

Methow Restoration Council

July 19, 2016

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Amy Martin	Okanogan Conservation District
Chris Johnson	MSRF
George Schneider	George Schneider & Assoc.
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Jacqueline Wallace	Trout Unlimited
Jennifer Molesworth	Bureau of Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Nelson	Methow Beaver Project
Kent Woodruff	Forest Service
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Robes Parrish	USFWS
Ryan Fortier	WDFW
Susan Crampton	Local Citizen

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall – Monitoring Update: Many people are out surveying and monitoring in the streams, and it is really important that people have appropriate access permissions. People also need to give landowners enough time to respond to requests.

Chris Johnson – we also have had a blanket request letter go out recently that didn't describe the work or sites involved, which was too broad for a lot of landowners

John – people also need to be aware of changes in ownership

Discussion – navigable waters, public access, Methow is navigable, Twisp and Chewuch mostly not

John – Information Gap Assessment: the key is recovery. We have three listed species. NOAA and USFWS are in charge of recovery under the ESA. They have questions they need answered, like whether the status of the population is improving. Abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and genetic diversity and the VSPs. A number of sub-questions as well. All of these are lumped under the "Key Management Questions". Now there is potential funding tied to monitoring, so knowing what the identified data gaps are is important. MaDMC is working on developing the list of data gaps so that they are more standalone and fundable. UCSRB has an adaptive management cycle every few years, and that process is also involved. We will be trying to get together in the next few months to get it shaped up, and then will send out to the WATs for review and comments.

Paper – on mapping cold-water refugia: ***Thermal heterogeneity, stream channel, morphology, and salmonid abundance in northeastern Oregon streams*** (Ebersole, Liss, and Frissell 2003). Take a look at the paper if you are interested in water temperature. We have a really neat temperature probe that these folks tipped us off to for mapping

John – Outreach and Education Update: we had a lot of outreach coordination for a while, and then it fizzled a bit, and now we are trying to revive that to coordinate what we are doing. We've been doing a lot with the schools, and they are working on setting up their curriculum; aligning work with the standards, but the standards are always changing.

We are revising the Outreach and Education plan to try to align it with the new IB program at the schools. Making sure that the programs we have for each grade are consistent with the school's educational goals. There is value in tracking what is going on, where, and why

Robes Parrish– Silver Project Update: silver construction got started a bit later than planned. We had a massive defishing effort, handled over 6000 fish, most were suckers and dace, some summer chinook, a few o.mykiss, one lamprey ammocoete, and a few brook trout. Contractor began last week, and things are going well, beginning to excavate the new channel. Contractor is AquaTerra out of Idaho; they have a lot of experience in doing wetland restoration. Not the typical dirtwork operators. All of their machines are GPS enabled. Pretty neat to see that kind of capability.

Chris – this is a CCFEG project in partnership with USFWS and is on WDFW land. There is currently an application in SRFB for an acquisition that would allow the project to extend upstream.

Robes – most of the fish we captured were transported upstream to a very similar environment.

Jennifer Molesworth– what do you base the summer chinook classification on?

Robes – size class and position in the river; based on what Charlie Snow said. He will be reinstalling the PIT tag array. We will be monitoring fish community and temperature.

Julie Nelson – Methow Beaver Project Update: we have been with the project for a few years. We have five crew plus an intern; also the Bureau interns are helping out. This year at high water, all of our establishment dams breached and filled in. Some we know where the beavers went, some we do not. We had many nuisance beaver calls in the spring before we were hired.

We've captured 20 beavers, had 6 sites released, and have 9 current establishments.

Katie Weber is working on the temperature project. We've had to let go of the flow study, due to too many flaws in the project after the fires, floods, losing equipment, etc.

Last winter we worked on developing a curriculum for the Independent Learning Center with grad students from the North Cascades Institute. They did an investigation capture and intake, wetlands, macro invertebrates, and then they did a town meeting where they role-played the stakeholders. It was a fun and positive experience. One of the students also welded us a new box trap, which has been indispensable.

In June, we had elementary students from Oroville, Brewster, and Omak come visit, and we reached about 170 kids plus chaperones and teachers. We also saw about 500 kids at Fishing Day. Kent did a beaver ecology class for NCI. He was also interviewed for NPR. So we had a total of 682 education hours. We have two college students who are using our project for our project. Three of our crew are going to graduate school in the fall. Proposals are still being fine-tuned. We also assisted a Liberty Bell student with her senior project on a film, the film is on our website – all about climate change, beavers, and education (<http://methowsalmon.org/beaverproject.html>). This year we have 15 volunteers helping us feed the beavers on the weekends, and we also have volunteers who help with field activities. We have a DOE grant, some other grants are ending soon, so we are looking at additional funding for 2018 and forward.

We had a retreat last week to work on longer-term plans for the project, and we will work on a proposal for the future planning.

Chris – we had Bonneville Environmental Foundation come in and help with facilitation at the retreat. It's an exciting period, good to have a year to work on upcoming changes.

Julie – and it is exciting that everyone is interested in continuing the project.

Chris Johnson – Twisp River Floodplain Project Update: the Twisp River Floodplain project is building on a long-term effort to remove the MVID west diversion.

Brian Fisher – we took a relatively industrial site, with a large fish screen facility and parking lot in the middle of a wetland. We took out the concrete last fall in about two weeks, and partially removed the levee. We had connection at about the 1.5-year return interval. We had water going over the levee into the wetland this spring. This month we removed much of the remaining part of the levee. We are excited about the habitat and should be done at this site by the end of the day. We will then be moving to the other site, which is about ½ mile upstream. We are removing the fill portion of the road, we put some wood in the intake of the canal, which is becoming side channels. River has good access to wetland vegetation.

Jennifer – it would have been nice to remove all of the levee, but we had private land just downstream. We are working to restore the river process as much as we can within the constraints.

Chris – we did extensive modeling of the site to help alleviate concerns associated with levee removal

Brian – there are also ecological reasons for leaving some of the levee in place; an avulsion through the wetland would result in a net reduction in habitat value, so we ended up with a tiered removal of the levee.

Jennifer – the project is in the lower Twisp. Many of the off-channel areas are cut off by levees and roads, and it is naturally confined, so this is a great opportunity to have that needed habitat

Brian – At the upstream site, we removed two diversions from Poorman Creek, excluded cattle, and will be restoring wetland. We are also putting in boulder clusters and wood structures on the river.

Partners include UCSRB, BPA, Reclamation, TU, NRCS, Methow Conservancy, and the project was designed by Inter-Fluve

Chris – the Okanogan Water Conservancy Board is helping with the water right change. At the lower site, we will be working now on the plantings. Plantas Nativa, Camden Shaw, is doing the plantings there.

Greer Maier – UCSRB Updates: Joy sent out the RTT scores for SRFB yesterday. Nason Creek was number one, Silver was two. A lot of design and protection projects, so I encourage people to think about restoration projects for next year.

Chris – this is the benefit score ranking, the citizens committee can move things around on the list

Greer – yes, the counties each rank individually, and then they combine the list

Chris – we are looking at ways that we can shift the asks to the match partners to look at ways to have more projects get funded.

Greer – the RTT scoring meeting was very good. I think they are close to making their organizational changes.

Greer – Adaptive Management: we are looking at revising the Biological Strategy and the Implementation Schedule. Looking to create a ranked project list that sponsors can work off of. We have an RTT steering committee to see what information we need to convene a series of workshops. This will help with project identification, funding, and partnerships. We will be updating with lots of the new information that we have. Stay tuned, the Implementation Team is part of that, so we will have both an RTT steering committee and an IT steering committee. Everyone will be welcome to participate, and it will be subbasin driven.

Greer – the State of the Salmon Report is the GSRO report they do every two years, they pull data from HWS, so if you can make sure that your data for your completed project is up to date.

Greer – We have an equipment library that we get things for when we have funding available; currently we have a mobile PIT tag detector and an eDNA kit. MarySutton has gotten training on the eDNA kit, so these are available for people to use – you take samples, it costs \$75, and there is a 48 hour turn

around. You don't get abundance, but you get presence/absence. You can tell a summer from a spring chinook, a rainbow from a steelhead. MarySutton can come help also. If anyone has a request for equipment in the library, let Greer know.

Roundtable

Paul Wagner – Colville Tribes: our BPA contract master contract started July 1. For 2016 I got some extra funding, supporting additional projects including Barkley irrigation, Maltais roughened channel, Aspen Meadows, M2 trail, and will be continuing work on the red shirt ditch production well, feasibility on silver reach instream structures, Gann wetlands assessment, we set the 15% match for Burns Garrity project, some acquisitions with MSRF, working with FS on Mission project, some initial feasibility on Volstead road. I am also working a bit with EDT these days – last I heard they were establishing the reach breaks.

Jacqueline Wallace – TU: we are finishing up work on the MVID project, and we are getting started on Barkley project. Getting started on some smaller projects irrigation wells and working with Paul on the thermosink watering trough at the Lawson property – can be used year-round.

Amy Martin – Okanogan Conservation District: Terri is working on some fencing projects over here related to fire recovery, doing cultural resources. Bob is working on some irrigation efficiency projects as well. Fire recovery money has to be spent quickly, so they are moving fast.

Ryan Fortier – WDFW: we will be sampling in Benson Creek tomorrow up near the forest, going along with the permitting with the culverts that are going in. We did repeat fish sampling on Frazer Creek. Upper section we found a more diverse fish class, middle section didn't find anything, from water diversion to road crossing we found fish – mykiss. Photo points between last year and this year, they almost look like two different areas.

Chris Johnson– MSRF: we are working with the Conservancy and the tribes on an Upper valley application. The Colvilles are also a partner on the TRFP II acquisition, which could help us balance the budget. We also have an engineering study on Frazer creek from the confluence with Beaver creek up to the forest boundary. We are also starting to work with the landowners on redoing irrigation on Frazer Creek and the final two bridges. Landowners are trying to restore surface water diversion, and may be working on supplementing with groundwater wells.

Next MRC August 16

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

OCD	Okanogan Conservation District
OBMEP	Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program
OWL	Okanogan Wilderness League
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (pronounced "Pacsurf")
PHABSIM	Physical Habitat Simulation
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.