**Follow-Up to 5/13/2020 SBEADMR AMG Meeting**

**May 20, 2020**

**Impact of COVID-19 on SBEADMR Projects/Field Trips**

a. 2020 Planned Treatment Activities: Nicole Hutt, GMUG Timber Program Manager, reported that planning and implementation of the 2020 treatment activities are continuing as scheduled with a focus on how to do the work safely and in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions/limitations. There will be treatment activities in all three timber zones (North, East and West) this summer as presented at the February Annual SBEADMR Stakeholder meeting. The 2020 treatment areas and maps showing the general treatment areas for each timber zone for 2020-2022 are posted on the GMUG SBEADMR/Implementation website at the following link:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=fseprd497061>

 ***For more information on specific treatments areas people are encouraged to contact USFS District Timber Management Assistants* *at*** [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/about-forest/offices](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/about-forest/offices)

* East Zone (Gunnison Ranger District) – (*TMA vacant*) Arthur Haines, art.haines@usda.gov
* North Zone (Grand Valley and Paonia Ranger Districts) – Cari Johnson, cariajohnson@usda.gov
* West Zone (Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts) – JosepGonzalez, joseph.f.gonzales@usda.gov

b. 2020 SBEADMR Monitoring Activities:

Science Team members Kevin Barrett and Jason Sibold reported that they were hopeful summer crews would be approved for travel (per COVID-19 travel and quarantine restrictions) to conduct fieldwork this summer. Kevin’s crew plan to do some pre-treatment monitoring on the Rainbow timber salvage site on the Gunnison District and also doing some seed sampling and monitoring snowshoe hare scat in some on the intensive monitoring sites. In addition to monitoring the intensive plots, Jason reported that he would also be spending time analyzing work completed on the “change detection” remote sensing project and how any changes might impact SBEADMR projects.

Mike Battaglia noted that he is working with Carlyn Perovich, Forest Ecologist, and Nicole Hutt, to visit some older group selection sites (5 to 10 years ago) similar to some of the proposed resiliency treatment sites to see if there had been natural regeneration. Visiting the older sites and reviewing the treatment prescriptions will help inform treatment design for new proposed sites. Carlyn will provide some information on the proposed older group selection sites and will distribute that information to the AMG membership.

c. 2020 SBEADMR Pre-Treatment and Post-Treatment Best Management Practices Field Trips

Carlyn reported at this point it doesn’t seem likely the SBEADMR summer field trips scheduled in August will happen given current COVID-19 group gathering limitations and transportation restrictions that limit one person per Forest Service vehicle. AMG members encouraged flexibility in making any final decision given the value of the field trips for the AMG and interested public. Given expectations that some COVID-19 restrictions may be lifted by then, the FS staff agreed to take under consideration the group’s suggestion of deferring a final decision until mid-July. Ideas for the field trip could be to limit the group to a small size and either video the sites and conversations, live stream or conduct a virtual meeting afterwards.

**AMG Recommendations for Adaptations to SBEADMR Implementation and/or Monitoring**

This discussion focused on the draft 2020 SBEADMR Management Report that Clay is preparing for the June Forest Leadership Team Meeting. Clay walked the group through the draft Management Report and recommendations proposed based on the review and findings of environmental performance, proposed administrative changes, adaptive management process and the Science Team’s monitoring findings and interpretations. Clay asked the group to provide feedback to the draft Management Report in terms of: “yes, we agree”, “no, we don’t agree”, “agree with modifications”, or “point out something that is missing in the report”. Unfortunately there wasn’t time in the virtual meeting for much discussion or feedback on the recommendations but it isn’t too late to submit your thoughts or comments.

***If you wish to submit comments on the proposed recommendations, you may submit them directly to Clay Speas at clay.speas@usda.gov. Comments should be submitted by the first of June to be considered and incorporated in the final draft of the Management Report. A copy of the draft Management Report is attached for your reference.***

**Cost/Benefits of Road Improvements for SBEADMR Related Projects (attached)**

Clay reported that he had compiled road construction/improvement costs related to SBEADMR projects. A copy of this is attached for your information. Discussion of this information will be deferred to a later meeting.