

Methow Restoration Council

July 16, 2019

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot	TU
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Hannah Coe	Okanogan CD
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MSRF
Matt Young	Colville Tribes
Sarah Walker	UCSRB
Steve Kolk	Reclamation
Tara Gregg	MSRF

John Crandall – Outreach and Education, Monitoring Updates: Coordinated the showing of the film “Artificial” at Barnyard Cinema. This was followed by a discussion regarding hatcheries. The film really focuses on one side of the discussion and tended to show hatcheries in a negative light. There was a lot of feedback from the fishing community who rely on the hatchery steelhead for work and recreation. WDFW hatcheries are featured in the film. There has been a request to delve deeper into the topic. John is working setting up a second panel discussion on hatcheries, likely in the fall.

Methow State of the Salmon has been printed as an effort between CCFEG and MSRF funded by UCSRB Outreach grant. It will be widely distributed. Discusses why salmon declined, how are they doing, and what kind of efforts are underway to improve the salmon runs.

John – when reviewing results from EDT, there are some questions as to how some of the results are generated. Habitat unit results are highly influenced by the template. The EDT offers a guidance tool but is not the only tool.

Matt Young – in the Okanogan EDT is based on gathered data inputs (gathered every 4 years) while in the Methow data is more theoretical and based on fewer data points. The limited amount of status and trend data in the Methow limits the accuracy of EDT in the Methow. EDT is a tool to show change over time (and we are just starting to build that database) and it is not a replacement for reach assessment.

Greer Maier – the Methow EDT did a poor job of capturing instream flow issues. Habitat diversity was a consistent limiting factor. Its works well in simple reaches with a significant (and obvious) limiting factor. Its does not seem to work particularly well in the Twisp and Methow because the limiting factors in these streams are a lot more complex.

Chris Johnson – EDT is one of many tools

Crystal Elliot – Are funders aware of the limitations of EDT?

Matt – Yes. EDT is a better tool for linking fish data to restoration actions, rather than identifying limiting factors.

Greer Maier – Methow Project Planning and Tracking: Project tracking shows what we have done with all of the money that we have received. \$133 million has been put into habitat work in the region since 1988. All projects that address the Recovery Plan should be included in Habitat Work Schedule (HWS).

Steve Kolk – HPAs are public information, and reviewing these could help track projects that other groups are doing that may have an effect on fish regardless of the motivation of the project.

Greer – HWS also informs the regions' State of the Salmon. Out-year planning looks at work that is being conceived or planned to allow for coordination. Reach assessment projects or barrier projects could be added as out year projects.

Jessica Goldberg – we need a way to make sure a project isn't entered as a "new project" at each stage (conceptual, design)

Greer- search for projects before adding to make sure they are not already in HWS. You can edit projects names or sponsors. Projects can have multiple PRISM numbers associated with it.

Jessica – You could have an option to include related projects or project alias.

Greer – the best is to update the project information. Greer will send a questionnaire to sponsors to get the information she needs to enter the project. Conceptual or Active projects need Name, start/end date, budget. Completed projects need additional information.

Enter conceptual (change to potential) projects into HWS. These projects help build the story to get more funding in the region for recovery projects.

Discussion: How can we identify conceptual projects in a way that doesn't threaten the relationship with private landowners who may not have given approval yet? Potential projects = ideas for projects. Active projects = spending money.

John Crandall – Bull Trout Update: we started an effort last year to coordinate bull trout redd surveys. We're using a modified Chinook survey protocol. There were a lot of fire restrictions last year. 75 surveys were conducted. Found 109 redds. Robinson, Eightmile, Trout and Cedar were all visited – haven't been surveyed recently – and all had redds. Wolf Creek had 21 redds. West Fork Methow 31 redds. There were numerous frozen bull trout in Lost River last winter. We will be monitoring for winter stranding. Foggy Dew and Crater creek each only had one. Lake and Goat Creek had very few.

Greer Maier – UCSRB Updates: Pete is updating the SRFB schedule. Salmon Conference in January: <https://uc2020.org/>

October Workshops – USFS Stage Zero restoration techniques will be presented Oct 16-17.

Stage 0 uses LiDAR to identify sites. The LiDAR looks at incision and floodplain potential. The 15th would be Beavers and BDA. The board will update the monitoring plan for the Recovery Plan. This data gaps list will be changing and will be more related to the Recovery Plan.

IT meeting will be September 3rd.

Roundtable

John Crandall – State of the Salmon. We are developing this and if you would like to be included as an informational source let John know. He also welcomes feedback regarding content.

Crystal Elliot – Continue working beaver BDA and exclusion fencing on Mission Project. Working with WDFW to create a GIS model looking at potential sites for BDAs. Coordinating on Twisp River Project and Red Shirt. Ecology and DNR did a study on site and acknowledged a problem. Suction Dredging ban got through the senate but was not put on the floor. WDFW will require

individual HPAs for activities. Most serious suction dredgers already go through this process because they work outside the typical window.

Matt Young – Concept designs for wood placements above mystery bridge on Twisp River. Providing project support to local sponsors. Looked at Upper Right Elbow with MSRF and coordinating with Methow Beaver Project.

Hannah Coe – We hired an irrigation water management technician who will be starting next week. Doing steelhead stranding monitoring in the Okanogan and seeking funding for winter Bull Trout monitoring.

Jarred Johnson – Working on a project on Upper Beaver Creek Campground at sno-park and school bus turn around.

Jessica Goldberg – This is the last MRC meeting at the RiverBank; were are moving at the end of the month. Corps permit is not required for BDAs as long as you meeting federal clean fill and excavation standards. You still need to apply for a shoreline exemption if work is on a regulated shoreline.

Chris Johnson – MSRF will be moving to the new space July 26-28. Twisp River Projects are in construction. Starting on WFI adaptive as Twisp River finishes.

Next MRC September 17