

BOF Monitoring Study Group/VTAC Update

December 2012

- I. The MSG has not met since the last Board meeting. **The next MSG meeting will be held December 12th, in Willows at Granzella's. Out two main agenda items are:**
 - a. A presentation by Ms. Karen Larsen, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento, titled "Developing the Biological Objectives Regulatory Framework."
 - b. A presentation by Ms. Sarah Martin, Ph.D. candidate, UC Merced, on "Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) Water Team Field Activities, Methods, and Results" (water quality and quantity monitoring work conducted in the Tahoe and Sierra National Forests).

- II. **The review draft version of the VTAC's guidance document was sent out to reviewers on October 30th.**
 - a. To date, we have received comments from 9 reviewers.
 - b. The VTAC will meet on December 6th in Willows to review the comments and make final changes to the document, which will be finished before the end of the year.
 - c. The plan is to present the document to the Board at the January 2013 meeting.
 - d. Four VTAC pilot projects continue to be under discussion.
 - i. The Green Diamond Resource Company pilot continues to be developed by Dr. Lowell Diller, and 7 other scientists.
 - ii. The Collins Pine Company potential pilot in the Deer Creek watershed continues to be a possibility and is being considered by RPF Andy Juska.
 - iii. CAL FIRE's Dave Loveless and Bruce Beck are developing a possible pilot project on LaTour Demonstration State Forest plan in the South Cow Creek drainage for fuel hazard reduction.
 - iv. A small landowner potential project in the Weaver Creek watershed is being investigated by Mark Lancaster, VTAC member.

- III. **Yearly summary information for MSG activities**
 - a. The MSG will have met four times by the end of the calendar year, which is our long-term average over the past approximately 20 years.
 - b. CAL FIRE/BOF/Monitoring Study Group (MSG) main projects are:
 - i. Evaluating FPR implementation and effectiveness (FORPRIEM).
 - ii. Cooperative instream monitoring projects to evaluate FPR effectiveness at the project scale and/or trend monitoring.
 - c. FORPRIEM
 - i. Random 10% sample of THPs completed since July 1, 2008.
 - ii. Random sample in a THP of one road segment, one riparian zone segment, and two watercourse crossings.

- iii. Data collected to date on ~95 THPs to date; interim report to be written this winter with 100 completed THPs.
- d. Cooperative Instream Monitoring Projects
 - i. Continued support for the Cal Poly SLO Little Creek project located on Swanton Pacific Ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains.
 - ii. Continued involvement in the Judd Creek project located in eastern Tehama County with Dr. Cajun James, SPI. Preliminary results have been produced with assistance from Dr. Lee MacDonald and reported to the MSG.
 - iii. Continued support and added funding for replacement equipment for the Caspar Creek watershed study, which has collected data on flow and sediment now for 50 years on Jackson Demonstration State Forest in Mendocino County.
 - iv. Continued involvement in the SF Wages Creek project located in western Mendocino County with Campbell Timberland Management, with possible THP development in 2014.
- e. 2013 Goals
 - i. Begin formation of Effectiveness Monitoring Committee.
 - ii. Provide the Board with interim FORPRIEM report, and compare results to the early Modified Completion Report data that was collected in a similar manner.
 - iii. Continue to support our cooperative instream monitoring projects—and report results as they become available, particularly for the Judd Creek project.
 - iv. Hold the 50 year Caspar Creek watershed study workshop in the summer of 2013 in or near Fort Bragg.
 - v. Have at least four MSG meetings in 2013.
 - vi. Develop and implement training sessions related to monitoring as needed.