending FWEP project implementation planning and project team formation, WetSAG and UW will discuss possibility of using WIP for site selection.

### Wetlands Management Zone

- A subgroup has been formed to consolidate previous work and begin the scoping process. Subgroup progress on these tasks will resume when the CMER Wetland Scientist is hired (~April).

## UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

---

### Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- Continued work on a draft Scoping Document & Alternatives for the Landslide Mapping & Classification Project (4.5 – 4.6). Deliverable anticipated to be provided to CMER at their June 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)

- Best Available Science (BAS) document has been reviewed by SAGE. The Project team is working on the alternatives analysis for the scoping document. This document will be sent to SAGE by March 16<sup>th</sup> for discussion at the March SAGE meeting
- Draft project charter is in SAG review. Comments are due to PM by March 9<sup>th</sup> for discussion at March SAGE meeting.

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

- **Northern Rockies Ecoregion Sites:**
  - Benthic invertebrate processing and identification continues. Stream sediment samples were collected and data are downloaded and are being processed.
- **Eastern Cascades Slopes & Foothills and Northern Cascades Ecoregion Sites:**
  - Due to the loss of the Rattlesnake Ridge and Sedge Ridge basin pairs, Policy requested the project team look for 2 additional basin pairs ideally in the East Cascades region but NE is also acceptable if that's where the only viable sites are located. Greg Stewart has provided GIS information to the project team for potential basin pairs. The project team has reviewed and prioritized 6 basin pairs. Tim Link and Teresa Miskovic are coordinating with landowners on potentially viable sites.
  - One of the prioritized basin pairs is located on IEP land near the Tripps basin pair and IEP is willing to include them in the study. These will need to be validated in the field once they are accessible.
- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest. Teresa has begun landowner access agreements
- The project team reviewed the FY 20 budget and it's estimated to decrease by \$140,000 due to the loss of basins. The project team continues to revise budget estimates for FY 21 and beyond

### Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Currently at ISPR in review. Expected to be returned to Contractor for response in February 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

---

### 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 is working on the 6 questions document and they are anticipated to come to CMER for approval at their March 2020 meeting.
- RSAG developed a project summary sheet for utilizing unspent FY 20 funds for the recommendations and budget estimates provided by Andrew Cooke regarding potential future work.

### Hardwood Conversion Report

- The 6 questions document was approved at the October 22, 2019 CMER meeting. The findings report package was delivered to TFW Policy for the October 31, 2019 meeting and Kevin Cedar gave a presentation on the project. At the December 5, 2019 Policy approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report package, 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

- CMER approved the final report at the October 22, 2019 meeting. The 6 questions document was approved at the November 15, 2019 RSAG meeting and was subsequently approved at the December 17, 2019 CMER meeting.
- Dave Schuett-Hames gave a presentation to Policy at their January meeting. At the February 2020 Policy meeting, they approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report package, 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

- A concurrent RSAG/CMER review of the study plan is in progress. Several rounds of reviews and revisions to the report have occurred in an attempt to address areas of disagreement between the reviewers and contractor. After several meetings between the PM, reviewers, contractor, and RSAG, disagreements remain with elements in the draft study plan. The contractor has concerns about components in the scoping document that reviewers feel are necessary to incorporate into the study plan before they can approve it.
- In an effort to move this forward, it was discussed at these meetings, that the contractor would revise the study plan to incorporate the previously agreed upon scoping document elements in the body of the report. However, they will also discuss the concerns they have with these design elements and explain the benefits of their alternative design recommendations in a section titled "data and analysis concerns". This approach and potential costs associated with it, was approved by RSAG and CMER at their January meeting.

- RSAG has received the revised study plan and Siskowett will no longer be working on revising the document. RSAG is working on making any necessary revisions to the study plan to prepare it to go to 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.

### Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring Type F – Westside (temp)

- The findings report package was delivered to TFW Policy at October 3, 2019 meeting along with a presentation from the PI. The findings report package was approved at the October 31, 2019 TFW Policy meeting with no recommended action. The findings report package and a presentation went to the FP Board at their February 2020 meeting.

### 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, 2019 TFW Policy meeting. The findings report package was approved at the November 2019 TFW Policy meeting with no recommended action. The findings report package and a presentation will go to the FP Board at their May 2020 meeting.

### Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

- It was proposed that RSAG consider a large woody debris project that addresses 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.
- Greg Stewart took on the task of doing the exploratory analysis and writing the draft report. The project team has reviewed the preliminary results and is currently reviewing the draft report
- Greg Stewart is moving on to work on other CMER projects and Jenelle Black will take on the task of doing the DFC model runs and completing the final report for the exploratory project. It is anticipated that RSAG will receive both the exploratory report to review and a presentation of the material at the March CMER 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.

## ISAG

Co-Chairs: Jason Walter, TBD

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

---

- Request for Co-chair is on-going

## 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.
- During the January ISAG meeting, members drafted a single, Water Typing Project Summary that included critical questions, objectives, and status, etc. for DPC, PHB, LiDAR, and eDNA. They discussed steps and information needed to develop a strategy.

## eDNA Pilot Study

- An eDNA pilot study has been completed (Brooke Penaluna – Principal Investigator) and a draft report was delivered for ISAG review in December 2019.
- ISAG members submitted comments on pilot study report to ISAG co-chair on February 4th; these will be the primary agenda item at the February ISAG meeting. Members will vote to submit pilot report to CMER or request that P.I. make revisions.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

---

## Hard Rock Extended

- The CMER approved report was submitted to ISPR on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019. ISPR is continuing to secure reviewers for this report review.

## Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- Charter was approved at 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 February or early March.

## 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)

---

- Data collection is on-going. With almost all sites reporting meaningful data. Some minor issues at a few sites are occurring. These are primarily related to excess water running through the system and faulty traffic counters/equipment. USFS Staff recently completed a week long maintenance trip where they fixed almost all issues with data collection equipment. Leaving only a handful of minor tasks to be completed by the contract field technician teams.
- Water samples are currently being tested via the direct-buy process. An inter-agency agreement (IAA) is being drafted to complete all future water sample testing at the Department of Ecology's Environmental Laboratory in Manchester, WA.
- Public works contracts are being scoped, drafted and put out to bid for both the Volcanics and Silt-stone provinces to complete all road related site maintenance fixes. Estimated contract execution is Mid- to Late-March.
- Parameterization experiments have been scheduled to begin the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>. The focus will be on either ditch-line hydraulics or the short time scale experiment depending on the weather conditions present during the week. CMER science staff is helping design and monitor the parameterization experiments.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by the CMER science staff.

## Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team

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

---

- Implementation began on project # 2 "Object-based Landform Mapping..." in February. Contract has been executed for the services of Dan Miller to assist CMER science staff with the implementation of the mapping project.
- Training on the eCognition program to be completed in March, after which the bulk of the implementation phase will be completed.
- The preliminary 6 questions document and the Implementation Plan are to be presented to CMER for approval in February for project #2.
- 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 by their June meeting.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

---

- The report was distributed at the September 24, 2019 CMER meeting to initiate review. CMER comments have been received and Teresa and Ash Roorbach are revising the document. A meeting with the reviewers and work group was held to discuss how to incorporate several of the comments received. Issues that need additional input from CMER prior to incorporating into the document will be discussed at the February CMER meeting.