

CMER SAG UPDATES

September 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 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 will be delivered for concurrent UPSAG/CMER review in September.
- 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.

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 is continuing to gather literature and geospatial datasets for a desktop analysis.
 - Work is ongoing
 - Rachel will be presenting to SAGE at the October meeting, and we will be discussing next steps for developing of the strategy.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- 2024 field season has wrapped up.
- The PM is working on contract amendments with University of Idaho and Utah State University to add an additional year of monitoring beyond two years post-harvest for fiscal year 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

- PI Rachel Rubin is analyzing the 2024 data and will be working on site identification for implementation in the West Cascades ecoregion in summer 2025.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- The 'WTF' Project Team completed the Final Six Questions Document (F6Qs). RSAG approved the F6Qs on 8/15 and CMER approved the F6Qs on 8/27.
- The F6Qs were combined with an AMPA Cover Letter and the Final Exploratory Report to make the Findings Report Package for deliver to the Policy.
- Policy received the WTF Findings Report Package in their September meeting and will be voting on it in the "October" meeting (held at the end of September).

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 February 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 presentation on ExMo in their November meeting, details tbd.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- CMER comments were received by July 1 from the 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. It is expected to be back to CMER for approval in October.

ISAG

Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- Work on the AFF team is temporarily on hold to allow members who are also on the DPC Project Team to prioritize work on the DPC Study Design. AFF work will resume once the DPC Study Design is delivered to CMER, expected in September.

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.
- The PM in coordination with the PHB/DPC Project Team developed a Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for implementation of the PHB and DPC studies. This RFQQ is expected to be posted in mid-September.
- The DPC Project Team is working on the DPC Study Design and expects to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in September 2024.
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. is supporting ISAG with statistical consultation for the PHB and DPC Study Designs.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Report development is nearing completion.
- Anticipated delivery of report to CMER for review in October 2024.

Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reaches

- Project Team received CMER comments on the Scoping Document on July 25, 2024. The revised Scoping Document is expected to be delivered to CMER in September.

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 (PT) successfully developed the 2024 interim report and gave a presentation to CMER in the August meeting.
- The PT successfully implemented the Sediment Trap Efficiency Experiment after the Detailed Implementation Plan was approved by CMER in April 2024. Execution of the STE started in June 2024, with additional runs executed in August 2024.
- The PT largely 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. Minor adjustments and modifications to the final report/classification tool are still being made in response to PT input.
- The PT has completed an analysis of site treatments and traffic patterns to better assess treatments needed for WY25, to support the development of the empirical model.
- The PT is preparing a presentation on the project for the DNR Olympic Region this month.
- CMER Work Plan Roads Rule section updates are still pending.
- 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 PM is currently coordinating equipment reservations, equipment hauling, and operator plans.
- 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.
- New lids and clamps for our SSTs have been received and West Fork has begun to replace damaged ones in the field.

- 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	August 2024
DPC	Study Design	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Feb-23	Sep-24
Discontinuous Np Surface Flows	Scoping	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)	LWAG	Sept -22	June-24
Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Exploratory Project	Final Six Questions	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	July-24	Aug-24
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Jan-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Jan-25
Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	Interim Report/	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	CMER	Jun-24	Aug-24
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis – CMER approval	Literature Synthesis	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Aug-24	Oct-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	Sep-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Charter Update	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	July-24	Sep-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						