

CMER SAG UPDATES

April 2025

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 until the end of water year 2025.
 - Project Team is working on some Access Agreement renewals for May.

Wetlands Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring

- 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, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker, Michael Maudlin, Jason Hinkle, Adam Booth

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- Landslide mapping and classification project implementation is underway.
- UPSAG has begun discussions on the remaining projects in the DSL strategy, planning for what the next steps should be, focusing on groundwater recharge.

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 PT is focused on writing the final report. The report will be ready for joint SAG/CMER review at the end of April.
- 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).

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

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

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- The project Team is refining the final details of the framework and developing the outline for the final report.
- Ben Spei (PI) provided a presentation/update to SAGE at the March SAGE meeting, where he went over some findings and finalized final steps with SAGE for report writing.
 - Final report is due to SAGE in June 2025

Eastside Forest Health Strategy

- Rachel has been developing a burn severity analysis to inform the Eastside Forest Health Strategy after approval of strategy guidance document in Spring 2023.
- The ESFH work group has been meeting monthly immediately following SAGE to provide feedback on the burn severity analysis.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- The project team is preparing for the 2025 field season and strategizing outyear tasks.

RSAG

Co-Chairs: Joe Murray & Jenny Knoth

AMP Project Managers: Anna Toledo (RCS, Riparian Function Literature Synthesis), Alexander Prescott (Westside Type F, Extensive Monitoring)

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- Rachel has identified two sites in the West Cascades ecoregion for implementation in summer 2025 as well as two backup sites. One of the sites (Ostrander Creek) has been confirmed as suitable and the second site (Jordan Creek) will be verified for suitability this month. Harvest is planned for mid-late July at both sites.
- Rachel and Anna are coordinating with contractors for the layout and tree painting as well as the LiDAR work at the two sites this summer.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- Policy received the WTF Findings Report Package in their September 2024 meeting and in the November 2024 meeting voted as follows:
 - Saboor Jawad moved that following TFW Policy's acceptance of the Westside Type F Exploratory Report and the agreement that the report does not warrant a rule change by the FPB, the following actions will be taken:
 - Request the AMPA to forward and facilitate a presentation by the PIs to the

FPB.

- TFW Policy to initiate a dialogue with CMER on the Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project (ex. 25-27 CMER Work Plan 5.3.7.3).
 - Before TFW Policy initiates this conversation they intend to have additional conversations to assess critical questions and next steps. TFW Policy conversations will start after current disputes are resolved (month(s) time scale).
 - In the February 2025 TFW Policy meeting, board members discussed having a 75 ft buffer prescription be considered as a treatment in a future Westside Type F Experimental Buffer Treatment Project (No official motion or vote was taken).
- Jenelle Black delivered the report and a presentation to the FP Board on Feb. 14th.
- CMER is awaiting TFW Policy input before deciding next steps.

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

- The ExMo Project Team (PT) continues to make headway on scoping the project through the development of the Scoping and BAS documents.
- The PT has received formal RSAG feedback on both the Scoping Document and Best Available Science. The PT has started to review the 400+ comments and tracked changes on said documents and hopes to complete a revised final draft of the Scoping Document (with BAS) in time for the regular May RSAG mailing on May 7th.
- Ash Roorbach has stepped down from the ExMo PT. The PT expects to revise the Charter and reevaluate PT membership after the approvals of the Scoping Document.

Riparian Function Literature Review

- The Riparian Function Literature Review was approved by CMER at their February meeting.
- A disclaimer (“inside cover letter”) was discussed at the March CMER meeting but not approved. It will be discussed for approval again at the April CMER meeting.
- Ash Roorbach and Chris Mendoza drafted an Answers to 6 Questions document for CMER approval. It will be considered for approval at the April CMER meeting.

ISAG

Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- ISAG approved the AFF Project Charter which will be delivered to CMER for approval in April.

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).

- DNR is working with Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) on the implementation of the PHB and DPC studies. The Project Team, including CFS, is working on obtaining landowner access and coordinating access logistics. CFS has initiated field work and will continue to conduct field work as additional site permissions are obtained.
- The ISPR comments on the DPC Study Design were returned to the authors in February. The authors are working on responding to comments. The study design is expected back to CMER for final approval in May.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Joint SAG/CMER review of Final Report completed.
- The Final Report was submitted to CMER for consideration of approval at the January 2025 CMER meeting.
 - Project Team edits were made in an attempt to address reviewer comments
- The Report went to CMER in February with a request for approval. It was not approved. Dispute was called. The first informal meeting dispute meeting was set for 3/14/25.
 - Informal Dispute meeting was held on 03/14/2025
 - There was consensus for the informal stage to continue with the following terms:
 - Authors will make edits per feedback at 3/14 meeting, and
 - Doug Martin will articulate his concerns in writing by 4pm on 3/24/25 so that the authors can more clearly understand what specific changes he is requesting.
 - Doug Martin provided a document to the Project Team articulating his concerns. The Project Team has committed to making one additional effort to addressing the concerns and return the edits by 4/24/25
- During the Project Verification exercise for the 2025-2027 Work Plan, CMER approved an LWAG identified eDNA analysis add-on for previously collected samples.
 - Contracting has been executed with WSU to analyze and develop an assay of the samples. WSU and WDFW will coordinate on the development of a technical report that will be delivered mid-summer.

Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reach

- Scoping document was approved at the September 2024 CMER meeting.
- Scoping Document was approved at the November 2024 TFW Policy meeting.
- Project Team continues Study Design development.

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 PT, with support from contractors, has started the implementation of the GRAIP/WARSEM sediment delivery analysis and survey, the last of 6 parametrization experiments for the PT to implement. The DIP was approved by CMER in December 2024.
- Data collection for the final WY of the major experiment is ongoing. Continuous site maintenance/repair workload level is fairly high (replacing pendants, tipping bucket pieces, aging cameras, vandalism, supports for hoses/culverts, etc.).
- In response to two unsuccessful attempts to implement the Short Time Scale Turbidity Experiment this winter (due to uncooperative weather), the project team developed and implemented a simplified and passive way to some of the most critical data. Thank you to CMER Scientist Tanner and all the external partners for your assistance.
- The project team has developed a list of tasks needed for the next biennium's contracts and has started drafting contracts.
- Project team member Amanda Alvis has had another paper published related to Roads Project, specifically the MicroTopography Parameterization Experiment. CMER was previously notified of this intent in April 2024.
 - Spatiotemporal Evolution of Forest Road Rutting and Flow Pathways Examined Using Unoccupied Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
 - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/share/DYXSE8HWHXVZZWGN5WP?target=10.1002/hyp.70105>
- The project team has developed a list of tasks needed for the next biennium's contracts and has started drafting contracts.
- The project team is currently developing process plans for decommissioning the 80 project sites in Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties.

Schedule L-1 Revision

3 Groups:

Wetlands

Riparian – Shade, Riparian Condition, Litterfall, Instream LWD

Instream – Pool Frequency, Pool Depth, Peak Flows, Fines in Gravel

- Each group consists of 3 experts, one CMER Scientist and Theryn Henkel is the PM for all groups.
- All groups continue to meet and make headway through their assigned targets. All are on track to deliver their recommendations before June 30, 2025.

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	Apr 25
DPC	Study Design – Final CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Mar-25	May-25
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	June-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	June-25
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Anadromous Fish Floor	Project Charter	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Apr-25	Apr-25
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						