

AM04 - Conduct effectiveness and validation monitoring

Project Name	Active Adaptive Management in Experimental Watersheds Research Design
Program Area	Adaptive Management
Element	Experimental Watersheds Research Design
Project No.	AM 04
Related Projects	AM01 Land-use Plan Summary AM 02 Adaptive Management Framework AM 03 Case Studies and Experiments MFR Coast Region Research Section: proposed Experimental Watersheds Research Program EI03 Ecological Baseline DS04 Co-location
Start Date	August 1, 2008
Completion Date	November 30, 2008

Overview

Active adaptive management, or scientifically rigorous experimentation (i.e. randomization, replication, controls), is considered one key component of a broad management learning framework under development to support the Adaptive Management Framework (AMF) for Coast EBM. Spatial and temporal scales of experimentation must reflect EBM planning scales (i.e. regional, sub-regional, landscape, watershed, and stand) and appropriate time periods to evaluate large scale results (i.e. long term).

Objectives

- Prepare a rationale for a structured, large scale research program where, in coordination with other similar initiatives (e.g. MFR Coast Region Research Section), multi-scale priority EBM management questions pertaining to ecological integrity are addressed.
- Identify key EBM management questions requiring such a multi-scale experimental platform.
- Evaluate the social and logistic feasibility of the approach (large scale, long term experimentation).
- Undertake planning activities required to identify candidate watersheds and/or other appropriately scaled experimental units.

Expected Use/User/Benefits

Active Adaptive Management: Provides scientifically rigorous feedback to inform management actions (e.g. planning, practitioners) through a structured scientific framework in which comparisons of experimental manipulations are designed to evaluate outcomes of different management approaches relative to management objectives.

Key Tasks

To be executed by contractor:

In close coordination with the MFR Coast Region Research Section and the EBM Adaptive Management Framework Project Team (AM02):

- Prepare a rationale for large scale, long term experimentation to evaluate and validate ecological and biological conservation objectives for Coast EBM, placed in the context of the EBM AMF.
 - Coordinate with MFR Research, currently drafting rationale and discussion overview in support of large scale, long term experimental research.
 - Coordinate with AMF Project Team, currently developing a coarse filter approach to prioritizing EBM land use planning objectives and learning pathways for those objectives.
- Identify the types of testable questions and the spatial and temporal scope of study(ies) required to address those types of questions.
 - Coordinate with MFR Research, currently conducting a research staff review of the domain specific research questions (e.g. hydrology, soils, terrain, ecology, wildlife) to be tackled within a watershed-level, experimental research programme; the experimental designs appropriate to the questions; and the infrastructure required and logistics involved in the implementation of such a programme.
 - Coordinate with AMF Project Team tasked with identifying AM pilot projects.
- Identify suggested suitable scale(s) for experimental units, and develop biophysical and ecological criteria required to identify candidate units within the North and Central Coast.
 - Coordinate with MFR Research, ILMB, industry, First Nations, and other inventory and data sources.
- Identify social (e.g. community receptivity, local involvement, learning opportunities) and logistical (e.g. infrastructure requirements, harvesting operations) criteria required to assess the feasibility of candidate unit locations within the North and Central Coast.
 - Coordinate with AMF project team in community liaison and communication activities.

- Develop a draft work plan to outline the options for the initiation and establishment of large scale experimentation for North and Central Coast EBM.

Scope Considerations

The funds available for this project are limited to a one year scoping exercise and the development of a draft work plan based on the outcomes of the scoping exercise which could guide a project for future large scale experimentation.

Further activity to implement the suggested work plan and to initiate a program of long term experimentation is outside the scope of this project, subject to future funding support and sources.

Deliverable(s)

Synthesis report summarizing rationale, research questions, experimental units, feasibility assessment, and draft work plan. The report will incorporate MFR Research Discussion and Scoping Paper and the appropriate active AM component pieces of the AMF developed by the AMF Project Team.

The report will include supporting maps and/or GIS products obtained and used in the preparation of the scoping summary report and draft work plan, as well as those maps or GIS products created as part of the project. All such materials will come with associated metadata to support them.

Project Schedule and Milestones

Task	Deliverable	Timeline
Contract award and commencement.		August 1, 2008
Prepare rationale, key research questions, recommendations for identification of candidate experimental units, and feasibility for large scale, long term experimentation.	Draft Summary Report submitted for review	October 24, 2008
Review and comment by MFR Research staff and other selected reviewers.	Review and comment provided to contractor	November 7, 2008
Revise draft summary report based on review and comment.	Final Summary Report	November 30, 2008
Based on summary report, prepare a draft work plan for a proposed project to go forward with large scale experimentation.	Draft Work Plan	November 30, 2008

Responsibilities

The contract for this EBMWG project will be funded and supported by the EBMWG, with the MFR Coast Region Research Section acting as the lead on this initiative.

The MFR Coast Research Section will cooperatively develop and work within a formal communication mechanism for constructive and collaborative development of this project with the EBMWG, the Adaptive Management Program Steering Committee (AMP) of the EBMWG, and associated AM project groups such as the AMF Project Team (AM02).

Expected Method of Implementation

Seed funds to work in conjunction with existing research projects

- Contract: RFP
 - Expert Panel/Workshop
 - Internal EBM WG Task
 - Other:
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Budget

Item	Budget
Source	
2008-09	\$ 35,000
Total:	\$ 35,000

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 Modified by: A. Beetham based on feedback from the AMP and EBMWG – May 2008

Revised by: M. Todd & S. Saunders based on feedback – June 2008