



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING FINAL AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, 9 August 2023

Time: 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

Location: Douglas PUD Auditorium and Webinar

Members Present: Catherine Willard (Chelan PUD), Tom Kahler (Douglass PUD), John Arterburn (Colville Tribe), Justin Yeager (NOAA), John Crandall (MSRF), and Tracy Hillman (Chair)

Others Present: Sarah Walker (UCSRB), Amanda Ward (UCSRB), Dave Hecker (UCSRB), Ryan Niemeyer (UCSRB), Greer Maier (Triangle Associates), Ryan Williams (Cascadia CD), and Scott Turo (USFS)

Members present approved the agenda and July meeting notes.

Ongoing Action Items:

- Ryan Niemeyer will review the draft edits in the RTT Scoring Criteria documents. Tracy Hillman will then share the documents with the RTT for their review and approval.

2024 UCSRB Science Conference

Science Conference Steering Committee

Greer Maier asked to recruit members for the Science Conference Steering Committee. This group will help decide which speakers are invited, the types of sessions, etc. Current science committee volunteers included Tracy Hillman, Amanda Barg, and Carlos Polivka (Catherine Willard is considering it).

Conference Details

The venue is booked at the Conference Center in downtown Wenatchee. Hotels are organized. The conference theme is "A Question of Scale." Both temporal and spatial scales are important when considering restoration actions and the future of salmon. The conference will be held on 24-25 January. Greer asked the RTT to start sharing this information with other groups. People are encouraged to email Amanda Ward if there are any questions, ideas, topics, etc.

Tracy Hillman identified a couple topics that could be presented during the conference. One is the effects of wildfires on habitat restoration actions. The Yakama Nation recently completed a paper on this topic with funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Another could be a presentation by Bill Jaeger or Mark Scheuerell on returns on investment: restoration spending in the Columbia River Basin and increased abundance of salmon and steelhead. Their work looks at the amount of money spent on restoration and the return of adults to the Columbia River.

Decisions:

- None

Action Items:

- None

NOAA HARP Model Discussion

Following the short RTT meeting, RTT members and many others attended the discussion on the Habitat Assessment and Restoration Planning (HARP) model. This discussion was led by the NOAA Science Center staff. The NOAA Science Center is developing the model for the anadromous portion of the Columbia River Basin. They are beginning their efforts in the Upper Columbia. They began by providing an overview of the model and answering questions. Discussions mostly centered around adding elements to the model and identifying local data to help populate the model. Following the discussion, Science Center staff and others visited restoration sites in the Wenatchee and Entiat River basins.