

CMER SAG UPDATES

August 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.
 - The project team is conducting summer field work: hemispherical photography and vegetation surveys are completed.

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, Rachel Pirot, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The RFQQ for the DSL Study Design was posted on 7/15/2024, proposals due 8/30/2024
- UPSAG has begun discussions on the remaining projects in the strategy, planning for what the next steps should be.

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 was delivered for concurrent UPSAG/CMER review at August CMER.
- 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 assembling datasets and setting up the landscape classification analysis workflow.
- The project team has transitioned into Phase II field data collection. The PM has completed most access agreements for field data collection. Summer field work is ongoing.
- The project team is planning a presentation/update to CMER at the September meeting.

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 continuing to gather literature and geospatial datasets for a desktop analysis.
 - Work is ongoing
 - Rachel gave an update at the May SAGE meeting and will be giving a more in-depth presentation to SAGE in the coming months.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- 2024 field season is wrapping up.
- At their June 12 meeting, TFW Policy approved an extension of monitoring at the ENREP sites beyond two years post-harvest for fiscal year 2025. The PM is working on contract amendments with University of Idaho and Utah State University to add this additional monitoring.

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

- Implementation has been completed at the two sites within the Northwest Coast ecoregion that were selected for implementation this summer. PI Rachel Rubin is analyzing the 2024 data and will be working on site identification for implementation in the West Cascades ecoregion in summer 2025.
- An article on the RCS study was published in DNR's Small Forest Landowner newsletter: <https://sflonews.wordpress.com/2024/08/14/how-much-shade-is-enough-a-riparian-buffer-shade-study/>

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- The 'WTF' PT is wrapping up their effort to complete the Final Six Questions document after

completing the final exploratory report.

- Exploratory Report Timeline (*future dates in italics*):
 - August 2024, CMER and RSAG conducted a concurrent review of the WTF Final Six Questions. The PT developed a revised final draft after responding to all received comments. RSAG and CMER will be considering their final approval of the WTF F6Qs in August.
 - *September 2024, Submission of Findings Report to TFW Policy*

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. However, we are pushing back the expected delivery of the scoping document to CMER from December 2024 to January 2025.
- The PT is sharing a working draft of the BAS with RSAG this month for their preliminary review and feedback.
- The PT is also giving a presentation to RSAG as a general update on the recent scoping progress.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- CMER comments were received by July 1 from the three CMER reviewers – Jenny Knoth, A.J. Kroll, and Welles Bretherton. The document with comments has been returned to the authors. CMER will be discussing this document at their August meeting to provide additional guidance to the authors on how to address CMER comments.

ISAG

Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

Anadromous Fish Floor

- The AFF Project Team has been conducting an after-action review on previous AFF work and outlining information that will be put into a project charter.
- Work on the AFF team is temporarily on hold to allow members who are also on the DPC Project Team to prioritize work on the DPC Study Design. AFF work will resume once the DPC Study Design is delivered to CMER, expected in September.

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 screening. The PM is coordinating with the Project Team to develop a Request for Qualifications and Quotations for a PI.
- The DPC Project Team is working on the DPC Study Design and expects to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in fall 2024.

- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. is supporting ISAG with statistical consultation for the PHB and DPC Study Designs.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Analyses to support report development have been completed.
- Report development is in progress.
- Anticipated delivery of report to CMER for review in October 2024.

Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reaches

- Project Team received CMER comments on the Scoping Document on July 25, 2024. The revised Scoping Document is expected to be delivered to CMER in September.

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 (PT) continues to develop the 2024 interim report for expected delivery with the August 2024 CMER meeting mailing materials.
- The PT successfully implemented the Sediment Trap Efficiency Experiment after the Detailed Implementation Plan was approved by CMER in April 2024. Execution of the STE started in June 2024, with additional runs planned for August 2024.
- The PT completed its work order with Neptune and Company, Inc (using the AMP Statistician Contract). Neptune developed a convolution neural net that can classify traffic camera images in heavy vehicle, light vehicle, and other categories with projected 90%+ accuracy. As we have hundreds of thousands of images, this product will be and already has been very helpful. Minor adjustments and modifications to the final report are still being made in response to PT input. The PT expects to share the report with CMER as an FYI in the September meeting.
- The PT was prepared to work again with the DNR Pacific Cascade Region to complete our annual road grading in fall, but unfortunately their staff and equipment availability has changed, and they are no longer able to support our project needs. The PM has been in touch with the South Puget Sound Region engineering team to assess their availability to complete part of the work.
 - If anyone has ideas on alternative grading equipment and staff availability, please let the PM know.
- The PT is currently developing a detailed SOW for the GRAIP/WARSEM sediment delivery analysis and survey, the last of 6 parametrization experiments for the PT to implement.
- Amanda Alvis' PhD Dissertation

- [Toward Modeling Traffic-Induced Forest Road Erosion: Field Investigations and Process-Based Model Conceptualization - ProQuest](#)

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	August 2024
DPC	Study Design	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Feb-23	Sep-24
Discontinuous Np Surface Flows	Scoping	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)	LWAG	Sept -22	June-24
Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Exploratory Project	Final Six Questions	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	July-24	Aug-24
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Jan-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	Jan-25
Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	Interim Report/	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	CMER	Jun-24	Aug-24
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis – CMER approval	Literature Synthesis	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Aug-24	Oct-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Project management Plan	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	March-24	Sep-24
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Charter Update	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	July-24	Sep-24
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						