

**BOF Effectiveness Monitoring Committee Meeting Notes
October 20, 2021**

GoToMeeting Webinar

1. PARTICIPANTS (16)

Members - Sue Husari (Co-Chair), Loretta Moreno (Co-Chair), Stacy Drury, Drew Coe, Justin LaNier, Matt House, Sal Chinnici, Matt O'Connor, Leander Love-Anderegg, Ben Waitman, Bill Short, and Jessica Leonard

Staff - Kristina Wolf, Edith Hannigan, and Andrew Lawhorn

Public Participants - Richard Gienger

2. REPORT BY THE CO-CHAIRS

a. Member Updates

Sue Husari announced that the EMC needs to recruit two new members to fill member seats for: Greg Giusti - retired and Sarah Bisbing - resigned.

b. Project Updates

- EMC-2016-003, Repeat LiDAR Surveys to Detect Landslides: Member Matthew O'Connor reported that project funds were used to purchase LIDAR based material; however, issues with the delivery by vendor has made the project move more slowly than anticipated. Expected work to be done by California Geological Society staff Bill Short, and he anticipates having available staff. Bill Short will start the analysis (drone flights and streamflow) at the beginning of next year.
- EMC-2019-005, Large Woody Debris (LWD) Impacts on Channel Morphology and Salmonid Habitat: Member O'Connor Member O'Connor reported that the Project Proponent is planning on resubmitting a modified research plan, which will include modified project objectives, and they do not expect a need for additional funds.
- EMC-2018-003, Alternative Meadow Restoration: Member O'Connor reported that Doctor Chris Surfleet at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo is the PI and he provided emails regarding how the Dixie Fire affected some of the project sites. He now has a timeline for completion in June 2022.
- EMC-2019-002, Evaluating Treatment Longevity and Maintenance Needs for Fuel Reduction Projects Implemented in the Wildland Urban Interface in Plumas County, California: Member Stacy Drury reported that progress was delayed due to the Dixie Fire. Member Drury plans to send a report to the EMC.
- EMC supported (but not funded), Railroad Gulch study by Humboldt Redwood Company and The Little River Watershed study, Lee MacDonald: Member Drew Coe stated that a Completed Research Assessment may be useful to complete for this study.
- EMC-2015-001, Class II-Large Monitoring from Caspar Creek and LaTour Demonstration State Forest: Member Coe presented the Completed Research Assessment to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (Board) Forest Practice Committee at the September 2021 Board meeting. The Board staff did put out a draft plea which strikes the channel width requirement from the Class-II L requirements as well as deleting the sunseting timeline requirements however it was not acted upon. Instead it's kept as open discussion until next Board meeting.
- EMC-2017-008, Do Rules Minimize Fir Mortality From Root Disease And Bark Beetle Interactions: Richard Cobb reported that the series of test performed had positive outcomes, and plans to send a paper to the EMC that was approved for publication on the effectiveness of treatments in fir forests. Members Ben Waitman and Jessica Leonard volunteered to act as Project Liaisons for this project to assist in assessment of the project, and completion of the Completed Research Assessment.

- EMC-2017-007 Tree mortality in the Sierra Nevada: Co-Chair Loretta Moreno received an update from Dr. John Battles that the project was scheduled for completion in April of 2021; however, due to Covid complications project may be completed in Spring 2022. Member Moreno will seek clarification on whether a one-year extension will be permitted.

3. Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Kristina Wolf reported that she is in the process of updating the Strategic Plan and will have a draft available for review at the first meeting of 2022.

4. Annual Report and Workplan

Dr. Wolf reported that a draft 2021 EMC Annual report and Workplan will be ready for review at the December meeting, and she is planning to have a final draft approved at the EMC's next meeting that can be shared at the Board's January 19th, 2022 meeting for possible approval by the Board.

5. Initial Concept Proposal Review and Discussion

a. EMC-2021-001, Aquatic Toxicity and Cumulative Watershed Effects of Pesticide Discharge Related to Post-Fire Reforestation

- Member Comments on the Project Proposal
 - Member Coe stated that they attempted to solve some of these issues on Box Mountain Demonstrations, State Forest study and provided some recommendations for the project proposal.
 - Member Moreno: would like the sampling methods (grab sampling, passive/active sampling) to be described in more detail (although Member Justin LaNier did provide some details during the meeting). Wants to see more detail about the geographic scope and would like it to be more representative (or describe how it is more geographically representative to a larger scale/scope/forested ecosystem types), if possible. Wants a well-articulated connection to the Forest Practice Rules (FPRs), and details about what could potentially change in the FPRs based on the research questions. Develop more targeted research questions.
 - Member LaNier stated the project came out of the Forest Activities Program in the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.
 - Member Waitman: if expanding the geographic scope would be possible to include more ecotypes that would be great.
 - Member Matt House: how does this test or evaluate the FPRs, and which one(s) will be evaluated?
 - Member Sal Chinnici: pesticides and herbicides – please clarify the difference; states this is a continuation of previous collaborative work, but it is not clear what that work is.
 - Member O'Connor: this is a methods study, and is curious how this will inform the FPRs; where will the research happen, and will direct results give evidence regarding contamination (or a lack thereof)?

Determination of adequate standards to recover long-term high quality forests and forest products with optimal climate, carbon, biological, hydrological, and social effects.

- Ben Waitman – had a difficult time evaluating because the while the topic is germane, it is not clear how the study would address the issues. Encourage resubmission next year.

- Also agrees with Matt O'Connor that we should be encouraging proposals to be submitted, but this ICP didn't even make clear the kinds of research questions being investigated.
- Sue Husari – no PI's even identified on the project, and it does not meet the basic requirements of the RFP. Encourage resubmission next year.
- Loretta Moreno – ground the research in a more relevant way, identify collaborators and the geographic scope, provide more details; project description is too vague. Encourage resubmission next year.
- Jessica Leonard – not enough information to know if an FCP would even be useful.
- Matt O'Connor – there are a lot of deficiencies in the presentation but would LIKE to see an FCP to find out what it is about and sees no reason why we would discourage it.

Evaluating the response of native pollinators to fuel-reduction treatments in managed conifer forests

- Sue Husari: have the collaborators signed on to this yet? Really likes the proposal; it is narrow but an area of interest and takes the EMC in a new direction. Would want to know that there is a set study location that is approved, and would like to see a more detailed FCP.
 - Study sites need to be in areas within the scope of the FPRs or in project sites being managed by Cal FIRE. The sites need to be consistent with sites that would be same as land under the purview of the state FPRs.
 - What is the geographic scope to ensure a broad context of applicability of the research Q's, and that whatever is being evaluated, that the lands/forest types would fall under land types covered by the FPRs?
- Loretta Moreno: concurs; focuses on Northern CA and would be interested in seeing if PIs would consider a more diverse geographic sampling like coastal range or south-central Sierra, and if there are barriers, please speak to that. Would hope areas of prescribed fire application would be included if they aren't already. About the narrowness, it may make the project more tractable because of the complexity of the questions, but this is an important topic. Would like the FCP be clearer about how the study answer questions related to the FPRs and make clear what will be delivered to the Board ultimately.
- Ben Waitman: regarding the funding, only one sampling season seems to be proposed, but clarify if more seasons are being sampled since funding asks for three years.
- Matt O'Connor: Looks like two growing seasons of sampling are proposed (see above, Waitman); is also interested in the study design and how it characterizes fuel reduction treatments commonly implemented in the area and wants more information on selecting/stratifying sample sites, as to how they propose to do that and establishing a sampling frame.

6. Follow-up Discussion for EMC Project Liaisons

Kristina currently updating all the project files and making sure that any project results, or concept proposals are available on the EMC website.

7. Public Forum

Richard Gienger made general comments related to public input.

Action item: None taken

8. Future Meeting Locations, Dates, and Agenda Items

Edith Hannigan stated until the direction changes then a continuation for virtual meetings through the end of 2021. Depending on when the next meeting is scheduled for it is possible that we could potentially organize a in person meeting if it's in the new year.

- Matt O'Connor, EMC-2019-003, Fuel treatments, and hydrologic implications in the Sierra Nevada, interested in presenting work related to this project.

- Sue Husari suggestion on how to adjust the EMC approach on any occurrence (wildfire, hurricane, etc.) which may affect a project area.
 - The full project evaluation for funding and the annual report for the Board of Forestry are items that are high priorities for the December meeting.

Action item: Kristina will send a doodle poll to gather ideas on next meeting in December.

9. Announcements: Scientific Conferences, Symposiums, and Workshops

No announcements given.

10. Adjourn