

## **SBEADMR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **A Proposed Framework for Organizational Structure, Communication and Decision Making Process**

#### **MISSION:**

This section should reflect the purpose as found in the SBEADMR ROD. This should be distinct from the SBEADMR Working Group that has a broader public education and outreach purpose.

The SBEADMR Adaptive Management Group (AMG) will provide input prior to or during the identification of priority watersheds, and prior to or during the identification of selected treatment areas. At the conclusion of a project the AMG will provide input during the post-treatment reviews and will provide their input to be included as a part of the annual report for Forest Management review.

**NOTE : These concepts have been incorporated into the 2016 revision to the Draft SBEADMR ROD.**

The SBEADMR Working Group was a fact finding and troubleshooting endeavor targeted at the SBEADMR draft EIS. That membership has gleaned important insights and engaged in collaborative learning that prepares them to be the nucleus of public input going forward.

The SBEADMR AMG would be specifically charged with a 'technical' assignment to review and provide input at post-treatment reviews and as new watersheds are prioritized and new locations are chosen for field surveys.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

NOTE: The Blue Mountain Forest Partners Operations Manual provided many of the concepts. Below are some excerpts from their document and/or excerpts that were edited to reflect the role of a more technical, problem specific, working group. Blue Mountain has given their express permission for sharing language in their document.

##### **Guiding Principles**

- Every effort should be made to ensure participation of the identified stakeholder group;
- The process will encourage participation by all stakeholders
- Decision making processes for the group should focus on producing outcomes that strive to meet the terms of the ROD ;
- Project scope, complexity and objectives should be appropriately scaled
- Projects will be selected that are of mutual concern and are agreed upon by the group
- Projects will include a monitoring component
- Projects will honor the complexity of forest ecosystems
- Projects will focus on enhancing forest ecosystems, supporting the current

infrastructure, and generating economic opportunities.

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## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OR STAKEHOLDERS

- Local elected officials
  - Forestry processors
  - Forestry logging
  - Environmental/Conservation groups
  - Geographically important stakeholders/community members
  - Water providers
  - Recreation interests
  - Wildlife
- The AMG is envisioned as a working committee versus a brainstorming or educational community outreach committee.
  - It is important that this committee structure assures continuity over the years, and can apply collaborative learning from year to year.
  - The optimal size for a working committee is nine.
  - The members will be self-selected by stakeholder category and then endorsed by the larger SBEADMR Working Group.
  - Alternates would be advisable and can then serve as the proxy described below.

## DECISION MAKING PROTOCOL

*Goal: to come to a decision that group members can support following a respectful hearing of all concerns.*

The SBEADMR AMG will give input to the GMUG by **consensus**. Consensus is defined as decisions that all parties can support, or ***at a minimum, agree to live with***.

### **A) Reaching Consensus**

Project-related decisions/ recommendations will be made by the SBEADMR AMG. Decisions / recommendations made during AMG meetings will be recorded and distributed to all members. Each meeting will begin with a brief review of the decisions made during the previous meeting.

AMG members are encouraged to prioritize attending meetings in person. If this is not possible, members are encouraged to ensure a proxy is in attendance, or to submit written input to the AMG chair ahead of time.

Participating group members can send proxies to participate in AMG meetings. Proxies must be an informed affiliate or member of the organization, business, or entity being represented, and be able to represent the active member in decision making.

As decisions are being made by the AMG, meeting participants will be asked to indicate their support either by a show of hands or verbal confirmation. Each participant has the ability to disagree with elements of decisions as they're being

developed, but must offer a constructive alternative that seeks to meet the needs of all participants involved.

Consensus on a decision about a project, recommendation, or action the AMG plans to take will be reached when all meeting participants can make one of the following statements about a decision:

- ┆ I agree with the decision and will publicly support it
- ┆ I agree with the decision but will refrain from publicly supporting it
- ┆ I can live with the decision (and won't disparage it in public)

Once the AMG has reached a decision, a report will be given to the USFS for their consideration in their role as decision makers for USFS managed lands and waters.

### **B) Inability to Reach Consensus**

The AMG will make every effort to reach consensus within the given timeframe (as laid out in the project timeline developed at the outset of a project) for making decisions.

If the AMG cannot reach consensus during a meeting, members are encouraged to continue the conversation via conference call, email discussions, in-person meetings, or whatever format is most effective, in between meetings in order to function most effectively.

If a time comes when the AMG is unable to reach consensus the following actions will be taken:

- Areas of agreement and disagreement will be clearly recorded in writing
- Majority and minority reports will be written to address the areas of disagreement. Each of these documents will include:
  - The name of the lead author and names of all who agree with the report
  - A description of their proposal and the rationale used to develop it
  - What group members in the majority and minority anticipate doing if their proposal is chosen by the USFS (i.e. defend it in public), or not chosen (i.e. file an objection, appeal, litigate, etc).
- The majority and minority reports will be given to the USFS for their consideration in their role as decision makers for USFS managed lands and waters.
- If the input is not chosen by the USFS staff managing the SBEADMR Adaptive Management process, then further communication is directed first to the appropriate line officer, then the Forest Supervisor.

## **MONITORING**

The SBEADMR AMG will discuss issues that may require more formal monitoring or scientific research to best address adaptive management questions. This evaluation should occur during the annual forest management review as identified in the SBEADMR adaptive implementation cycle.

## COMMUNICATION PLAN

### A) Basic Rules for Collaboration

- Respect each other in and outside of meetings.
- No backroom deals.
- Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
- The personal integrity and values of participants will be respected.
- Stereotyping will be avoided.
- Commitments will not be made lightly and will be kept; agreements will be honored.
- Disagreements will be regarded as “problems to be solved,” rather than as “battles to be won.”
- Participants are representative of a broad range of interests, each having concerns about the outcome of the issues at hand. All parties recognize the legitimacy of the interests and concerns of others, and expect that their interests will be represented as well.
- Participants commit to keeping their colleagues/constituents informed about the progress of these discussions.
- Participants commit to stating interests, problems, and opportunities. Not positions.
- Participants will air problems, disagreements and critical information during meetings to avoid surprises.
- Participants commit to search for opportunities and alternatives. The creativity of the group can often find the best solution.
- Participants agree to verify rumors at the meeting before accepting them as fact.

### B) Meeting Behavior - all participants will:

- Come to meetings prepared
- Respect the basic rules of collaboration (as stated above)
- Voice their concerns during meetings and take the time to resolve those issues

### C) External communications protocol

- Information about the AMG will be made available to external stakeholders via the website and other venues as appropriate; all efforts will be taken to ensure that the group’s work remains transparent to external audiences. Non-members will have access to all information and the ability to share thoughts and comments with the group
- The AMG will give verbal or written updates to the PLP General membership meetings when decisions or recommendations have been made
- The AMG will give verbal or written updates to the SBEADMR Working Group or at the public meetings held as part of the adaptive management cycle
- The responsibility for public outreach remains with the USFS or their designee.