

MRC Meeting Notes

March 18, 2014

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Camden Shaw	Plantas East
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chuck Peven	RTT
Crystal Elliot	Trout Unlimited
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Michael Notaro	Watershed Resource Solutions
Robes Parrish (phone)	USFWS
Steve Ralph	Local Citizen

Meeting Notes:

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB Update: PCSRF funds from congress passed at \$65 million for th FY 14 budget; WA should get around \$25 million. That is good news, we could have an \$18 million grant round through SRFB, which would mean our allocation is around 1.953 million as in previous years (10.85 % of available). The president's FY 15 budget for PCSRF came in at \$50 million, and Patty Murry sent a scathing email, hopeful that it won't be much of a fight this year.

Regionally, there is the issue at the Wanapum dam; they are working hard to figure out an engineering fix to connect the fish ladders back to the waters and are also working on a solution to the crack itself. Attended an irrigators forum in Wenatchee this week and this was a topic; this is a high priority for the governor, who agrees that they need to deal with it as soon as possible. The state doesn't want to get in the way. Grant PUD will bear the cost. It also affects Chelan PUD at Rock Island; the turbines are built for a certain amount of head, dropping the river levels increases the pressure, which becomes an operating issue for the turbines.

Jennifer Molesworth—wasn't Rock Island built first?

Derek—yes, but they've adjusted the head on the dams since originally being built. This is a big issue; if they don't have it fixed by April 24th, the fish will start stacking up. Worst case scenario is trucking the fish.

Discussion—ramifications; archaeology; fish transport

Derek—the SRFB process is underway; first, if you have any questions you can contact Joy Juelson. The draft proposal is due May 2nd; final due June 24th. Kickoff meeting in Chelan on March 25th; highly encourage you to go if you are thinking about submitting an application. A number of changes regionally and at the state level this year. The next day on the 26th, there is an online webinar on SRFB application led by RCO. Contact Joy with any questions. We won't know our regional allocation until around June, maybe later.

Derek—Habitat Work Schedule: March 31st is the last day to have things updated in the HWS.

[handout]. We did a QAQC of the subbasins to show what projects need updates; highlighted cells are

required updates; in some cases only the end date needs to be changed. Remember that we use the information in HWS to generate a lot of information for funders, annual reports, comprehensive habitat report, etc. A lot of information is generated out of the HWS. Not too many projects were flagged, so not a lot of updates remaining this year, but they need to be done by March 31st.

John Crandall—can we update previous projects to show the different project elements, like the riparian plantings?

Derek—a limit to the database is that you can only show one primary limiting factor, and riparian is usually not the primary

John—is it possible to show it? We don't want to lose that detail

Derek—it isn't lost; Greer can report on that, it just doesn't come up as a primary limiting factor; we QAQCd for all PCSRF projects through 2012. If you need a specific query out of HWS, I encourage you to talk to Joy or Greer; they have some custom reports that can be generated.

Derek—the HCP Tributary Committees have long participated in the SRFB process, but they will now also accept applications for the General Salmon Fund throughout the year. If you submit at a different time of the year you need to use their proposal form.

The CAC recruitment process is closed; the board should make a decision on April 24th.

Lifecycle workshop will be April 16th in Wenatchee; Save the Date went out through MRC distribution list. Will be a good workshop; a lot of people working on the life history data collection will be there presenting.

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: I am in the process of putting together the 2014 Methow Monitoring Map to update it with the relevant monitoring work that will be going on this year. If anyone has any changes to what they are doing, please contact John soon. On Appendix C to the Monitoring strategy, we've gotten some great review through MadMC; those changes should be incorporated in the next few weeks, then a final review through MadMC, then the RTT review, then will go to board.

Derek—you need to be aware of the contracting timeline; if John will need more time to work on it, the review needs to be in April.

John—the Methow IMW is moving forward through the Bureau of Reclamation; partnering with USGS to develop a productivity model for treatment reaches in the Methow. They are looking at three project areas: Whitefish Island, Hancock Springs, and Twisp River Floodplain near Poorman Creek/MVID West intake. They are trying to get a hold of existing habitat data, plus ancillary water quality information. In conjunction of this, the U of Idaho has developed a database structure to store the information to populate the model; it is supposed to be a seamless interface. Hope that will be up and running in about a month. If you have any further questions, please contact John.

Derek—the monitoring folks at Reclamation and BPA have talked, and we hope to have coordination between those efforts at the Twisp Floodplain project.

John—there is also CHaMP site upstream of the Twisp Floodplain site that could also provide some valuable information.

John Crandall—Outreach and Education Update: If you don't have an MRC calendar, please pick one up.

The Interpretive Center approached us to develop a natural history/watershed permanent display; we are working on ideas, and are trying to come up with a hydrologic watershed journey from the headwaters to the mouth; very neat, if you want to help let John know. The Interpretive Center has also set up a lecture series, different natural history topics; September is lamprey month.

Science Fair is March 27th, 10 am at the Elementary School; they are looking for people to “judge” provide encouragement, evaluate. If you are interested in helping get in touch with John. It is a fun time to meet the students and see what they are doing.

On June 7th at the Confluence Gallery will be an opening with a theme of the Methow River; Jennifer is curator.

Jennifer—that is also the day of the Art Walk; Tori Karpenko from Twisp Works wants to create a “river parade” of people as part of that that will end at the interpretive center. They are also asking that the RiverBank be open, TU office may be open.

John—potential for an open house; you can also have something on the street

John—last thing on Outreach; we have been talking for a long time about reinvigorating Respect the River with the Forest Service, if you are interested in helping, let John know.

Jennifer—that program made a huge difference in the Chewuch River

Michael Notaro—I still get calls from landowners who are upset about people coming onto their property for monitoring/assessment. There is a lot of misinformation about ownership about who owns what in different parts of the river off the mainstem. We have talked about having a central place where people can call; we need a central information place

John—a lot of redd surveys are reoccurring repeatedly through the year; also Reach Assessment work, project planning, survey work, and other work that takes people onto the bank can create issues.

Derek—central repositories are hard to do, but a central number might work.

Discussion—a lot of people out there, have crews from out of basin, different programs, project sponsors need to be aware.

Derek—it is an important issue, would be good to continue to explore some proactive ways to work on it.

Chuck Peven—Presentation: Summary of Changes to the RTT Scoring Criteria [PowerPoint]

Issues: scale of certain criteria were difficult to relate scoring to, assessment and design projects did not have same biological criteria; difficulty in combining all projects into a list.

Last year created a subgroup of RTT to develop recommendations, and last week we approved the new scoring criteria.

Cost is now only 5% of the score; revised the weighting to allow to comparison across categories.

There were some inconsistencies in the Biological Strategy; tried to remove inconsistencies. Some of the changes that were suggested will be addressed next time we revise the Strategy after the next Expert Panel process in 2015.

Julie Grialou—what about the discrepancies between the appendices and the main body?

Chuck—I did make those changes

John—concerned that modifying the assessment units will create confusion; would be nice if it could be the same as the Expert Panel process

Chuck—we will discuss if we will change the assessment units or just the intrinsic potential

We changed longevity to temporal effect: added the climate change criteria, as well as how long it will be before the project achieves the intended response

For protection projects, we changed connection to other protected properties to the extent that the project is important to maintain watershed processes or protect important strongholds of remaining high quality habitat

Chuck—six RTT members reviewed up to 10 proposals from 2013 with the new scoring criteria—4 restoration, 2 protection, 1 assessment, and 3 design; not all 10 reviewed all 10 projects. We compared the results to the previous year’s scoring, the biggest change was for the design project. Changes were typically 1-2 places; they were most consistent at the top and the bottom, most were pretty consistent except the one design. The group recommended that the RTT approve the new criteria, with a few

additions: how to score streams without their own assessment units—solution was to have the addressing the ecological concerns went from the AU to the project scale or other information that pertains to the project. Gives some flexibility to use outside information to inform the score on ecological concerns.

Other issues surrounded intrinsic potential; solution was to increase flexibility based on considering other information; will try to get intrinsic potential from NOAA at the HUC 10 level for Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee; and put new language in the scoring criteria.

Chuck—last issue was scoring assessments based on how the project addressed ecological concerns because you can't know what will come out of the assessment; so changed the weight of the effect on ecological concerns downwards and increased the weight on methods—most important thing is where it will take place and the scale and scope.

Julie—so if we resubmit a project, it will be rescored?

Chuck—yes

Julie—is the new scoring criteria on the UCSRB web site?

Chuck—not yet; still going through the strategy to make sure we are consistent in referring to tables, etc. It will be available by the kickoff on the 25th. Call Chuck if you have questions.

Derek—maybe a cheat sheet for the kickoff that we can also put on the website.

Chuck—yes, and Joy is also planning a cover sheet on the proposals that will ensure that the information required by the RTT and the CAC is summarized up front to make it easier to find things for scoring.

Matt Shales—Presentation: CCFEG Updates [PowerPoint]

Silver Side channel Design project: we just had the kickoff meeting with partners, including Intermountain Aquatics from Idaho, who we have hired for the design.

Robes Parrish—starting in 1948, there was a split flow condition for about ten years

Matt—channel flops back and forth

Crystal Elliot—do you have preliminary ideas for restoration actions in the area? Are you trying to increase flow in the levee area?

Matt—no, nothing on the table for the levee; the downstream area is activating at the 2-year

Robes—the water perks through the levee to some extent; also gets flanked; a number of points where it currently gets activated

Chris Butler—in the winter, are we looking at activation or groundwater inputs?

Matt—lots of groundwater there; the outlet is connected

Robes—we are still trying to figure out the relative source and contribution of that water; could also be some contribution from upland sources; seems to be likely shallow river water, but may be a bit of a mix

Matt—will be further investigating sources of groundwater

Matt—Methow Chewuch Monitoring started in April 2013, ends in April 2014; we worked with WDFW on monitoring wells on Burns-Garrity WDFW property to get an idea of groundwater direction and amount. Gina was looking at a possible restoration project on the WDFW property, but now apparent that there is a larger project there, so will be working with WDFW and landowners on investigating the larger project; looking at a side channel project there now.

Matt—the other monitoring site was Lewisia Floodplain, below M2 WDFW Floodplain site; we have piezometers with pressure transducers, staff gages; will have Aspect consulting take a look at this data; MSRF may be working with WDFW on a larger project there

Chris—are there stranding issues at that site?

John—may occur, not sure if it is an issue

Matt—did see ponded water, but didn't see fish

Discussion—MSRF project upstream, and YN Two Channels project downstream

Derek—what is the timeline for implementation?

Matt—Lewisia is not going to be our project, Burn-Garrity may be in 2016, but pretty preliminary at this point, Silver Side Channel would like to implement in 2015, but may not pan out

Matt—Silver project, we have just finished the year of data collection; the data will feed into the design process that just started. The easement work is still ongoing; hope to have it in place in June.

Jennifer—will the grazing be addressed?

Matt—hope that will be part of the solution

Matt—the Judd and Geestman (WDFW properties) Riparian projects, working with Methow Natives; Judd property is downstream of Carlton; includes 1500' of reveg with fencing Methow Natives planted in October 2013; have three years of funding for maintenance

Geestman property is across the river from Silver; working with WDFW and Methow Natives; will re-slope vertical eroding bank, remove 5 cars, and plant, fir tree bough revetment to create a low-floodplain planting bench; irrigation not available

Funding from SRFB

Discussion—how the property/work will work with the proposed work on the opposite bank at Silver; riparian plantings are the goal; Reclamation working on the modeling for both banks

Matt—if anyone has questions or concerns, ideas, please contact Matt

Robes—what is general consensus of fish use in the Silver Reach? Spawning? Juvenile utilization?

Jennifer—think there are summer Chinook spawning

John—steelhead spawning, tons of adult use

Jennifer—juveniles move downstream, maybe be valuable as refuge habitat as fish move downstream

John—we snorkeled it for two years from Halterman's down; my recollection is that from the levee downstream on the left bank there is a lot of scour, quite deep in spots, a lot of juvenile Chinook in there; also saw a lot of young fish in the wood in the downstream area

Discussion—fish movement, confounded by summer Chinook juveniles that leave right away; two Chinook runs have different life histories

Matt—Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment project; we are working on hiring a consultant right now; should be done in the next week; including the BOR 2D model, the BOR Geomorphic/Tributary Assessment, Build on BOR work, focus on existing and potential, identify a suite of potential ; identify a suite of actions that address ecological concerns and life history; prioritize and sequence.

Round Table

Crystal Elliot—TU: we are still in the process of looking for abandoned mine sites to tackle that are impacting fish; one that is rising to the top is the Red Shirt Mine tailings site on the outskirts of Twisp; I think it would be nice to do an optional field trip after the April MRC; the site is within the Twisp to Carlton reach; there is about 30,000 cy of tailings at the site, and they are falling into the river. We need to brainstorm about what to do about it; removal of all the tailings would cost \$6 million, other options to remove some and immobilize the rest. Would really love to get people's heads together to tackle this; big problem is the funding. To get Ecology funding would need to change the ownership of the site to some public entity, landowners are very willing to do that. Otherwise would need to cobble together some sort of private funding.

Discussion—ownership, toxic materials—arsenic, copper, cadmium, lead

Crystal—would like to have an MRC field trip next month; the site is about 5 minutes from the RiverBank; CCFEG has it on their radar for the Twisp to Carlton RA

Crystal—the Alder Creek mine area, effects have been researched in detail, Daniel Peplow at UW did a number of studies, concluded that there are a number of far-reaching implications from the mine;

follow-up studies showed that it was hard to tease out the high levels of background in the area. The outlet of Alder Creek is in a wetland at the river; the question is the levels of arsenic in the wetland. Chris—is there a report on all of this?

John—we did a little habitat assessment for TU a few years back

Crystal—Dan Peplow’s studies are available online, it was funded by BPA

Jennifer Molesworth—Reclamation: we have InterFluve working on the M2 3R project, we got initial concepts last week; 60% design is due April 1st. The project is on a Methow Conservancy easement. Still doing construction on the Chewuch Canal

Jeri Timm—Chewuch is supposed to be done April 15th

Jennifer—they worked through the winter on that project.

MVID is going along; we’re at 30%, looking at a few alternatives still, have been working on Alternative 5, but they are still looking at Alternative 4; hope to close in by May 1st. Have to start construction this fall and get it substantially completed by next June. Very complex project, municipal, a lot of laterals. Have a solid team with Reclamation, MVID, TU, Dept of Ecology.

Twisp River Floodplain project; we have project objectives and will be working on concepts. It is where the MVID West headgate is, in the Poorman Creek confluence area; the total project area about a mile long. Work in 2015-16.

The Barkley Canal used to bulldoze up the Methow River each year; they had a long intake canal that would strand Chinook, steelhead, and lamprey every year when the canal was shut off. We’ve been working with Barkley; they will likely abandon that point of diversion and convert to a pressurized system with a POD downstream—still in initial stages. Another huge win for the river and fish—going well getting irrigation trued up to be compatible with fisheries and better for irrigation.

John Crandall—the lamprey restoration guide moving along, have some text and images, still working on design/layout. Also working on the flow accounting with NFWF and TU. Trying to figure out monitoring methods to measure benefits of instream flow projects.

Camden Shaw—I working with Reclamation/MSRF on M2 3R, doing the restoration plantings, will be working on restoration maintenance plantings

Julie Grialou—Methow Conservancy: back in 2004 we did an internal conservation needs assessment; doing an update now. Looked at the amount of new construction from 2004-13 (new homes); in the valley there have been around 586 new homes in the 9 year period. We will probably have an intern look at where those are this summer—somewhat tedious. An interesting period to look at.

Derek—will you be releasing the information?

Julie—presumably. Wanted to look at the subdivision data, but it is complicated.

Chris Butler—Yakama Nation: the next couple of weeks we will be moving large wood around to project sites; 1890s is moving forward, last year’s project on the Chewuch not complete because we will have to address one of the sites because it is an eyesore—we are working with the Forest Service to identify what would be considered a visual eyesore. We are working with them on how to address the issue. Discussion—vertical pieces are the issue, may cut, looking at det-cord, birds use them for perching, may put in an interpretive sign

Chuck Peven—RTT: for those interested, after the April 9th RTT meeting, professor Tom Quinn is coming to give a talk, probably will start between 1 and 2pm. Topic will be “Homing and straying of Columbia Salmon and Steelhead, New Insights into Old Questions”

Jessica Goldberg—MSRF continues to submit applications for funding for the Beaver project; we have been looking outside of some of the traditional funding sources—we hope to be hearing back from some soon.

Next MRC Meeting April 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.