

# Methow Restoration Council

October 15, 2013

## Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot	Trout Unlimited
Don Phillips	Local Landowner
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
Jenni Novak	WDFW

## Meeting notes:

**John Crandall—Monitoring Update:** UCSRB Science Conference is coming up Nov 13-14; we had a plethora of submissions, more than can happen. It will be one big forum, not concurrent sessions: Focus on restoration, effectiveness monitoring, fish, emerging issues; plenary speakers all lined up. Should be a pretty good conference, think it will all fit together really nicely. Several folks within the Methow were selected to present. If you haven't registered, please do so at <http://www.ucscience.org>. Jessica Goldberg—they also have block of rooms at the Coast Hotel at the government rate if you reserve by Nov 1.

John—The Methow IMW is moving forward. Our last meeting was cancelled due to the government shutdown. The Methow IMW does not fit the traditional IMW definition with treatment and reference reaches within a very defined structure. In the Methow, it has been more scattered with projects happening everywhere.

Chris Johnson—that has changed quite a bit—we're not just addressing low hanging fruit

John—but we don't have any hands-off areas where no treatments are allowed. The Methow IMW approach relies heavily on modeling; there is a modeling effort by USGS and Reclamation on aquatic productivity. They are nearing a test run with real data, but it also has been delayed due to the government shutdown. One goal is to produce a production map for the reach; we will see how it turns out. Data collection has been ongoing all summer.

**John Crandall—Outreach Update:** the MRC Calendar is rolling along; we had a first draft, reduced it somewhat; it will be December 2013 through Dec 2014; will be really good

Chris J—the key is that there will be a call to action each month, each month a group will have an opportunity to put something on the MRC web site, trying to use this as a vehicle to get people off the couch and into the watershed, will be up the whole month and then go into the archives

John—Watershed Watchers—we've been meeting to discuss the future of WW with interested folks, it mainly gets to integrating with the school and school curriculum. For the schools to get behind it, it needs to address the science standards, which change a lot. There was some thought of trying to expand WW to be a more holistic approach for the watershed, ridge top to ridge top, but a decision was made to keep it focused on salmon recovery, streams, etc. There were thoughts of trying to partner with

other organizations and individuals to further expand it. WW will continue on the same path as it has been—8 to 12 programs per year, in-class time, field time. We went to Okanogan with artist in residence last week, this week they are planting on Salmon Creek in Okanogan, in partnership with Colville tribes. We are trying to increase communication between those doing environmental education at the schools.

Chris J—we have put up the first of about 12 outreach sign kiosks at the Twisp Ponds; it will host the river safety signs that the YN has developed; at MSRF sites, we will have additional small signs at each kiosk that will be site-specific. In addition to the Twisp Ponds, we will have WDFW and WFI kiosks put up in the spring. We will also be working with Town of Winthrop to put up one or two at Red Barn and the Susie Stephens bridge.

John—the Twisp Ponds Discovery Trail is up, would like feedback from people who have walked it to see if you can find the markers, etc.

**Chris Johnson—MSRF project Updates Presentation:** PowerPoint—project photos and updates: M2 WDFW Culverts and River Projects, M2 Whitefish Island Adaptive, Upper Beaver Channel, Beaver Creek Diversions, Elbow Coulee Phase II.

Chris J—we will be having an M2 project debrief meeting to discuss what went well, what improvements can be made

Discussion—use of cottonwoods at WDFW in the structures near the levees, creating a low floodplain bench with plantings

Chris J—we were lucky in that the Beaver Creek project required us to remove cottonwoods along the pipeline; we brought those to WDFW site to use in main channel structures. For conifer sites, we reviewed the sites where the trees were coming from

John—there have been conversations in the community about the sites where the trees are coming from, what is happening to those sites

Chris J—it is a good idea to go back and look at the sites where the trees came from

Lynda Hofmann—that would be a good thing to bring up for the science conference

Greer Maier—there are also solutions being worked on at a higher level in the Forest Service to be able to remove hazard trees for free

Don Phillips—what percentage of your wood had rootwads?

Chris J—about 80%

Don—that is more complicated to remove, transport; FS has a lot that gets wasted

Chris J—as a project sponsor, we have an obligation to do our due diligence; we are spending public money

John—it is a way to raise the bar

Chris J—one of the challenges arises if your organization is constrained by low bid like many are; we are fortunate to be able to do best value responsive bid; it can affect price

**Greer Maier—UCSRB Update:** Joy is going to Dayton today for the SRFB meeting, so I am here for the UCSRB update. The next staff work group meeting is Nov 5<sup>th</sup> at Port of Chelan 10-3; on the agenda is to develop a recommendation to the board on recruiting new CAC members. The recommendation will be given to the Board at their December meeting. This is the best opportunity for sponsor comment on the CAC recruitment recommendations, so if you are interested in the process or recommendations, talk with Joy and go to the meeting.

Chris J—very important to have a voice

Greer—if you are interested call Joy

Joy also sent out a new regional bulletin; it is good for people who can't go to all the meetings, and it covers the whole region

Crystal Elliot—it was great

Greer—Joy is planning more bulletins, and contributions are welcome; if you have something that might fit contact Joy; if you have any feedback on the format or content let her know.

**Greer—Science Conference Update:** there were 42 abstracts submitted, and it was hard to narrow it down to the 24 slots we had. There are some really good talks from all over, great hatchery, hydropower, and harvest talks also. Go to [www.ucscience.org](http://www.ucscience.org) to register for the conference and view the program; it has a more complete program and links to submitted abstracts, not all there yet, but most are. You can look at the current program. The registration deadline is this **Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>**. The conference is Nov 13-14. There is a room block if you want to stay at the Coast, and a social event at Café Mela that evening with free drinks and food. During the conference, we will have a running presentation in the lobby, so if you have any pictures of people in the field doing monitoring or restoration that we can use for the slide show, send them to Greer. We need information on where the people are from, organization, etc. If you want a booth, it is \$100 for local partners to cover the cost of the table rental; it will be a big table in the lobby, let Greer know by the end of the month.

## Roundtable

**John Crandall—Monitoring:** Appendix C for the Methow is getting close; field work and gov shutdown has squelched some work, coming up. Lamprey guide will be a winter project, we are getting pictures of larval lamprey from Freshwaters Illustrated

**Crystal Elliot—Trout Unlimited:** I am continuing to look for project opportunities for abandoned mine restoration; one is really close to Twisp. If you are interested in partnering on projects, let Crystal know; preliminary stages now.

Chris J—where is TU for professional liability insurance for people?—that will be the one thing that might scare potential partners.

Crystal—I will check on that; will keep you updated

**Greer Maier—SRFB Update from Joy Juelson:** There is a total of \$4,427,506 million requested from the SRFB, with \$1,953 million available. The Tributary committee will be funding \$1,036,500 million towards projects. Two projects have been removed from the SRFB request column because they have received funding from the Tributary Committee. There are 20 projects, with 7 above the funding line. All other projects are considered alternates and will be funded sequentially if funds become available. The State Review Panel has identified three Projects of concern (POCs) with one of those projects above the funding line. Three projects have been identified as Needing More Information (NMI). Sponsors have until October 17th to respond to the State Review Panel and may need to defend projects at the end of the month in Olympia. If project sponsors are unable to successfully remove the POC status, they have to remove their project from the Regional List. The SRFB will make their final decisions in early December

SRFB Debrief - We will have an earlier debrief this year, November/December. Joy will be in touch with sponsors.

**Greer—Forest Health Initiative:** our board approved a contract with Office of Columbia River; we are under contract to start a long-term program to work on how forest restoration could improve snow

pack, studying possibilities; want to bring information together, technical people who are doing the work. Another piece that informs us on how to improve processes.

Chris J—you should look at Greg Knott's PowerPoint on that

Julie Grialou—what dept at UW will you be working on? You should talk with FERA; they have a lab in Fremont in Seattle, and they do a lot of climate change related forestry.

Greer—have a list of people to work with, climate change group included

John—the work has been done for Methow, but they ran out of money so there is no report and probably not coming any time soon. Similar effort on the Yakima is being published, but will go through USGS review world.

Greer—not intended as a study, more like data layers that can be used in the planning process, some treatment guidelines.

**Jenni Novak—WDFW Screening:** looking for information on irrigation diversions on Beaver Creek, and also Frasier Creek. Have three projects working on in the Methow, Goat Creek Foster Diversion, have a survey crew coming tomorrow and will get a design. Also working on Upper Wolf Creek, has quite a few issues, fixing the overflow bypass and the fish bypass. The ditch will be replacing the head gate; once it is surveyed we will have a better idea of scope.

John—would be nice to have elevations on the drops below the diversion if you are surveying

Jenni—also working on the overflow spillway at the Chewuch Diversion, will address section where it overtops and create a plunge pool

**Hans Smith—Yakama Nation:** we are starting the Middle Twisp River Reach Assessment next week on Tuesday; from Newby up to War Creek

John—can you have them georeference the tribs or other features?

Hans—send me an email.

Hans—we have had mostly overwhelming support to do the survey; if you hear of any confusion on the plans, I would love to sit down and talk with folks about what we are doing

**Julie Grialou—Methow Conservancy:** we had a SRFB proposal from a few years ago that the landowner backed out, and we got permission to move those funds for more Cedarosa properties. Also wondering if Chris/MSRF has any news on Wolf Ridge?

Chris J—will have a landowner meeting, HOA is on shaky financial; dealing with various foreclosure companies, complicated but we are still talking. Looking at acquiring river portion of common area

*-Adjourn-*

**Next MRC November 19, 2013**

<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.