

CMER SAG UPDATES

December 2024

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.
 - Two of the new landowners are committed to working with us until project completion (end of 2025 water year).
 - We have a temporary access permit for the third landowner through Dec 31st, 2024, and are working with them to secure full access until project completion. Doug Hooks (WFPA) and Joe Murray have been very helpful in these conversations, and it has been very appreciated by WetSAG.

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

- We continue to develop the SOW with BGC for implementation of the DSL study design.
- We have finalized the study area.
- We adjusted the project team makeup to accommodate schedules and necessary expertise as we move into this new phase. These changes were approved by UPSAG
- May be adding one more Project Team member will confirm by next month and will bring all new Project Team members to CMER for approval.
- 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 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 is assembling datasets and setting up the landscape classification analysis workflow.
- 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.

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)

- Field season has wrapped up and the project team is focusing on QA/QC of 2024 data and preparation for 2025.
- TFW Policy discussed the proposed 5-year extension at their November and December meetings. They approved a 3-year extension at all sites, which will provide a total of 5 years of post-harvest monitoring at all sites. The report on the original study design (2 years post-harvest monitoring) will be delivered as scheduled.

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 is analyzing the 2024 data and working on site identification for implementation in the West Cascades ecoregion in summer 2025. Two potential sites have been identified which Rachel is field verifying for suitability.

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)
- 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 provided RSAG with a working draft of the Scoping Document on 11/6 for their comment and review through 12/8.
- The PT has already received preliminary RSAG feedback on a working draft of the BAS and are developing a final draft for RSAG review.
- The PT expects to deliver a final draft of the Scoping and BAS documents to RSAG in February 2025.

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/HabitatDetection Using eDNA (eDNA).
- The PHB Project Team is working on desktop site screening and landowner access.
- The apparent successful bidder for implementation of the PHB and DPC studies was announced as Cramer Fish Sciences. DNR is working with Cramer Fish Sciences on contract development, with contract execution expected in January 2025.
- The DPC Study Design is in concurrent CMER/ISAG review. The authors returned the revised study design to the reviewers on December 5th and will be returned to CMER for approval at their December meeting.

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 initiated revisions based on Reviewer input.
- Anticipated delivery of revised Final Report to CMER for consideration of approval at 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 began Study Design development at the request of TFW Policy.

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 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 PT expects to deliver the DIP to CMER in December 2024.
 - The GRAIP/WARSEM Delivery Analysis and Survey will utilize existing data (Dubé et al. 2010 – the CMER Road Sub-Basin Project) and conduct additional road surveys to create a hydraulic connectivity relationship between road drainage diversions and distance to streams as a function of the drain type for western Washington. The potential for sediment delivery is highly variable on the landscape because of

hydrologic and topographic influences. Quantifying the likelihood of delivery from a road drainage feature is a critical component of information better enabling us to inform meaningful choices of best management practices (BMPs). In addition, this information is important to the development of our model because the probability of delivery is crucial to accuracy of estimates of sedimentation.

- The project team is currently developing a framework and process for manually counting some traffic camera photos from the project's earlier years when our in-road traffic counters were not operational/reliable.
- Data collection for the final WY of the major experiment has commenced, ongoing site maintenance workload level is fairly high (replacing pendants, tipping bucket pieces, supports for hoses/culverts, etc.).
- 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:
 - 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
- Four members of the Roads Project team will be presenting at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Conference. See additional details in the data use notification.

Schedule L-1 Revision

3 Groups:

Wetlands

Riparian – Shade, Riparian Condition, Litterfall, Instream LWD

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

- The Subject Matter Expert groups have been formed.
- 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 where the AMP program and schedule L-1 was introduced, relevant WACs presented and discussion about next steps. Assigned background reading over the holidays, next meeting in January.
- The riparian and instream groups will not meet until January, but they have been contacted and assigned the same background reading as the Wetlands group.

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 – 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 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
Roads Project	GRAIP/WARSEM Detailed Implementation Plan	Prescott	Charles Luce (USFS)	CMER	Dec-24	Dec-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						