

Quarterly Progress Report July- September 2013

Project Name: Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project – Hard Rock Lithologies
Project Status: Report writing and review
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Sponsoring SAG: Landscape and Wildlife Advisory Group/Riparian Science Advisory Group (LWAG/RSAG)

Background:

The Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project – Hard Rock Lithologies study is an experimental test of the effects of three riparian buffer strategies (compared to an un-harvested control basin) on amphibian; water quality; downstream exports of nutrients, detritus, macroinvertebrates and suspended sediment; and downstream fish populations. The three riparian buffer strategies include: 1) no buffer (i.e., clearcut harvest throughout the basin), 2) a buffer following forest practices rules (50% of the stream has a 50' buffer), and 3) a 50' buffer along 100% of the stream. In order to include amphibians, the study sites are confined to basins with basalt or other competent lithologies.

The study design has four blocks, each consisting of a reference stream and one of each of the three buffer treatments. The study called for two years pre- and two years post-harvest data to be collected. Data was collected during the first two pre-harvest years. Additional pre-harvest data was collected due to blowdown that occurred during the December 2007 storm. Data has also been collected for the two post-harvest years.

Current Status:

The hard rock study is currently in report writing and review. Due to the anticipated size of the report and associated review, CMER adopted a review process that ensures the quality and success of the review for the draft report that balances the needs for scientific rigor and efficiency. Individual chapters or groups of chapters will be submitted for SAG/CMER review. Potential grouping and a timeline for submission have been scheduled starting in May 2013 through April 2014. Each chapter or grouping of chapters will be considered a 'report' for the purpose of review and will be submitted for SAG/CMER review as a "complete" document. When all of the chapters have been through the SAG/CMER and ISPR review processes and are approved by CMER, the chapters will be compiled into one complete and cohesive CMER report.

- Drafts of chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 (introduction chapters) were reviewed by CMER. Authors will respond to comments as appropriate and will be resubmitted to CMER for approval.
- Chapter 5 (Riparian Vegetation), Chapter 6 (Wood Debris), Chapter 8 (Nutrients and Water Quality), and Chapter 9 (Litterfall and Detritus) were submitted for CMER review in September 2013.
- Chapter 7 (Water Temperature), Chapter 10 (Sediment), and Chapter 11 (Channel & Habitat Metrics) are anticipated for CMER review in December 2013.
- Chapters 12-16 dealing with in stream biological response for Periphyton, Macroinvertebrates, Stream-associated Amphibians, Fish and Trophic Pathways should be available for review in early winter of 2014.