

CMER SAG UPDATES

March 2020

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell
AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- **Prospective Six Questions for FWEP Study Design:** WetSAG and Four Peaks drafted the Six Questions document and submitted for CMER approval in February. Revisions were requested and are currently in-progress. WetSAG plans to re-submit a revised document for CMER approval in March.
- **Literature Review:** CMER approved additional funds (\$8,001) to complete the FWEP Literature Review in February. The Four Peaks contract was amended accordingly and contractor resumed work on revisions to the initial draft, per WetSAG comments. Revisions were reviewed by WetSAG and the document was approved with final modifications. WetSAG will submit the Literature Review document and webmap tool to CMER for a 30-day review in March. The contractor is expected present to Policy in June.
- **Implementation Plan:** WetSAG discussed strategies for FWEP implementation during their March meeting. The group voted to conduct site selection in FY20-21 and initiate fieldwork in FY22. Other discussion topics included: specific site selection tasks and other implementation elements, potential Project Team members, and contracting and hiring options. These topics will be covered in more detail during WetSAG's April meeting.

Wetland Mapping Tool (Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool; WIP)

- UW and Terrainworks are currently working on WIP and updates on their own.
- Funds for completion of WIP deliverables and presentations have been approved at both CMER and Policy. UW will be contracted to finalize both Phase I and Phase II deliverables and complete this project by fall 2020.

Wetlands Management Zone

- A subgroup has been formed to consolidate previous work and begin the scoping process. Subgroup progress on these tasks will resume when the CMER Wetland Scientist is hired.

UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- Continued work on a draft Scoping Document & Alternatives for the Landslide Mapping & Classification Project (4.5 – 4.6). Deliverable anticipated to be provided to CMER for the 30 day review in the June mailing.

Road Sub-Basin-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project

- Decision was made to post-pone this study pending the completion of the Road BMP study. The Road BMP study will have a strong impact on the scoping and study design of this project.

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

AMP Project Manager: Teresa Miskovic

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The Project team is working on the alternatives analysis for the scoping document. It is anticipated this document will be sent to SAGE by April 7th for discussion at the April 14th SAGE meeting
- Draft project charter is in SAG review. Comments have been received and will be discussed at the March 23rd SAGE meeting.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- **Northern Rockies Ecoregion Sites:**
 - Benthic invertebrate processing and identification continues. Stream sediment samples were collected and data are downloaded and are being processed. Preparations are beginning for the upcoming field season such as personnel hiring and refining data QA/QC protocols.
- **Eastern Cascades Slopes & Foothills and Northern Cascades Ecoregion Sites:**
 - The project team has prioritized six replacement basin pairs due to the loss of the Rattlesnake Ridge and Sedge Ridge basin pairs. Permission has been received from IEP to include one of these basin pairs in the study, it just needs to be validate in the field once it's accessible. One basin pair is not viable due to it recently being harvested. Meetings on March 23rd are scheduled with DNR and Hancock to discuss the remaining four basin pairs and any other potential viable sites to include in the study.
- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest. Access agreements have been secured for all but one basin pair.
- Two contract amendments are in review to lower Utah State and University of Idaho budgets by \$148,696 in FY 20 due to loss of two basin pairs. There is additional cost saving of \$67,000 in FY 20 because of delay in fabricating four of the flumes. These funds will shift to FY 21 if two replacement basin pairs are secured. Two contracts in review for WestFork; one for a stream protocol survey (\$5,436) in one of the Coxit basins and one for fabricating two flumes (\$38K) for the Coxit basin pairs.
- The project team continues to revise budget estimates for FY 21 and beyond. The project is estimated to go into FY 28 due to the delay in finding East Cascade basin pairs.

Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Currently at ISPR in review. Expected to be returned to Contractor for response in spring 2020. Additional funding request to complete the ISPR process was approved by CMER at their January meeting.

RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic, Eszter Munes

Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring

- CMER has completed review of the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring Model Transferability Testing final report that was developed by UW. Andrew Cooke gave a presentation and the final report was approved by CMER at their January 2020 meeting.
- RSAG is working on the 6 questions document and they are anticipated to come to CMER for approval at their March 2020 meeting.

Hardwood Conversion Report

- The 6 questions document was approved at the October 22, 2019 CMER meeting. The findings report package was delivered to TFW Policy for the October 31, 2019 meeting and Kevin Cedar gave a presentation on the project. At the December 5, 2019 Policy approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report package, and a presentation was given to the FP Board at their February meeting. RSAG is discussing the potential for additional Hardwood Conversion research.

BTO Add-on Report

- CMER approved the final report at the October 22, 2019 meeting. The 6 questions document was approved at the November 15, 2019 RSAG meeting and was subsequently approved at the December 17, 2019 CMER meeting.
- Dave Schuett-Hames gave a presentation to Policy at their January meeting. At the February 2020 Policy meeting, they approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report package, and a presentation will be given to the FP Board at their May meeting. A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study will also be provided that states the TFW Policy process be officially completed. The Board never received a formal recommendation or presentation when this final report was completed.

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- At the February RSAG meeting, they discussed the latest revised study plan from Siskowett and how to resolve the remaining issues in the document. Siskowett is no longer working on revising the document. RSAG will need to make any necessary revisions to the study plan to prepare it to go to ISPR. During this discussion, it was recommended that a study design for Alternative 2 from the scoping document not be pursued. At the February 2020 CMER and the March 2020 Policy meetings, it was approved to develop a study plan for only Alternative 1 and to drop Alternative 2.

Type N Soft Rock Final report

- The PIs have incorporated the comments received from RSAG/CMER (Chris, Doug, Patrick, Harry) concurrent review. The revised report was sent to the reviewers to re-review to ensure their comments were adequately addressed. Re-review is completed and the PIs met with the

reviewers to discuss any remaining concerns. The PIs have revised the report to incorporate the remaining comments and the reviewers are reviewing the revisions.

- During the January CMER meeting, the RSAG request for ISPR review was approved. CMER agreed by consensus to add a question to the standard eight.
- The AMPA submitted the Final Report to ISPR on February 10th, with a request that Reviewers and Associate Editors who are, or have, reviewed the Hard Rock Study be used to review this report.

Extensive Riparian Status and Trend Monitoring Type F – Westside (temp)

- The findings report package was delivered to TFW Policy at October 3, 2019 meeting along with a presentation from the PI. The findings report package was approved at the October 31, 2019 TFW Policy meeting with no recommended action. The findings report package and a presentation went to the FP Board at their February 2020 meeting with no further action.

BCIF Post-Harvest Report

- CMER approved the final report at the October 22, 2019 meeting. The 6 questions document was approved by RSAG at the November 15, 2019 meeting. This document was distributed to CMER for review and approval at the December 17, 2019 CMER meeting.
- Dave Schuett-Hames gave a project presentation at the October 31, 2019 TFW Policy meeting. The findings report package was approved at the November 2019 TFW Policy meeting with no recommended action. The findings report package and a presentation will go to the FP Board at their May 2020 meeting.

Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

- It was proposed that RSAG consider a large woody debris project that addresses recruitment. RSAG is currently working on a draft charter and scoping.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project

- The short-term capacity issue with Emily and Dave leaving has been resolved with CMER staff but the project team and RSAG continue to discuss how to fill the longer-term needs to scope and design the experimental study once the exploratory report is completed.
- Greg Stewart took on the task of completing the exploratory analysis and writing the first draft of the exploratory report. The project team has reviewed the preliminary results and the draft report and has provided comments.
- Greg Stewart has moved on to work on other CMER projects and Jenelle Black will take on the task of doing the DFC model runs and completing the final report for the exploratory project. She is currently working on revising the report based on the project team comments. It is anticipated that RSAG will receive both the exploratory report to review and a presentation of the material at the April meeting.

Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring Workshop

- RSAG prepared an Extensive Status and Trends Monitoring approach based on recommendations made at the November 2018 Policy meeting. This document was approved by CMER in March 2019 and presented to Policy at their October 2019 meeting. Policy asked RSAG/CMER to prepare a workshop on extensive monitoring to inform the approach.

- RSAG prepared an agenda for this workshop that was approved by RSAG and CMER at their February 2020 meetings and presented to Policy at their March 2020 meeting. At this meeting, Policy requested each caucus prioritize their top three focal questions for the workshop and will bring their recommendations to the April Policy meeting.

ISAG

Co-Chairs: Jason Walter, Cody Thomas

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

Water Typing Strategy

- Projects currently included in the Water Typing Strategy are: Default Physical Criteria Assessment (DPC), Potential Habitat Breaks (PHB), LiDAR Based Water Typing Model (LiDAR), and Fish/Habitat Detection Using eDNA (eDNA).
- DPC and LiDAR both have draft study designs, and PHB has a final, ISPR-approved study design. These three study designs were removed from the MPS as line items in April 2019 and tabled until a Water Typing Strategy could be determined.
- At the Nov 5, 2019 WFPB meeting, the Board passed a motion to: “Recommend the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) to develop study designs for the PHB validation, physical characteristics, and map based Lidar model studies. Design the studies for cost savings, including the phasing of the studies with eastern Washington to be initiated first, and the possibility and advisability of combining the PHB validation, physical characteristics and map based Lidar model studies, and then to report on the study designs to the Board by their May, 2020 meeting”. CMER voted that ISAG should lead the response to the motion and develop a CMER-based Water Typing Strategy.
- ISAG drafted a framework for the water typing strategy during a subgroup meeting in early March. They discussed strategy and project elements, definitions, needs, and limitations. Each study design will be discussed in detail by the full group in late March. A memo to the Board will be drafted and submitted for CMER review in April.

eDNA Pilot Study

- ISAG reviewed the eDNA pilot report in January and the group discussed comments during their February meeting. Comments were retained, modified, or removed by consensus. The group voted to request edits from Brooke Penaluna, P.I. and moved the document with embedded comments to CMER for concurrent review. If approved, ISAG will request a contract agreement with the PI, using \$5,500 of CMER-approved funds.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

Hard Rock Extended

- The CMER approved report was submitted to ISPR on the 8th of October, 2019. ISPR is continuing to secure reviewers for this report review.

Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- Charter was approved at January CMER meeting and delivered to Policy at their February meeting.
- Draft SOW with DFW has been created and is being reviewed with the PM and DFW. Work is expected to commence in late spring 2020.

Extended Sampling – Amphibians Demographics

- LWAG will be piloting this request for extended sampling from the Hard Rock study through the new Extended Monitoring process that was approved last summer by CMER and Policy. LWAG is looking to the approved memo on steps that need to be taken.

Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Bob Danehy, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Manaster
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint, Heather Gibbs (Field Coordinator)

- Data collection is on-going. With almost all sites reporting meaningful data. Some minor issues at a few sites are occurring. Contract amendment with field technicians was completed to facilitate delivery of samples to new lab and to fix broken tipping buckets.
- Completed a periodic performance review with the data collection field team to discuss the progress to date and to review practices and processes for future improvement.
- Was able to eliminate the need to purchase some data collection instrumentation through process improvements (no longer need 2nd set of data loggers (saves \$9,600) and through the sharing of equipment between projects (will utilize turbidity sensors from Hard Rock (saves \$7,000)).
- Water samples are currently being tested at the Department of Ecology's Environmental Laboratory in Manchester, WA; we were able to reduce cost per sample from \$55/sample to \$20/sample.
- Public works contracts are being drafted and put out to bid for both the Volcanics and Silt-stone provinces to complete all road related site maintenance fixes. Weyerhaeuser is no longer allowing the utilization of certain rock types for the project. So there will be increased costs for the Volcanic province to purchase rock for use at the Tout sites. Estimated contract execution is early- to mid-May, given the delays generated by the change in rock source.
- Parameterization experiment begin the week of March 16th. The ditch-line hydraulics experiment will be completed. Short time-scale will be done at a later date. A direct-buy service contract has been generated to facilitate the execution of the project.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by the CMER science staff.

Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Dan Miller, Ted Turner, Greg Stewart (CMER Staff)

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

- Implementation began on project # 2 “Object-based Landform Mapping...” in February. Contract has been executed for the services of Dan Miller to assist CMER science staff with the implementation of the mapping project.
- Training for eCognition will not occur as the trainers are from Germany and are unable to travel due to COVID-19. CMER staff will work through issues without the training. The lack of training will cause a minor delay of around a month to the implementation phase. Otherwise all is moving as planned.
- The prospective 6 questions document was presented to Policy at their March meeting.
- The current contract with Dan Miller also covers the drafting of the study design for project #3 “Shallow Landslide Susceptibility...” A completed *initial* draft of the study design is expected to be presented to the Sag/Project Team by their June meeting.

PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

- The report was distributed at the September 24, 2019 CMER meeting to initiate review. CMER comments have been received and Teresa and Ash Roorbach are revising the document. A meeting with the reviewers and work group was held to discuss how to incorporate several of the comments received. Issues that need additional input from CMER prior to incorporating into the document were discussed at the February CMER meeting.