

Methow Restoration Council

September 18, 2012

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Chuck Peven	RTT
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Don Phillips	Local Landowner
Gene Shull	Forest Service
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
Michelle Dewey	Dewey Consulting LLC
Paula Mackrow	MSRF
Roy Beaty	Bonneville Power Administration
Terri Williams	Okanogan Conservation District
Torre Stockard	Van Hees

Meeting Notes:

Ken Bevis—Outreach Update: Methow Salmon Celebration is coming up; we have four partners: Methow Arts, MSRF, Interpretive Center, & TwispWorks. The Salmon Celebration will be on September 30; it starts at 1:00 pm at the Twisp Ponds. There will be a dedication for outdoor art at Twisp Ponds, hands on art activities, educational stations. We will have the Community School's blue bus to drive people back and forth from the Ponds to TwispWorks. It will be a fall community potluck dinner. Ponds activities are from 1-4, with about an hour for transition, then a potluck dinner, including donated salmon from the Colville Tribes. The Interpretive Center will be in charge of cooking the fish. We need table displays—would like some from Yakama nation and MSRF; will give people an opportunity to answer questions about projects, Okanogan Conservation District is doing a display, Trout Unlimited, WDFW, art station, it will be about an hour to an hour and a half, I also have event posters for people to put up. Chris Johnson—we will have MRC website screenshots, possibly a brochure, which will give people an opportunity to see the information

Ken—this year we will have a stage and sound system so that people can hear, Methow Mountain boys will also play music

Discussion—public officials who might be there, need to invite people, outreach messaging key points for people to remember

Paula Mackrow—we are not buying fish like last year; this year the Colville Tribes are providing ceremonial fish; it is a good spiritual/tribal link and their link to a healthy community

Ken—salmon as a unifying symbol, we have the fish now; they are frozen; will have a filleting party like last year

Paula—will be a raffle to benefit the Interpretive Center

Ken—we are anticipating around 250 people, lots of partners, a county fair-like feeling, and we want to finish by dark

Roy Beaty—BPA Targeted Solicitation Out-year Planning Update: here to talk about BPA's funding for habitat restoration in the Methow under the Upper Columbia Habitat Project through the UCSRB. We've been doing it for a couple of years, and we wanted to add a little resolution to the process and we need help in planning big targeted projects in the upcoming years. We are focused on out-years; we need help for finding targeted proposals for the targeted solicitation; budgets are roughly 3.5 million and

will stay flat. The biggest part is the targeted, which are large, reach-based projects that are larger than you would normally submit for funding. The Entiat program pulse years are part of the targeted planning, and they will go in fiscal year 14, then fiscal year 17, as part of their IMW. We can pick up projects through the open solicitation, but we really want to invest in these larger projects for a lot of BiOp credit. An important component of the planning process is that it gives transparency, but it also provides a way to plan for contingencies. We need to have these contingencies in the process.

Gene Shull—can this money be spent on FS lands?

Roy—yes

Jennifer Molesworth—for these targeted reach-based processes, it is pretty much a three-year design and permitting effort

Chris—we are looking at using every possible means for getting things done

Derek Van Marter—top priorities in the Methow are the Twisp, the Chewuch, and the Middle Methow; these are the biological priorities

Jennifer—Reclamation is looking at Twisp and M2, possibly look at Silver, also looking at the Methow above Weeman Bridge

Ken—WDFW does not have many lands in those three places

Chuck Peven—one of the criteria will be that there is a reach assessment

Jennifer—we are looking at the possibility of doing smaller, more rapid reach assessments

Chris—there is a lot of work identified in the existing reach assessments that we could address

Ken—WDFW could participate, maybe sponsor in areas with lands that we own

Roy—2012 Targeted Track Process:

BPA will ask for an abstract, and we will screen for three primary filtering criteria: 1) RTT priority reach and restoration action type; 2) completed RA or rapid site assessment; and 3) large, reach-scale project (e.g., reasonable construction costs >\$500k and beyond the reach of normal open solicitation opportunities, up to about \$3million)

BPA will be refining the proposal format, and projects will be evaluated based on biological benefits (by RTT), cost (by Action Agencies/UCSRB), uncertainties (by AA/UCSRB), and expert panel results (BiOp priorities) (by Action Agencies/UCSRB)

Methow and Wenatchee are opportunistic in the targeted solicitation; the Entiat IMW schedule is programmed in

Discussion—acquisitions: there are no acquisitions through the targeted solicitation; actions that can reduce uncertainty

Roy—schedule: this week we are introducing to WATs and soliciting abstracts. **October 5th is the deadline to submit abstracts to Roy Beaty.** BPA will get results back to sponsors by October 15th and let them know whether they should submit a proposal. Highest priority for projects is 2014 and 2015.

Derek—we will do this process every year

Jennifer—we are interested in M2 projects, and have done a lot of the pre-work

Roy—the proposal form will be available in mid-October, then next steps discussion, tentative deadline for proposal submittal is Nov 30. Proposal evaluation through Jan 31. (tentative)

If we have more projects/good ideas than we have budget for, they will go on the provisional scale as bench/backup projects, as we move out in time we will firm up the plan

Derek—we've been doing this through the Implementation Team, and we wanted to put it out to the broader audience

Ken—what if a reach assessment hasn't been completed?

Derek—we can consider funding RAs, but only if they are in priority areas where they haven't been done

Roy—don't submit an abstract or proposal for it this year, but if it comes out as a high priority, then we can look for opportunities for BPA to fund

Jennifer—as Biological Strategy and Expert Panel information comes out, that will give us information on how we move forward and where the priorities are

Roy—we can fund a reach assessment if it comes out that it is a high priority and there is funding available through BPA

Chris—we need to focus on the priorities that have come out of the RAs that we already have

Ken—in order to figure out the next steps in how to look at project development and the prioritization of projects on WDFW lands, who do I contact?

Derek/Jennifer—you have WDFW lands in priority areas that have RAs, submit those this year, think about FY 16/17 for other projects

Hans Smith—Yakama Nation M2 Update: the Eagle Rocks Large Wood project is done. It took two days, and we will be doing a tour on October 4th (an announcement went out to the MRC list earlier this month). We are continuing to move forward on side channel projects in 2013, two channels in 2013, and the 1890s side channel project in 2014; we have some others in 2013. We are continuing to investigate other restoration options in the left bank floodplain in the Eagle Rocks area

Ken—do we have to respond to the tour?

Hans—no, just show up and bring your own car

Chris Johnson—MSRF M2 Update: MSRF is working in support of land acquisitions in the YN areas. We are having Sugar Dike discussions, and we are looking at 3R, and a phase II M2 project in the Barkley and Bear Creek area.

Torre Stockard set up some time-lapse cameras on the Whitefish Island work site; we have a short video of the process so that people can see what it looks like to dig a 15 foot hole in the bed of the river and put in wood. (video presentation.) This one is a pile-supported wood structure at the margin of the side channel. It relies on the depth of these piles to support them; it is designed to come apart if they fail. They have had to keep up a 4,000 gal/minute pumping rate to keep the hole clear. The structures get planted and pre-loaded with slash.

Chris—RiverMile-46 (RM-46) is the second project we are doing this year under targeted solicitation and we are doing three structures, three different types, which gives us an opportunity to see the difference.

Roy—are the contractors gaining competence in doing these types of structures?

Chris—we have a wide range of competence; there is a bit of a learning curve. Long relationships and confidence with contractors helps when things get difficult.

Roy—one of the questions that we have asked in the past is whether we have enough qualified contractors and equipment in the area

Chris—we can use the experience of other project sponsors to help inform other/future contractors

Roy—do you have opportunities to share with people in other subbasins?

Jennifer—we are in all the subbasins, we can only go so far telling the designers what to do; ultimately this is their stamp after we give them all of our criteria for landowners, liability, etc.

We should have a construction adaptive management workshop where we can give lessons learned, where people can talk about how it went and what we are learning, would be good to have the consultants, permittees, and contractors.

Chris—engaging with the landowners and the community and providing a clear and accessible route for people to get accurate information is something that we are working on through the MRC web site

Michelle Dewey—I am still working with the website designers this week and next to finalize the design and launch the website, it is still available for MRC folks to look at and comment on. We are working on a card with the web address that people can have at the tables at the Salmon Celebration.

Chris—we've gotten a lot of comments from MRC participants on the website, which will hit live time at the end of the month, but it will still be editable, it will work if partners keep getting current information up on the site.

Michelle—we hope to have current information on the projects.

Roundtable

Jennifer Molesworth—Expert Panel Update: the people that helped with the look forward and the look backward in the Expert Panel process, we have the tables back for review and it is due in early October (5th?); we need to review the tables and make sure that the information is accurate.

As the UCSRB WAT representative, will be giving an update on outreach to the board next Thursday, have 15 minutes, will share what is going on, the Pyramid report, our efforts with key implementers and working with the facilitator

Jeri Timm—WWP-TU Update: we got a two-year NRCS water conservation grant; we will work with the watershed council on water storage, comprehensive review on water and project potential.

Aaron Penvose is going to be contacting people; will be having a barbecue at the Old Schoolhouse barn for folks to meet landowners on October 5th

Feast of Field and Stream dinner went well

Ken Bevis—WDFW: we are likely to have a steelhead season at the end of the month, probably similar to last year, but may be delayed
Wenatchee salmon festival is this weekend, I will be singing; it is at the Leavenworth hatchery

Michelle Dewey—MRC Web Site: still taking participant comments on the website

Hans Smith—Yakama Nation Update: we just completed a fencing project with the Forest Service, around eight miles in the Twisp River drainage, Little Bridge Creek, Buttermilk Creek
Gene—on roads that are parallel to creeks; it is working well, we are fencing out top spawning habitat for steelhead

Hans—we also completed the Eightmile Ranch work; there are still some subsequent phases up there, a huge riparian restoration component, setting back the fence, planting, reclaiming the edge of the ranch field.

Michelle—there is a lovely description on the MRC website

Hans—at the RM 10 project on the Chewuch, revegetation is still left to do; we will be visiting the sites on the tour

On the Twisp River, we completed the inlet to the Twisp ponds repair, and everything worked very well

Chris—we took the hump out of the ditch,

Hans—looks good right now, landowners very happy

Chris—we have a private intervening landowner there, and it was a model project for how to work with a private landowner

Hans—on river left at the Twisp Ponds, we did three log structures this year, as well as some floodplain restoration. It went well, we stayed within the work window, and we will be doing revegetation and floodplain restoration this fall. Did some road restoration for the adjacent landowners

At Eagle Rocks, we were able to drive 16-18 dbh logs to 24 feet in depth, could have gone further. The contractor was Kysar and Koinstinen—they are very experienced and have the technology for vibratory pile installation for instream habitat restoration; They used sheet pile for the coffering, and it worked very well. We had two days of construction, and it was a pretty light touch for a big log structure. No driving; all pile installation was done through vibration.

We finished the Libby Creek Assessment; it is online on YN website.

Jarred is taking over on Beaver Creek, looking at two large sites, Old Schoolhouse and Campbell property, MSRF purchased with Accord funds. If you are working in Beaver Creek, talk to Jarred.

Two or three weeks ago we did a legislative tour of the Middle Methow, with lobbyist and state legislators, talking about landowner liability issue, went well, see a need for the participating landowner liability and will keep working on it.

Gene Shull—Forest Service Update: we had a field trip scheduled to look at roads in the Chewuch on October 4th, wanted to see if people see a conflict with the Yakama field trip. Discussion—should be a different day than the Yakama tours. Gene—Stay tuned; will reschedule, maybe the next week.

Gene—Our next big timber sale is in the south summit area in Frasier Creek, Finley, Benson Creek, extends into the loop area, will be doing a fine sediment reduction, working with PUD on power line issue, highway with drainage issues.

Fire update—we have four fires, biggest is the Buckhorn fire on Gold Creek, currently about 2700 acres, fire is between south and middle fork, is only about 50 percent contained with roads, moving towards Middle fork, in full suppression. Leecher about 1700 acres, they are contained in mop-up. Hunter is also contained and in mop-up. Goat fire is uncontained; it is bad rattlesnake country, a repeater station is at risk. Wenatchee fires are really bad. Air quality is so bad that they are advising everyone to stay inside, closing schools.

Chuck Peven—RTT Update: biological strategy update: we are looking at including guidance on what reach assessments are; there are some concerns that the last one didn't have the same geomorphic scope or processes. I am working with Brandon; we will call the InterFluve style assessments "project assessments". We will have what the assessment should contain and what you call them, and also how

they can be used to develop projects. We will try to work with project sponsors and lead entities and try to develop protocols to develop projects.

Jennifer—we need to know about the “rapid reach assessments” and in terms of what we have, whether they are well supported.

Chuck—this is looking forward; we will not call existing assessments anything different, no need to change titles of reports that are in existence. How they are used depends on what you need.

Chris—we need something that can be used in the field as well, the assessments need interpretation

Chuck—we have laid out in the appendix what should be in it

Chris—I would like to review that

Chuck—we have the status of existing and future priorities, and we need to make sure it aligns with the biological strategy. Priority areas and actions will be an appendix in the Biological Strategy; tables from the expert panel will be incorporated into the Biological Strategy so they will be consistent

We are getting close to finishing the revision to the scoring criteria. Right now, the plan is to have the scoring criteria approved at the October meeting and then we will send them out for review to project sponsors, citizens, lead entity. Restoration projects try to get at the expected increase in freshwater survival; looking at the model developed for the expert panel process on how many more fish you expect to create on a reach-based scale. Trying to be more transparent and less ambiguous and less arbitrary. Wanting it to be very clear why a project might be ranked low. Right now, the criteria are such that you will get a better score if you are addressing a process rather than a band-aid, but we are struggling as to whether that should be a separate criteria or if it is inherent in all others.

Chris Johnson—Beaver Creek Update: on the former Campbell property that we've acquired, one of the tenants is working with NRCS to update an historic ditch to avoid take issues. This is just improving the screen and piping the ditch, not the instream component.

Next MRC October 16th

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
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
FFFPP	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
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
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
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.