

Methow Restoration Council

September 17, 2019

Participants

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Brian Fisher	MSRF
Chris Butler	Yakama Nation
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot	TU
Greer Maier	UCSRB
Hans Smith	Yakama Nation
Jeff Peterson	Reclamation
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MSRF
Julie Grialou	Methow Conservancy
Katy Pfannenstein	USFWS
Keith Kistler	Colville Tribes
Kristen Kirkby	CCFEG
Lee Bernheisel	OWL
Matt Young	Colville Tribes
Pete Teigen	UCSRB
Steve Kolk	Reclamation
Tara Gregg	MSRF

Greer Maier – UCSRB Updates: The Stage Zero Workshop invite has been sent out. We didn't have time to do a BDA (beaver dam analog) installation as part of the training, but if you are installing BDA this fall and would like volunteer assistance contact Greer. Greer will offer the volunteer opportunity to workshop participants.

Science Conference is 22-23. Abstracts are due October 1st. [Registration](#) is open. There is an optional registration fee to help cover upfront costs.

Gene Shull is coming in October MRC to talk about the Twisp Project and the LiDAR analysis that the FS is doing.

BPA monitoring strategy has been released. Contact Greer for a copy. If you have input on the strategy you can comment directly to BPA or relay your comments to Greer and she will present them to BPA on behalf of the region.

UCSRB is currently seeking candidates for a part-time program assistant. Information about the position is available at <https://www.ucsrb.org/about/jobs/>

Pete will be sending out a debrief for Sponsors that participated in this years grant cycle.

Greer Maier – RTT Prioritization – Step 1: A subgroup of the RTT has been meeting to develop prioritization tool. The prioritization process includes three steps:

Step 1: Prioritize Assessment Units (HUC 12 watersheds);

Step 2: Prioritize actions at the reach scale; and

Step 3: Evaluate feasibility of actions.

To develop the prioritization strategy for HUC 12 sub-watersheds (“Assessment Units”), the group compiled data that could be used to inform each of the indicators outlined in the overall strategy and developed scoring rules and weights for each indicator. The list of indicators used to prioritize Assessment Units was grouped into four categories: Assessment Unit Condition Indicators, Population Integrity Indicators, Habitat Integrity Indicators, and Future Security Indicators. Additional information about the indicators and methods that were used to prioritize watersheds is outlined in Attachment 1 of the Prioritization Strategy.

A full description of the strategy can be found in the Upper Columbia Habitat Prioritization Process document (download link: <https://www.ucsrb.org/?mdocs-file=3381>).

The UCSRB and RTT will be discussing Step 1 at the upcoming September Watershed Action Team meetings and you are encouraged to attend and discuss any questions and concerns there. Comments would be most useful as track changes in Attachment 1. Comments can be submitted to Greer and are due COB October 4th. This will allow the Prioritization Workgroup to review all comments and discuss them with the full RTT at their October meeting. The RTT would like to invite your input on Step 1 of the Upper Columbia Habitat Prioritization Process (strategy document: <https://www.ucsrb.org/?mdocs-file=3381>).

The following information is available to help in your review:

- *The methods* that were used to prioritize watersheds are outlined in Attachment 1 of the Prioritization Strategy
- *The raw data, scores, and summary scores* by AU are included in the spreadsheet tool (NOTE: mainstem HUC 12 are labels with the river name and then reach, which is usually a creek name (e.g. Entiat River- Potato Creek is the mainstem Entiat in the reach where Potato Creek enters).
- *A map* showing the results of the prioritization by species with associated scores can be found at: <https://arcg.is/1enzry>

Review the scores and identify ones that don't make sense. If you can identify what data component to giving the score an inaccurate value that is helpful. However, even if the only feedback is “this should be higher or lower”, the group will use this feedback do QA/QC on the data.

For this prioritization the units are based on HUC 12.

This has been sent out to the action agencies for review.

Updates will be made as needed when data sets are updated. Different data sets will have varying effects of the scoring output. A sensitivity ranking of data would help identify which datasets have the greatest effect on the output.

The term land stewardship doesn't account for the fact that “protected land” is not the same as land that is “managed for environmental benefit.”

Step 2 will identify a reach and an action (tiered). These reaches mirror the reaches established in the EDT. There will be a biological priority and a planning priority (feasibility). Target deadline is in June.

Roundtable

Jeff Peterson – Bureau of Reclamation: Currently working in the Upper Salmon to prioritize areas based on habitat capacity. TU has awarded a bid to start the Barkley Pump Station. Reclamation is providing observation. This work is expected to start in October. The pressure pipe contract will be awarded this fall. Both projects are expected to be completed by April 1.

Katy Pfannenstien – USFWS: Request For Proposals for funding will go out today and are due November 1st. Funding is expected to be within the typical range 25-100k, depending on the project.

Chris Johnson – MSRF: Our contract with BOR is now in place. We completed work at the Twisp River Floodplain. This included additional levy removal and alcove work on right and left bank. Will continue to explore options for additional work opportunities upstream. Adaptive management has been completed at WFI to increase connection at low flow. We are monitoring side channel projects at WFI and WDFW for flow and fish use. Landowners have expressed concerns regarding changes in the flow split at WDFW. Methow Beaver project hosted a Beaver Celebration last weekend.

John Crandall – MSRF: the Lower Methow Reach Assessment is complete. It will be available from the UCSRB website: <https://www.ucsr.org/mdocuments-library/assessments/>. We are working with the BOR to do a limited print run. This reach assessment looks at the lower 27 miles of the Methow River and includes action recommendations.

Greer Maier – UCSRB: collecting reach assessment data for Prioritization Step 2. Link to the data portal for the prioritization tool: <https://www.ucsr.org/map-portal/> (scroll down to the Tools section)

Hans Smith – YN: Continuing project work on Twisp river, Chewuch, and Upper Methow. Beaver Creek Reach 5 has been completed. This project included 2 miles of stream between WDFW and Lester Rd. Starting Wolf Creek Reach Assessment for the mouth to the wilderness boundary. Reviewing alternative funding options for the Golden Doe project and will be doing additional analysis this winter. Yakama has changed to a new design team for this project. Now working with Interfluve for design.

Kristin Kirkby – CCFEG: We also received BOR funding. Received UCSRB outreach funding for outreach/education work in Methow and Okanogan basin. Hancock is in the final stages of fencing and planting. Palm was the contractor. If you are interested in a tour of the site contact Kristin. Barrier removal project up Benson Creek was completed in August. CCFEG has a new office space above the Purple Sage Gallery in Winthrop. Barrier assessment data will be available this fall on WDFW website. Kristen will send link. Will be doing planting at the Homesteam Park. There is a stewardship donation avenue through the Methow Conservancy.

Crystal Elliot – TU: Grateful for BOR funding. Completed BDAs in Mission Creek area. Will be touring there today with WDFW wildlife manager. An updated Water Rights handbook will available at the upcoming Methow Watershed Council public meeting in mid Sept. TU is working on a handful of surface to well conversions. Suction Dredging bill will be up for review this fall. Have been working with the FS to do a fish passage project on FS lands. If you are interested in the template contact Kristen.

Matt Young – CTCR: Doing a restoration assessment of Texas Creek, BDA work, and working with the FS on the Twisp River Project

Julie Grialou – Methow Conservancy: New landowners upstream of Whitefish side channel have reached out to the Conservancy about river stewardship opportunities. Julie will connect the new landowners with MSRF and Chris will reach out to them for introductions.

Next MRC meeting:

October 15, 2019