Methow Restoration Council

February 21, 2012

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Bob Clark	Okanogan Conservation District
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Carolyn Schmekel	MV Interpretive Center
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Craig Nelson	Okanogan Conservation District
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Don McIvor	UCSRB
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Heide Andersen	Methow Conservancy
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	Wild Fish Conservancy
John Schaefer	Yakama Nation
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Ken Bevis	WDFW
Lee Hatcher	Methow Watershed Council
Michael Notaro	Watershed Resource Solutions
Michelle Dewey	Local Resident
Paula Mackrow	MSRF
Peter Jenkins	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Rob Crandall	Methow Natives
Robes Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Terri Williams	Okanogan Conservation District
Zack Odion	MSRF

Notes:

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB Update: update on status of liability legislation—the goal is to address landowner liability; they introduced a bill in this legislative session, and it didn't make it out of committee (as expected). It will spend the next several months building a coalition, will be reintroduced next session, and will be alive for next two years. Kudos to Okanogan Conservation District; they put a lot of emphasis and muscle behind the bill to get it discussed in work sessions this session. They got the conversation started, with WA Association of Conservation Districts, and the hope is to drop the 2597 bill again. The bill is modeled after Oregon bill that addressed this topic. Will continue to develop with OCD and others. The Assoc of Conservation districts, YN, Methow Conservancy, DNR, WDFW, and RCO all testified in support of the legislation.

UCSRB is planning the annual trip to DC to do legislative outreach and education; we are heading down first week in March. We also went to Portland and met with heads of agencies, including the Regional Forester for USFS, NOAA, USFWS; they were very knowledgeable, helpful with messaging, especially with budgeting. PCSRF support is diminishing; it had $80 million in fiscal year 2011, has $65 million in 2012, and there is currently $50 million in the 2013 budget. This, coupled with diminished support from the state, will result in diminished capacity. PCSRF is a congressional line item in Commerce, and is not under the discretion of NOAA. So we will be working on the budget message while in DC.

Feb. 22nd is the regional monitoring meeting in Chelan, and also the regional lead entity debriefing in Wenatchee, and on the 23rd we have UCSRB board meeting in East Wenatchee.

UCSRB has worked with Reclamation on updating the Biological Strategy and expert panel process; will be bringing the data back in pie charts, hopefully in the March MRC meeting [Postponed]. Discussion—FCRPS expert panel process, will determine what we will work on for the next 6 years to 2018, new judge on the BiOp case; can track at www.salmonrecovery.gov.

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: monitoring meeting Feb 22nd in Chelan; the yearly meeting to inform across subbasins; information sharing, coordination. The meeting is run through MaDMC; they are trying to make the meeting more relevant, will be two discussion topics that we can bring back to MRC next month. One thing is flagging along the rivers; another is private lands access—make sure that everyone is on the same page for getting across private lands. Broader topics for the meeting tomorrow. Last week we had an informal Methow monitoring meeting to talk about where folks are this year as a precursor to tomorrow's meeting. Have developed a poster that captures most of the monitoring that is happening in the Methow in 2012. Forest Service effectiveness monitoring—AREMP coming with two sites this year; PIBO not this year. Status and trend on streams. Call John or let him know if there is something that is not on the poster or something that isn't right. Can make pdf of the poster and send to the group.

Appendix C, Methow Monitoring, of the Monitoring Strategy, which is the monitoring appendix to the Biological Strategy; John is working on it and should have something for review in a few months. Will look at all of the different programs, what we do with it, management program, how we are addressing it here in the Methow. Will be formally adopted into the monitoring strategy. Need one for each of the four basins up here. Ours will look a bit different from both Wenatchee and Entiat, which are both ISEMP basins.

Have had ongoing saga with data management; trying to get all of the information managed and coordinated. It is a bit of a holy grail; the perfect solution doesn't exist yet. Have begun an effort with Torre, and begun the process of aligning some of the information we've gathered into a standardized format. The hope is that we will have our data ready for whenever the management system is developed.

Implementation monitoring—have been trying to coordinate with project sponsors; Appendix C is also about tracking implementation. James White is developing a protocol for implementation monitoring. Information could be used for adaptive management. Will be developing it over the next 6 months, and we will send out James' draft when it is ready.

Ken Bevis—Outreach Update: we have started the process of thinking about the second annual salmon celebration; if anyone has any interest/thoughts, let Ken know. Could solicit intern opportunities for high school students. Fishing Day: on March 1st at noon at Carlos there will be a planning meeting. John Crandall is working on the outreach plan. We did really well in terms of accomplishing what we set out to do last year.
Outreach committee is a good place to recruit people to help with stuff.
Chelan County has developed a large wood dialogue, and are developing an approach that has outreach as an acknowledged part of how they do projects; may see something coming from that to the Okanogan.

John C—we're just about done with the second draft of the revised fish guide; will send out to outside peer review. Hope to publish this fall. It's looking really good, local photos and drawings. Crayfish not in it now. Guide will be free, will hand it out.

Michael Notaro—will be meeting with Aero Methow to talk about Outreach and Education on river safety. Had an impromptu meeting with the Border Patrol/Homeland Security; they are involved with the Explorer Troupe in Oroville. They volunteered to cover the transportation to bring the troupe over for education/outreach on river safety, possibly clean up at put-ins/takeouts

Jennifer Molesworth—we are working with DNR on river safety messaging, signing at put-ins, trying to get education out to the public on how to engage with the river, that there are dangerous things out there. Ken—need to get out in front of that, start working on it now.

Jennifer—we hope that it will be the sheriff or Aero Methow's program; the language come from them; and we will work with them to support their effort.
Discussion—DNR requirements, signage. Brian Fisher—DNR has been clear that we need to do some kind of signage; they are supportive of signs at put-ins and takeouts, not necessarily a sign on every structure.
Jennifer—if anyone has any examples of signing for this, we would like to see it.
Charlie Snow—DFW has a list of all the commonly used put-ins for creel data; recommend checking with Bob Jateff
Robes Parrish—who is your point of contact with DNR?
Brian—it has been Cindy Preston, more recently Alan Lebovitz

Brian Fisher—M2 Update: we have already covered some M2 topics. We sent out a newsletter with a very wide distribution: 2500 landowners; we have been getting feedback from some of these landowners. Currently we are at the 60% design level. Hope to have permits ready to submit this week. Have finally completed the Bird acquisition, so WFI project site is now MSRF's. Getting ready to put out an RFP for the wood acquisition. Looking at multiple sources/types of wood.

Robes Parrish and Peter Jenkins—Presentation: *Natural logjams in the White River: Lessons for Geomimetic Design of ELJs*
Robes—this was a pilot project; we didn't have a lot of information from the literature to help guide sampling design. Was a "nice to do" project, only funding was Robes and Peter's salaries.
Geomimetic is a word that really fits what we are trying to do here: studying the formative geomorphic processes, structure, and function (of natural logjams) to mimic the design (of engineered logjams); not used in this context before, but really seemed to fit. Wanted to use it to review formation of logjams
Study objectives:

1. Do naturally stable persistent logjams exist in our area?
2. Develop survey methodology
3. Try to determine structural elements which beget stability and make good habitat

The better we understand these, the better we can mimic them in ELJs. Hoping to apply to Stillwater design for the Entiat.
Derek—did you look in the upper Columbia for analogs?
Robes—used Stillwater reference reach
John C—what is "persistent"?
Robes—we were looking at 10 years as a minimum criteria, would be considered reasonably stable over that time, should see a range of flows in that time period.

Two Jam Types:

1. Bar Apex/Mid-channel
2. Streambank oriented/Deflector

Looked for similar Strata (Stillwater):

- Stream type (c4/pool-riffle)
- Valley type (glacial trough)
- Boundary conditions (moist conifer cottonwood)
- Hydrology (snowmelt driven hydrograph)

Found five logjams, looked for all the historic aerial photos we could find, where you could positively identify logjams. Grainy photos and shadows are problems with this methodology; gaps in photos; we counted the age of the log jam conservatively
Then we went out into the field to see if they were still there
Methods:

1. Air photo analysis
2. Field verification
3. Survey
    a. Topo
    b. 1 deg/2 deg/ racked members:

        i. DBH, length, rootwad variables, orientation, elevation (mid-point, base, top), total # count, sketch map
    c. Longitudinal profile
    d. Cross-section
    e. Spatial, depositional features
4. Analysis

Results:

- Persistence 12-41 years
- Orientation
    - Mean=203 deg 190 deg (key members)
      = 171 deg 183 deg (secondary)
      Range- 0-280 deg (racked)

- % w/rootwads—

Two foot diameter trees were the average for key and secondary members; racked members much smaller on average but a very wide range

Observations:

Log jams can form anywhere
Natural jams

- Change in size over time
- Are deformable
- Are quite porous
- Have variably sized materials
- Have extensive racked material
- Do not necessarily trigger avulsions

Our logjams are somewhat unique from better studied Westside ones; our ELJs should be too. We have ice, different drainage area relationships, where you find the greatest wood loading in a reach

Recommendations:

1. If "Naturally Functioning" is a stated objective, then projects should aim for persistence instead of component stability
2. "processed based" restoration means building ELJs that contribute to a dynamic river-floodplain environment
3. ELJs should be more deformable to accommodate ice, unanticipated scour, flow vortices
4. Greater acceptance of wood mobility
5. Use term "woody material" instead of LWD
6. Build more ELJs in floodplain, side channel
7. Project-specific effectiveness monitoring
8. Many research opportunities!
9. Use of geomimetic design
    - Pros: achieves process based restoration, provides more complex habitat, may inherently capture modeling uncertainties, limits use of artificial ballast
    - Cons: reduces engineering factor of safety, time-consuming to study reference reaches, difficult to convey in typical eng. Drawings, requires designer to be onsite during ELJ construction

If you haven't seen Robes' paper, contact him for a copy.
Derek—are you suggesting an inverse relationship between stability and habitat complexity?
Peter—disturbance attracts fish, so you often see a big fish response in the first year. A dynamic structure creates the same effect across a wider timescale. Habitats that change over time are an important part of the process.
Discussion—geomimetics, use of rootwads in a regular manner versus the way they are in nature, wood availability in the system, feeding the system with wood. The need to use engineering in areas where people live; using this as a starting point to refine traditional design

Peter—as things are shaking out at a statewide level, we thought it was really important to get this information out there; don't want to lose this as a tool in places where it is appropriate.

Rob Crandall: Presentation: *TwispWorks Native Garden*
Solid outreach opportunity for restoration; working on a native garden at the entrance to the new interpretive center; design is still in the developmental phase. Envision a high quality native plant garden.

We want to base the garden around different habitats: riparian, forest, sub-alpine, shrub steppe; we want to focus the garden around the ecology of these different habitats. We want to develop conservation partnership opportunities—opportunity for getting conservation messages out, also good opportunity for education and education partnerships
Native plant education: botanical signs, workshops, plant identification, etc.
Coordinate with MV Interpretive Center and conservation partners
Research opportunities
Incorporate geology, making connection between soils and flora, bring in native rock, soils, gravel

Maintenance will include irrigation, weed control, deer protection, would need community support, budget

Right now, we are working on developing partnerships and fundraising; we hope to break ground this spring, develop interpretive materials this summer, and plant the garden this fall. Want to work on telling a good story, get restoration messages out to the public. There will also be an agricultural garden.
Carolyn Schmekel—we want to create a space that invites people to discover something in a neutral area that they wouldn't have otherwise learned; to create a neutral place to meet the public. Very exciting.
Rob—we are working on fundraising for construction of the garden and interpretative materials, and to see what presence the MRC participants want to have.

Discussion—good tie in to what MRC participants are doing, garden and center are stand alone, but lead to each other, messages will be continuations, but not repeat, deer fencing and gates creating boundaries, special space.

Paula Mackrow—the goal for the interpretive center is to create a depth of information and links between subjects; it won't be like a museum. There will be a watershed display between the geology and the plant section
John Schaefer—what if the paths represented water? A—Sarah Shrock has been working on something like that
Paula—if you or your organization is interested in getting involved in planning or sponsoring some of the displays, please contact Rob, Paula, or Carolyn
Carolyn—the garden will be a display; similarly, inside the center, we will have some fixed display but also revolving displays, so if someone wants to have a revolving display, that is a possibility.
Lee Hatcher—what is the timeline for participating/sponsoring?
Rob—things are happening now, so sooner is better, but they will be developing material this summer.
Carolyn—there will be an open house on Saturday June 9th; representatives of the Methow Tribe will be there with artifacts, then on the 10th, Jack Nesbitt will be there to tell the plant story.
Discussion—may be same day as Fishing Day, could try to get them together
Craig Nelson—how much money are you looking for?
Rob—for the garden, we are looking at about $46,000 for the first phase to get it up and running
Paula—MSRF is looking at how the signage could lead to Twisp Ponds and other restoration sites, working on signage grants.

Roundtable/Public Comment
John Crandall—for NFWF flow monitoring that is a partnership between BPA, NFWF, BEF, Methow has been chosen as a test case for flow effectiveness monitoring; should be a draft project framework out for review at the end of the month, will go to MaDMC; will be in full force this summer, will use Chewuch as the primary basin.

Don McIvor—UCSRB is sponsoring a training opportunity April 5 & 6 at Campbell's Resort in Chelan on how to conduct an effective public meeting. No cost. Class if full, but contact Don if you are interested in getting on the waiting list.

Craig Nelson—OCD has annual plan of work on our web site; we need comments back by the end of March, natural resource conservation service (NRCS) flagship funding, will set their priorities for Chelan Douglas, and Okanogan Counties at Campbells will take input. Priorities have been irrigation, but irrigators haven't been showing up, and priorities are set by those that show up 6 pm Feb 29th at Campbells.

Heidi Andersen—Conservancy in the process of closing on the Hardy easement; about 20 acres. The beaver project has DOE funding recommended for 3 more years and an Ecotrust grant for the Chewuch; gap year for funding.

Paula Mackrow—fishing day planning meeting is March 1st at Carlos 1800 at noon in Winthrop. Not sure that June 21st works, but that is the day on the web site. This year they are opening the natural pond.

Jennifer Molesworth—saw something about WDFW stream restoration workshop coming up, stay tuned.
Ken—guidelines, not policy
Brian—have been told that it will be policy on WDFW lands; a lot of the guidelines are close to what we've already been doing

Ken Bevis—WDFW will hire a program manager for the Habitat Program, will be out of Ephrata; will be an announcement, not sure what will happen with those who applied before.
Dennis Dauble, author of a book on inland fisheries, will be giving a talk/book tour in Twisp on March 15th at the Grange sponsored by CCFEG
Working on an internal wildlife plan amendment to identify potential projects on WDFW lands, will look at grant source for the land acquisition to see how that affects types of projects, objectives; hopefully will be done in the next couple of months; will utilize existing RAs.
SRFB grants for McLaughlin falls went through, WDFW moving forward with acquisition in Okanogan County; need to put a couple of years work into any WDFW acquisition

Lee Hatcher—Watershed Council finally got grant signed and moving forward on Water Storage project, 10-month project is now 5-month, looking Methow Headwaters, Silver, Beaver Creek, Doran Ranch. Mostly looking at aquifer recharge—take water during runoff and store it for slow release until later in the season. Very open right now as to how it will happen. It is a pilot project to see if we can accomplish something we can measure. This is a first level feasibility study, have a second phase grant to do further detail on selected projects.
Derek—this is a human consumption need, and could be an opportunity to marry with habitat goals, recommend that we have a presentation on the possibilities.
Jennifer—if you are taking it off the peak, those are your channel forming flows. Agree that we need a presentation.
Derek—only real water storage project we have in upper Columbia is the Beaver Project
Lee—we have funding to coordinate with them
John C—for biological side, the question will be what volumes you are talking about; beaver project has a very large monitoring component
Lee—also looking for feedback on details, location of the pilot
Derek—coordination is important; huge opportunity, coordination with MRC is key, start with an MRC presentation
Jennifer—and when the consultant presents to MWC, invite the MRC participants

Next MRC meeting March 20th.

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms	
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced “cubfwah”)
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group (formerly Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group)
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
FFFPP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
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)
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
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced “surfboard”)
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
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
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited (formerly Washington Rivers Conservancy)
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. This 7-year status report gives our funding sources, partners, and the public an overview of past activities, current business practices, products and publications, and future program directions. It is designed to increase accountability and summarize our accomplishments during the initial phase of the program.