

CMER SAG UPDATES

January 2025

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield (WMZ/FWEP)

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- Field work is ongoing.
 - Data downloads, data QAQC and water quality analysis from instrumented sites is ongoing and will continue until the end of water year 2025.
- Three recent land sales/ownership changes have affected several FWEP sites. The project Team is working with new ownership to continue ongoing monitoring throughout the duration of the project.

Wetlands Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring

- 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 has reviewed the first draft. Authors are continuing to develop the document based on current feedback from WetSAG.

UPSAG

Chairs: Jennifer Parker & Mike Maudlin

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker, Michael Maudlin, Jason Hinkle

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The contract with BGC for implementation has been executed.
- BGC will begin work gathering data, etc and a kickoff meeting with the Project Team is scheduled for February.
- UPSAG has begun discussions on the remaining projects in the DSL strategy, planning for what the next steps should be, focusing on groundwater recharge.

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 PT is focused on writing the final report. The report is delayed at the project team level but progress is being made.

- Implementation has begun on 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).

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

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

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The project Team completed all field work and in compiling and analyzing data.
- Ben Spei (PI) provided a check in to SAGE at the December SAGE meeting to discuss anticipated timeline and next steps.
- Project Team has begun developing the final report. Final report is due June 2025

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.
 - First ESFH work group meeting occurred after the November meeting. Rachel will continue to develop and analyze geospatial datasets.
 - Workgroup will continue meeting immediately following SAGE meetings to discuss next steps and strategy needs.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- 2024 field season has wrapped up and the project team is focusing on QA/QC of 2024 data and preparation for 2025.

RSAG

Co-Chairs: Joe Murray & Jenny Knoth

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

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- Rachel has identified two sites in the West Cascades ecoregion for implementation in summer 2025 and is working with the landowner on identifying 1-2 backup sites. A CR-101 request regarding the research work at these sites will be presented to the Forest Practices Board at their February meeting.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- Policy received the WTF Findings Report Package in their September meeting and in the November meeting, voted as follows:
 - Saboor Jawad moved that following TFW Policy's acceptance of the Westside Type F Exploratory Report and the agreement that the report does not warrant a rule change

by the FPB, the following actions will be taken:

- Request the AMPA to forward and facilitate a presentation by the PIs to the FPB.
- TFW Policy to initiate a dialogue with CMER on the Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project (ex. 25-27 CMER Work Plan 5.3.7.3).
 - Before TFW Policy initiates this conversation they intend to have additional conversations to assess critical questions and next steps. TFW Policy conversations will start after current disputes are resolved (month(s) time scale).
- Jenelle Black will deliver the report and a presentation to the FP Board on Feb. 14th.

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

- The ExMo Project Team (PT) continues to make headway on scoping the project through the development of the Scoping and BAS documents.
- The PT has received preliminary RSAG feedback on working drafts of both the BAS and Scoping Document in late 2024.
- The PT expects to deliver a final draft of the BAS to RSAG on 1/23, for a 30-day review.
- The PT expects to deliver a final draft of the Scoping Document to RSAG on 2/6, for a 30-day review. This deadline is more fluid depending on BAS revision scope and project team approval on a final draft.
- Assuming RSAG requests revisions to both documents, the PM anticipates that it may take until the April 9th RSAG meeting for vote to approve both documents. If approved in this RSAG meeting, the documents would arrive to CMER in the April mailing materials for the start of the CMER review period.

Riparian Function Literature Review

- At the October CMER meeting, CMER members expressed concern that details of some of the studies included in the literature review, particularly CMER studies, were not portrayed accurately. At the November CMER meeting, CMER decided to allow until January 30 for CMER reviewers to identify and correct any factual inaccuracies. The document will be returned to the authors before final CMER approval, expected in February 2025.

ISAG

Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- The AFF project team is working on drafting a Project Charter.

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/Habitat Detection Using eDNA (eDNA).

- DNR is working with Cramer Fish Sciences on the implementation of the PHB and DPC studies. The Project Team, including Cramer Fish Sciences, is working on landowner access and preparation for field work, including permitting and field manual development.
- The DPC Study Design is currently in ISPR.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Joint SAG/CMER review of Final Report completed.
- The Project Team completed revisions based on Reviewer input.
- The Final Report was submitted to CMER for consideration of approval at the January 2025 CMER meeting.

Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reaches

- Scoping document was approved at the September 2024 CMER meeting.
- Scoping Document was approved at the November 2024 TFW Policy meeting.
- Project Team continues Study Design development.

Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring

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

AMP Project Manager: Alexander Prescott

- The PT completed the development of a detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) for the GRAIP/WARSEM sediment delivery analysis and survey, the last of 6 parametrization experiments for the PT to implement. The DIP was approved by CMER in December 2024.
 - The project team is working with landowners to secure access agreements for the various road networks.
- Data collection for the final WY of the major experiment is ongoing. Continuous site maintenance/repair workload level is fairly high (replacing pendants, tipping bucket pieces, supports for hoses/culverts, etc.).
- The project team was prepared to run the final round of the Short Time Scale Experiment in early January, but we did not receive the required rainfall. We are looking to try again over the next 2 months.
- The project team is currently evaluating process options for decommissioning the 80 project

sites in Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties. We would like to hear from AMP participants on their:

- Recommendations for process including transportation, coordination, equipment/supplies, disposal/storage, etc.,
- Capacity to participate in the decommission, and/or
- Interest in receiving the retired equipment.
- Each of the 80 study sites has approximately:
 - 1-2 steel water bars/troughs. (17-feet long, 4.7" wide, 4" tall)
 - 1 metal sediment tub. (5' wide, 4' tall)
 - 1 tipping bucket and housing
 - 1 20-gal drum
 - A handful of other smaller hoses and pipes
 - 1 flume/flow splitter (only at about 10 sites).
- Preliminary process considerations:
 - DNR Pacific Cascade Region has offered to support the decommissioning.
 - Equipment needs: excavator, dump truck (for rock), dump truck or lowboy (for salvaged equipment), pickup truck (for tools, gear)?
 - When the water bars/ troughs are removed, they will need to be immediately filled with rock to ensure good working condition of road. We have access to commercial and private pits as needed.
 - Cross drain culverts, which will be kept in place, will need to be fitted with flex pipes and/or the platforms topped with rock to reduce erosion concerns on the out-slope. Exact process tbd pending landowner discussions.
 - We have temporary storage sites available in Aberdeen and Toutle

Schedule L-1 Revision

3 Groups:

Wetlands

Riparian – Shade, Riparian Condition, Litterfall, Instream LWD

Instream – Pool Frequency, Pool Depth, Peak Flows, Fines in Gravel

- Each group consists of 3 experts, one CMER Scientist and Theryn Henkel is the PM for all groups.
- The Wetlands group had their kick-off meeting on November 14th and had their second meeting in mid January.
- The riparian and instream groups had their kickoff meetings in early January and both groups set up a regular meeting schedule to make progress on their assigned Performance Targets.

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	Mar 25
DPC	Study Design – Final CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Mar-25	Mar-25
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Apr-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Apr-25
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Riparian Function Literature Review	Literature Review – CMER approval	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Aug-24	Feb-25
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	Dec-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Charter Update	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	July-24	Jan-25
The Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics- Revised	Final Report-Revised	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre	LWAG	Sept.-24	Jan.-25
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						