

Methow Restoration Council

May 21, 2019

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Alec Spencer	Methow Beaver Project
Alexa Whipple	Methow Beaver Project
Amy Martin	Okanogan CD
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Hannah Coe	Okanogan CD
Jamie Cleveland	BPA
Jaqueline Wallace	TU
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
Jody Lando	BPA
Joe Connor	BPA
John Arterburn	Colville Tribes
John Crandall	MSRF
Katie McDonald	BPA
Katy Pfannenstein	USFWS
Kristen Kirkby	CCFEG
Lee Bernheisel	OWL
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Maddie Eckmann	Yakama Nation
Paul Wagner	Colville Tribes
Pete Teigen	UCSRB
Ryan Klett	Colville Tribes
Steve Kolk	Reclamation
Susan Crampton	Interested Public
Tara Gregg	MSRF
Torre Stockard	Methow Beaver Project

BPA Tributary Habitat RME Update:

Presenters: Joe Connor – Upper Columbia Habitat Lead., Jody Lando – RME lead, Katie McDonald – Tributary habitat RME lead.

BPA is working with Columbia Basin Habitat RME Steering Committee (BPA, NOAA, and NPCC are lead entities) to develop an objective based programmatic approach to habitat RME funded by BPA. This includes implementation and compliance, effectiveness, status and trends and validation monitoring. This effort is in response to requests for a single strategy to guide project monitoring across the basin. Lead entities are using co-manager input, comments and feedback gathered in previous Habitat RME efforts. This strategy will be phased starting summer 2019; updates on progress will be given at Council updates. BPA is exploring options to aggregate data by year and/or watershed, and coordinating with NOAA to synthesize data collected. The final strategy is likely to be completed in 2020. CHaMP project monitoring efforts have been transferred to other

existing projects. ISEMP work has also been transferred to existing projects; data is available via the ISEMP website. They are working to upload juvenile fish data on StreamNet. Additional data with corrected estimates for abundance and QRF modeled estimates for abundance are pending. Fish in/Fish out monitoring will continue. BPA is working to secure deliverables from CHaMP and ISEMP as part of the final closeout. BPA prioritizes programmatic approach to RME.

Projects need to work within budgets, balance priorities and be biologically relevant. There needs to be a nexus to adaptive management.

Chris J. (Methow Salmon) - How does this interface with other recovery efforts in the basin?

Response - BPA will be reaching out for input and collaboration during phase 2 of the scheduled rollout. They have been incorporating monitoring efforts and programs already underway into the strategy development.

Jacqueline (TU) - Will you be tracking water quantities and instream flow?

Response - Metrics have not been finalized. This is a possibility and requires additional discussion. The metrics used may vary depending on tributary or reach.

John A. (Colville Tribes) - What will be the availability of funding to implement the monitoring? Are you considering the states recommendation that status and trend should be prioritized?

Response - Status and trend monitoring is one of four monitoring categories. Fish status and trend will be incorporated.

They will set up a structure to identify information needs and allow regions to choose the monitoring tools from a suite of options.

Jessica (Methow Salmon) - What will the phase 2 collaboration look like?

Response - BPA is working to develop an engagement plan. Updates will be given at the Council meeting. BPA will also be doing visits to regional areas in centralized locations to meet.

Chris J. - There is minimal funding available for collaboration efforts, which may make engagement difficult.

Response - This will determine what kind of monitoring funding is available from BPA.

Greer (UCSRB) – recommend that BPA piggybacks on an existing meetings to take advantage of travel efficiencies.

Lower Methow Reach Assessment:

Presenter: John Crandall, Methow Salmon

The area of interest for the Lower Methow Reach Assessment is from Carlton RM 28 to the pool at the confluence with the Columbia. The final draft will be completed in late August. The draft documents will be available for RTT and BPA review in July. The draft is scheduled to be completed in late June. Methow Salmon has been the lead on this effort. TetraTech was hired as a consultant for the restoration strategy component, and BPA provided modeling data. Data regarding land use, land cover, habitat, flood inundation, etc. were collected. In general, the entire reach is very consistent throughout, so the reach hasn't been broken into sub-reaches. There are approximately 40 project areas identified for restoration opportunities.

Lee (OWL) – Does the assessment correlate with the regulatory reaches?

Response - The reach assessment does present historical flow data at the Pateros gage.

Lee – Flow is a limiting factor to salmon recovery and we are making efforts to adjudicate surface and groundwater throughout the Methow. They have submitted a new request for adjudication to Ecology in Olympia. Anyone interested in regulatory flow issues of the Methow should contact Lee.

Methow Beaver Project

Presenters: Alexia Whipple, Torre Stockard, Alec Spencer

Alexia Whipple has been hired as the new director for Methow Beaver Project starting July 1. The Beaver Project's mission is to support high functioning watersheds by using beavers as a tool for restoring and maintaining stream integrity and riparian habitat. The program works with landowners to keep beavers where they are and encourage coexistence. They are working to identify the multifaceted benefits to salmon, micro-invertebrates, other animals, water quantity and quality, and erosion control. The Beaver Project has a significant outreach and education program. Beavers offer fire resistance by making areas green. They also provides resiliency post-fires through erosion control. Establishing BDAs in areas without beavers can accomplish similar goals. The Beaver Project has had 400 beaver relocations in the last decade with 70 site establishments. There will be a Beaver event in September featuring the author of *Eager Beaver* and the filmmaker of *Beaver Believers*.

Roundtable

Greer Maier – UCSRB will be hosting an October Workshop on designing and establishing BDAs. Greer will be sending out more information. IT meeting will be in Wenatchee June 4th 10-3. Greer will send out agenda to interested folks.

John Crandall – working on updating the programmatic worksheet for monitoring. If you have new monitoring get in touch with John. Bull trout redd surveys kicked off last year but the monitoring areas were heavily burned and precluded a lot of monitoring territory – Twisp and Lost Rivers. Spawning reaches are visited every week. Many reaches were visited 6 times. Eightmile Creek, Cedar Creek, Robinson Creek, West Fork Methow River, Chewuch River, Lake Creek, Gold Creek, Crater Creek, and a tributary of Early Winters Creek were all surveyed. Surveys are planned for the next two years. The goal is to see where bull trout are spawning and get status/trend data to develop index reaches. WDFW and USFWS, USFS, CCFEG, and BOR are project contributors. Bull trout were found all the way up Eightmile Creek. Developing a database for bull trout redd data and John currently hosts it himself. WDFW will be developing a statewide database.

Pete Teigen – SRFB Presentations will be June 12-13 at Douglas County PUD.

Kristin Kirkby – Will have a crew doing barrier assessment surveys of Methow and Entiat this summer. CCFEG will be hosting training with WDFW on June 4th at the Riverbank Office in Twisp. Last year's data is available online on WDFW's website. CCFEG is currently accepting applications for a new Methow project manager.

Steve Kolk – Jennifer Molesworth has retired and Steve will be the new Liaison for the Upper Columbia – Wenatchee and Methow basins. Reclamation will not be renewing the lease on the Riverbank office.

Amy Martin – OCD will be doing outreach regarding drought management to farmers, ranchers and landowners. Funding will be available July 1. Some funding will be available for irrigation improvements

Chris Butler – Upper Chewuch Reach Assessment is waiting for comments from USFS. Waiting to see data for Eightmile Creek before doing any work there. Heckendorn RM 4.2 project will be meeting with landowners.

Lynda Hofmann – Working with project sponsors who are doing projects on WDFW land and with the Beaver Project.

Maddie Eckmann - Golden Doe phase 1 is going through the SRFB process. The 60% design will be presented to WDFW on Thursday. We are working with USFS on the Upper Horseshoe Project (upstream of Horseshoe Sidechannel Project). Survey work up Wolf Creek will be starting for a reach assessment of Wolf Creek.

John Arterburn – The 2014 EDT model for the Methow is completed, but we would like to update it to make it more current. There is a proposal in the SRFB process to get funding for data gaps identified in the model – including reach assessments and barrier work. Next model update in ~2022

Paul Wagner – Finishing the 2018 BPA contract cycle that ends June 30. Currently working on BDAs on Canyon Creek and Blackpine Creek with TU, as well as exclusion fencing on Blackpine Creek

Jacquelyn Wallace – Ecology is contracting with TU to provide money for drought leasing. If farmers want to receive money to give up their third cutting they should contact TU. Barkley is underway in construction and hopes to have the pump station and pump. Completing a permanent water purchase on the lower Methow from an old orchard where the water has been in trust. Suction dredging did not go through this year, but Crystal is still working on it.

Jarred Johnson – Beaver Creek project implementation in September

Tara Gregg – We have developed a Fish Finder activity as placeholder as Methow Arts develops their Methow River Collaborative Outreach project. The Fish Finder activity utilizes the Twisp Riverbank Office and the Winthrop Red Barn as “portals” to send visitors to fish relative locations. The Winthrop Barn portal directs visitors to the Sa Teekh Wa Trail, Spring Creek Bridge and the Winthrop Fish Hatchery. The Riverbank Office portal directs visitors to Twisp Park, Twisp Ponds, and Cottonwood Trail. There are additional activities at Twisp Ponds and Cottonwood Trail.

Jessica Goldberg – Fishing Day is June 8th. Methow Salmon will be moving their office space to the Twisp Community Center in August; the July MRC may be the last meeting in the RiverBank. We have all benefitted from the use of the Riverbank Office and the services provided by BOR over the past years. We are grateful for the support that we have received from them.

Chris Johnson – Barkley Bear project has been delayed as TU finalizes right of way issues with the piping project. Twisp Floodplain phase 2 is going through the SEPA process. This may go to construction this summer depending on the results of SEPA. We will be doing some fire wise thinning of the upslope portion of the Twisp Floodplain properties. We are working with BOR to look at opportunities for the Sugar levee. We have secured funding to redevelop the Batie diversion on Upper Beaver Creek and have hired Wolf Water Resources to do this evaluation. We are working with BPA to evaluate project opportunities in the reach near the Beaver Ponds on Twisp-Carlton Rd. We’re also looking at project options in Twisp River reach in the vicinity of the Twisp Ponds Diversion to maintain diversion flows, as well as adaptive work at Whitefish Island Side channel to address low water disconnect.

Next MRC Meeting June 18