**Spruce Beetle Epidemic Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR)**

**SBEADMR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT GROUP (AMG)**

**Background:**

The SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group (AMG) evolved from a recommendation of the original SBEADMR Working Group to establish a more formally structured citizen-based collaborative group to assist the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) with implementation of SBEADMR projects. Once the SBEADMR Record of Decision was signed in July, 2016, the Public Lands Partnership (PLP) solicited nominations from each of the entities and/or interest groups designated to have a “seat” at the AMG table. In April, 2017, the PLP convened the organizational meeting of the AMG.

**Purpose:**

The primary purpose of the AMG is to assist the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest (GMUG) in applying the adaptive management framework in accordance with the Appendix E (Public Engagement in Adaptive Implementation) of the SBEADMR Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

**Objectives:**

* Provide comments on proposed treatment sites within the FEIS priority treatment areas (PTAs) and of treatment design
* Help with articulating monitoring questions
* Participate in the post-treatment field review and evaluation of the effects of treatment to be included as part of the annual report for Forest Management Review
* Review ongoing monitoring to make recommendations for adaptive management for future SBEADMR projects.
* Have representation at the annual review with GMUG leadership team and Science Team
* Anticipate roadblocks that may arise and work with the Forest Service and Science Team to resolve
* Strive for consensus of diverse interests on formal comments/recommendations to be submitted to the GMUG.

**Organizational Structure and Membership:**

The AMG functions as an independent citizen-based working group convened by the Public Lands Partnership (PLP). It serves in an advisory role to the GMUG for implementation and monitoring of the SBEADMR projects.

The SBEADMR AMG provides membership and voting rights to organizations and individuals representing key interests and perspectives, geographic, economic and social balance, and knowledge of the lands and resources within the SBEADMR project area. The members are self-selected by stakeholder category except for the community at-large representatives who are appointed by their respective County Commissioners. Alternate members may be appointed for each seat.

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Identified interests having a “seat” at the table and voting rights include the following:

 Organization/Interest Number of Board Seats

County commissioners or designee 7

Forestry processors 1

Forestry loggers 1

Environmental/Conservation groups 2

Community member at large from each timber zone 3

Water resources/hydrology 1

Recreational user groups 1

Wildlife and fish interests 1

Education 1

The AMG functions in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by AMG members and an Operations Manual which set forth the organizational structure, membership and decision making process for the group. The AMG may convene two (2) or three (3) meetings annually

in addition to the GMUG’s annual off-season meeting and seasonal field trips as outlined in the FEIS.

 In addition, the AMG has appointed a Monitoring Committee to identify and organize areas to observe and monitor in keeping with the goals and objectives of the SBEADMR FEIS. The main areas identified are:

* Community understanding and engagement
* Socio-economic data and impacts
* Collaborative adaptive management process and outcomes
* Tracking science studies and monitoring efforts

**External Communications**

* Information about the SBEADMR AMG is available to external stakeholders on the PLP website at [www.publiclandspartnership.org](http://www.publiclandspartnership.org)
* Notices of AMG meetings, meeting agenda and meeting notes are posted on the above referenced website
* Copies of all AMG related documents are posted on the above referenced website
	+ AMG Memorandum of Understanding
	+ AMG Operations Manual
	+ AMG Membership and Resource Team Directory
* An AMG Newsletter will be issued quarterly (or as needed) and posted on the above referenced website to give notice of upcoming meetings and SBEADMR activities.

**AMG Contact**: *Chris Miller, PLP Coordinator, at info@publiclandspartnership.org*