

Methow Restoration Council

February 18, 2020

Participants: Joe Connor (BPA), Greer Maier (UCSRB), Pete Teigen (UCSRB), Sarah Walker (UCSRB), Gene Shull (USFS), Tara Gregg (MSRF), Alec Spencer (MBP), Maddie Eckmann (YN), Hannah Coe (OCD), Lee Bernheisel (OWL), Kristen Kirkby (CF), Jessica Goldberg (MSRF), John Crandall (MSRF/RTT), Steve Kolk (USBR), Robes Parrish (USFWS), Jamie Cleveland (BPA)

SRFB Update – Pete Teigen

Kick off meeting last Wednesday. Pre-proposal (abstracts) due March 1st. More information available on the website or contact Pete. Submitters should fill out all boxes that query up identified as “pre-proposal” applicable. Even those without an asterisk. Presentations are early, site visits are on same timeline. Draft proposals are more “final” than in the past. Applications are on PRISM, but you can download the word questions from the RCO website.

BPA Targeted Update – Sarah Walker

Open to Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow subbasins. Framework is based on step 1 RTT prioritization strategy. Solicitation asking for preliminary design or assessments in priority areas, due March 1. RTT will review score and review mid-March. BPA will make determinations of which proposals they will fund mid-April. Contracts in place by May 31st. \$1.5M available

UCSRB New Staff Introductions – Greer Maier

UCSRB has hired, Nicole as a new communications person. Ryan is new forest geomorphologists/hydrologists. He is currently working remotely part time as he moves. Will be pulling together reach assessment GIS layers.

Regional Updates – Greer Maier

There is a check-in survey on the Upper Columbia Recovery Improvement Plan. This survey is anonymous and will be open until March 5th. Survey is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/78K3R5R>

Ellen Wohl presented last week and you can see her presentation on the UCSR conference website.

Forest Health Update – Pete Teigen/Gene Shull

5-year integrated plan is being updated and FS soliciting feedback from projects who is proposing to do a project on the forest in the next 5 years. Solicitation is open until the end of March. USFS is currently putting together projects for fiscal 2021 and specific actions for the Twisp Project. If you are looking at doing a project on the Forest, start talking to the Gene early (no later than fall before project implementation). By Feb/March FS has more or less identified the projects for that year.

Looking into options of having a general umbrella agreement with the FS that multiple organizations could work under. If you think this is something that would be valuable send an email to Melody. Watershed action teams (like MRC) could be play a role in this process. Gene

proposed setting up a meeting with folks from the FS, UCSRB, and sponsors to discuss options. If UCSRB and FS can agree on a template, then even if USCRB doesn't act as umbrella, a template has been established for sponsors to use for agreements. Using an umbrella organization would likely be the most efficient options.

Life Stage Prioritization Workshop Update – Greer Maier

RTT met last Thursday to identify priorities for restoration by life stage. 7 distinct life stages. Looked at spring chinook adult migration – where are issues (access, quantity, quality) defined basic requirements by life stage. The information is populated on a map showing priorities on the landscape for each life stage. Yellow is low priority, orange medium, red high priority. This part step 2. That are our priority limiting life stages. Next step we will look at habitat. This is detailed in the prioritization strategy. Much of this information is based on expert opinion. Generated a list of habitat quality factors and will use existing data from assessments etc., to refine the priorities. This will be an ongoing effort. At the end of step 2 a suite of actions will be generated.

Will go out for review. Limiting factors by life stage. The Okanogan will be populated based on EDT outputs. Greer would like feedback from sponsors. This is discussed at the SOWAT next week. Greer will send out notes and WebEx for folks who cannot attend.

Roundtable-Group

Steve – Boise is printing copies of the LMRA

Robes – has asked for proposals in late fall and decide which projects to fund in December. Funding is approved in the spring. The only Methow project was some additional planting work at Hancock. Twisp Ponds also applied for funding.

John – working to do a river clean up project in late summer from Winthrop downstream. Fathead minnows are showing up in the Methow and they are now in the Wenatchee. These are invasive. These are showing up in silver side channel. John is looking into whether these species are being transported by riparian plantings which are often being grown as mats in ponds. John be looking into what kind of quality control is occurring on plantings for invasive species control. Robes would like to be included in this discussion.

Kristen – Hiring Okanogan barrier crew and looking for applicants. Work mid-April through October. New nickname: Cascade Fisheries

Lee – working on general adjudication for the Methow. Skagit is currently ahead of the Methow.

Greer- submitted project to UW GIS class to evaluate stream incision and highlight areas where there has been a lot of incision and conversion of riparian to upland species. They will be working on this through June. IT meeting march 3rd.

Next scheduled MRC meeting:

March 17, 2020