

# CMER SAG UPDATES

March 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.
- WetSAG hosted a science session at their March meeting. Anthony Stewart Joined the WetSAG meeting to discuss his paper Revealing the hidden carbon in wetland soils.

### 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, 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 is delayed at the project team level but progress is being made. Expected for joint SAG/CMER review at April 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

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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) 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 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 as well as two backup sites. A CR-101 request regarding the research work at these sites was approved by 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 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 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 and a final draft of the Scoping Document on 3/3 both for 30-day reviews.
- The PT expects to deliver a complete final draft of the Scoping Document to RSAG with the goal of RSAG approval in May, and CMER to start their 30-day review with the May mailing materials.
- 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.
- Ash Roorbach and Chris Mendoza are leading the effort to draft an Answers to 6 Questions document for CMER approval.
- A disclaimer (“inside cover letter”) will be approved at CMER once the Answers to 6 Questions document has been developed and approved.

## ISAG

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Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

### Anadromous Fish Floor

- The AFF Project Team developed a Project Charter which is in ISAG review and expected to be

delivered to CMER 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 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 at the tribal TFW quarterly meeting to raise awareness about the project and upcoming fieldwork.
- 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 in April.

## 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 was on the February CMER agenda.
  - Reviewers had until 02/05 to review the revisions and responses to their comments from the PT.
  - A meeting was set for 02/11/2025 with the reviewers and the Project Team to discuss any lingering concerns over the Final Report. Additional edits were made.
  - 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.

## 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

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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, 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 way to collect only the most critical data needed for model development.
- 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 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	Apr 25
DPC	Study Design – Final CMER approval	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Mar-25	Apr-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
Anadromous Fish Floor	Project Charter	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Apr-25	Apr-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>						