

# CMER SAG UPDATES

August 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 planned to present the Six Questions document to Policy in August, but was unable to do so due to time constraints. The document was included in the Policy mailing and Eszter Munes is available to answer questions upon request.
- **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 and the document was approved during the May meeting, on the condition of minor editorial revisions. Contractor presented the literature review package to Policy during their August meeting. This was the final task on the contract, which will be closed out upon payment.
- **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 FY23.
  - A subgroup was formed to initiate work on the Site Selection and Data Management document (Harry B., Debbie K, Jenelle B., Eszter M., and Amy Y.). Members have drafted and merged individual sections, and will be developing the document further in early September.

### Wetland Mapping Tool (Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool; WIP)

- UW is under contract and has begun working on responding to WetSAG members' edits for the Phase II deliverables.
- Contractor will attend WetSAG's September meeting to address members' remaining comments and seek their approval of deliverables.
- Plan is to finalize this project in late 2020.

### Wetlands Management Zone

- WetSAG has voted to move forward with scoping for WMZ in FY20-21. Debbie Kay has taken the lead on developing a task list for the process. The first of which is to generate a list of wetland functions that the group will evaluate for testability and inclusion in the study. Additional tasks and a work plan will be forthcoming.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, all funding for the WMZ project was delayed until FY 26 (study design) with implementation funding slated to begin in FY 28.

## UPSAG

Co-Chairs: Ted Turner & Kara Whittaker

AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

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### Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

- The scoping document entitled “Deep-Seated Research Strategy: Landslide Mapping and Classification Project Draft Scoping Document” and the attached prospective 6 questions document are being presented to CMER at their August meeting for final approval following the completion of a formal CMER review.
- The Charter for the Landslide Mapping and Classification project was approved by Policy at their August meeting.
- The Scoping document and the 6 questions document will be presented to Policy for their review at their September meeting, pending CMER approval, with a target of gaining approval and having the selection of a preferred alternative completed at Policy’s October meeting.
- UPSAG has designated a project team to start on the study design for the Landslide Mapping and Classification project and began working on the document at their August meeting. The current target is to have the document prepared for SAG review at their June 2021 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)

- A completed draft of the scoping document was reviewed by the Project Team and their comments were incorporated into the document. SAGE began their review of the scoping document during their August 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, comments are due back by September 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

- Second year pre-treatment data collected by the University of Idaho occurred at the Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale basins. The data that has been collected to date includes: spring stream temperatures, large woody debris, hemi photos, densitometer measurements, sediment delivery, and spring wetted stream widths. Continuous automated sampling of streamflow, turbidity, suspended sediment, and meteorological data is also ongoing.
- Utah State University completed spring and summer benthic invertebrate sampling at the Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale basins.
- WCC crews began trail clearing at the Fish Creek sites. Most of the more intensive trail building to access flume locations is complete with about two weeks left of work.
- West Fork Environmental visited the Coxit and Fish Creek sites to finalize measurements for flume installation. Flumes will be installed the middle of August – beginning of September.

- Ongoing correspondence with landowners regarding logistics of data collection, access, and harvest.
- Hydrometeorological stations are being installed by University of Idaho at the Coxit and Fish Creek sites.

### Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)

- Contractor's responses to ISPR comments have been completed and returned to ISPR for review in early August.
- Plan is to finalize this project in late 2020.

## RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic, Eszter Munes, Ben Flint (Smart Buffer)

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### 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 was given to the FP Board at their August meeting.
- The Board recommended no further action be taken on the BTO Add-on Report at this time.
- A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study is still under consideration by TFW Policy.

### Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- A RSAG workgroup is working on resolving the remaining issues and revising the study plan to prepare it for ISPR.
- Malia Volke revised the study design based on the workgroup discussions and recommendations. The workgroup reviewed a revised draft of the study plan and provided comments August 17<sup>th</sup>. Malia is currently revising the study plan and anticipates it coming to RSAG to initiate review by September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### 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. Chapter Three, Riparian Stand Structure and Wood Recruitment, was returned for revisions on August 11. Additional chapters are expected back sometime in early September.
- **Extended Monitoring:** Ecology staff has recently gained approval to move forward with field work. Tasks, including spring/fall temperature downloads, canopy closure measurements, and

vegetation surveys are expected to occur slightly behind schedule, but still within reasonable timeframes. During the July RSAG meeting, the group discussed 1) options about how to report the data (addendum to current report, separate report, etc.), and 2) ability of RSAG to make data reporting recommendation to CMER. RSAG recommends that the data should be included as an addendum to the current report. There was disagreement to the appropriateness of RSAG making this recommendation to CMER. RSAG agreed to continue the discussion about extended monitoring data at the July meeting. Further discussion may take place prior to a formal CMER recommendation to Policy, expected in spring 2021.

### BCIF Post-Harvest Report

- 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 was given to the FP Board at their August meeting.
- The Board recommended no further action be taken on these studies at this time.

### Large Woody Debris Recruitment Project

- RSAG is considering a large woody debris project to inform LWD recruitment. RSAG is currently working on a draft charter and discussing the potential of including this with the Type F Effectiveness Project.

### 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 received the latest revised draft June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Greg gave a presentation at the May RSAG meeting and RSAG received the exploratory report to review June 19. Comments were returned to Jenelle Black in July and revisions are nearly complete. Final RSAG review and revisions are planned for September, and delivery to CMER in October.
- The project team met in July to initiate work on the BACI study design. Their next meeting is scheduled for early September.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, all funding for the implementation of the Westside Type F project was delayed until FY 25. The project team will continue to work on the study design and other project elements utilizing internal resources in the interim.

### 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. Policy has delayed the discussion on this matter to a later date, due to time and budget constraints.

- The UW contract was amended through FY 21 (it expired June 30, 2020) to extend the funding for Andrew Cooke to develop and give a presentation at the workshop if this is requested.

## 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.
- Following the Nov 5, 2019 FP Board meeting, CMER, and subsequently ISAG, were tasked with developing water typing study designs. 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. 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.
- ISAG has formed a subgroup to work on PHB and DPC study designs in FY21. They initiated work on the study designs during their first meeting in July, focusing first on PHBs.

### 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 return the document to the Brooke did not pass in April. The dispute resolution process was initiated, with the first meeting held on May 15, 2020. CMER members then agreed to send the report back to Brooke and a contract to complete the work has been sent out for signatures. Work is anticipated to begin in September.

### WFPA Smart Buffers

- All comments on the study design were received by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The comments were incorporated into a redline draft of the document and a comment matrix was generated. Both items were provided to the Author for review. The author anticipates a revised draft will be provided to CMER at their September meeting.

## 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.
- The Executive Editor at ISPR agreed to the recommendations from the PIs and authors on how to fix the formatting concerns from ISPR.

### Intermittent Streams - Amphibians

- First team meeting was held in July and the project team was finalized. An updated Charter included proposed team members will be coming to CMER in August for approval.
- Per the MPS approved by the FP Board at their August meeting, funding for this project will continue through the completion of a scoping document in FY 21. Funding for the completion of the study design and subsequent implementation has been delayed until FY 25.

### Hard Rock Phase III – Amphibians Demographics

- The extended sampling prospective 6 questions proposal was approved at the May CMER meeting.
- Policy approved the request to complete extended monitoring and provided funding within the MPS for data collection to begin in FY 22.

### 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 and will resume again in October/November.
- Annual tub draining and data collection equipment maintenance began on July 13<sup>th</sup> and is anticipated to be completed by the end of August. This process is going well and has proven to be more efficient than anticipated.
- The tipping bucket retrofitting to replace the axles and install bump stops is proceeding ahead of schedule. Over the course of the retrofits, there have been 3 sites found thus far, where the tipping buckets were damaged beyond repair and will need to be replaced prior to having the retrofits installed and prior to the data collection season. This further solidifies the need for the retrofits, as they would have prevented the critical damage from occurring at these sites.
- All year one monthly sample lab results have been received by the project team.
- Some additional samples were collected at sites with full SST tanks during the site maintenance checks completed by West Fork as part of the sediment weighing operations. These samples were transported to the Manchester Lab at the beginning of August.
- All water samples for year one data collection (including those taken during tub measurements) will be provided to the project team by the Manchester lab in the beginning of September.
- The road maintenance activities that were being planned to be completed via a public works contract for the Volcanic province are no longer going to occur via a public works contract. The Pacific Cascade Region DNR heavy equipment crew has committed to completing the Volcanic province maintenance work by the end of November. There will still be a limited public works contract that will occur for the Siltstone region, but with its limited scope compared to what was planned for Volcanic, the contracting will be far simpler and will not require prolonged delays to

complete the work. Both provinces should have the maintenance work completed prior to the end of November.

- Due to constraints related to COVID-19, the parameterization experiments did not begin in March and have been delayed until spring 2021.
- The micro-topography study is on-going with additional support being provided by CMER science staff. The next round of surveys will be completed following the completion of the fall Public Works contract.
- Preliminary data reduction and analysis is being completed by project team members following QA/QC.
- Following the tub weight data collection in August, the PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with a science presentation, at their October 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 November/December.
- UPSAG has agreed to form a sub-group to begin working on the study design for phase 3 upon confirmation of the landform mapping techniques from the CMER scientist. This is anticipated to begin in October or November.

## PSM Technical Group

AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

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- Several meetings were held with CMER reviewers to discuss and resolve comments that were received during the CMER review of Ch. 8 of the PSM. The last meeting was held June 19<sup>th</sup> and final revisions were agreed to. A final review by the reviewers was due July 14<sup>th</sup> with no additional revisions received.
- Chapter 8 was approved by CMER at the July meeting. Next steps for additional work on the PSM will be discussed by the workgroup August 21<sup>st</sup> and recommendations brought to the September CMER meeting.
- Jacob Hibbeln is working on incorporating the approved chapter 8 into the PSM.

## CMER Work Plan Improvement Group

AMP Support: Heather Gibbs

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- The Workgroup met and discussed the work plan and possible improvements that could be considered.
- The group is reviewing the work plan document and will be meeting again in September.

- A decision was made to focus on two separate efforts. The first is the revision (if needed) of the CMER work plan. The second is to create a document that can better transfer information from the CMER work plan to Policy, in an effort to provide something to Policy that is more functional for their needs.
- The work group will not have revisions completed in time for inclusion within the 21-23 biennial work plan. Thus, the group recommended to CMER at their July meeting, to utilize the existing process for the 21-23 work plan and then incorporate any revisions or structure changes within the 23-25 biennial work plan.

## Small Forest Landowner PI – Outside science review

AMP Support: Ben Flint

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- The small forest landowner PI outside science review was provided to CMER at their July meeting. CMER designated formal reviewers to review the Author's draft responses to the six questions. Reviews of the drafted six questions document and the completion of the responses is anticipated to be provided to CMER at their October meeting.