

Methow Restoration Council

June 17, 2014

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot-Perez	Trout Unlimited
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Heather Simmons	WA Department of Ecology
Jeff Peterson	Reclamation
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jenni Novak	WDFW
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Ryan Fortier	WDFW

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: The UCSRB is working on the four H's (Hydro, Hatchery, Habitat, Harvest). A lot of what we've done has really been focused on habitat (restoration, assessing status and trend, etc.). UCSRB is working on developing summary reports for each of the H's. The Habitat summary report is almost ready for release once it is approved by the board. Next through the Integrated Recovery Technical Advisory Group (IRTAG) (which has representatives from each H), the Hatchery summary report is in development, which will summarize the state of that H in the Upper Columbia. They will try to relate the information to the expert panel process, ecological concerns. It will be a lot of information, I think it will be eye-opening for a lot of us. The user group will be all of the folks associated with the watershed groups in the Upper Columbia. Will probably be coming out this fall/winter.

Derek Van Marter—to clarify, the primary audience will be the decision makers across the H's in the Upper Columbia. This is laid out in the Recovery Plan; our board will convene the group of decision makers to see where we are on the road to recovery. Watershed groups will also find a lot of value from these technical reports.

John—Last fall, MaDMC surveyed project sponsors to help determine what the sponsors need from MaDMC to help develop projects. Now MaDMC have put out a memorandum; they are trying to put together monitoring information in a way that is usable to project sponsors. This process allowed MaDMC to filter through what was needed, what was available, and where to go forward. It has brief descriptions of major monitoring programs that are out there. It also has links, but sponsors will often need to do some searching, ask someone at the program, etc., to get to the information. There is guidance on what information to use for different needs/activities, and recommendations. It is

challenging to pull all of the information together to use the data to develop projects. Greer or Chuck will be sending it out.

John—AEM from BPA: AEM is the new effectiveness monitoring program through BPA in the Upper Columbia. They are trying to assess a number of different project classes; several sites in the Methow have been selected, but not finalized. It is still under development in terms of protocols and approach. They are looking at coming this year. The only site for sure is the Twisp River Floodplain.

John Crandall—Outreach Update: they had the opening of the “Our River” show at the Confluence Gallery, an art walk, and a panel discussion at the gallery the following week. It was a really great facilitated discussion about what the river means to us, and the audience was able to participate.

Jennifer Molesworth—it was a great conversation, not just science, a lot deeper

John—there was a lot of discussion of what the river means to people. Had an artist, a musician, a beaver expert, a river guide, etc., it was a good way to see people’s connection to the river. If you haven’t been down to the Confluence, you should definitely check out the show.

We had Fishing Day last week, with over 700 visitors. It was really good, beavers were out, fly casting, fish painting, rolling river.

Watershed Watchers—we just got done with the spring season; we had 5 days out at the ponds. At one of those, Kent trapped a beaver the night before and brought it out. The third graders had an amazing unit on floods and floodplains where they went out twice during different phases of the hydrograph; it was a blast. The Twisp Ponds started out as a riparian restoration site, and it is pretty amazing; kids planted the majority, and we have had a long lineage with the school. It is a vastly different place than it was 10 years ago.

Chris Johnson—there is an art dedication for a juried art selection from several years back, Steve Love’s piece will be installed at the Ponds at 1:00 on June 28th; we will be roasting brats.

Jeri Timm—TU is having their Farm to Table Feast at Pipestone Canyon Ranch, August 2nd. We have water bottles made from aluminum cans that we will be selling; about half the proceeds will go to TU.

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB/SRFB Updates: SRFB process; there are 12 projects, final proposals are due June 24th, it is possible that all could get funded this year. Another change, the RTT met June 4th to engage in a technical comment/briefing meeting where they discussed each project, focused on giving technical comments on each projects.

Julie Grialou—if the pot of money were such that everything could be funded, RTT will still do their process, what about the citizens?

Derek—everyone will still do their process, then the state technical team will do their process where they would identify any projects of concern, which is the way a project might not get funded.

Julie—if everything would get funded, what is the significance of the citizens’ review?

Chris J—what about the current stance of the commissioners on CEs?

Derek—the commissioners sent a letter to the RCO director Kaleen Cottingham asking for a number of things, but she responded that if a project goes through the local process, then it is well vetted.

Julie—if the UCSRB are partly county commissioners, don’t they have to support the mission of the board that they are on?

Derek—the board members will discuss these issues at the upcoming retreat. No actions taken would affect the work between UCSRB and the WATs. All of our collaborative work will continue.

Julie—how did it get decided that the commissioners would be on the board?

Derek—it was deliberated and considered in 1999, at the governor’s cabinet level, then through regional conversations they developed the structure.

Discussion—current commissioners actions regarding conservation, salmon recovery

Chris J—is the county still receiving funds for LE outreach?

Derek—no. When the LE was consolidated under UCSRB, the counties retained the outreach component. We determined that they were not going to do it this spring. The new contract starts July 1, and Joy is working on the process.

Derek—the Implementation Team on June 3rd had a long and detailed segment on passage issues in the Upper Columbia. The Columbia River treaty is being renegotiated right now, which is a massive effort at the tribal level in the US and BC. They put together a letter to explore passage over Chief Joe and Grand Coulee and three others to try to get fish back to the headwaters of the Columbia. It's a big deal and on a fast track. It's got legs, and the Implementation Team talked about it in June, the tribes are very well coordinated and trying to make something happen, aside from the technical issues, there is a lot of excitement around accessing the habitat that is up there, since 2/3 of the habitat was cut off by the building of Grand Coulee.

Richard Vacirca was there to talk about how the FS was working on passage issue across the Forest, mostly on bull trout; here they are focused on Eightmile. They have similar small watersheds in each of the UC subbasins.

The new WDFW website is available to map barriers:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/fish_passage/

We will be putting together the agenda for the next Implementation Team meeting.

The board is meeting on a retreat on June 25th; there will be a regular board meeting on the 26th. We are also working on a letter on recommendations for Power Council's Fish and Wildlife Program; working with WDFW and Governors salmon recovery efforts.

Chris Johnson—Funding Opportunities: looking at new funding sources, last week there was the NRCS big announcement, looking at different opportunities. Think it is worth our effort, need to develop a partnership approach. Regional Conservation Partnership program, funding a variety of things; can go to anything that we can make a tie to agriculture, irrigation, mining, forestry.

Discussion—what it could go toward, guidance is vague

Chris—hoping to sit down with NRCS to get guidance, how it could work, wondering if anyone here has projects that we should be thinking about; will provide an update by email through Jessica, if you have things you would like me to ask, send me an email.

Julie—John Sunderland saw a Webinar on the program; I will ask John for info on the Webinar

Chris J—NFF also has their Majestic Methow program, we are working with them on the Beaver Project, and we will be working with them to explore ways to increase the level of partnership

In other grants news, DNR came to us and were looking at ways to spend money locally, we asked for match for our SRFB projects. We also asked for funds to remove cars from the rivers and we are in the contracting process for that. DNR is increasing interest in working on the SOAL lands.

Derek—in the Entiat, they have an annual river clean up and a lot of people show up.

Jennifer—another grant to keep an eye on is the Watersmart one on the Reclamation web site; it comes up every year.

Roundtable and Public Comment

Jennifer Molesworth—Reclamation: we are at 90% design for the East side pipe on MVID. They just awarded the contract for West side design, and they will be starting construction October 1st, MVID Board are committed to the project. 20 years in the making.

Jeri—permits are also on track.

Jennifer—we completed the Chewuch Pipe project with TU; it is pretty much done MSRF is getting ready to build M2 3R, and we have been able to realize efficiencies from the previous M2 projects to get a design on the ground very quickly, probably a lot of cost savings there.

Chris J—the most important thing is what we learned from constructing the Whitefish and WDFW projects, we are moving toward a less invasive way of constructing the structures. We have completed the process with the Conservancy in terms of working on property with a Conservation Easement. One of the things that is fun about the project is that the landowner had become involved in terms of placing structures and they have also requested a habitat tree placement in the upland.

Derek—will there be any excavation in the alcove?

Chris—not much disturbance in the Emerald Pool and the connection with the river, but we will be excavating to improve connections higher in the side channel to improve connection and reduce stranding in the side channel, also adding quite a bit of wood in the alcove area.

Jennifer—we are learning that the alcoves are used very strongly by juveniles during the freshet. We have seen that at Whitefish and at WDFW Floodplain.

Chris—the other thing that we are doing at 3R that is different is to really prescribe the routes that the contractor uses and how we will create floodplain features.

Jennifer—we are also working on Twisp River Floodplain with MSRF; once MVID doesn't need their headgate any more, we will be able to take that out and treat that big reach of the Twisp River.

Another project that we will be building this summer are the Fort Thurlow and Marracci diversions, the rocks placed in 2005 have shifted and we have compromised passage most of the year. We will go in and substantially replace both of the structures. These are actually Reclamation construction project, which is unusual.

Jeff Peterson—the Upper Columbia is the only place where the counties are engaged in the restoration, your structure up here is far ahead of other places.

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB: I want to thank John and Jennifer for the show at the Confluence and for engaging in the discussion panel; the goal was to have people participate and have people walk away thinking about the river, I think we achieved that. We had a lot of good discussions and showed that we don't need to be the messengers all the time.

Just finished work with some UW graduate students on an economic analysis of the work we are doing, it is nearly ready to distribute. It shows that there is a restoration economy and it is paying dividends in the community. Creates jobs and keeps money circulating. They analyzed of the idea of "willingness to pay" for fish, the analysis on the west side is about \$230; the OCEC guy did the analysis that is close to how much it costs here in terms a percentage of the power bill.

Finally, we recently switched over to .org for web site and email addresses. We also have a Facebook page, and we can share video, etc.

John Crandall—Outreach and Monitoring: trying to use different tools for outreach, working with Steve Foreman and the high school video class, also for the beaver project a woman from Walla Walla is doing a Beaver Believer video; a good tool for showing people how things work.

Fish use of seasonally available habitat—some habitats are only available for a few weeks a year, but during that time period it is really important to that animal/bird/fish.

Crystal Elliot-Perez—TU: we are getting funding to help the Leavenworth Ranger District to do fish passage on Ranger Creek.

We are in the early scoping phase of a wetland restoration/floodplain reconnection on Myers Creek in the Okanogan. The project is called the Triple Creek Wetland Restoration Project, because it is located

at the confluence of Myers Creek and two other streams that flow off of Buckhorn Mountain. The project is occurring through a partnership with the Okanogan Highlands Alliance.

TU will have the Farm to Table dinner on August 2nd, proceeds will go to help TU sustain the dinner, office. Please get tickets and come.

Derek—is it Salmon Safe?

Jeri—It will be a TU focus with Salmon Safe foods

Crystal—I am working on bringing about some regulatory reform on suction dredging; WA last place for this, trying to eliminate suction dredging in areas that are Critical Habitat for listed salmonids, working on a legislative strategy, if you want to help work on that, let me know.

Hans Smith—YN Update: we have the Middle Twisp River RA (Newby Creek to War Creek) is in finalized form pending RTT review, which they can't get to until August, so will bring it to you after that. The Upper Methow RA, Weeman to Trout Creek, field work is scheduled for this summer, good response for access so far from landowners, won't be completed until next year, Inter-Fluve is doing it.

I will be managing the 1890s side channel project that is starting next month, and will be selecting contractor tomorrow. Awarded a contract to Kysar and Koinstenan for the Two Channels Project later this summer. We are continuing to develop Fender Mill project with the state for implementation next year.

Chris J—on Two Channels, what vehicle did DNR require?

Hans—Right of Entry

Matt Shales—CCFEG: The Silver Side Channel design project is still in conceptual phase, receiving comments from stakeholders, so direct comments/questions to me. We will be doing fish use monitoring.

At the Geestman property across the river, which I brought to the MRC a few month back, there were some concerns about it interfering with the processes in the area; I spoke to Rob Richardson at Reclamation, and he was able to assure me that we would affect the processes there—too small of a project. The DNR funded the car removal piece at the location; having an archaeological report done for the project.

The Twisp to Carlton RA is underway, Cardno-Entrix is working on that, and you may have been contacted for information. If you have information, please forward it to Matt. We will be presenting on that in the future. Had a meeting with Rob Richardson and Greer Maier, who helped put some sideboards on the RA.

Matt—I also helped spearhead the river clean up effort in the Wenatchee area, and would love to be involved in something like that here.

Jarred Johnson—YN: I'm managing two large wood enhancement projects on the Twisp River this year; Poorman Creek Rd project and the RM 3 project. Have awarded contracts to Boulder Creek for Poorman Creek Rd project and to Lloyd Logging for the RM 3 project. Those will likely be implemented in late July. Still proceeding with the Big Valley South project with WDFW on DNR land; we have a concept and are moving to 30% designs.

Jenni Novak—WDFW: if you need to know where to find the barrier map, it is on the WDFW web site, but it is not up to date. We've been working on the database for 25 years. It is updated on the West side, but the east side is in process. I'm working on identifying data gaps, visiting diversion sites, trying to get information updated for the Upper Columbia. If you look at it and see information that needs to

be updated, please let Jenni know. We will also be conducting an inventory this summer, but limited funding, so would like suggestions of key tributaries to focus on so please pass on to Jenni ASAP.

Derek—so far in the Upper Columbia, since 1996, we've removed 93 barriers and opened up 280+ miles of habitat. We've done a lot of work on barriers and may not be many more.

Jenni—I have been focusing on screens, but now will also be looking at barriers.

John—in 2010 I did a barrier analysis

Jenni—will also be rebooting our FPDSI database, there is a habitat component, Olympia is working on how to reboot the system to see how to make it more useful to everyone including project sponsors.

Also, the manual we follow for passage/screening, is also available; go to conservation tab, third item down, manual and map http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/fish_passage/

Jenni—I will be trying to heighten salvage efforts at shutdown, assisted last year and identified diversions that need that; if anyone is interested in helping with that to tag fish/get fish data, that is a good opportunity

Jennifer—USGS will not be available this year to help with that

Charlie Snow—let us know about those places and times

Ryan Fortier—WDFW: the YN projects are moving forward in the Methow; the habitat bios are doing all the permitting right now, really busy so try to get the information in to them early if possible. Also, don't forget about the weed component of projects.

They are still interviewing for the Wildlife Area Manager position. Right now Dale Swedberg is standing in and getting help from John Lindsay.

Charlie Snow—WDFW: we will have a few temporary positions for this summer, some other work coming up that we would be hiring people for, short term, if you know anyone who would be interested, they need to get to the scientific technician 2 pool at WDFW, then they will get calls as jobs come up, and definitely check Okanogan County as the place.

Jeri Timm—TU: We are hiring office manager/grant administrator in the Wenatchee office, and we have the job announcement or on our web site

Chris Butler—YN: I got out after the peak and revisited our projects on the Chewuch, and every project had young of the year seeking hydraulic refuge. I went back to one project with the engineers that may need some changes at RM 10. The top is great—had a large pine tree at the top that is trapping a lot of wood, the backwater channel is being used, site C with the big alcove got some video.

Working with WDFW on 2 projects for 2015, one with the FS for 2015, lots of habitat improvements on the Chewuch.

I just got the conceptual for reach 15-17.5; there is a lot of potential there to do a lot of great things.

Have been working with the FS on the Eightmile Creek, and we will go out and do a survey of the barriers and the opportunities; FS is doing the roads analysis, should be finished in August. Potentially we will look at treatments in Eightmile Creek. Has good wood and pool counts, also a lot of brook trout. In development.

Julie Grialou—Methow Conservancy: there is another property on the Twisp River that is going for sale that is next to one that has been sale for a few years, the B&B.

Jarred—we are starting to go to PRCC to purchase those for restoration.

Derek—there is also a new one for sale on Old Twisp Highway.

Discussion—potential CE/protection properties for sale

Jessica Goldberg—MSRF: we have an application to the Wildlife Conservation Society due Friday for the Beaver Project. We were invited to submit a full proposal after a pre-proposal; this is through their Climate Adaptation Fund, targeted at projects that help with climate adaptations at a wider scale, and is not species specific.

Chris Johnson—MSRF: when we acquired the OSH property with the Accord funds, it was on the resale philosophy, we are in the 3rd year and we are in process of marketing the OSH property. It will be a phenomenal deal--\$699,000, which is about a 40% discount now that it is non-dividable and restricted. It's a total of 63.7 acres.

We will be doing a walk this Friday with WDFW reps at the M2 WDFW property to identify potential adaptive management actions. We are talking to the upstream landowner on possibilities for removing the cross-levee, and placing additional planting materials.

Derek—the kiosks and signs look really great

Chris—we have one at Whitefish, WDFW, and Twisp Ponds; the kiosks are built from salvaged wood.

The other thing we are exploring is the idea of flowage easements through BPA, so if we are working on one bank and we think we have the opportunity to increase flow on the opposite bank, we are exploring getting an agreement with the opposite landowners to allow for that without needing a CE or fee simple purchase.

ADJOURN

Next MRC meeting July 15th

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
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. 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.