

**SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group Meeting Notes
February 7, 2019**

The SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group (AMG) met at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 7, 2019 in the Pioneer Room at Friendship Hall in Montrose. Present and representing the various “seats” on the AMG were:

<u>Designated Seat</u>	<u>Regular Member</u>	<u>Alternate Member</u>
Delta County	absent	absent
Gunnison County	absent	TBD
Hinsdale County	Cindy Dozier	absent
Montrose County	absent	Justin Musser
Ouray County	absent	absent
San Miguel County	Hilary Cooper	Lynn Padgett
Environmental/Conservation	Chris Jauhola	Enno Heuscher
Environmental/Conservation	Lexi Tuddenham	Robin Nicholoff
Forestry Processor	Norm Birtcher	Molly Pitts
Forestry Logger	Mike Ganroth	Molly Pitts
Community at Large		
East Zone	TBD	TBD
North Zone	Mary Chapman	TBD
West Zone	Nancy Fishering	Andy Goldman
Water Resources	Lynn Padgett	absent
Recreational User Groups	Ralph Files	TBD
Wildlife and Fish	absent	Jamie Nogle
Education	TBD	TBD

Resource/Staff Present: Clay Speas, and Carlyn Perovich, GMUG Nat’l Forest; Mike Battaglia, SBEADMR Science Team; Chris Miller, PLP Coordinator and Susan Hansen, Meeting Facilitator

Approval of 05/05/2018 AMG Meeting Notes: Approval of the draft notes of the 05/05/18 AMG meeting was tabled until the next AMG meeting.

Item No. 1: Forest Service Update – Clay Speas, GMUG Renewable Resource Staff Officer

➤ **Update on Current SBEADMR Treatment/Salvage Sales**

- Clay distributed a spreadsheet of the current status of SBEADMR treatment/salvage sales to date (attached).
- FS has implemented/sold 20+ treatments to date – not including some smaller SBEADMR sales
- Treated 13, 000 acres – estimated harvest of 200 ccf of timber.
- Approximately 63-65 mile of temporary roads will be constructed for salvage sales sold; all temporary roads will be decommissioned after sales are completed; reclamation is responsibility of timber contractor.
- Average temporary road construction is about 1 mile per 125-130 acres treated.
- Currently 3 Good Neighbor Authority Sales (State Forest Service assists in administration of sales).
 - Big Willow (Alpine Plateau),
 - Little Cone (San Miguel), and
 - Ridgestock (Alpine Plateau – summer 2019)

- FS accelerated the timber salvage program during the first 3 years due to mortality of beetle infested trees; will begin moving to resiliency (green tree) treatments in 2021.
- Beetles continue to move across landscape and FS may have to “adapt” treatment areas depending on where beetles move to; estimated active beetle population is about 40,000 acres on GMUG.

➤ **Notes from 2018 Summer Pre-Treatment Field Trip – Rainbow/Red Creek (southeast Gunnison County)**

- Clay distributed notes that were taken by FS staff during August, 2018 pre-treatment field trip to the Rainbow/Red Creek area (attached).
- Local issues raised during the field trip dealt with snowmobile access during winter season and dust abatement.
- Snowmobile trail will be rerouted off the main haul route during winter months.
- A dust abatement plan will be developed with the State Forest Service as part of its contract. The plan will be submitted to the Arrowhead Estates HOA for its review prior to implementation.

➤ **Public Comments Received after 30 Comment Period on 2019 Proposed Treatment Areas**

There was a 30 day public comment period last fall after notice has been published on the 2019 SBEADMR treatment plan.

- Clay reported that a few comments had been received and were referred to the District level to respond; they will be further addressed at the annual SBEADMR Stakeholder meeting in April.
- One lengthy comment received from a local resident (Paonia area) on the proposed 2019 Hubbard Salvage Sale (east zone) concerning roadless area, wilderness characteristics and wildlife. Response is being drafted and resident has been invited to attend the April meeting to learn how concerns will be addressed in treatment plan.

➤ **Taylor Park Vegetation Management Plan**

- Clay provided an update on the Taylor Park Vegetation Management Plan (TPVMP) for the Spring Creek/Taylor Creek area in Gunnison County. The plan is to replicate much of the SBEADMR adaptive management approach for lodgepole pine stands in that area.
- Scoping for the project was completed in the fall, an EA has been drafted and nearing completion.
- A 30-day comment period on the draft EA is scheduled for this spring.
- FS has entered into an agreement with Western Colorado University (WCU) to assist the GMUG in implementation and spearhead the organization of an Adaptive Management Group
- WCU convened the first public meeting on organizing an AMG in early December
- The project is using a Farm Bill EA, i.e. project is either a “go” or “no go”.
- A Science Team is being formed primarily at WCU – similar to SBEADMR’s Science Team

Item No. 2: Review of AMG Monitoring Matrix – AMG Monitoring Committee Members

- The monitoring matrix was developed by members of the AMG Monitoring Committee as a tool to track over the life of SBEADMR the implementation and monitoring efforts in four major areas consistent with the goals and objectives of SBEADMR, i.e. research & monitoring, socio-economic impacts, outreach & communication with stakeholders and the adaptive management process)
- The tool was also designed to illustrate how the adaptive management process will move from findings to recommendations to adaptations and the relationship between the Science Team, the AMG and the GMUG.

- Research & Monitoring
 - The Science Team had updated the current version of the monitoring matrix with their findings from the 2018 summer monitoring efforts.
 - Mike Battaglia, Science Team, noted that its role is to interpret the findings and data but not make recommendations; interpretations will be presented at the April, 2019 SBEADMR Stakeholder Meeting.
 - The AMG will meet in early May to formulate any recommendations for treatment adaptations based on the Science Team's presentations and interpretations to submit to the Forest Leadership Team for consideration.
- Socio-Economic Impacts
 - Molly Pitts, Pitts Resource Consulting, LLC, distributed a draft questionnaire to "Assess Impacts of Wood Volume from SBEADMR Projects on Wood Producers" for review and comment. Concern was expressed for the length and complexity of the survey and fear that smaller contractors might "push back" on completing it. Norm Birtcher had reviewed draft and didn't see anything that would be an issue because of proprietary information. Some suggestions were made to simplify and shorten the survey; Molly will work with Nancy Fishering and Norm Birtcher to revise the survey. Molly plans to give a report at the April Stakeholder meeting.
 - The FS is compiling data on "Changes in USFS Costs and Outputs" as a result of the SBEADMR adaptive management program.
- Communication and Outreach
 - AMG Communications Subcommittee presented a proposal to contract with a media consultant to help design an outreach program utilizing a variety of approaches to raise awareness of SBEADMR among the general public.
 - Need to designate a FS "contact person" to direct media sources to when asking for information/interpretation of SBEADMR program, i.e. Clay or Kim???

Item No. 3: Annual SBEADMR Stakeholder Meeting and 2019 Summer Field Trips – Carlyn Perovich, GMUG Forest Ecologist and Clay Speas, Renewable Resource Staff Officer

- **Annual SBEADMR Stakeholder Meeting**
 - The Annual Stakeholder Meeting will be held on April 16, 2019 from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM at the Montrose County Event Center
 - The meeting will have two sessions to accommodate the difference levels of detail desired by a diverse audience as follows:
 - **Morning Session (): 8:30 AM to 12:00 Noon** – Detailed Presentations & Round Table Discussions with Science Team, GMUG staff/specialists and interested stakeholders about research and monitoring efforts related to SBEADMR projects
 - **Afternoon Session 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM – Main Stakeholder Meeting** – Update on SBEADMR Implementation, Summary Presentations from the Science Team, Out-Year (2019-2021) Proposed Program of Work for Each Timber Zone/Ranger District and Proposed 2019 Summer Field Trip(s) Another significant "adaptation" to the afternoon session is interactive "poster stations" to present the out-years (2019-2021) proposed program of work for each timber zone. This change in format will allow stakeholders to move among the different "poster stations" and have one-on-one conversations, as well as group discussions, with GMUG staff/specialists and members of the Science Team at each station.
- **2019 Summer SBEADMR Field Trips – Carlyn Perovich and Clay Speas**
 - A Best Management Practices (BMP) post treatment field trip will be scheduled for AMG members in summer, 2019. Site TBD.

- A pre-treatment field trip on the proposed Hubbard Creek sale will be scheduled in August. Dates to be announced later.

Item No. 4: Open Discussion: How is the Adaptive Management Process Working from the AMG Perspective?

Due to meeting time constraints, this discussion was tabled until the May meeting of the AMG and after the annual SBEADMR Stakeholders meeting in April.

Item No. 5: Housekeeping Issues – following Items were covered very briefly

- AMG Membership List: The current membership list was distributed and reviewed for any changes in membership.
- AMG Newsletter and PLP Website: Discussion followed on the value of both the AMG newsletter and PLP Website. Question of “who is intended audience – AMG or general public”? Chris Miller reported that over 50% of the 160 + recipients open the Newsletter. Suggested that question be posed of the media consultant as what outreach tools are appropriate/effective for what audiences.
- Proposed 2019 Schedule for AMG meetings: Mid-winter meeting (February), Annual SBEADMR Stakeholder meeting (April), spring meeting (May) after the Annual Stakeholder and before the FS Leadership scheduled for late May, and Summer Field Trip (early August). Actual meeting dates will be announced and posted on PLP website as soon as dates are established and confirmed.

Item No. 6: Opportunity for Public Comment: None

Item No. 7: Non-Agenda Items:

- Unc/Com: Clay noted that Unc/Com has convened a “leadership subcommittee” comprised of representatives of the Western Colorado Landscape Collaborative (WCLC) MOU to consider the future of Unc/Com after 2019 and a possible reorganization to increase efficiencies. Outcomes from those meetings should be on the 5/2/2019 AMG agenda as they may impact how SBEADMR funds for education and outreach are allocated and administered in the future.
- Science Team: Clay noted that the Forest Service was in process of doing another agreement modification with the SBEADMR Science Team to continue work.
- Timber Zones/Ranger Districts: Lynn Padgett suggested indicating the Ranger District for each Timber Zone since the public is more familiar with “ranger districts” than “timber zones”

Item No 8: Schedule Next Meeting: May 2, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Location to be announced.

After a round of closing comments, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM

Notes prepared by Susan Hansen, Meeting Facilitator