



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM MEETING FINAL JUNE MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Wednesday, 12 June 2024

Time: 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Location: Webinar

RTT Members Present: Shelby Fowler (USFWS), Tracy Bowerman (USFWS), John Crandall (Confluence Aquatics), John Arterburn (Colville Tribe), Catherine Williard (Chelan PUD), Amanda Barg (WDFW), Steve Fortney (Gray & Osborne Inc.), Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Carlos Polivka (USFS), and Tracy Hillman (BioAnalysts, Inc.; Chair).

Others Present: Ameer Bahr (RCO), Keith Trustcott (CAC), James Johnson (CAC), Ariel Edwards (UCSRB), Ryan Niemeyer (UCSRB), and Meghan Camp (UCSRB).

Tracy Hillman reviewed the June RTT meeting agenda, and the agenda was approved by all RTT members present. Tracy Hillman reviewed the April DRAFT meeting notes and all RTT members approved the notes.

RTT & UCSRB Updates

Large Wood Jam Monitoring Protocols

Tracy Hillman walked through the Large Wood Jam Monitoring Protocols for Reach Assessments developed by Inter-Fluve and reviewed by the Large Wood Working Group. One member commented about the benefit of having a data sheet for recording field data. Tracy Hillman and Ryan Niemeyer will ask Inter-Fluve to develop a field data form. Another member asked about the Y/N question regarding “Maintaining Scour.” It was noted that this was discussed during the Working Group meeting and the challenge is a scour pool can be created (excavated) during construction or it can be developed as a result of the structure (i.e., the implemented structure creates the scour). The idea is to document whether the scour pool is present regardless of how it was created. One member suggested the addition of “U” (Unknown) to the Y/N responses. Ryan Niemeyer will add this to the protocols. All members approved of the large wood jam protocols.

Decisions:

- RTT approved the Large Wood Jam Monitoring Protocol for Reach Assessments.

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will ask Inter-Fluve to develop a field data form that can be used by all entities collecting large wood jam data during reach assessments.
- Ryan Niemeyer will add “U” (Unknown) to the Y/N responses in the protocol.
- Ryan Niemeyer will share the large wood jam protocol with Cascade Fisheries.

Streams Drying and Water Withdrawal Databases

Tracy Hillman mentioned that Jeff Jorgensen (NOAA) asked whether there is a database that identifies locations where reaches go dry in the Upper Columbia. John Arterburn said the EDT database indicates dewatered reaches. These reaches are identified as having a “0” width. It was also noted that Charlie Snow (WDFW) may identify drying reaches when WDFW conducts spawning ground surveys. Mark Nelson’s (USFWS) Bull Trout telemetry survey maps may also identify reaches that dewater in the Methow River basin. Catherine Williard indicated that their spawning ground crews do not find dewatered reaches in the Wenatchee River basin.

Tracy Hillman said that Jeff also asked whether there is a database that identifies water withdrawals in the Upper Columbia. Amanda Barg mentioned that WDFW has a database of water withdrawals. Amanda shared a link to the WA State Fish Passage ([LINK](#)) and shared that any questions about diversions can be sent to fishscreening@dfw.wa.gov. Tracy Bowerman mentioned that the UCSRB barrier database includes water withdrawals, and those data can be pulled out of the spreadsheet.

Decisions:

- None

Action Items:

- **Tracy Bowerman will share with Tracy Hillman and Ryan Niemeyer how to pull water withdrawal information from the barrier database.**
- **Tracy Hillman and Ryan Niemeyer will follow up with Jeff Jorgensen about available databases.**

Review RTT Operating Procedures

Tracy Hillman reviewed proposed changes to the RTT Operating Procedures. Some of the proposed changes to the Conflict-of-Interest section included language from the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB) documents. Tracy Hillman shared that some of this language seems too restrictive (e.g., footnote #2, which comes from the YBFWRB). For example, RTT members, who work for WDFW, could not discuss or vote on projects that are proposed on WDFW property. In addition, RTT members who also serve on the Tributary Committees would not be able to discuss or vote on projects with cost shares from the Tributary Committees. This would greatly reduce the number of RTT members that can evaluate proposals. Members agreed to remove the footnote and will evaluate conflicts of interest on a case-by-case basis. Members also agreed that any reviewer who would benefit from a proposed project (financially or otherwise) would be conflicted. The RTT agreed to make clearer (with examples) the differences between “abstain” and “recuse.”

Decisions:

- None

Action Items:

- **All RTT members will review and add draft language to the Operating Procedures.**

RTT Participation in the CACs Discussion

Tracy Hillman indicated that the Chelan CAC will meet on Monday, 17 June, and the Okanogan CAC will meet on Tuesday, 18 June. Tracy noted that an RTT member needs to be present at these meetings to

respond to CAC questions. Tracy Bowerman offered to join the Chelan CAC meeting on Monday. John Crandall offered to join the Okanogan CAC meeting on Tuesday.

Decisions:

- **None**

Action Items:

- **None**