

CMER SAG UPDATES

September 2023

WetSAG

Co-Chairs: Debbie Kay & Harry Bell

AMP Project Manager: Jenny Schofield (WMZ/FWEP)

Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Project

- Fall field work is ongoing.
 - Data downloads and data QAQC from instrumented sites is ongoing and will continue for the next two water years.
- Contracting with AmTest for water quality analyses is currently being developed for FY 2024.

Wetlands Management Zone

- 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 and expected in early 2024.

UPSAG

Chairs: Ted Turner & Mike Maudlin

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Rachel Piro, Anne Weekes, Elise Freeman, Jennifer Parker

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The DSL Mapping and Landform Classification Study Design was reviewed by CMER April 18-May 18, 2023. The Project Team and consultant are working through the comments and suggested edits. The Study Design is ready for CMER review and consideration for approval and submission to ISPR in September.
- Theryn is working with Project Team and UPSAG to update Project Timeline, Charter and Project Management Plan.

Unstable Slope Criteria Project

Project Team: Julie Dieu, Dan Miller, Ted Turner, Jeff Keck, Elise Freeman

AMP Project Manager: Theryn Henkel

- The Object-Based Landform Mapping with High-Resolution Topography Study mapping is ongoing.

The report is currently being rewritten by the Criteria Project Team and UPSAG. Dan Miller is supporting the Project Team in making edits/revisions to the report moving forward. The report is now expected to be delivered to CMER in December 2023.

- 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) was approved by CMER on and delivered to ISPR on March 29th. ISPR returned the report to the author and Project Team on May 31, 2023. Author response was returned to ISPR on July 14, 2023. The Study Design was returned from ISPR with a few outstanding requests which were addressed by the author and returned to ISPR in September. ISPR gave final approval in September. It should be up for final approval at the September CMER meeting. Criteria Project Team will begin working on Prospective 6 Questions document following CMER final approval. The project team is also in the very early stages of planning for implementation.
- Theryn has updated the Project Timeline, Charter and Project Management Plan and they are being reviewed by the Project Team. They will then be submitted for UPSAG and CMER approval.

SAGE

Chair: Todd Baldwin

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

Eastside Timber Habitat Evaluation Project (ETHEP)

- ISPR comments on the ETHEP Study Design were received. The authors are reviewing and responding to comments and expect to return the revised study design to ISPR by the end of September.
- Jenny Schofield is transitioning into the Project Manager role for ETHEP.

Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP)

- CMER approved adding Welles Bretherton to the ENREP Project Team.
- Due to logistical complications, the landowner at Fish Creek anticipates the harvest will span two seasons (2023 and 2024). This may have some budgetary and timeline implications for the project. The Project Team is discussing these implications and will develop a recommendation for any proposed budgetary and timeline adjustments.
- The Coxit and Fish Creek harvests have been delayed to a fall start.
- The Project Team is discussing the possibility of a project extension. Any proposed changes to timeline and budget will be brought to SAGE for discussion.
- A joint TFW Policy and CMER field trip to ENREP sites is planned for Wednesday, September 27.

Eastside Forest Health Strategy

- SAGE will soon begin working on further developing the Eastside Forest Health Strategy based on the Policy-approved 23-25 CMER Work Plan.

RSAG

Chair: Joe Murray

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

Riparian Characteristics and Shade Response Study

- Rachel Rubin has been working on site selection for 2024 and will be discussing a potential site with the project team.
- The Prospective 6 Questions document was approved by CMER in August and delivered to Policy in September.

Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Effectiveness Project

- The Final Exploratory Report was approved by CMER and was sent to ISPR for review. The project team received the ISPR response on January 25th 2023. Revisions, including a clean and markup version of the revised report as well as comments matrix were due back to ISPR by 3/10/23. This due date, and multiple subsequent targeted due dates have not been met and the report continues to be significantly delayed.

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

- The “ExMo” Project Team approved a draft charter that was sent to RSAG for review in May. RSAG requested two extensions of the review period, culminating in a preliminary review of RSAG comments and tracked changes in the August RSAG meeting and a final review in the September meeting. RSAG has now transmitted the comment/edited charter back to the ExMo PT for revisions.
- RSAG completed their review and comments on the Watershed DCG, Data Assessment contract final report in the September RSAG meeting and transmitted them to the ExMo PT.
- The ExMo PT has been meeting with researchers and scientists specializing in extensive monitoring such as Dan Isaak of USFS’ NorWest to learn about best practices and possible collaboration opportunities.
- The ExMo PT has been developing a preliminary list of GIS tasks and deliverables that would be beneficial to supporting the scoping process either to be completed by PT members or a contractor in a ‘to be developed’ contract. Work on this is ongoing.

Riparian Function Literature Synthesis

- The Riparian Function Literature Synthesis is in RSAG review. RSAG provided comments on August 11. The authors are reviewing the RSAG comments and expect to return the updated document to RSAG in November.

ISAG

Co-Chair: Jason Walter

AMP Project Manager: Anna Toledo

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 the Prospective 6 Questions document.
- The DPC Project Team is working on the DPC Study Design and expects to initiate concurrent CMER/ISAG review in fall/winter 2023.
- The PHB and DPC Project Charters were approved by CMER in July and by TFW Policy in September.
- Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. is supporting ISAG with statistical consultation for the PHB and DPC Study Designs. Field implementation is scheduled to begin in FY24, including field reconnaissance.
- ISAG is looking for a new Co-Chair.

LWAG

Co-Chairs: AJ Kroll & Aimee McIntyre AMP

Project Manager: Jenny Schofield

Hard Rock

- The Phase III Amphibian Demographics project is in implementation. The first of two field seasons of amphibian demographic sampling has been completed at all historic Type N Study sites.
- Field work to support the second amphibian demographic sampling season began in July 2023 and is anticipated to conclude end of September 2023.

Discontinuous Np Surface Flows

- The Scoping Document is under development Summer 2023, with anticipated delivery to CMER in late Fall 2023. Two documents are being drafted: Best Available Science document and Scoping Document.
- The Charter will be updated to reflect Project Team changes and any other relevant changes, including updating the timeline.

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 Roads Project Team completed the first phase of annual summer road maintenance activities with the assistance of PC Region Road Crew including replacing all traffic counters across our study areas, placing new rock on study segments, and constructing new ditch-line BMPs.
- The Roads Project Team is now completing the second phase of summer fieldwork including installing ditchline straw wattles, retrofitting flumes for high flow calibration purposes, calibrating flumes, and planning future parametrization experiments.
- A Limited Public Works contract to grade the project's study segments and buried traffic

counters was developed and sent out to contractors at the end of August, however there were no bids received at the time of the opportunity closing. We are now advertising a second bid opportunity, but are also looking for other solutions such as landowner and DNR road crew assistance due to the urgent need to grade the roads.

- The Project Team submitted a memo to CMER in September describing minor deviations to the application of BMPs in the project.

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	Dec - 23
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	Final ISPR-Approved Report	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	March-23	Nov 23
Westside Type F Exploratory Report	CMER Six Questions Document	Prescott	Jenelle Black (CMER)	RSAG	Mar-23	TBD
PHB	Prospective 6 Questions	Toledo	TBD	ISAG		Oct-23
DPC	Study Design	Toledo	TBD	ISAG	Feb-23	Nov-23
Discontinuous Np Surface Flows	Scoping	Schofield	Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)	LWAG	Sept -22	Late Fall-23
ETHEP	ISPR-Approved Study Design	Schofield	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	SAGE		Oct-23
Extensive Monitoring	Project Charter	Prescott	TBD	RSAG	Oct-22	Dec-23
WMZ	Scoping	Schofield	Tanner Williamson (CMER)	WetSAG		Feb-24
Riparian Function Literature Synthesis	Literature Synthesis	Toledo	Rachel Rubin (CMER)	RSAG	Oct-23	Jan-24
Deep-Seated Landslide Research Strategy	Revised Study Design	Henkel	Elise Freeman (CMER)	UPSAG	July- 23	Sep-23
* Policy Initiated Items- Not following CMER' Protocols and Standards Manual						