

Methow Restoration Council

March 20, 2012

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Gene Shull	Forest Service
Heide Andersen	Methow Conservancy
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	Wild Fish Conservancy
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Ken Bevis	WDFW
Kent Woodruff	Forest Service
Lisa Pelly	WWP-TU
Paula Mackrow	MSRF
Robes Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Wes Tibbits	USGS

Notes:

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: We had an Upper Columbia monitoring coordination meeting last month in Chelan. It was fairly well attended. The goal was to get everyone together, meet, and increase efficiencies and reduce redundancies. Overall, the yearly meeting has done a good job of that.

Jennifer Molesworth—is it also about sharing data?

John—no

Charlie Snow—there are too many organizations and too much data

John—the meeting is not about the data, just logistics. It is sort of getting old, somewhat repetitive to last year. This year we took a little different slant trying to get all the different information on monitoring activities and put it together. We should soon have a spreadsheet with all the different monitoring that is going on across the Upper Columbia. This will be very useful to people coming in to do work. We also talked about one issue, which is flagging to mark things on different properties. It doesn't go away—it hangs around and is persistent. Landowners, river users, others, are seeing this and are not very happy with it. We are looking at ways to be efficient with it, improve coordination across programs. Word is that if you're putting flagging out, think of a way to get it down and figure out a pathway to make it happen. We don't want to get into the situation where other people get angry and start pulling it out.

Wes Tibbits—you could use GPS to flag your marks. Can be a problem too if we keep flagging the same area—people think it is the same flagging but sometimes it is new in the same place. Think pulling it all out at the end of the year is a good idea.

Charlie—we've been using the biodegradable flagging, it works very well. We also try to take it down in between surveys.

Brian Fisher—do you have issues with cows or other grazers taking it down?

Charlie—sometimes. It's hard to tell how it's coming down, birds, deer, cow, landowners, etc.

John—the other thing we talked about at the coordination meeting was landowner access—and being respectful and mindful of landowners. Some are expressing landowner fatigue from frequent requests due to the bump up in monitoring. Jennifer—even in the Methow, where we have one point of contact with Notaro?

John—it can even be with that single point of contact because of the total number of requests for so many different crews on the same property.

Robes Parrish—it seems like a spreadsheet with the monitoring activity information is old technology; seems like it would be better as a GIS layer.

John—think that they will be working on that; it is more work for UCSRB. If everyone did it themselves for their work and gave the info to James White, that might help

Robes—so James White is the gatekeeper of the information?

John—yes and the goal is to get it all in GIS, but it has to be redone every year.

Lisa Pelly—agree that it would be nice to get the data; it would be good to include on grant applications

John—right now we are working on the data management; it is a very difficult process, but we are getting there. Pretty soon we will have a whole slug of data that is available, but we are also looking at what that means in terms of ensuring that the data are used and reviewed in their proper context and treated respectfully in terms of proprietary information.

Lisa—there could be disclaimer on the data, that before it's used you need to go to the source

Charlie—we have that through the data steward; James said that all requests for data would come through UCSRB

Lisa—would be nice if there was a central place to go for the information to save a lot of people's time

John—we are getting there, it is just a monumental task. There is tension on how to best do it, which method of data storage is going to stick, and we are not there yet. It's all happening through the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and we are working with them to make it happen. Don't really see people poaching other people's data here.

Charlie—more concerned with people taking data in there and misapplying it—there is so much background information on each data set

Robes—is there someone in the Wenatchee and Entiat coordinating like John is in the Methow?

John—it is James White; if you want to know any more about data management, you need to talk to James

Discussion—difficulties in trying to get the data, especially about what fish are where and when.

Charlie—WDFW produces an annual report, should cover the trap data and surveys.

John—the spreadsheet should help figure out who is doing what and where

Ken Bevis—Outreach Update: the outreach workgroup is helping gather people for various events. We have an **Earth Day event on April 21st at Pearrygin Lake State Park**; Rick Lewis is the contact. It would be great to have additional presence, anything we could do would help, as they have fewer people working there.

June 9th is Fishing Day; 9-1; we have the Rolling River signed up and will need volunteers

Second annual Salmon Celebration is going to happen on one of the last two Sundays in September, details TBD. Paula—wanted to get the date on the calendar to avoid conflicts. Will start earlier this year.

Watershed Watchers will be happening throughout the year.

USFS Blackpine Lake days coming up; stay tuned.

Paula Mackrow—the outreach workgroup is meeting at 1 pm today to address many of the unknowns.

Paula—**MV Interpretive Center is moving forward to a June 9th opening event,** some conflict with Kids Fishing Day; have moved fishing day up an hour 9-1, at Twisp Works will be a two day focus, with Meg Tilley and Jack Nesbitt. At the interpretive center, watershed process has been given the wall across from the entrance for a display. It will be a venue for conservation talks, native garden. Paula is on the board, seeking input on the various elements.

Paula—is there anyone on the MRC who would also like the minutes from the Outreach Workgroup, please let Paula know

Gene Shull—We (local National Forest) were selected as a Treasured Landscape with the National Forest Foundation, a national nonprofit conservation group, corporate, that work to bring in money for restoration work. Had a kickoff meeting a while back; we have been in the process of trying to identify where the money would go. They have committed to bringing a million dollars for restoration in a focus area. We will be looking at the upper Methow, from Harts Pass, looking at high alpine areas that are impacted, will be working with MVSTA to build a more fish friendly bridge over Goat Creek. It is a 5 year

program, will be looking for partners, will possibly revitalize Respect the River. Money is earmarked for Forest Service Lands. Still not sure what projects will fit, have to get a thumbs up from the NFF group.

Jennifer—BEF hired a consultant to look at our outreach in order to help us come up with a way to talk with the community with a single voice; they talked with a lot of people and organizations, did a web search. They did a draft report back to us on what they learned on how we are perceived; we have the initial report, and we will have the final report in the next few weeks. We are working on a communications strategy. We will be reporting back to the MRC, possibly in May.

Jennifer—John, Chris Johnson and I went to a BEF meeting with the other model watersheds. It was very interesting, one of the things I got was that the longevity of the work we are doing is dependent on getting the public to make a shift with us toward protecting the watersheds. We need to integrate the social science into the physical science in order to make the work sustainable.

Robes—I was interviewed by the consultant, and as someone who works in all three watersheds and in the Okanogan, have to say that the MRC does do a good job of messaging. We tend to talk about fish all the time, but what we are really talking about is watershed and ecosystem health, and watershed health begets community health. It is a difficult case to make because it is not an obvious direct tie, but it is so important. Think that is the key for maintaining the long-term support—making a compelling emotional argument.

Jennifer—think that is exactly what their messaging platform is shaping up to be.

John—We are very close to having second draft of the Methow Fish Guide; it is getting bigger—about 60 pages, will be getting it out to outside review. Hope to have it printed up in the fall. It has great local artwork. The target audience is educators, river anglers, river enthusiasts, children.

Ken—CCFEG had 30 people at the Dennis Dauble talk at the Grange.

Jason Lundgren has expressed interest in being willing to host a river clean up, could tie in to road clean up. CCFEG is doing a planting on Driscoll Island on Friday, call Ken if you're interested in helping.

Jason made some interpretive signs for the Upper White River, well written, graphics are excellent; they could be used in other areas.

Brian Fisher—M2 Reach 1 Update: we have been moving forward with design; at WDFW we are deferring the mid-river structure near the MVID East intake for this year. We will be removing additional remnants from the old dam, and we want to wait an additional year to let the river react to that and to the levee removal. We want to have higher confidence in how the river will react. We have been developing planting plans, we are at approximately the 90% design level. Whitefish Island is moving forward with few changes. If you have any questions, contact Brian.

Jennifer—we are also on the slate for the targeted solicitation for 2014 for three additional project areas in M2.

Kent Woodruff—Beaver Project Update: we are working on the statewide beaver restoration guidelines, is a fun process taking all the information of what we have been doing and putting it into a package. We are taking on a monumental task to try to improve complicated ecosystems. We have been tremendously successful with help from DOE, EcoTrust, NFWF, YN, others, and all have done a remarkable job. WDFW, Methow Conservancy, USFS, PBIO were part of the key pieces. We have developed the best methods that exist. It has been very rewarding to try to do the ecosystem engineering with the partners that we have. We have hit a bumpy spot for the project; we have reached a funding hurdle. We have done all the design work, background work, with temp and flow monitors out to monitor how we change temperature and flow when we put beavers in creeks. We have been looking at ways that the beaver project can be a tool to help with all the pieces that everyone is working on. The work that we are doing is watershed scale improvement. We have 12 sites established, with a goal of 50; this will mean that these sites will be able to expand to at least twice that many for the watershed. We were successful in getting an EcoTrust grant this year, and we will meet with them in the next couple of weeks, but we will only have about half of what we needed to go forward as a part of the project was unable to get funding. We also have an Ecology 319 grant, but the match fell through, so we are unable to access those funds. It is looking somewhat dire to be able to move forward. We are looking for additional opportunities to match what we've gotten. We will be working this year hopefully in Eightmile creek, there

are several other places where we could work, including Bear Creek. We have identified about potential 150 spots. We will continue to coordinate with other groups. We are \$60,000 short this year; \$85,000 is what we need for next year for funds.

Robes—could maybe try to find some way to help. Was a paper by Tim Beechie on Restoration, which graphically showed how the projects would help in ameliorating the effects of climate change. The only activity that was wholly and quantitatively effective was beaver introduction. Robes will send a copy/link to Jessica for distribution.

John—have been blown away by the effects of beavers at the Elbow Coulee site over the last few years. Last year they put three dams in the side channel; we sampled the fish and it was fairly loaded with ESA species. They've raised the water level several feet, have built a giant lodge, and they may end up flooding the nearby ponds back into the side channel

Kent—think we have the opportunity to restore the meta populations that we should have. If we establish 50 sites, it may give us the critical mass where they could establish themselves.

Lisa—one caution is that in other areas, people have looked at the saved water from beavers to try to give new water rights

Jennifer—we need to show the benefit of stored acre feet, rather than instantaneous flow

Lisa—the question is whether it is new water or new water supply in the system. WDFW could claim it as their water right for wildlife benefit.

Kent—funding for the beaver project looks pretty dire for this year, unless we get something in the next five days. Need cash. We will also need 1-3 volunteers this summer.

Heide Andersen—the crux is that we have EcoTrust and they are very helpful, but we are having trouble with the match

Jennifer—need to get the project on the radar for the FCRPS list

Discussion—possible funding sources, establishing beavers on private land, bringing the beaver project to the expert panel process, how to use the beaver project to get metric credit for Reclamation, BPA

Roundtable Updates/Public Comment

Chris Johnson—MSRF Update: on April 26th the YN is intending to do a LW outreach meeting for their M2 projects

Kent—saw a lot of wood available at Daroga State Park—they are pulling Lombardi Poplars, and they may be available

Paula—the haul costs would make them very expensive

Jennifer—there would be a concern about the non-native species

Chris J—John and Jennifer and I participated in the BEF workshop; there were very valuable side meetings on how to modify and enhance our outreach efforts; think there will be some opportunities that will allow us to focus our outreach a little better. Most notable lack of comment in the consultants' interviews was a mention of salmon recovery. Stay tuned.

MSRF should be closing on another large Beaver Creek property within the next few weeks. We have a long reach of Beaver Creek where we can ensure that we are doing work that makes sense across the watershed. Beaver Creek has moved up on the YN priority schedule; MSRF will work with their consultants. Brian—there also are a lot of private lands for potential beaver sites.

Gene Shull—Forest Service Update: we were successful in getting the EcoTrust Grant for road decommissioning and finishing the Chewuch transportation plan. Major partner is The Wilderness Society. We have been working with YN to restore a section of the Chewuch river to put in log jams in this summer. Robes—can you send me those designs? Gene—yes. The YN is looking at the next reach, from a mile above Eightmile Creek to Falls Creek, and we developed a plan based on historic information and literature. We are getting handed these designs, so we are trying to be involved early on, trying to make sure we fit in our multiple resource objectives.

We are working with a different group of YN to construct a coho acclimation pond at Eightmile Ranch. They have twenty sites, and one is on FS land.

In the Twisp, we are working with another group of YN on a kelt trap in Little Bridge Creek; they want to capture and recondition steelhead. They hope to get that in this month. We will do a one year conditional special use permit for this. There is a lot of uncertainty as far as bull trout in that creek. We will look and see.

We are finishing up a new supplemental project agreement to do habitat restoration work in the Twisp with the YN. With their recent budget condition, it will probably be more delayed.

Jennifer—we are looking at doing more at the Elbow Coulee project area, will likely want to do a phase 2. Gene—we'll talk.

Gene—we are in the final stages of acquiring about 30 acres of private property riverfront on the Twisp River, above Buttermilk.

Working on a timber sale veg management in the Fraser Creek, Benson Creek areas, will be doing road decommissioning. Also will be thinning on Little Buck Mountain.

Paula Mackrow—HWS: there is something on the HWS on a Fraser Creek project—it currently says that Paula will update but can't determine the sponsor. If anyone has a project there, let Paula know.

Chris Butler—YN has an announcement for Habitat Bio II; will send link when available.

Jessica Goldberg—MRC Schedule: there are trainings every week in April, so those will be in lieu of MRC for that month. Next MRC will be in May on the 15th.

If you plan to attend the HWS training on April 11th, please RSVP to Jennifer Goodridge by March 22. Don't forget that project sponsors who want to apply for SRFB/Trib Fund/BPA funds need to start their projects in HWS; the training will cover what you need to know.

Robes Parrish—USFWS: looking for examples of (primarily mainstem) riparian deer exclosures? Not to protect new plants. Chris J—at Twisp ponds we have put up fences to protect cottonwoods with no new plantings, it is working very well.

Discussion—deer browse problems; social constraints to remove deer, management of deer

Chris J—if the exclosures are up for 5 years, we get out of the deer browse issues

Robes—looking for scientific case for an appropriate tool in restoration

Discussion—public access can help with deer to keep them away

Robes—has anyone looked at LW transport studies? Residence time of logs? A—no.

Kent—there is a book: From the Forest to the Sea by Chris Maser and Jim Sedell that is good, older, may be out of print

Robes—was in Portland all last week, two days was a climate adaptation workshop, making projections and using that as an overlay over the models. If people haven't seen the info or want access, contact Robes. A lot of information, much is depressing, the Methow looks pretty good. Using the A1A scenario, the Methow and the Skagit are the only watersheds that retain a transitional hydrograph (as opposed to rain dominated). They are looking back and seeing how well the models are doing at predicting what actually happened. So far the data is showing that the worst case scenario model is not sufficient—things are worse.

We (USFWS) are working on a video to tell the story for Hancock Springs, will be posting soon. Ken—volunteer to do the music. Robes—John Jorgensen has been working on monitoring at Hancock; he has a big plan and funding, an upstream downstream treatment control approach. Talk to John J for more information.

USFWS has to make some tentative funding decisions for our 2012 money by next week. Partners money is for private lands, also have Western Native Trout Initiative, National Fish Passage Program; the specific program is not necessarily important; rather, if you have an idea, if it will put you over the top or seed money, need to do by next Monday. Talk to Robes ASAP; some funding sources are more flexible. Wenatchee ES office also has several of the same funding sources, but they have a different process/timeline.

Charlie Snow—WDFW: we are gearing up for the usual suite of monitoring. Steelhead surveys are starting now, doing observer efficiency work, some are being documented with aerial photos instead of flags, so don't worry if you see unmarked redds.

Ken Bevis—WDFW: WDFW is interviewing next week for a habitat program manager in Ephrata; this will clarify some of our roles. We are embarking on a planning exercise for looking at potential projects on WDFW lands. Working at refining our process and get better at working on projects and defining our internal objectives for project areas.

Jennifer—within the anadromous zone, you really need an RA to be able to flesh out what is broken and what is there. You don't have that in every area. Can get general concepts where you do have reach assessments.

Ken—Methow is the only area where the WDFW wildlife area has significant riparian land. This is a planning exercise to identify project opportunities.

The steelhead fishery will likely close next week; if you like to fish go now. Many ad-present fish are being found in upstream areas.

No MRC in April: the Next MRC will be May 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
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced "cubfwah")
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group (formerly Upper Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group)
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
FFFPP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
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)
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
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
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
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited (formerly Washington Rivers Conservancy)
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.