**Suggested Text for Website Introduction or Welcome**

**History of SBEADMR and Adaptive Management Group (AMG)**

In the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests, approximately 40%

of spruce and aspen forests have been recently (or are currently) affected by insects and

disease. The Spruce Beetle-Aspen Decline Management Response (SBEADMR) Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS) was created to address a decade of disturbance issues and improve

forest health for roughly 120,000 acres on the GMUG.

The purpose of SBEADMR is three-fold: minimize threats from falling, dead trees and better

manage wildfires (safety); improve the resiliency of stands at risk to insects and disease

(resiliency); and treat affected stands via recovery of salvageable timber and re-establishment

of desired forest conditions (recovery).

Launched by the GMUG in 2016, SBEADMR is designed to allow a more nimble “adaptive management” response to rapidly changing forest conditions associated with insect and disease outbreaks than is typically allowed under the agency’s planning process. Conventional planning processes for forest treatments like timber harvesting can take years to complete. Although insect and disease outbreaks are part of natural disturbance cycles, the epidemic level outbreaks occurring over the last decade have produced significant mortality in the time it can take to complete the planning and analysis process for a forest treatment. With this significant change, a resiliency treatment needs to be redesigned into a salvage treatment, which traditionally would require restarting the entire process. SBEADMR avoids this problem by using an adaptive management approach that allows the USFS to designate large swaths of land as priority treatment areas and then zero in on specific stands of trees year by year, based on current conditions.

This novel approach, however, generated concerns from local stakeholders who thought

SBEADMR lacked specificity about the proposed projects and the areas that would be treated.

Stakeholders also wanted to see more science driven management decisions and had concerns

about the impacts of temporary logging roads, disruption to recreational users, impacts on

wildlife and lack of public input on specific projects. To address these concerns the USFS agreed

to fund an independent science advisory team to inform treatment decisions and established

the SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group (AMG).[insert reference to AMG webpages]

The AMG, originally convened by the Public Lands Partnership, is a citizen-based working group composed of individuals representing a broad diversity of local and regional interests and perspectives. Members include county commissioners, timber industry representatives, conservation groups, water resources, recreation, wildlife, education, and at-large community members. The AMG serves in an advisory role to assist the GMUG with the implementation and monitoring of SBEADMR projects in accordance with the 2016 SBEADMR Record of Decision ROD)[insert reference to ROD link?].