

CMER SAG UPDATES

October 2024

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield (WMZ/FWEP)

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- WetSAG hosted a field trip with 6 attendees in the Central Cascades to examine how wetland hydrology, vegetation composition, and timber stand characteristics differed from study sites used in the FWEP - Chronosequence Study.
- 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.
 - Hemispherical photography and vegetation surveys are completed summer of 2024. Hemispherical photography will be repeated in summer 2025.

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, Rachel Pirot, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- We received one response to the RFQQ from BGC Engineering. The PT has accepted them as the apparent successful bidder and we are moving into developing a SOW and contracting.
- UPSAG has begun discussions on the remaining projects in the DSL strategy, planning for what the next steps should be.

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. Aim to have it available for concurrent UPSAG/CMER review at the end of October.

- 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 is assembling datasets and setting up the landscape classification analysis workflow.
- The project team will continue to gather field site data through the end of the year.
- SAGE reviewed the Project Management Plan and will vote for approval to send to CMER at the next SAGE 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 presented to SAGE at the October meeting and SAGE has decided to reconvene a workgroup to continue discussing and working towards development. The work group will begin meeting immediately following the SAGE meetings starting in November.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- Chuck Hawkins and Daniel Nelson will be presenting at the [Society for Freshwater Science Pacific Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting](#) in late October. The presentation will include preliminary pre-harvest aquatic life results from the ENREP sites. It will compare and contrast biodiversity patterns across basins based on traditional benthic samples and e-DNA samples and relate them to environmental differences among the basins.

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 led a post-harvest field trip to one of the sites implemented in 2024.
- Rachel is analyzing the 2024 data and working on site identification for implementation in the West Cascades ecoregion in summer 2025.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- Policy received the WTF Findings Report Package in their September meeting and in the October meeting, voted to take action in response to the findings report. This vote to take action starts a process and timeline defined in Forest Practices Board Manual –22 ([APPENDIX A ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GROUND RULES \(wa.gov\)](#)).
 - The next step will be for the TFW Policy Committee to, “... analyzes the alternative courses of action and determines an appropriate management response. Alternatives will include information necessary to show whether the proposal is scientifically credible, operationally practical and administratively feasible. The Policy Committee has 60 days to develop appropriate alternative courses of action, and an additional 45 days to reach a consensus decision on an alternative to recommend to the Board”.

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. However, we are pushing back the expected delivery of the Scoping Document to CMER from December 2024 to March 2025. This will accommodate more collaboration with RSAG, more allowances for expected holiday leave, and will give more time to the project team to develop an excellent deliverable.
- The PT has received feedback from RSAG on a working draft of the BAS.
- The PT has made a lot of progress recently in clarifying and defining the alternatives we plan to propose in the Scoping Document.
- The FP Board is expecting a written update on ExMo in their November meeting.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- CMER comments were received by July 1 from three CMER reviewers – Jenny Knoth, A.J. Kroll, and Welles Bretherton. A general theme of the comments was concern that the document lacked some elements of synthesis. At their August meeting, CMER decided to request that the authors wrap up their work on the document without adding additional synthesis elements and retitle the document as a literature review/annotated bibliography. The reviewers indicated which of their comments the authors should address and the document was returned to the authors. The document was returned to CMER for approval in October.

ISAG

Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- Work on the AFF project team has resumed, following the delivery of the DPC Study Design to CMER. 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).

- The PHB Project Team is working on desktop site screening.
- A Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for implementation of the PHB and DPC studies has been posted on [WEBS](#) (Reference Number 25-12). Responses are due October 31.
- The DPC Study Design is in concurrent CMER/ISAG review. Comments are due November 1.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Final Report delivery to CMER for 30-day review. Review due end of day November 21, 2024.
- Presentation to CMER

Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reaches

- Scoping document was approved at the September 2024 CMER meeting.
- Scoping Document was delivered to Policy at the October CMER meeting and will consider approval at the November meeting.

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 PT completed its work order with Neptune and Company, Inc (using the AMP Statistician Contract). Neptune developed a convolution neural net that can classify traffic camera images in heavy vehicle, light vehicle, and other categories. As we have hundreds of thousands of images, this product will be and already has been very helpful. The PT is now considering a second smaller work order to refine the developed tool to provide more accurate and varied analyses.
- The PT has completed an analysis of site treatments and traffic patterns to better assess treatments needed for WY25. In this analysis the PT identified the need for more sites with silt traps for this WY, so we are working with the DNR Pacific Cascade Region to get that work completed.
- The PT was prepared to work again with the DNR Pacific Cascade Region to complete our annual road grading in fall, but unfortunately their staff and equipment availability has changed, and they are no longer able to support our project needs. South Puget Sound Region staff have thankfully stepped in to provide our project with a grader operator. The PT is currently coordinating equipment reservations, equipment hauling, and operator plans. Execution of annual road grading is going well so far and is expected to be complete by end of month.
- The PT is preparing to calibrate flumes in October, which will also require coordination with

regional staff and equipment rentals.

- The PT is working with West Fork Environmental to refurbish and modify some tipping bucket in our high flow sites to prevent damage.
- The PT is currently developing a detailed SOW for the GRAIP/WARSEM sediment delivery analysis and survey, the last of 6 parametrization experiments for the PT to implement.

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	Oct 2024
DPC	Study Design – CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Dec-24	Dec-24
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Mar-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Mar-25
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis	Literature Synthesis – CMER approval	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Aug-24	Oct-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	Nov-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Charter Update	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	July-24	Nov-24
The Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics	Final Report	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre	LWAG	Sept.-24	Oct.-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						