

## Methow Restoration Council

October 21, 2014

### Participants

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Don Phillips	Local Citizen
Gardner Johnston	InterFluve
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Heide Andersen	Methow Conservancy
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Kent Woodruff	Forest Service
Matt Shales	CCFEG
Paul Wagner	Colville Confederated Tribes
Robert Warren	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Ryan Fortier	WDFW
Susan Crampton	Local Citizen

### Meeting Notes:

**John Crandall: Monitoring Update**—the intensively monitored watershed (IMW) in the Methow concept put out there by the Bureau – we are trying to tease out what production looks like in response to restoration actions. The Entiat is an example of a local IMW, with mostly geomorphic reaches where some are treated and other reaches that are controls, systematically laid out in terms of where the work occurs. In the Methow, we don't have that framework; it is not a controlled system, but still a lot of things you can do. We have 25+/- monitoring programs for different purposes. The Bureau, through Michael Newsom, is trying to determine how to use the information that the USGS collected. The approach is not straight field monitoring, there is an aquatic productivity model, trying to assess the productive capability of a stream, and how restoration can affect that productivity. The model includes real data that have been collected over the last 18 months. Initial results of the model suggest that increasing wetted area is a strong driver of fish production. Next part is trying to figure out the complexity component. Results have a lot to do with how the model is looking at it; trying to work out how the shade component works into it. It is being applied at Twisp River Floodplain. The AEM effort lead by BPA did get to Twisp Floodplain this year; basically a CHaMP survey, all of that will be put into the model. Twisp Floodplain will be the first location where the model results will hit the ground. On the heels of that will be some work starting next spring to look at some of the side channels where the USGS was working before; hope that will start in the spring and go for two years.

Charlie Snow—who will be doing the fish work?

John—unknown; there will be a contract

Hans Smith—is the Twisp River Floodplain the MVID West headgate area?

John—yes, includes that area, levee, land upstream, they just got the 30% design for that project. Part of the model work is to evaluate and grow the model so that it is better prepared to inform future designs.

John —Lamprey Update: there is a workshop coming up next week in Oregon. They are trying to standardize lamprey monitoring; they've had a lot of challenges determining presence/absence. We've had issues with that in the upper Methow where, except for one observance, we've looked repeatedly without finding lamprey, but we have success finding them in the Chewuch. This Thursday in Pateros is an Upper Columbia lamprey planning meeting. It will be at the fire hall in Pateros at 10:00 am.

John—There is an ongoing need/mandate to monitor the effectiveness of hatchery programs in the Methow; Charlie can give more info.

Charlie—we've just completed a population estimate sampling in the Twisp, we electroshocked 50 sites in the Twisp, some were 3-pass removal sites, then we went in and recaptured those fish at 50 different sites. The goal was to come up with a population estimate for the Twisp, collected data, tagged around 2000 fish, data hasn't been entered yet.

Spring Chinook redd count went well this year; fortunately they were mostly out of the area affected by the mud slides when they happened, bull trout too. Those slides will most likely affect summer Chinook and coho. Part of the spring Chinook redd surveys includes observer efficiency models to help determine accuracy. One of the most important variables in the model is redd life count. We are seeing summer Chinook coming and spawning in areas where we haven't seen them before in the upper Methow. Chinook and bull trout love to build redds in locations where there already are redds. We had a big spring Chinook run, a lot taken for hatchery programs, but expect around 6000 escapement and probably counted around 1500 redds. Summer Chinook runs high too this year. If the rain causes flows to come up and cause siltation, that could be bad for the fish downstream.

Chris Johnson—do we have spawning density for redds near project areas?

John/Charlie—the raw information will be available, have to plot the data yourself

Discussion—different species sharing redds, distribution changes from mud flows

Charlie—we are tagging a lot of fish in the Chewuch, a lot of Chinook parr, not necessarily to give a total population estimate, but helps us come up with survival and overwinter survival estimates.

### **Hans Smith and Gardner Johnston: Middle Twisp River Reach Assessment**

Stream Corridor Assessment and habitat Restoration Survey

Gardner Johnston—assessment is in draft form, will be finalizing soon, likely by the end of the year.

Hans—we did present this to the RTT, they've had a chance to review it, still waiting for their comment.

Think it is a good report – Newby Creek to War Creek. Broke there to make it a manageable segment, geomorphic break, a lot of FS land in the reach.

Gardner—above War Creek it is all Forest Service.

Setting—Newby (7.8) to War Creek (RM18.1). Lower Twisp Reach Assessment (RA) was from Newby to the mouth.

Reach breaks match the breaks in the Reclamation's Tributary Assessment, and have added some sub breaks.

Fish use—Chinook and steelhead, including tributary use in Little Bridge Creek and Buttermilk Creek

Assessment Approach: Habitat assessment, used standard US Forest Service methods

Geomorphic Assessment another big part, started with USBR work, and refined it on the ground.

Hydraulic Analysis: conducted using LiDAR, hydraulic modeling, mapped inundation extents during floods, evaluated effects of human alterations

Restoration strategy: Characterize existing conditions, determine target conditions, develop strategy to achieve targets, identify specific actions to achieve the strategy, design and implement specific projects.

Assessment Results by reach

Discussion—alluvial fans, Buttermilk Creek, Little Bridge, fish use

Hans—the RA did not go up the tributaries

Discussion—Reach 5: dynamic reach, a lot of wood, but not big pieces, a lot of change every year, constant disturbance; historically bigger trees might have led to longer periods of stability, juvenile fish stranding;

Jennifer Molesworth—amazing species diversity in the lower War Creek area

Gardner—sediment transport model used to assess stability; inundation analysis used to help define floodplain surfaces and disconnections; more mobility in the middle reaches where the river is less confined.

Reach Based Ecosystem Indicators (REI); looked at a variety of metrics, categorized as adequate, at risk, or unacceptable

Develop Restoration Strategy

Identified project areas, groups elements together and talks about them at a broader scale than previous assessments

Project opportunities by reach

Chris—what is the next step for partnerships to implement projects?

Hans—this is a road map for anyone doing habitat restoration in the subbasin to use for their guidance; will likely be useful to have a meeting of practitioners to discuss who is doing projects where. We have already done some survey work in some of the areas, very preliminary, started with Newby Narrows, Jennings, and Scaffold Camp.

Chris—would be good to sit down and coordinate messages and help each other, it is in all of our interests and look at lining up resources for the upcoming future.

John—might as well look at Silver and Upper Methow at the same time.

**John Crandall—Outreach and Education Update:** we have funding to do a water quality survey, a clean water survey; the goal is to have an online survey to see what the community thinks about water quality and then repeat it in a few years to evaluate our outreach and education efforts. Hoping to get the survey up in the next few months. If anyone wants to help review the survey before it goes out, let John know.

Chris—River Cleanup update: the project developed fairly organically. We had several local river guides get people to help clean up the river, Steve Taylor borrowed GPS equipment from Methow Conservancy to map locations of debris. We got started with the cleanup with help from the Department of Ecology and DNR, two Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crews put in over 750 hours, over 27,000 pounds of debris removed by hand from below Benson Creek to a few miles south of Carlton. DNR paid for removal of material, Ecology funded the WCC crews. We also started talking with DNR about the relic “Detroit Riprap” (old cars on the riverbanks), and DNR has agreed to fund removal of 30 cars. We are trying to get artists to adopt the cars to use them as public art. That will be happening this fall. We are looking forward to seeing the proposals from the artists. DNR has agreed to be a long-term partner in the cleanup following these mud flows. I have talked with Ecology and DNR about setting up funding now for a response next spring.

Chris—Frazer Creek landowner outreach: the creek has radically changed, WADOT had some 6’ culverts available for four landowner access points, but the BAER report indicated that they needed bridges. So, we are now putting in four 40’ bridges, a 50’ bridge, and a 60’ bridge with funding assistance from RCO. DOT didn’t initially feel that we could use their existing emergency permits, but that has been resolved.

Still many challenges, but we are moving forward. Looking forward to sitting down with anyone else who wants to work with us on Frazer Creek, need to be coordinated in our discussions with landowners. We are still waiting for a BPA award to help us document the post fire approach.

Joy Juelson—in terms of emergency fire recovery funds, the state SRFB has asked for a request for funds for fire-related projects in December. The RTT has a subgroup to identify areas and make recommendations. John and Jennifer are on the subgroup.

Jennifer—covers all of the burned areas, not just the Carlton Complex, going over the BAER reports, incorporating the Biological Strategy. The Forest Service will be taking care of most of the actions on the National Forest. We are meeting once a week.

Heide Andersen—also in regard to landowner coordination, we've been hearing from landowners on the Twisp River about potential projects, they are calling the Conservancy to find out what is going on, and we don't know, so coordination is important.

Chris—there are lots of opportunities for us to step on interested landowners if we are not doing coordinated outreach.

John—a reminder—if you have flagging up, have a way to get them down, that gets people worked up  
Charlie—if you convene a Twisp landowner discussion about what is going on, you should definitely include us.

Jennifer—a lot of those projects are on Conservancy Easements

John—and there are a lot of previous riparian planting projects out there too.

Jennifer—I'm going to be giving a presentation on Sunday at Twispworks at the Interpretive Center at 5 on Fish, Fire, and Floods

Heide—have been talking with Brian Fisher about setting up a tour of different restoration projects in M2, if anyone is interested

**Kent Woodruff – Beaver Project Lower River Assessment:** we are working with DNR to do some downriver work on the Beaver Project. The plan is to take a look at the area between Twisp and Pateros and look at beaver use and potential beaver habitat on State Owned Aquatic Lands (SOAL). Will be looking at what is the beavers' role in the river ecosystem. We will be starting in the next few days. Downriver is the key piece that is not well evaluated in other assessments. We will be doing the field work for the characterization and have a report next spring.

Chris—typically, SOAL is where Kent goes to harvest beavers. DNR is interested in finding out in what would influence people to allow beavers to stay on the SOAL. The assessment will be looking at beaver activity on the interface of the SOAL lands and the private lands.

Discussion—Silver RA

Kent—if you have input on what we should be looking at in the rapid assessment, let me know in the next day or two.

**Joy Juelson—UCSRB Update:** There is an RTT workshop that might be of interest; it will be on November 12<sup>th</sup> following the RTT meeting, which starts at 9:00 at Chelan County PUD. The workshop is titled "Anadromous and Cold Water Fish – Fire Dependent Species." The workshop will feature Gordon Reeves and Paul Hessburg. Chuck would like people to RSVP. I also have an earlier presentation from Gordy Reeves that he gave at the IT meeting that I can send out

Joy—RCO will have the Salmon Recovery Conference in May; it will be in Vancouver at the convention center; really focused on implementers. I encourage you to consider giving a presentation – they will have a call for abstracts in mid-November.

American Fisheries Society is coming to Portland OR in August, for those who are interested.

Joy—on Thursday the UCSRB is having a call from 9:00-11:00; Dale Bambrick and Lynn Hatcher will be talking about the stock status review; Judy Neibauer will be talking about the draft bull trout plan.

John—comments on the bull trout plan are due December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Joy—SRFB process: the State Review Panel has reviewed the projects and sent out their observations. We have one Project of Concern in the region; it is the Upper Peshastin Barrier Design. If it isn't funded, then the money would go to the next project below the funding line.

Julie Grialou—when will we do the SRFB process debrief?

Joy—it will depend on schedules. Need to remember that we are looking at a combined list from both counties; the debrief period is the time of the year when we can change our process.

Chris—what are the key dates coming up?

Joy—SRFB makes their final decisions in early December, contracting begins after that.

Chris—the December emergency funding, what will the process look like?

Joy—it will be dependent on what the RTT comes up with; I will talk to Derek more about that.

Chris—knowing the audience will help the people authoring the proposals.

Joy—in November, Greer is coming to present the habitat report; it is on our website if you want to look at it ahead of time. The 2013 implementation Report is also online, and Greer will also present that.

Our website also has reports on a variety of things, including the economics of salmon recovery and restoration economy; good resources if you need information on how work impacts the economy. Also, if you are interested in having a workshop, Greer can help with bringing in people to help with that, let her or me know.

Joy—finally, we are getting close to launching the proposal process for the outreach grant funding. It will be a quick proposal. It will be for Okanogan County only, a total of \$27,000 available, UCSRB will allocate a maximum of \$10,000 per applicant. It is SRFB funding, so applications will be weighted based on how it will affect salmon recovery projects and implementation actions. No match is required. These are LE funds through RCO. I will send out the information through the Methow and Okanogan WAT distribution lists. The deadline will be in November.

## **Roundtable**

Jarred Johnson—Yakama Nation: PRCC did agree to fund the Newby Narrows property acquisition, so we will be moving forward on that.

Ryan Fortier—WDFW: we have fall Chinook and coho season open, some confusion out there, the salmon season started a bit ahead of the steelhead. Steelhead season has slowed down a bit.

Matt Shales—CCFEG: Twisp to Carlton Reach Assessment is underway. Thanks to Jennifer Molesworth and John Crandall to taking us and our consultants down the river; we will give an update on the RA next month at MRC. We are still working on Silver design; we will be installing a multi-directional antenna array this fall, and will be doing some tagging associated with that. Working with WDFW on that.

Geestman—hope to do work there this fall. “Dam Nation” is showing on Thursday at the Twisp River Pub will be fun.

Mike Rickel—CCD: came up with BEF to observe

Susan Cramptom—local citizen: ongoing public outreach and to non-conservation interests is important and worthwhile.

Jeri Timm—Trout Unlimited: MVID construction started, had a successful ground-breaking ceremony last week. The East Canal piping is the work that is going on now.

Robert Warren—BEF: the Model Watershed Program has been in the Entiat for 7 years and in the Methow for 4 years.

John Crandall—Methow Monitoring: the 3R project is wrapping up, with three wood structures in the stream, wood pieces. Already seeing different fish, ongoing monitoring work there.

Kent Woodruff—Methow Beaver Project: we had a successful and challenging summer. We lost three streams and flow sites in the fires; another flow site was in Benson Creek and is nowhere to be seen, we've lost 4 of our 6 flow sites; may be challenging to resurrect. We lost 8 temp loggers in floods mostly; but we also had a great season for establishment. New establishments in Twentymile, McFarland, Sqaw, and Black Canyon. Pleased with the successes and evaluating the challenges.

Jennifer Molesworth—USBR: MSRF just got done building a Reclamation designed and funded project in Beaver Creek with a roughened channel at the Fort Thurlow diversion. This was a fix of a barrier that we had addressed previously that needed to be redone. We now have reestablished passage at the site. At the bottom of Beaver Creek there is a lot of sediment, and the creek is headcutting through the material, but the geomorphs who looked at it thought it would clear out relatively rapidly. Chris—if you go down to the new structure at the diversion, be careful of the sand that you see – it is like quicksand.

Chris Johnson—Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation: we are doing the final reveg at the Fort Thurlow diversion site now, the fish return is requiring some field modifications; within one day of cofferdam removal, all of the 4-ft pools filled with sand.

We are doing a rebuild on the Marracci diversion later this month or early next, and adaptive at Batie Diversion/Marracci channel project post-fire. OCEC ran a power line through the project area, and we are working with them on a long-term solution that will allow us to reveg the area; once the trees grow to the point where they would trim them, OCEC will move the powerline to the other side of the road.

Julie Grialou—Methow Conservancy: the BAER private lands report is out , and people are being contacted by OCD. We had a landowner contact us who thought that based on that report they needed to do a lot of work on their property that was not actually necessary. We need to make sure that as we are out in the community, we need to be careful of how we talk to people about what they might need to do.

Hans Smith—Yakama Nation: the 1890 side channel project is close to being done, habitat elements are done, will have pipe in this week, starting on reveg; we still have a few weeks of work on the site.

**Next MRC November 18<sup>th</sup>**

<b>Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms</b>	
AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
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.