

# CMER SAG UPDATES

May 2020

## WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

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### Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- **Prospective Six Questions for FWEP Study Design:** WetSAG and Four Peaks drafted the Six Questions document and initially submitted the document to CMER for approval in February. Significant revisions were requested at the February meeting. Revisions were completed and approved by CMER in April. Contractor and Project Manager will present the document to Policy either June or July, contingent upon the approval of the Literature Review.
- **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 submitted the Literature Review document and webmap tool to CMER for a 30-day review in April. Depending on need for revisions (and subsequent CMER approval), the contractor is expected to present to Policy in June or July.
- **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. Pending the availability of internal resources. The group will discuss other implementation topics at their next meeting (April 29), including specific site selection tasks and potential Project Team members.

### 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 upon the execution of the contract this month.

### Wetlands Management Zone

- WetSAG has voted to move forward with scoping for WMZ in FY20-21. Debbie Kay will deliver a task list for the group during WetSAG's June meeting to initiate work on the document.

## UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

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### Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- UPSAG, with the assistance of a sub-group focused on writing, were able to complete the scoping document for DSL Research Strategy elements 4.5 & 4.6. The document entitled “Deep-Seated Research Strategy: Landslide Mapping and Classification Project Draft Scoping Document” was approved by UPSAG during a supplemental meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> and will be presented to CMER at their May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to begin the formal 30 day review period.
- UPSAG was also able to draft, review and approve (May 19<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Meeting) a prospective 6 questions document to accompany the scoping document when it is transmitted to Policy. The prospective 6 questions will be submitted to CMER for review alongside the scoping document at their May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### 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

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### Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The Project team is working on the alternatives analysis for the scoping document and development of the preferred alternative. Malia Volke has joined the project team and is taking a lead role in revising the scoping document.
- The project charter was approved at the April SAGE and CMER meetings and at the May Policy meeting.

### Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- **Northern Rockies Ecoregion Sites:**
  - Preparations are beginning for the upcoming field season such as personnel hiring and refining data QA/QC and field protocols.
- **Eastern Cascades Slopes & Foothills and Northern Cascades Ecoregion Sites:**
  - The project team 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 basins pairs in the study (Fish Creek), it just needs to be validate in the field once it's accessible. The other five basin pairs are not viable due largely to containing non-merchantable timber or being included in an existing harvest unit where unit boundaries cannot be adjusted.

- The project team provided SAGE, CMER, and Policy with a memo regarding the search for replacement basin pairs. The Fish Creek Basin pair has been approved to include in the study and the associated costs are included in the FPB approved AMP budget.
- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest. Access agreements have been secured for all but one basin pair.
- Lidar acquisition for the basins in the Mount Spokane area were approved by SAGE and CMER to acquire if any extra funds become available. Acquisition needs to occur pre-harvest and prior to snow fall; fall 2020.
- Documentation has been provided to obtain field work exemptions due to COVID-19. Utah and Idaho have granted approval for fieldwork we are just waiting on approval from DNR.

### Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Currently at ISPR in review. Expected to be returned to Contractor for response this month once the contract has been executed. An 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

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### 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.
- CMER approved the 6 questions document at their April 2020 meeting. Andrew Cooke gave a presentation at the May 2020 Policy meeting and the findings report was provided.

### Hardwood Conversion Report

- The findings report 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

- The CMER approved final report was delivered to Policy at their January 2020 meeting along with a presentation from Dave Schuett-Hames. At the February 2020 Policy meeting, they approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report, and a presentation will be given to the FP Board at their August 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 Siskowet and how to resolve the remaining issues in the document. Siskowet 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 drop Alternative 2.

- A RSAG workgroup is working on resolving the remaining issues and revising the study plan for only Alternative 1.

### 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.
- Extended Monitoring: Ecology staff has recently gained approval to move forward with field work. All tasks, including spring/fall temperature downloads, canopy closure measurements, and vegetation surveys are expected to occur on schedule. Flume removal, originally planned for early summer, will occur when WCC resumes field activities.

### 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 and by CMER at their December 17, 2019 CMER meeting.
- Dave Schuett-Hames gave a project presentation at the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 TFW Policy meeting. The CMER approved final report was delivered to Policy at their January 2020 meeting. They approved no further action or recommendations were needed at this time. This recommendation, findings report, and a presentation will be given to the FP Board at their August meeting.

### Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

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

### Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project

- Greg Stewart took on the task of completing the exploratory analysis and writing the first draft of the exploratory report. Jenelle Black took on the task of completing the DFC model runs and completing the final report for the exploratory project. She has revised the report a couple times based on the project team comments and the project team should receive the latest revised draft by May 20th.
- Greg gave a presentation at the May RSAG meeting and it is anticipated that RSAG will receive the exploratory report at their June 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. It is anticipated they will bring their recommendations to the June Policy meeting.

## ISAG

Co-Chairs: Jason Walter, Cody Thomas

AMP Project Manager: Eszter Munes

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## 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 containing an update on the water typing strategy was drafted by ISAG, approved by CMER in April, and presented to the Board on May 13, 2020.

## eDNA Pilot Study

- ISAG reviewed the eDNA pilot report in January and 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 in February, at which time \$5,500 was requested and approved to complete the work. CMER review was completed, but the motion to move the document to the P.I. did not pass in April. The dispute resolution process was initiated, with the first meeting was held on May 15, 2020. Per the outcome of the dispute resolution meeting, the AMPA and PM will work with the P.I. to address the comments provided by both ISAG and CMER.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: Marc Hayes & AJ Kroll

AMP Project Manager: Heather Gibbs

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### Hard Rock Extended

- ISPR comments have been returned to PIs/authors and work to respond to comments and edits are underway. Many of the comments from ISPR had to do with the formatting of the report. PIs and authors met this month and worked out a recommendation to fix the formatting concerns for ISPR. Once drafted, this recommendation will be returned to the Managing Editor at ISPR to see if the recommendation fixes the concerns.

### Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- Charter was approved at the January CMER meeting and delivered to Policy at their February meeting.
- WDFW and DNR are finalizing this contract and 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. The first step is to revise/generate a prospective six questions report. CMER reviewed the draft document and comments were incorporated by the PI. LWAG accepted these changes and will be asking for approval at the May CMER meeting. The document, if approved, will then be presented to Policy at their June meeting.

## Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project Team

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Bob Danehy, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Manaster, Jenelle Black.

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint, Heather Gibbs (Field Coordinator)

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- Seasonal water sample data collection was completed in March.
- The annual tub draining and sediment weighing was delayed until mid-July due to concerns related to COVID-19
- Planning is continuing for the July data collection effort. In July the project team will syphon the large tubs and weigh/sample all of the sediment that has collected at the bottom of the tubs across the data collection season. West Fork Environmental is under contract to complete the actions at the direction of the USFS RMRS staff.
- A contract amendment will be completed to provide the funding to have West Fork complete two specific maintenance items while they are on-site completing the tub draining and sediment weighing. The two maintenance items are the replacement of all tipping bucket axles with a rust resistant stainless steel alloy and the installation of bump stops on each tipping bucket to prevent the significant damage to the tipping buckets that was seen during the previous data collection season.
- Water sample testing has been postponed due to a COVID-19 based closure at the DOE lab in Manchester. This closure also includes the processing, summarization and reporting of results

from water sample testing that has already been completed. The lab is in possession of all samples collected to date.

- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, site maintenance checks have been delayed two months. If this work is approved to be completed during the pandemic by DNR Executive Management, Dieu and Danehy will complete this needed fieldwork by the end of May or early June.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, the project team chose to delay all Public Works contracting until the fall. With the delay, we will be able to achieve some cost synergies by combining the site fix and installation public works project with the general pre-data collection road maintenance public works contract that was already planned for the fall.
- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, the parameterization experiments did not begin in March and have been delayed until next spring. This delay will have two side benefits. The first is that a delay will provide additional time for the project team to finalize and present to CMER, at their June meeting, the methodologies for the individual parameterization experiments. The second is that the delay will reduce the needed funding for the Biennium allowing for a contribution to be made from the roads project to the budgeting crisis.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by CMER science staff.
- Water sample suspended sediment data has started to arrive with some preliminary data analysis being completed following QA/QC.
- Following the tub weight data collection in July, the PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with a science presentation, at their August Meeting, to review the results from year 1 of data collection.

## Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team

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

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

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- Implementation is on-going for project # 2 “Object-based Landform Mapping...”. The implementation is being completed by CMER Staff with some technical assistance, primarily in the generation and provision of algorithms and pro-python scripts to assist in the mapping efforts. Data analysis is expected to be completed by the end of the summer with a draft findings report provided by CMER staff to the project team for review in September.
- Due to the budgetary decisions made in connection with the AMP budget cut, a contract amendment was executed to remove the drafting of the study design for phase 3 of the criteria project “...shallow landslide susceptibility...”. The intent was to get the phase 3 study design completed by a contractor while CMER staff was focused on implementation of phase 2 to speed up the criteria project. However, the funding was removed and thus we will not be able to have overlapping activities within the Criteria project.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

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- The report was distributed at the September 24, 2019 CMER meeting to initiate review. CMER comments were received and Teresa and Ash Roorbach incorporated those comments along with recommendations based on discussions on how to incorporate several of the comments. The PSM workgroup and CMER reviewers reviewed the revised document. A meeting was held May 6<sup>th</sup> to

discuss the revisions and comments. Teresa and Ash are working on incorporating the latest comments/edits.