

CMER SAG UPDATES

March 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 for the next two water years.
 - Hemispherical photography is complete for 2023, will be repeated in summer 2024.
 - WetSAG is looking into contracting options for upcoming forest and vegetation surveys.

Wetlands Management Zone

- 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

- The DSL Mapping and Landform Classification Study Design was returned from ISPR and is up for final approval at the March CMER meeting.
- The Project Team has drafted the Prospective 6 Questions document and hopes to deliver that to UPSAG in April for approval to go to April CMER
- Theryn is drafting the Project Management Plan for PT review at the April Meeting.
- PT is beginning to develop the RFQQ for implementation of the Study Design. This is in very early stages currently.

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 mapping is ongoing. Analysis comparing manual mapping to computer mapping has begun. Project is slightly delayed due to the manual mapping. Do not currently have a new deadline for a revised report.
- 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) received final approval at the September CMER meeting.

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo (ENREP), Jenny Schofield (ETHEP, Eastside Forest Health)

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The ISPR-approved study design was approved by CMER in November and delivered to Policy in December. Ben Spei presented an overview of the project to Policy.
- SAGE and CMER approved the Prospective 6 Questions document and will be delivered to Policy at the April meeting.
- Project Management Plan is being developed and expected to SAGE in April.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- Due to logistical complications, the Fish Creek harvest will be completed in 2024, a year later than originally planned. The Project Team presented a memo to SAGE, recommending extending monitoring at Fish Creek for one year to collect two post-harvest years of data, as indicated in the Study Design. SAGE approved these recommendations and sent them to CMER.
- The Project Team presented a second memo to SAGE, recommending a limited project extension across all sites, monitoring a reduced suite of variables. SAGE approved these recommendations and sent them to CMER.

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 currently gathering literature and geospatial datasets for a preliminary analysis.

RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

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 and the PM are coordinating with Weyerhaeuser for implementation at two sites within the Northwest Coast ecoregion this summer. The PI and PM are working with a contractor on plot layout and tree inventory and are also coordinating with a contractor to complete LiDAR flights and analysis at both sites.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- The Final Exploratory Report was approved by CMER and was sent to ISPR for review. The project team received the ISPR response on January 25th, 2023. Revisions, including a clean and markup version of the revised report, comment matrix, and summary letter were due back to ISPR by 3/10/23. This due date, and multiple subsequent targeted due dates have not been met and the report continues to be significantly delayed. The project team intended to complete and resubmit the necessary documents back to ISPR by end of the 2023, however that deadline was not met. A new deadline was proposed in the March RSAG Meeting. A draft will be completed for PT and PM review by March 26th, and a final draft will be ready to return to ISPR on April 8th.

Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring – Riparian Vegetation and Stream Temperature, Type F/N Westside and Eastside Project

- The ExMo Project Team continues to make headway on scoping the project through preliminary GIS analyses, conversations of fundamental design criteria, and evaluating critical questions and the measurements necessary to provide scientifically robust answers.
- At the Feb Board meeting, a recommendation was made to hire an interim-PI to see this project through the Scoping process. Jeff Robbins from the Department of Ecology was vetted and chosen by the project team to take on this role as he has both the capacity and expertise to contribute.
- RSAG approved Jeff as the interim-PI at their March meeting.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- The Riparian Function Literature Synthesis is in RSAG review. RSAG provided initial comments on August 11, 2023. The authors responded to comments and returned the document to RSAG in December 2023. RSAG identified comments that had not been adequately addressed and returned the document with follow-up comments to the authors in January 2024. The authors addressed the follow-up comments and returned the document to RSAG in March. The RSAG reviewers are identifying any remaining comments that have not been adequately addressed and will return the document to the authors in April.

ISAG

Co-Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- In December 2023, CMER directed ISAG to winnow the proposed Project Team and work on the technical summary for TFW Policy that clarifies how the AFF Validation Study would best fit as a companion or add-on study to the existing PHB Study. CMER approved the AFF Project Team makeup in February. The Project Team developed the requested technical summary, which ISAG approved in March and sent to CMER.

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 selection. The Project Team has also made outreach to gauge the interest and availability of potential PI candidates.
- The DPC Project Team is working on the DPC Study Design and expects to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in spring 2024.
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. is supporting ISAG with statistical consultation for the PHB and DPC Study Designs.
- ISAG is looking for a new Co-Chair.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre AMP

Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Hard Rock

- The Phase III Amphibian Demographics project is in implementation. The first of two field seasons of amphibian demographic sampling has been completed at all historic Type N Study sites.
- Field work to support the second amphibian demographic sampling season began in July 2023 and concluded September 2023.

Discontinuous Np Surface Flows

- The Scoping Document is under development Summer 2023, with anticipated delivery to CMER in Spring 2024.
- LWAG has approved Project Team changes and requested approval from CMER.
- The Charter will be updated to reflect Project Team changes and any other relevant changes, including updating the timeline, upon completion of Scoping this Spring.

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 has begun to build an outline for the 2024 interim report, projected to be completed in June.
- The PT completed the turbidity element of the Short Time Scale Interaction Experiment but was unable to complete the pumping element due to inclement weather (frozen roads). Final decisions on whether we will try to re-run the experiment again depend on pending data analysis.
 - The “STS” Experiment will improve our understanding and ability to model traffic impacts during discrete rain events. Knowledge about the short-time scale will inform our recommendations about seasonal haul restriction.

- The PT is in the early stages of collaborating with Neptune and Company, Inc (using the AMP Statistician Contract) to develop a work order to process traffic camera and count data using machine learning.
- The PT is working on executing a new access agreement for some of our project sites after a land ownership change.
- The PT continues to work on numerous data analyzation efforts related to microtopography, flow imputation, flow calibration, turbidity, suspended sediment concentration, etc.
- The PT expects that additional project funding will be needed to complete the scheduled and necessary activities of FY24. Alexander shared details in the Feb CMER meeting and CMER voted to approve the additional funds, but to include alternative budget scenarios.
- Alexander will attend Policy Budget Workgroup meeting in March to provide funding breakdown and alternatives.

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	TBD
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	Final ISPR-Approved Report	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	Mar-23	TBD
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	CMER Six Questions Document	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	Mar-23	TBD
DPC	Study Design	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Feb-23	Spring-24
Discontinuous Np Surface Flows	Scoping	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)	LWAG	Sept -22	Spring-24
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	TBD	RSAG	Dec-24	Dec-24
Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	Interim Report/Presentation	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	CMER	Jun-24	Jun-24
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG		May-24
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis	Literature Synthesis	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Oct-23	May-24
Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy	Revised Study Design	Henkel	Elise Freeman (CMER)	UPSAG	July- 23	Mar – 24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	May-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						