**SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group Meeting Notes**

**May 13,2020**

The SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group (AMG) convened as a virtual MS TEAMS meeting at 1:00 PM on Thursday, May 13, 2020. Present and representing the various “seats” on the AMG were:

**Designated Seat**  **Regular Member** **Alternate Member**

Delta County absent absent

Gunnison County Jonathan Houck TBD

Hinsdale County absent Lynn McNutt

Montrose County Justin Musser absent

Ouray County Ben Tisdel absent

San Miguel County absent absent

Environmental/Conservation Chris Jauhola Enno Heushner

Environmental/Conservation Lexi Tuddenham Robin Nicholoff

Forestry Processor Tim Kyllo TBD

Forestry Logger Molly Pitts TBD

Community at Large

East Zone TBD TBD

North Zone absent TBD

West Zone Nancy Fishering Andy Goldman

Water Resources absent absent

Recreational User Groups Ralph Files TBD

Wildlife and Fish absent Jamie Nogle

Education TBD TBD

**Resource/Staff Present**: Clay Speas, Carlyn Perovich, Nicole Hutt, Beth Anderson, and Kim Phillips, GMUG Nat’l Forest; Jason Sibold, Kevin Barrett, Jake Ivan and Mike Battaglio, SBEADMR Science Team; Scott Johnson, Colorado State Forest Service; and Susan Hansen, Meeting Facilitator

**Guests Present**: Cindy Dozier, Hinsdale County resident and Matt Reed, High Country Citizens

**Approval of January 30, 2020 AMG Meeting Notes**: M/S/P. Fishering/Kyllo approve the 1/30/2020 AMG meeting notes as submitted.

**Item No. 1: How Has or Might COVID-19 Impact SBEADMR:**

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](mailto:art.haines@usda.gov)
* North Zone (Grand Valley and Paonia Ranger Districts) – Cari Johnson, [cariajohnson@usda.gov](mailto:cariajohnson@usda.gov)
* West Zone (Norwood and Ouray Ranger Districts) – JosepGonzalez, [joseph.f.gonzales@usda.gov](mailto:joseph.f.gonzales@usda.gov)

b. 2020 SBEADMR Summer 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 do 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 does not 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.

**Item No. 2: AMG Recommendations for Adaptations to SBEADMR Implementation and/or Monitoring**

This discussion focused on the draft 2020 SBEADMR Management Review (attached) that Clay Speas, GMUG Renewable Resources Staff Officer, is preparing for the June Forest Leadership Team Meeting. The draft Management Review represents a compilation of GMUG staff review and assessment of SBEADMR activities, Science Team findings and interpretations, AMG comments/recommendations and public comments. Clay reviewed findings and proposed recommendations under the following main categories:

* Accomplishments through December 31, 2019 –
  + 12,771 acres treated (21% of cap for commercial treatment)
  + 215,485 CCF timber volume produced from salvage sales
  + 76.7 miles of temporary roads constructed; 41.1 miles of temporary roads in completed sales have been decommissioned in accordance with Design Feature Requirements.

*AMG Comment/Question: Ralph Files: Consideration should be given to provide pull-out areas for dispersed camping or hiking when laying out temporary roads in anticipation of increased camping demand on GMUG.*

* Environmental Performance - in terms of whether specific “triggers” identified in the FEIS for Canada Lynx, watershed impacts, habitat structural diversity, soil productivity and bare soil resulting from burning slash piles been exceeded?

*AMG Comments/Questions:*

* *Chris Jauhola: Some slash piles should be left as “hare habitats” and suggested there be a written recommendation included in Management Review; ID teams do address this issue as part of planning process for each site.*
* *Ralph Files: How long before the habitat for hares would recover and what were some revegetation options to facilitate hare habitat recovery; Jason Sibold suggested subalpine fir as a good short-term low ground cover.*
* Proposed Administrative Changes – changes that would result in increased efficiency and/or changes to design features to make them ore implementable or effective to achieve the desired environmental outcome?

*AMG Comments/Questions: None*

* Adaptive Management Process (Appendix E of FEIS) - proposed recommendations to (1) better reflect the type of public input that is most constructive for treatment planning as opposed to comments referencing issues that were addressed in the FEIS (2) public comments that are general in nature or were addressed in the FEIS will be addressed through a set of Questions and Public Comment responses to be distributed at the annual SBEADMR mid-winter meeting and posted on the GMUG SBEADMR website.

*AMG Comments/Question:*

* *Nancy Fishering: Prepare a summary of public comments and responses received during a specific comment period; the summary could be presented at the annual meeting and/or posted on website to ensure the public they were heard; such a summary would be helpful to AMG in its outreach efforts.*
* *Clay: FS staff would like to move the public comment period for out-year treatment plans earlier in the year, e.g. shortly after the annual mid-winter meeting rather than waiting until after the summer pre-treatment field trip, in order to get feedback earlier in the treatment planning process.*
* Best Available Science Information - Science Team’s monitoring findings and interpretations documented in the January 2020 Science Team Monitoring Matrix Update. Carlyn noted that none of the results indicate immediate changes in management action other than referencing a few things that might warrant considering options or looking into further.

*AMG Comments/Questions: None*

In concluding his report, Clay asked the group to provide feedback to the draft Management Review documents 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 was not time in the virtual meeting for much discussion or feedback on the recommendations. Individuals wishing to submit comments on the proposed recommendations, 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.

AMG General Comments/Questions:

* *Nancy Fishering commended Clay on a job well done; the format and layout of the Management Review was very easy to follow; recommended approval of all proposed motions*
* *Robin Nicholoff referenced the Science Team’s “Summer Field Work Summary Report” and specifically the statement that “…treatment in green stands should establish new regeneration”. He asked what the Forest Service team’s response to that statement was.* ***Response****: Consensus is to think in terms of resiliency - the eventual recovery of those stands. As the Science Team begins to pivot toward green tree resiliency treatments, they will be working with GMUG staff at various levels:*
  + *Mike Battaglio, Nicole Hutt and Carlyn Perovich plan go out and look at some past group selection stands to see how have regenerated,*
  + *Not only look at operational things in the past but more controlled treatments that can replicate and provide more long- term information,*
  + *Solicit green tree treatment concerns from AMG members and others early on so Science Team can start developing and testing some hypotheses for treatment design and prescriptions, e.g. how to minimize potential for blowdowns in group selection*
  + *Strongly encourage further discussion of green tree treatments and concerns with AMG*
* *Lexi Tuddenham inquired of possibility of getting more detailed maps of specific timber sale areas. It was noted that general maps of treatment/sale areas are posted on the GMUG SBEADMR website. For more specific information individuals are encouraged to work directly with the Rangers and Timber Management Assistants* *in the timber zone/ranger district of interest.*

**Item No. 3: Non-Agenda Items**

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

Clay reported that he had compiled road construction/improvement costs related to SBEADMR projects. He will email that out to AMG members and any further discussion/consideration of this information will be deferred to a later meeting.

**Next AMG Meeting**

The next meeting of the AMG will be planned for the fall, 2020 and hopefully will be an in-person meeting. If not, will plan on another virtual meeting to help close the gap between this May meeting and the February 2021 annual SBEADMR stakeholder meeting. Consensus was the MS TEAMS meeting worked well, in part, because a lot of information was distributed prior to the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM

Notes compiled by Susan Hansen, Meeting Facilitator