

Methow Restoration Council

December 16, 2014

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Brittany Bowles	UCSRB
Carmen Andonaegui	WDFW
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot-Perez	Trout Unlimited
Gene Shull	Forest Service
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Jenni Novak	WDFW
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Robes Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Ryan Fortier	WDFW

Meeting Notes

John Crandall – Monitoring Update: as reported before, we’ve just finished Appendix C, the Methow Monitoring Plan, which is an appendix to the Monitoring Strategy for the Upper Columbia. We have a lot of monitoring programs that have come in to the Methow, and we need to do more with tracking what we are doing and how it fits in. I developed a “programmatic worksheet” to track what is going on, who is doing what, and where they are doing it. There is a spatial component that went into the worksheet as well. Each of the Monitoring Strategies (from the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow) are all totally different. Entiat’s Strategy describes their IMW, Wenatchee’s Strategy (which was the first one to be completed) only talks about ISEMP; overall, these appendices are not very valuable/usable documents. MaDMC has recognized this. The worksheets I developed and the accompanying spatial information appears to be the route we are going to be taking in terms of tracking the monitoring. I will be sending out a request for information, so that if you are engaged in monitoring, you can look at the worksheet and see how well it tracks what you are doing. We are seeing that year to year, programs change for various reasons, so we are trying to update information on an annual basis. The key is to know that this is coming, and if anyone has any comments on how we could do this and how it would be useful for you, let me know.

John – it also seems like restoration folks are also doing more and more monitoring, so these worksheets also attempt to bring in that information– temp loggers, etc. This is a method we can use to track so that we are accountable for what we are doing, and where and how we are doing it. Spatial component, protocols, metrics, data management method. The worksheet includes who the contact person is, links to data locations, etc. We are not getting to a standardized database, although we talked about it for years – it’s not happening.

I will probably send the worksheet out through the MRC or a subset; so far it has been easier to get information from the local folks and it has been harder to get information from people who don't work here all the time. This is an effort by UCSRB and MaDMC to coordinate monitoring on a regional level. Chris Johnson—how much does this want to incorporate the effectiveness monitoring; do you want it in project level, or habitat?

John—this is not project-level effectiveness monitoring

Chris J—do we need to modify this to identify gaps or holes? For some projects, we have no way to monitor the fish response.

John—funding for that type of work is challenging to get a hold of; in the past USGS, USFS, WDFW, etc. have teamed up to help via their fish tagging efforts. Identifying gaps is something that this doesn't necessarily do, but that effort could be associated with.

Carmen Andonaegui—so any data that you get associated with your projects can be included here?

John—ideally this is showing us things that are happening more than once; we aren't including Reach Assessments, although if they include stream inventories, we don't want to lose the knowledge that the data exists. We have a lot of temperature loggers, pressure transducers, groundwater monitoring, etc.

Discussion—implementation monitoring vs. effectiveness monitoring

Robes Parrish—does it include photo points, remote cameras, etc.?

John—we need to figure that out, I will think about it and ask some folks. I do think it would be great to keep track of that.

John—regarding our annual monitoring meeting, I think it is happening, but I'm not sure when or where. I'm trying to make it more worthwhile than in the past.

Chris Johnson—Frazer Creek Recap and Look Forward: Most of you are aware that following the fire, passage was lost on Frazer Creek in at least 10 culvert locations due to floods/debris flows. This also caused the washout of the highway, loss of irrigation diversions, etc. WSDOT planned to put in four 6' culverts to provide landowner access from the highway across Frazer Creek. We asked if they would consider upsizing, and with the help of WDFW and RCO, we instead put in five bridges ranging from 40'-50'. Installation was completed under less than ideal conditions – snow and ice. After the bridges went in, the channel was obliterated by a rain-on-snow event; we had only gone 40 ft upstream and downstream at each work area. This week we went out with Gina McCoy's help and staked, flagged, and re-established a new 6' channel that went back under the bridges. It is a very depositional area. MSRF agreed to be the fiscal sponsor for this project, and we will have spent through \$600k by the end of this week. This was a very visible opportunity, but we have a lot of other areas where we will have ongoing challenges. I would like to work with MRC to look at monitoring opportunities, objectives, etc., and get some time in front of the County Commissioners to discuss this.

Jennifer Molesworth—we need to engage with the long-term recovery folks; there should be funding coming to deal with some of this stuff, not just fish dollars.

Chris J—that is why I want to work with the commissioners; we are at capacity, and OCD is at capacity. We are going to lose both momentum and funding.

Lynda Hofmann—do you think this is going to be an ongoing dredging project?

Chris—we will have irrigation issues downstream, so we may need to find alternate sources for them; none of the landowners or DOT are excited about giving up property to allow the floodplain to function. We need more guidance on what appropriate treatments could be. It seems like nobody wants to fix things before they fail. By taking the hump out, we turned it into a 4% gradient, and there are areas downstream where there is more floodplain capacity.

Carmen—there is so much material coming down, I don't think there is enough capacity to take it all; it needs to dissipate somehow

Discussion—sediment traps, floodplain has roads and people; the DOT culvert on highway 20 is likely the next one to fail; OCD lost some of their funding; the issues are widespread and are going to be a continuing challenge – a lot of things have yet to occur.

Jennifer—we have a lot of these small stream channels, and a lot of these roads have been there for 100 years, so you have 100 years of deposition, where the road is a dam and the capacity will be overwhelmed.

Lynda—I tried to talk to DOT about developing an emergency plan to deal with these things as they come up, but they said that they didn't have time.

Carmen—we aren't the only place where this has gone on, how do they do this in other places, where they have to recover entire communities?

Jennifer—on the forest, they used to go out and upsize the culverts right away, but that isn't happening

Gene Shull—we got a chunk of BAER money. We are focused on upsizing culverts, there is also other money that is to deal with post-fire recovery that we are trying to get. Like everything, money is dwindling; if you look at the list of BAER treatments I have, they are pretty minor.

Chris J—at least the FS has a coordinated plan and you are following it. The private BAER is not coordinated and not much is happening.

Jennifer—Volstead Road is the biggest impact on Beaver Creek now. We did a fish survey upstream of Frazer Creek, and we only found 4 fish in an area where we have previous data for abundance

John—we had a 99% decrease in abundance.

Jennifer—most of the sediment came from Volstead Creek; it is a chronic erosion source

Gene—to get rid of that road, I have to build two other access pieces, would need partner support and funding; it would be expensive because would have to build a couple of chunks of permanent road.

Jennifer—in the mean time, it is wiping out 8 miles of habitat

Gene—the access is needed for timber and grazing

Chris—could we help advocate for a temporary solution?

Gene—the fact that it all burned in 2014 and 2006 impacted both timber for the long term and also some of the grazing. Spring pasture burnt up, may temporarily shut down the whole allotment. I think if there was momentum or outside interest on that, it might help.

Chris—I am going to try to put together a meeting with the commissioners in January, if anyone wants to participate, let me know. I will be talking with the Conservation District and others

Gene—they will care about public safety and loss of infrastructure

Discussion—BAER looks at Property and safety, ESA, cultural resources; there were a lot of things they didn't look at or do, not a good mesh between public and private BAER

Chris J—please get in touch with me or Jessica if you have ideas on next steps forward to get resources in to this community to address these issues.

Joy Juelson—UCSRB Update: 2014 project implementation, emergency fire funds. Last year there were 45 projects implemented in the Upper Columbia, almost half were in the Methow. It was a 5% increase from last year. We've documented 350 projects completed since we started Habitat Work Schedule.

Brittany, our new intern, is getting a jump start on Habitat Work Schedule, we will be calling to get specific metrics, which is often a better measure of the work done.

Discussion—sometimes projects are lumped, some are split, some are small and some are really big

Joy—As many of you know, there is another targeted solicitation in the Methow, due January 13th. If you have questions, call me or Joe Connor.

Joy—Chuck Peven and I went to the SRFB last week and requested emergency fire funds of \$250k. The RTT had a subgroup that looked at fire impacts and they created a report that we brought to the SRFB; there is a matrix that prioritized actions and they estimated some of the costs; to fund all of the actions would take around \$5M; a majority of the actions are in the Methow valley; the SRFB granted funding for additional for two more culverts to bridges.

Jennifer—when we did the fire impacts report, we hadn't looked at the area covered by federal report, so we didn't really look at the Volstead Creek. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the Forest Service BAER report, so we may need to add a supplemental to the RTT Subgroup report.

Discussion—was difficult having the two reports

Joy—this year we had our SRFB process; it was difficult during the fires, but we came up with our list. There were about half of the projects compared with the previous year, but the SRFB funded around the same amount – 8 were funded.

This time of year is when we debrief; is a time we might tweak or change our process. I will be sending a survey to project sponsors, and will have the debrief in February.

Joy—Also, I wanted to mention the outreach funds, we received four applications; three were funded and one is pending due to commissioner concerns. MSRF, OCD through MSRF, and CCFEG received funding.

Discussion—river cleanup

Chris J—we have more funding from DNR for more cleanup in the spring

Jennifer—Steve Taylor is getting a Methow Conservancy award for his part of the cleanup

Discussion—tracking projects that don't get implemented; they would be if they were entered in HWS

Roundtable

Paul Wagner—Colville Tribes: we are working with MSRF on getting another bridge on Beaver Creek and a test well on Aspen Meadows to eliminate a surface water diversion on Little Bridge Creek.

Chris J—the bridge has BPA Accord funding, and they have a longer review process

Paul—we were also hoping to implement some contour felling on Frazer Creek, but we just got the Land Use License, so we missed the window before the snow fell this fall. It may reduce the sediment load to Frazer Creek, and we may revisit in the spring

John—how does that change the dynamics over time?

Paul—the hope was to reduce the massive sediment load this spring, and total load over time

John—question of whether we would be moving it from something large pulse to a chronic release over the longer term.

Gene—it captures surface erosion on the hillslope; it takes 3-5 years to get a good level of ground cover, so you have a few years of needing that treatment

Chris—the treatment also helps to provide interim stability to support the green-up; I was looking forward to monitor it to see how it worked; think it would be likely no harm and maybe benefit.

Chris Butler—Yakama Nation: we will be trying to recycle Christmas Trees this year; working with volunteers from the school. We hope to get recycled trees to use for habitat. We will be storing them at our wood storage yard, they will be incorporated into log jams, could be ground up for mulch; there is a lot they can be used for.

Joy Juelson—UCSRB: for this year's SRFB conference: there is a call for abstracts; want to encourage people to submit abstracts and attend. There are a lot of categories; the deadline is Jan 16th COB; Google SRFB conference. Actual conference is May 27th-29th in Vancouver, WA.

Hans Smith—Yakama Nation: the RTT finished review of the Middle Twisp RA, the published version will be available shortly. We are still working on the Upper Methow RA, probably will have a draft in the spring. Jarred, Chris, and I are working with WDFW on projects on their property for next year. Also looking at campground at Early Winters Creek with the FS.

Ryan Fortier—WDFW: fisheries have been slow, so there have been an increase in violations to go along with that. Fish kill in Pearrygin – there was a large algae bloom there, Ecology is checking on the algae; a theory is Pearrygin Creek released ash all summer that went into the lake, it was warm, then when the temperature barrier broke, then there was a very large scale bloom and a wide-scale fish kill
John—have you looked at the zooplankton type community?

Ryan—not yet, it was icing over just as this was happening

John—sometimes it is related to the fish communities in the managed lake

Ryan—not a lot you can do in a lake that large; it only takes a small amount of phosphorous

Discussion—lake management, irrigation impacts

Ryan—not every blue green algae is toxic, were are being careful and waiting for the report from Ecology

Gene Shull—USFS: we were working on our South Summit Timber sale on the Loup; the fire burned a lot of that; we are condensing it down to the South Summit 2; it has no fire salvage; we will be doing 250 acres in the Finley drainage. We don't want to exacerbate any of the fire conditions. We are looking for implementation late summer/fall. We are doing the part on the Loup in the summer because of the skiing. We are starting field work on the Mission Timber Sale on Libby Creek, possibly Buttermilk. We have a grazing project that we are still trying to see we are going to get a pass or not; Hunter- McFarland one allotment in the south from South Fork Gold Creek, down below Black Canyon. That part burned, so we need to look at conditions.

We are still working on the Chewuch Transportation Plan, looking at 95 miles of road decommissioning, 128 miles of road closure, Upper and Lower Chewuch. Maintenance level 1 roads all closed, working on a separate travel management plan that will outline where ATV/ORVs will be allowed. We got \$340k to replace 3 fish culverts on upper Eightmile Creek. We are starting discussions with YN on opening up Eightmile Creek to fish. That would be a major coup.

Discussion—brook trout removal.

Gene—Eightmile Creek is our focus subwatershed, so have approx \$400k for road closure on Eightmile Creek.

Gene—we are working with Robes and John Crandall and NFF on Goat Creek to add wood in the stream. We are continuing to work with YN on the Chewuch and potentially on the Twisp and other areas. The BAER stuff has been in a black box, even for us local folks.

We have a new hydrologist that is here, actually has been here for a year and a half, Lance George.

Crystal Elliot—Trout Unlimited: we've been successful in getting some funding to help us with suction dredging reform. We are hoping the draft bill will be dropped after the holidays; stay tuned on that. It would be great to have any support we can get. We are requesting that they begin tracking individual applications through HPA applications, and they remove the fee exemption, and have them evaluate cumulative impacts. As soon as I get a draft of the bill, I will circulate it

Carmen—the hydraulic code is just one regulatory mechanism to address this issue – also ESA, 401, etc.

Crystal—we got some funding to help the Colvilles do a culvert replacement on Nanamkin Creek up in the Sanpoil for redband habitat; the request went in last May.

I have also been working with the NCW Forest Health Collaborative to help the Forest Service with their Mission project.

Finally, I have an important meeting with Ecology on Red Shirt Mill project in January, getting help from the YN.

Jennifer Molesworth—Bureau of Reclamation: we've been working on MVID; they've mostly finished up the East piping, have some cleanup in the spring. They are working on the E1 laterals in town – approaching 90%, have drilled three wells behind Hanks for the West side upper users, lower users going to individual wells. That is a difficult process; moving along.

TU is also working on the Barkley irrigation system; they are getting close to 30% design.

Jennifer—I got a call in someone from DNR who is interested in landslides; so if anyone hears of any landslides as a result of the fire, he would like to know about that because they are studying them.

Gene—there are some at the top on South Summit Rd, not mapping them yet.

Jennifer—I think they would want to know when they happen, think he knows the ones that have happened recently. Call me if you hear of anything.

John Crandall—Methow Monitoring: Lamprey Habitat Restoration Guide is coming along nicely. There is a lot of support from the wider lamprey community; it is not just local. Hope to publish in the spring. The hope is to help restoration project sponsors consider lamprey.

Chris Johnson—MSRF: WA Dept of Ecology has developed a new approach to permitting projects that happen in the vicinity of wetlands. They are making no distinction between development and restoration; they view any impacts that result in loss of wetlands as requiring compensatory mitigation and up to 10 years of monitoring. For our Twisp River Floodplain project, we are trying to take out infrastructure and encroachment into wetlands. The mapping indicates we will be restoring 17 acres of wetland and creating 2.5 acres. Ecology's initial requirement is that we delineate the outer boundaries of the wetland and monitor for 10 years to determine whether removing roads from a wetland is a beneficial action. This has huge implications for salmon recovery and the costs. It is not clear where they get their authority, and there is a discrepancy between them and the Corps.

Discussion—no funding for the monitoring, unprecedented action; happening differently out of different regional offices.

Chris J—We have raised this to BPA and SRFB and they are paying attention because it will affect what we can do and how much it costs; anyone who has any ideas or insight in how to help Ecology be part of the team would be appreciated.

Carmen—WDFW may be able to have some persuasive affect on the discussions in the field

Discussion—the field discussions seem to be positive, but later instructions are not consistent; new credit/debit model

Chris J—I would like to put together a larger conversation with the restoration community in January to help deal with this issue. If anyone else has wetland projects coming up, it would be helpful if you can report back here so that we can work through these issues

Matt Shales—we had the same thing happen with our Silver meeting on site with Ecology. We are still working through it, and I might know a little more later this week. I see it as a pretty significant step. Carmen—I recommend that we have the WDFW habitat biologist sit down with you as you discuss it with them.

Jenni Novak—WDFW: we finished the Goat Creek project. We put in a new drum screen that will not get overtopped; we will need to go back after snow melts to re-grade the trail. This summer we will be looking at irrigation diversions, and I would like ideas of where to look, also would like to look at the Upper Wolf Creek, and hear any thoughts from people on that.

Matt Shales—CCFEG: we are still accepting feedback/comments on the preliminary draft on the Twisp-Carlton RA; I need comments back within the next couple weeks. We will have the draft by the end of February, and then we will have another round of comments.

Next MRC January 20, 2015

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms	
AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee (for SRFB funding applications)
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced "cubfwah")
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group
CCT	Colville Confederated Tribes
CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSF	Community Salmon Fund
EDT	Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FFFP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
Four "H"s	The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HGMP	Hatchery Genetic Management Plan
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
HSRG	Hatchery Scientific Review Group
HWS	Habitat Work Schedule
IMW	Intensively Monitored Watershed
IS	Implementation Schedule
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
IT	Implementation Team
LW/LWD	Large Wood/Large Woody Debris
M2	Middle Methow (a project area defined as the reach between Winthrop and Twisp)
MaDMC	Monitoring and Data Management Committee (pronounced "madmac")
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Methow Restoration Council
MSRF	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (pronounced "em-surf")
MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District
MWC	Methow Watershed Council
MYAP	Multi-year Action Plan (also sometimes called the 3-year workplan)
NFF	National Forest Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council
OBMEP	Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program
OWL	Okanogan Wilderness League
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (pronounced "Pacsurf")
PIBO	PACFISH/INFISH* Biological Opinion
PNAMP	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
PUD	Public Utility District
QAQC	Quality Assurance, Quality Control
RA	Reach Assessment
RCO	(Washington State) Recreation and Conservation Office
REI	Reach-based Ecosystem Indicators (used in Reach Assessments)
RFEG	Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
RFP	Request for Proposals
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SOAL	State Owned Aquatic Lands
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
SRP	State Review Panel (for SRFB funding applications)
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
TRT	Technical Recovery Team (NOAA)
USFS	US Forest Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
WAT	Watershed Action Team (the MRC is our WAT)
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited
YN	Yakama Nation

*PACFISH/INFISH The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin.