

CMER SAG UPDATES

November 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.
 - 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 Piret](#), 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
- 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.

- 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.
- SAGE reviewed and approved the Project Management Plan and will deliver to CMER at the December 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.
 - 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)

- The Fish Creek harvest is complete. 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 meeting. This will be a decision item at the December meeting.

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 will visit later this year.

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”.
- Policy will continue this effort at their next meeting.

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 Synthesis

- At the October CMER meeting, CMER members expressed concern that details of some of the studies included in the literature synthesis, particularly CMER studies, were not portrayed accurately. CMER decided to allow more time for the CMER reviewers to identify the inaccuracies and return the document to the authors. A timeline for this process will be discussed at the November CMER meeting.

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.
- A Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for implementation of the PHB and DPC

studies was posted on [WEBS](#) (Reference Number 25-12). The apparent successful bidder is scheduled to be announced November 21.

- The DPC Study Design is in concurrent CMER/ISAG review. The authors expect to return the revised study design to the reviewers by December 13. The study design is expected to be returned to CMER for approval in January.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Final Report delivered to CMER for 30-day review. Review due end of day November 21, 2024.
- Project team will begin review of comments upon reviewer completion.

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 will begin 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 project team completed a very significant amount of fieldwork in October including
 - Annual grading at our nearly 100 project road segments, calibrating all flumes at high flow sites, and completing a ditchline hydraulic assessment of silt traps.
- The PT is currently developing 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 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 starting to consider how we may decommission our study sites. Any leads on parties willing and able to collect and/or accept our equipment for re-use are welcome.

Schedule L-1 Revision

3 Groups:

Wetlands

Riparian – Shafe, 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	Oct 2024
DPC	Study Design – CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Dec-24	Jan-25
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	Jan-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	Dec-24
The Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics	Final Report	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre	LWAG	Sept.-24	Oct.-24
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						