CMER SAG UPDATES
November 2020

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

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project
- 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.). Subgroup members have made progress on the document and expect to continue working on it through January 2021. They are currently determining variables to be measured, equipment needs, and site layout.

Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool- WIP
- Contractor attended CMER’s October meeting and presented the Phase 2 Report. CMER assigned three reviewers (Julie Dieu, Todd Baldwin, and Patrick Lizon) to review the final report. Reviewer comments are due to Heather Gibbs by November 27, 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. Update to the project charter is in progress. 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

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy
- Work is continuing on study design development, with the current target is to have a draft study design 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

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)
- A completed draft of the scoping document was approved at the September 8th SAGE meeting.
- CMER review of the scoping document was initiated at the September 22nd CMER meeting. CMER comments are due November 16th.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)
- University of Idaho has completed winterizing of the equipment at all sites.
- Discussions continue with IEP and Hancock regarding harvest layout and timing for Blue Grouse, Tripps, and Springdale sites.
- Hydrometerological stations and SedEvent Systems are installed at the Coxit and Fish Creek sites.
- LiDAR for the Tripps, Blue Grouse, and Fish Creek sites was acquired October 15th. State Parks will be providing $14,000 towards the acquisition. The Project Team has been working on finalizing the project management plan.

Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP)
- Contractor attended CMER’s October meeting and presented the ISPR approved final report. CMER was given an extended review period of the ISPR final documents given the lengthy delay in the ISPR process.
- Contractor will attend the November SAGE meeting to address questions on the drafted question #4 for the 6 questions document.
- Approval of the ISPR final report will be on the agenda at the November CMER meeting.

RSAG
Chair: Joe Murray
AMP Project Managers: Teresa Miskovic (BTO, RCS), Eszter Munes (Soft Rock, Type F, LWD), Ben Flint (Extensive, Smart Buffer, SFLO)

BTO Add-on 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 and was approved at their August meeting.
- A recommendation regarding the BT Solar/Shade study is still under consideration by TFW Policy.

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study
- RSAG review of the revised study design was initiated September 2nd with comment due October 2nd. The study design has been revised to incorporate comments and it was sent back to the reviewers to review revisions on October 16th.
• The remaining reviewer concerns were addressed during the November 4th meeting. The study design will be distributed to RSAG for approval at the November 20th meeting.
• Jeremy Groom has been hired to provide statistical expertise on specific questions that remain regarding study design elements. His input has been incorporated into the latest drafts of the study design and were reviewed by RSAG.
• CMER reviewers for the study design will be assigned at the November 17th CMER meeting. The RSAG approved document will be distributed to CMER after the November 20th RSAG meeting.

Type N Soft Rock Final report
• ISPR Review of Final Report: 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 11th. Chapter 7, Benthic Macroinvertebrates was returned August 24th. Chapter 4, Stream Temp and Cover was returned September 15. All remaining comments on outstanding chapters are expected to be provided to the Authors by December 1st. Authors expect to complete revisions for these and the outstanding chapters by March 2021.
• Extended Monitoring: Data collection for Spring – Fall 2020 has been completed. All equipment has been removed from the field, and some will possibly be reused for FWEP.
  o Extended monitoring data will be reported either as an addendum to the Final Report or as a separate report. CMER will make a formal recommendation to Policy after the data is presented, tentatively in spring 2021.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project
• Comments were returned to Jenelle Black in July and revisions are nearly complete. Final RSAG review and revisions are planned for November, and delivery to CMER in December or January.
• The project team met in July to initiate work on the BACI study design. The team is currently working on refining study questions. An RSAG reviewed and approved study design is expected to be delivered to CMER in early 2022.
• 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.
WFPA Smart Buffers
- Responses from reviewers as to whether the revised study design addressed their comments/concerns are due to the Project Manager by November 13th.
- Next steps for the study design (upon CMER approval) will be discussed at the November 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). Following the Nov 5, 2019 FP Board meeting, CMER, and subsequently ISAG, were tasked with developing water typing study designs.

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. As of November, development of PHB’s is ongoing. The group is currently focused on the site selection process and will work through other sections of Methods though this rest of the month.

eDNA Pilot Study
- In May 2020, CMER agreed to send the eDNA Pilot Study back to Brooke, PI for revisions. DNR and USFS signed off on a contract on August 28th and Brooke has made progress addressing ISAG/CMER comments. The revised report and all data associated with the study is currently on track to be returned by the contract deadline, December 1, 2020.

LWAG
Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

Hard Rock Phase II
- PIs/Authors submitted edits to ISPR comments to the AMPA at the end of October. Comments have been forwarded on for review to ISPR.
- Heather Gibbs will remain the PM for this Phase of HR.

Amphibian in Discontinuous Type Np Waters
- The Contractor continues to summarize information from the references found in the original search for information.

Hard Rock Phase III – Amphibians Demographics
- Work will begin soon on completing a charter and project management plan for this phase of this project.
Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project Team
Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Bob Danehy, Erkan Istanbulluoglu, Amanda Manaster, Jenelle Black.
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint, Heather Gibbs (Field Coordinator)

- The Pacific Cascade Region DNR heavy equipment crew began road work on November 3rd in the Volcanic province.
- Work continues with a contractor to complete the bidding process and begin contract negotiation for the Siltstone province during the week of November 9th. Contract execution is targeted to occur by November 20th. Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.
- USFS RMRS will be testing different trough cover designs/patterns throughout the fiscal year 2021 data collection season. The hope is to find an optimal design/pattern that can be deployed using budget funds from fiscal year 2022.
- A proto-type design for splitting the flow at the high flow sites was installed in September. Prior to finalization of the design of the device, the project team is waiting to see what the data looks like from the first month of data collection. Budget allowing, if the design is finalized after the November data collection, then a contract will be executed to install flow splitting devices at all 11 high flow sites for this fiscal year. If the anticipated cost of installation exceeds budget capacity, these devices will be installed in fiscal year 2022.
- Year 2 data collection is set to kick off on the 10th of November by West Fork Environmental. Project team members are scheduled to complete bi-weekly site inspections on the week of November 30th.
- CMER Staff and UW Staff completed survey work for the micro-topography parameterization experiment on November 8th and 9th. This included the drone based LiDAR data collection. This will be the base point/starting line for the micro-topography experiment for the Volcanic province.
- The PI and other Project Team Members will provide CMER with a science presentation to review the results from year 1 of data collection during the November meeting.

Unstable Slope Criteria Project Team
Project Team: Julie Dieu, Dan Miller, Ted Turner, Greg Stewart (CMER Staff)
AMP Project Manager: Ben Flint

- Implementation is on-going for project # 2 “Object-based Landform Mapping...” Data analysis is expected to be completed by March of 2020, with a draft findings report provided by CMER staff to the project team for review in June of 2021.

PSM Technical Group
AMP Support: Teresa Miskovic

- CMER decided to not pursue any additional revisions at this time and revisit next steps in January 2021.
- Jacob Hibbeln has incorporated the approved chapter 8 into the PSM.
- Policy was given a presentation on chapter 8 at their November 5th meeting.
CMER Work Plan Improvement Group
AMP Support: Heather Gibbs

- SAGs continue work on updating the Work Plan for the 21-23 biennium. More extensive improvements to the document will begin after the updates are approved in January.
- Edits to ISAG and WetSAG sections of the Work Plan were approved at the October CMER meeting.
- UPSAG and LWAG sections will be presented to CMER at the November meeting. SAGE and RSAG will be reviewed during the December meeting.

Small Forest Landowner PI – Outside science review
AMP Support: Ben Flint

- Reviews of the drafted six questions document and the completion of the responses by the SFLO 6 questions workgroup is anticipated to be provided to CMER at their December meeting. A request was made to Policy at their November meeting to extend the deadline by 30 days as reviewers continue to work on the structure and substance of the responses. The request was approved.
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