

Methow Restoration Council

February 17, 2015

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Craig Nelson	Okanogan Conservation District
Crystal Elliot-Perez	Trout Unlimited
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jenni Novak	WDFW
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Kristen Kirkby	Yakama Nation
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Paul Wagner	Colville Confederated Tribes
Ryan Fortier	WDFW
Terri Williams	Okanogan Conservation District

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall – Monitoring Update: The monitoring coordination meeting for the Upper Columbia will be on the 5th of March in Chelan, upstairs at the fire hall. An agenda has been sent out by Chuck Peven. The meeting is sponsored by MaDMC of the RTT. We are shifting the focus of the meeting this year. In the past, it has been a day where people involved in monitoring in the four subbasins talk about what they are doing. It could take a long time to get through all of the programs, which was really unfortunate for the groups that had to go last. We are trying to change the flow and what we are trying to accomplish with it. We are now trying to get past the part where we go over the overview of the monitoring for each subbasin. We have the monitoring programmatic worksheet that has been sent to everyone, and the information goes into a detailed spreadsheet. We have close to 40 different monitoring programs just in the Methow. We will have and distribute that information as a way to go over it quickly. The majority of the meeting will be a series of presentations from people on how field data is used to help inform management. We hope that it will help people get a better understanding of how their role in monitoring helps shape fish recovery in the upper Columbia. Jessica will send out the agenda. This is a meeting that is better to attend in person than to call in.

John – if you have any monitoring, let me know, and I can send you the spreadsheet so you can fill it out prior to the meeting in February.

Craig Nelson – Okanogan Conservation District Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Update: we just got word late Friday that the supplemental budget was passed in the legislature; they appropriated approximately 1.1 million for us to help landowners by June 30th. We are still negotiating with federal agencies.

Derek Van Marter –there is some money to help reimburse for local firefighting costs also

Craig – yes; there is also 3 million scheduled in the next biennium to help landowners with recovery costs. Rebuilding fence to keep cows out of streams, deer fence; may be some issues with funding

irrigation systems or stock water systems that were damaged, but I have asked why not, and we will have to figure these things out. We've been working closely with USDA farm service agency on two programs, one for the fire and one for the floods post-fire. We hope to use the state funds to fill in the holes where the USDA funds do not reach – there are limitations on who qualifies for the USDA funds. It continues to be a large effort to meet with people and also work on our other projects. It is a big work load, and we may be bringing some more people on to help with the effort.

Terri Williams – a lot of those dollars will be going toward structure protection. We have broken the requests into groups, and we have identified critical area seeding. Those will be fairly small, addressing life and property, then the next largest projects will be deer fencing, cattle fencing on large operations, critical area fencing to keep cows out of wetland and creeks, cattle exclusion on private property, irrigation and stock water. It is a complex effort, and a lot of work.

Craig – The next biennium legislative appropriation is not fixed; we may get more and we may get nothing. Now that we know how much ECP dollars are available (4.2 million) and we look at the requests, which are around 12 million, we can look at these specific numbers to provide to the legislature so that they may be able to adjust the appropriation for the next biennium.

Derek – how are you prioritizing the requests?

Terri – the first priority was life and property, the second priority was large agricultural producers, also culverts and roads/infrastructure

John – what do you mean by agricultural producers?

Terri – orchardists and large cattle producers that lost many miles of fencing on mostly private lands, but also some state lands.

Craig – some will be a cost-share situation, but it will vary by situation. We will be looking at Benson Creek area also; Terri has been meeting with the landowners.

Terri – it's a big coordination effort, some other places where we will need coordination. We are doing coordination in Benson Creek, the Chilliwist, and we are taking a hands-off in Frazer Creek now since MSRF is working there, although we may work with landowners on fencing there. We did apply with Ecology to do some riparian plantings, but the application was rough, because we still don't know what we need, so it is not currently funded; we didn't have specific projects. If you have ideas on what would be a priority project for riparian, weed control, we are letting others do those mostly, but we appreciate the input.

Lynda Hofmann – how many life and property requests did you receive?

Terri – we have a list from the evaluation that was done by the NRCS. Some of the properties were identified of not being able to do anything, and we gave them information, we had 40 that agreed to take on the risk, and we had 13 that requested assistance in the form of berms or drivable dips. With the critical areas seeding projects, we are hoping to help, but we haven't done the mapping yet; the BAER team identified some areas, but still some analysis we need to do to identify the highest priority areas. We will start some seeding now with the breaks in the weather. Not sure how we will prioritize the culvert locations. It would be great to get input on those.

Lynda – we need to coordinate on that for sure.

Terri – first priority was life and property, then the big ag producers that will affect many people, and then the others.

Lynda – what about weed control on state lands?

Craig – last fall, Julie Morgan from WSDA asked me to come over and have a meeting with them and other agencies, and also invited Okanogan County noxious weed board, which had made a request for help, and we were asked us to include the weed request with ours. They may do some weed control on state lands.

Derek – do they have the staffing to cover such a large area?

Terri – they will subcontract; we have been coordinating with them quite a bit

Craig – they also have to reseed with grass after the treatment, landowners may be able to do it and be reimbursed. Mostly native seed mix, may be some sterile wheat in very steep areas. If you have suggestions for priorities, contact me or Terri, or anyone else in our office.

John – have you seen the RTT prioritized list?

Terri – yes, if it was the one that came out last year

Jennifer Molesworth – one thing that didn't get picked up was Volstead Road – it's on the National Forest, but wasn't well – addressed in the Federal report.

Discussion – federal BAER, Forest fire response, might be nice to have FS come talk to MRC about it

Terri – coordination would be nice

Craig – the flood early warning system is designed for summer flows, not spring runoff. The rain gages freeze up during the winter, but the temperature sensors do work year-round. The true risks for most homeowners are the summer rainstorms like we had last year. Spring runoff has less risk, but specific areas will depend on where you are and how fast the stream comes up. But the risk for the summer event is just as likely this summer as it was last summer, so people need to pay attention. Trigger for the sensors is if they get .05" of rain in five minutes or less, they send a continuous report to NOAA, which helps them make decision to issue a flash flood warning. There are fourteen sites. Web link to sites: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/map/?wfo=&obs_type=weather&obs=true

Terri – I've talked with 200 landowners, but there are 2000 residences in the burned area, so to reach a wider audience we did a news release, we were in the fire supplement in the MV News, and in the Chronicle, all to give people information.

Craig – Ecology did a hydrology analysis of the Wenner Lakes, they had a 10-20 year rain event and it resulted in a 1000-year flow, both from hydrophobic soils and the dam breaks.

Terri – it is a huge area on Finley that is collecting, and it ends up dumping into the lakes.

Jennifer – is there anything happening that is helping people who weren't affected last year, but may be affected if we have another big fire year this year?

Craig – like fuels reduction? We've been talking with DNR, and they are the only agency that has funds to do that. We've applied for a FEMA grant to fill the holes. DNR has limitations on what they will fund, and it's a 50% cost share. Other issue is the checkerboard of the people who live here and the second homes, and the second home owners often don't want to do the reduction.

John – has there been any analysis on lands that had the treatment before the fire and how they fared?

Craig – yes, DNR did the analysis, and it helped many, but not all.

Derek – proximity matters. You need about a ¼ mile buffer for a fire to run out of steam; it has to be done at scale

Craig – to get a defensible space relies on you and your neighbors working together.

Terri – in an area in the Chilliwist, where we had a group of neighbors who did it, we had a high rate of homes that survived.

Derek Van Marter – UCSRB Updates: if you are applying for SRFB/Trib funds this year, there is a kickoff meeting at the Chelan Fire Hall on February 24th from 10-3. If you are planning on submitting a proposal, please let Joy know so we can get a sense of how many proposals.

The Implementation Team Meeting is March 3rd in Wenatchee at Chelan PUD auditorium 10-3. King County and Yakama Nation will be there to present on how organizations outside the area are dealing with risk. Specifically, designing and implementing projects that have potential downstream risks.

The Salmon Recovery Conference is May 27th to 29th in Vancouver. They got over 200 abstracts, and will be letting folks know. Registration is open now. The Hilton fills up fast, so if you know you are going to go, make your registrations.

HWS deadline is this Friday the 20th, getting new projects entered, and the focus is on updating projects finished in 2014. If you meet the deadline, there will be a prize.

Finally, today is the day of the first de-listing of a fish under the ESA – the Oregon Chubb. It can happen, so keep after it.

Roundtable

Jenni Novak – WDFW: Interested in talking with people who have thoughts/experience on the Upper Wolf Creek diversion, can't get the Forest Service to respond – they don't have time

Jeri Timm– we can talk about that after the meeting

Jenni – I have looked at it, done scoping, I'm looking at maybe an overhaul for the screen site, want to hear from everyone who has worked on it, was interested in it, before we move forward

John – you should talk to Greg Knott

Jenni – have an issue with the bypass at the site, not much of a channel left. Last year, talked to FS about wanting to correct that, but it would need NEPA

Jennifer – that would be a big deal

Jenni – looking at doing it by hand as a routine maintenance

Jennifer – think a hand crew is a great idea, think it would be consistent with their operating plan

John – a WCC crew would do a great job

Jennifer – the irrigators also need to maintain the weirs as flows drop, and when they turn off they need to make sure that the water is going down the channel. Laurie Dowe is the person to talk to at FS.

Jenni – tomorrow I will be giving a presentation on our FPDSI (Fish Passage Diversion and Screening Inventory) database, I have been working on updating it. There is a lot of conversation coming up with the new barrier removal board that is in development.

Derek – the western culvert case that went on for some years, the new legislation that passed last year expanded that scope to address culverts across the state, the new board is part of that, and they are getting up and running

Jenni – we've got a good database, but a lot hasn't been updated. We will be convening a meeting with people who are interested in the Wenatchee area to see about updating that. If anyone here is interested in that, would be helpful.

John – a few years ago, I did an analysis of the barriers that had been addressed, I can send you the list.

Jenni – if anyone is interested in having a meeting here, I can put it together

John – you can look at my list first, it's pretty close; you will need to add the Frazer Creek ones done this year, and maybe some up the Chewuch that the FS did when the roads blew out; the list is just ones that have been dealt with

Jenni – we will have a group that can provide training on doing barrier inventories; if anyone gets funding to do barrier work, then we can get training for people.

John – keep in mind the fish populations that you have above and below the barrier, need to consider brook trout.

Paul Wagner – Colville Confederated Tribes: we are still going through cultural review process on Stokes Bridge and Aspen Meadows, working on the scope and budget for our next BPA funding schedule, which starts July 1.

Kristen Kirkby–Yakama Nation: we will be back out at Hancock out in the next few weeks for fish sampling. I have been talking with teacher Melody Beavon, and we may be getting eighth graders out at Hancock.

Jeri Timm – TU: I have been working on RCPP funding, coordinating with NRCS, historically not much flexibility on how the money can be spent. Things are still very busy with MVID. We are starting to put together permits for Barkley.

Chris Butler – Yakama Nation: we are doing an assessment from Weeman Bridge to Trout Creek in the Upper Methow. When it is done we will provide it to everyone for use.

John – Weeman is a bad place to break the assessment if you don't include Fender Mill area

Jarred Johnson – Fender is covered in the Bureau's assessment; we haven't started survey for the assessment yet.

Chris – in December, we had issues with the Department of Ecology where we were trying to reconnect a historic channel, we had to make changes to the project. It is right above Eightmile Creek. We will still have to mitigate. This year we will be working on 4.5 miles (RM 11.75-15.5) on the Chewuch. All depends on permitting, but I may present in March or April.

We sent out an RFP for the Eightmile Project, had a big response. They will be looking at barriers, doing survey.

John – it has lots of brook trout.

Chris – by the end of this year we will have a conceptual report on how to deal with those barriers.

Jennifer – so you are going to Trout Creek on the Upper Methow? Would you do projects up there?

Jarred – probably not, but we wanted to include the campgrounds

Jennifer – I think you might mean Rattlesnake Creek, Trout Creek is way up there.

Chris – I will check with Hans.

Jarred Johnson – Yakama Nation: still working on the Big Valley project, permits are in, I probably will present at next MRC. Have several design proposals out for Twisp; also an RFQ for the recreation assessment for the Upper Methow – Lost River to Weeman Bridge.

Jennifer – I kept getting calls about the People Mover abutments

Jarred – right now, the best idea for the People Mover is to transfer it to the city of Okanogan.

Crystal Elliot – TU: we got word last week that the Triple Creek project will be funded (partially) through the Ecology water quality grant program. The project will be implemented via a partnership between the Okanogan Highlands Alliance, TU, USFWS, and WDFW. The project will involve floodplain reconnection/wetland restoration on Myers Creek near Chesaw in the Okanogan Highlands (tributaries to Myers Creek in the vicinity of the project have been affected by the Buckhorn Mine).

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources hearing on the motorized recreational mineral prospecting (MRMP) legislation (HB 1162) was last Thursday. MRMP includes suction dredging and high-banking.

Washington State currently allows 95% of these activities to occur under the auspices of the Gold and Fish Pamphlet, and there are no permits or fees required for these activities....their impacts are not being tracked by the state. We are hoping the bill makes it out of committee. Stay tuned.

Jennifer – heard it on the news, also heard that the state of Idaho are talking about undoing their prohibition on suction dredging.

The Red Shirt Mill – we are partnering with Ecology on submittal to the Holden Mine Natural Resources Assessment Trustees Council for funding on that and a few other potential abandoned mine projects. Proposal was due a few weeks ago; stay tuned.

John Crandall – Lamprey Guide: hope to have the draft out for peer review this week. It has been a good team effort. I hope to get comments back from 5 peer reviewers from across the region, then do edits, then have a draft ready for printing in March.

Craig – will lamprey cause a change in the size of irrigation screen size?

John – hopefully, yes. Screens now do not prevent entrainment of lamprey; some types of screens do better than others. Smallest lamprey will still be entrained. Lamprey are around 9 or 10 mm when they emerge; anything that goes up and over are not good for lamprey. Guidance is coming, but not a mandate. Lamprey are not ESA-listed for a lot of reasons, not all biological in nature. Hatchery lamprey are also coming.

Jennifer Molesworth–Reclamation: we will hire two student interns this summer; advertisement should go out to USA Jobs this month; interns have to be enrolled in college in the fall semester. Generally students get good work experiences doing interesting things. If you know anyone, have them call me. I think they will also be hiring a couple in Wenatchee.

Matt Shales – CCFEG: The Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment draft should be out in March; I will distribute it through MRC email network. We may also present it at the March or April meeting. We will be looking for comments on the draft.

We removed 6 cars from the Methow River along the Geestman property; five were along the bank and one was downstream on the gravel bar. Lloyd Logging did the work in late January.

Sean Koester in our office does education and outreach, and he has been talking with teachers in the Methow area about doing fish dissection, and ESA-discussions in the classroom.

We will have another movie night in Twisp at the end of March, lamprey has been tossed around as a subject of a short film and discussion with local experts. I will have Sean give John a call.

John – we talked a little while ago; sounds great.

Matt – heard Chris talk about the Weeman Bridge area; Jason Lundgren met with a landowner and DOT on site, and they heard that DOT was doing a mini-assessment in the area, but you are saying that they are they not doing that now?

Chris – have Jason contact Hans for more details.

Next MRC Meeting March 17th

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.