

# CMER SAG UPDATES

February 2025

## WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield (WMZ/FWEP)

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### 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.
- Three recent land sales/ownership changes have affected several FWEP sites. The new ownership has committed to ongoing participation for the duration of the project.

### 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

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### Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker, Michael Maudlin, Jason Hinkle

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- Landslide mapping and classification project kicked off in February and 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 is delayed at the project team level but progress is being made.
- 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

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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) will be providing a presentation/update to SAGE at the March SAGE meeting, to finalize final steps with SAGE for report writing.
  - Final report is due 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 focusing on QA/QC of 2024 data and preparation for 2025 field season.

## RSAG

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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 and well as two backup sites. A CR-101 request regarding the research work at these sites will be presented to the Forest Practices Board at their February meeting.
- 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 meeting and in the November 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 will deliver the report and a presentation to the FP Board on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

### 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 preliminary RSAG feedback on working drafts of both the BAS and Scoping Document in late 2024.
- The PT delivered a final draft of the BAS to RSAG on 1/23, for a 30-day review. Comments due EOD 2/24/25
- The PT expects to deliver a final draft of the Scoping Document to RSAG by 3/3, for a 30-day review.

### Riparian Function Literature Review

- CMER reviewers identified and corrected factual inaccuracies in the Riparian Function Literature Review. That document was returned to the authors who accepted the corrections. The literature review has been returned to CMER for approval at the February CMER meeting.

## ISAG

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Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

### Anadromous Fish Floor

- The AFF project team is working on drafting a Project Charter.

### 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 on the implementation of the PHB and DPC studies. The Project Team, including Cramer Fish Sciences, is working on landowner access and preparation for field work, including permitting and field manual development.

- Anna and Jenelle presented about the PHB and DPC studies to WFFA to raise awareness about the work and encourage participation from landowners associated with identified study streams.
- The DPC Study Design is currently in ISPR. ISPR comments are expected back in mid-February.

## LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre

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AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

LWAG wants to announce the recent acceptance for a publication in the journal Ecosphere.

Negative effects of forest harvest on coastal tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*) emerge after a decade-long experiment

Authors: Aimee P. McIntyre, Reed Ojala-Barbour, Jay E. Jones, Andrew J. Kroll, Eric M. Lund, Timothy Quinn, William J. Ehinger, Stephanie M. Estrella, Dave E. Schuett-Hames, Marc P. Hayes  
 Journal: Ecosphere (which is open access)

## Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics

- Joint SAG/CMER review of Final Report completed.
- The Project Team completed revisions based on Reviewer input.
- The Final Report was submitted to CMER for consideration of approval at the January 2025 CMER meeting.
  - Reviewers chose to exercise their full 15 days for review of Project Team responses so the document was not voted on and will be on the February CMER agenda.
  - Reviewers had until 02/05 to review the revisions and responses to their comments from the PT.
  - The PT then responded to those comments and made final revisions to the Final Report and provided it to the reviewers on 02/10.
  - A meeting was set for 02/11/2025 with the reviewers and the Project Team to discuss any lingering concerns over the Final Report.

## Temperature and Amphibians in Discontinuously Flowing Np Reaches

- 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

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Project Team: Julie Dieu, Charlie Luce, Tom Black, Erkan Istanbuluoglu, Amanda Alvis, Jenelle Black.

AMP Project Manager: Alexander Prescott

- The PT completed the development of a detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) for 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.
  - The project team is working with landowners to secure access agreements for the various road networks, with implementation planned to start at the end of this month.
- 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, supports for hoses/culverts, etc.).
- The project team was prepared to run the final round of the Short Time Scale Experiment in early January, but we did not receive the required rainfall. We are looking to try again over the next 2 months.
- The project team is developing a list of tasks needed for the next biennium's contracts.
- The project team is currently evaluating process options for decommissioning the 80 project sites in Grays Harbor, Pacific, Lewis, and Cowlitz counties. We would like to hear from AMP participants on their:
  - Recommendations for process including transportation, coordination, equipment/supplies, disposal/storage, etc.,
  - Capacity to participate in the decommission, and/or
  - Interest in receiving the retired equipment.
- Each of the 80 study sites has approximately:
  - 1-2 steel water bars/troughs. (17-feet long, 4.7" wide, 4" tall)
  - 1 metal sediment tub. (5' wide, 4' tall)
  - 1 tipping bucket and housing
  - 1 20-gal drum
  - A handful of other smaller hoses and pipes
  - 1 flume/flow splitter (only at about 10 sites).
- Preliminary process considerations:
  - DNR Pacific Cascade Region has offered to support the decommissioning.
  - Equipment needs: excavator, dump truck (for rock), dump truck or lowboy (for salvaged equipment), pickup truck (for tools, gear)?
  - When the water bars/ troughs are removed, they will need to be immediately filled with rock to ensure good working condition of road. We have access to commercial and private pits as needed.
  - Cross drain culverts, which will be kept in place, will need to be fitted with flex pipes and/or the platforms topped with rock to reduce erosion concerns on the out-slope. Exact process tbd pending landowner discussions.
  - We have temporary storage sites available in Aberdeen and Toutle

## Schedule L-1 Revision

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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.

<b>Anticipated Documents for CMER Consideration/Review Next 12 Months</b>						
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Project Manager</b>	<b>Science Lead/PI</b>	<b>Oversight Committee</b>	<b>Original Anticipated Date</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Delivery</b>
Unstable Slopes Criteria Project - Landform Mapping	Final Report	Henkel	Elise Freeman (CMER)	UPSAG	Feb- 2023	Mar 25
DPC	Study Design – Final CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Mar-25	Mar-25
Extensive Monitoring	Scoping Document	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	May-25
Extensive Monitoring	Best Available Science (BAS)	Prescott	Jeff Robins (ECY)	RSAG	Dec-24	May-25
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG	May-24	TBD
Riparian Function Literature Review	Literature Review – CMER approval	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Aug-24	Feb-25
Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project	Charter Update	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE	July-24	March-25
The Type Np Hard Rock Phase III- Amphibian Demographics- Revised	Final Report-Revised	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre	LWAG	Sept.-24	Feb.-25
<b>* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual</b>						