

# Methow Restoration Council

November 19, 2013

## Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Allen Lebovitz	WDNR
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot	Trout Unlimited
Don Phillips	Local Landowner
Heide Andersen	Methow Conservancy
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Michelle Dewey	Dewey Consulting LLC

## Meeting Notes:

**Derek Van Marter—UCSRB Update:** the science conference was last week, 250 registered, had 150-190 consistently throughout the week. Will have the PowerPoint presentations and videos up on the web site (<http://www.ucscience.org>); the PowerPoints will be up first, then the videos will follow.

The Implementation Team meeting will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup>; items on the agenda are largely follow-up items from the science conference. The meeting will be at Rocky Reach visitors' center. Topics on life histories in the afternoon.

The SRFB list is clear for the Upper Columbia; they will make decisions December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There are no projects of concern on our list any longer. Joy will be doing another Upper Columbia bulletin, so if you have anything, let her know.

**Crystal Elliot—Trout Unlimited Update:** first I have an update from Jeri Timm—they completed the Devany well conversion to put 4 cfs back in the Twisp River; they also received a 2-year NRCS/NFWF conservation partners grant for \$105K.

Crystal—for my update, we've been talking to landowners of the Red Shirt mill site, where tailings are falling into the Methow River; we're trying to line up funding for a water quality grant, but it is still preliminary.

**Julie Grialou—Methow Conservancy Update:** we just closed easement #100, above Davis Lake, Sage Canyon road; hydrology has really changed through there. We are also about to close on a riparian easement with SRFB funding in the Upper Methow, expected this week.

Heide Anderson—we are also about to close on another easement in the Middle Methow, which started with MSRF. We also applied for USFWS Partners funding for restoration on the Lehman property to try out some different techniques; we also hope to expand the Hancock Springs project for restoration into the uplands.

**Matt Shales—CCFEG Update:** We finished the planting on the WDFW Judd property with Methow Natives about three weeks ago. We have piezometers on three other WDFW properties, also staff gages—one up the Chewuch on Burns-Garrity, one on Silver Side Channel, and one on the Lewisia Floodplain. Hope to gather some info on the Twisp to Carlton RA, and some topo on the Silver Side Channel to support design.

Discussion—topo survey.

Matt—on the Burns Garrity site, we are going to try to do a pit test/pump test in probably three different pits.

**Allen Lebovitz—DNR Update:** we are working with the YN to collect topo data on Big Valley, it will expand up through WDFW property; the survey was completed before the snow, so that is good. We've got the public safety assessment just about done for that area, and it is coming together.

**Chris Butler—Yakama Nation Update:** we completed survey from River Mile 15.5-17 on the Chewuch; we have done the walk through with FS biologists and hydrologists, and we are close to a decision on conceptual for RM 13-15.5.

Derek—when are you moving up the Eightmile?

Chris B—not in the near future; it is too big and there is not enough money. Eightmile had historically a natural partial fish barrier, the road made it an actual barrier; that stream stays below 14C year-round; it is a cold water stream based on what I've read, but haven't seen the temperature data.

**John Crandall—Monitoring Update:** at the science conference, it came out that there are these lifecycle models coming out; they start at the egg and go to adult, idea is that we can identify where the pinch points are and theoretically target the restoration. The lifecycle model is moving along; has all of these modules that plug into it; they are starting to do runs, and then they will take field data to see how well it performs—how well it predicts what we actually see in the model. It will help us see how well it can predict over time and then hope to extract results to use across the basin. Expect results by the end of the year. Part of it will include water quality probes taken throughout the winter. They will be deployed all over, Beaver Creek, mainstem Methow up through Early Winters, Twisp up to War creek, Chewuch, middle Methow, upper Methow, bigger systems. Every one that is running now will be visited in the winter. Reclamation has a model, and WDFW has a model as well; WDFW are targeting the Wenatchee—theirs is more trying to figure out where the bottlenecks in the population.

Appendix C monitoring plan for the Methow draft expected in about a month; will then go to MaDMC.

**Outreach Update**—the MRC calendar is out there, starts in December 2013; hope to have it before December.

Watershed Watchers—we had several WW programs with the alternative school this fall with riparian plantings and programs at Twisp Works; have programs at the Elementary School this fall—third graders are doing a unit on floods.

Chris Johnson—Okanogan school are also involved; we got good feedback on the WW work with the Okanogan fourth graders

John—we also have a slate of spring programs planned with the schools.

**Chris Johnson—MSRF Update:** M2 construction - the primary at WDFW is done. We went back to Whitefish Island this year for adaptive, roughened the access point, and partnered with USGS to put in PIT tag arrays at the upper and lower end. USGS fish data for before and after at Whitefish shows a substantial increase in fish use. If we have other sites that we could do similar monitoring with the same

protocol, for example at YN sites, that would be a good opportunity to help increase the consistency of the monitoring.

At Upper Beaver Creek, we moved Beaver Creek away from the road and put it back in the floodplain; probably our highest risk project because it is a flashy system, will be watching it really closely, pretty exciting. A pretty major project; encourage people to walk it.

Brian Fisher—we also finished up Right Elbow and Elbow Coulee Adaptive. In 2008, we breached an existing levee to allow access to an existing side channel. Monitoring showed that the fish use was high, but also if we increased the connection we would have a greater benefit. On the other side of the river, we did a similar project on the Devany property to breach a levee that will allow connection to a side channel when the Twisp is above 150 cfs.

Chris J—TU had separate funding and grants for the surface diversion, but ended up short of funds; we helped them complete their project by coordinating our actions.

At Elbow adaptive, we were able to use small explosives to blow up the rocks, so we didn't have to bring in equipment; lessons learned is that it is good to look outside the box to reduce impacts and avoid live crossings.

The other thing to point out was that the permitting budget was larger than the construction budget for this project.

Discussion—blasting details: drilling the rocks and placing a small explosives, cost effective. Equipment small enough that you don't need a blasting license, charge is about the size of a shotgun shell.

Jessica Goldberg—for those who are interested, MSRF will lead a site tour of the M2 WDFW Floodplain site at the end of the meeting.

*-Adjourn-*

**Next MRC December 17**

<b>Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms</b>	
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
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
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
FFFP	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
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 project 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 (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.