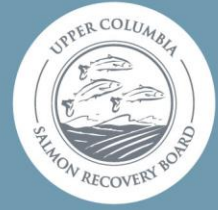


Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



## DRAFT Summary Implementation Team Meeting

Chelan County Fire District No. 7  
232 E Wapato Ave, Chelan, WA  
Tuesday, March 5th, 2019  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Members Present:** Paul Wagner/CCT, Kate Terrell/FWS (phone), Jason Lundgren/CCFEG (phone), Char Shumaker/Okanogan County (phone), Steve Kolk/BOR (phone), Jessica Goldberg/MSRF, Allison Lutes/CCNRD, Mike Kaputa/CCNRD, Ken Muir/CCD (phone), MarySutton Caruthers/CCD, Jarred Jordan/YN, Melody Kreimes/UCSRB, Sarah Walker/UCSRB, Pete Teigen/UCSRB, Greer Maier/UCSRB (phone), Crystal Elliott/TU, Jamie Cleveland/BPA (phone), Melinda Ritacco/BOR (phone)

### Approval of Summary

The group reviewed and adopted the agenda with no amendments and approved the Dec. IT Meeting Summary.

### UCSRB Updates

#### 2019 SRFB Process

Pete Teigen gave an update on the SRFB process. The kick off meeting is next Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, in Wenatchee at Community Foundation of NCW from 1-4pm. There are some changes to Manual 18 that should be released by next week and will be posted on the UCSRB website. The one big change this year is a cap per region of \$200,000 for assessment projects that don't include project design. This year's site tour dates will be finalized pending input from the State Review Panel.

Next year, quite a few changes are anticipated based on the RCO's LEAN study conducted last year to identify Lead Entity efficiencies. This will include a shortened timeline for the SRFB grant process for FY20. At the SRFB meeting tomorrow seven options for funding large-cap projects (defined as exceeding a Lead Entity's annual allocation) will be discussed. Detailed information can be found on the SRFB website. The LEAN study identified that the current SRFB process doesn't work well for complex or expensive projects, so new funding mechanisms are being explored by the SRFB.

#### Action Items:

- 1. Pete will ask RCO staff about timeline for input from region on the concept of a large cap funding program.***

## UCSRB-BPA FY19 Targeted Solicitation

Sarah Walker provided an update on the UCSRB-BPA Programmatic and Targeted project selection. UCSRB is currently reaching out to Chelan County and MSRF regarding the three Targeted proposals submitted for FY19 funding (MSRF - Twisp Ponds Perennial Connection and Sungate Lane Methow River Habitat Complexity Design, and Chelan County - Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Reconnection Design). The next step is setting up UCSRB-BPA calls-meetings with sponsors to sort through the details of what partnership and SOWs might look like. BPA is working to involve technical-design and HIP III compliance staff earlier, during conceptual (pre-30%) design phase. Formal notifications to sponsors will occur after the calls-meetings have been conducted. Chelan County requested the RTT scores on the Targeted Proposals.

### **Action Item:**

- 2. Sarah will send MSRF and Chelan Co. the RTT scores on Targeted Proposals.**

## Website Resources

Greer Maier walked the group through items now available on the UCSRB data portal. Under Science and Info tab at the top of the website, Data Portal contains all the GIS info. There is a new assessment unit layer, which can be downloaded and viewed in the Data Portal. There is also a Maps and Tools page in progress. Greer also created a page for the RTT for all data and information being integrated into the *Biological Strategy* update. Anyone interested in getting the link this page can contact her or Tracy Hillman. One map that is particularly useful is the RTT Habitat Quality and Climate Change map, which contains all spawning layers and fish distribution. The group was asked to navigate around the data portal and identify any data layers sponsors might have that they'd like to share, or what other types of regional layers might be useful. Also, under the Science and Info section is the final Hydropower Background Summary.

## UCSRB Funding Opportunity Announcement

Steve Kolk and Melinda Ritacco (Bureau of Reclamation) presented on the Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity Announcement, followed by group Q&A. More information can be found [here](#).

- With respect to page limit: keep it concise, but make sure everything you want to say is there.
- The Bureau will fund work on state, local government or private land. For federal lands, if the restoration work is the responsibility of that federal entity, then the project is not eligible.
- Applications due April 1, award date mid-August. The award date will be regardless of any existing cooperative agreement.
- Melinda, Bureau grants officer, noted there is a new 90-day review process that goes through the Secretary of the Interior, so contracts can be approved any sooner than mid-August.

## Effectiveness Monitoring Results and Updates

### BPA Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM)

Phil Roni, Cramer Fish Sciences, gave a presentation on BPA AEM program. AEM program goals were to evaluate reach-scale physical and biological habitat improvements using a cost-effective approach of monitoring only a subset of projects. The size of reach-scale projects varied from a few hundred meters to a few kilometers. Differences in geographic areas (e.g. Upper Columbia vs Snake River vs other) were also evaluated. Two study designs were used: MBACI and EPT. Three project types were evaluated: floodplain, riparian, wood structures.

Cramer Fish Sciences will be looking for new sites to add that are completed floodplain and riparian planting projects, and Phil requested an info on such projects be sent to him. Jessica suggested Phil talk with Heather from Dept of Ecology, as they fund riparian maintenance projects.

The group discussed how to continue the flow of information between the region and Cramer Fish Sciences. One request was for information, data and presentations to be posted on the UCSRB website with links sent to Implementation Team. Another request was for Phil to present annually to the Implementation Team. Phil will discuss future follow-up visits to region (annually, other?) with BPA project manager.

### Middle Entiat Project

The goal of Cramer Fish Sciences' analysis was to evaluate a methodology that could effectively and efficiently monitor projects greater than 5km. Bathymetric LiDAR and aerial imagery was obtained for the middle Entiat. A census juvenile fish was conducted, and eDNA samples collected. Very low steelhead numbers were a real concern; however, abundance could be low because of low escapement or outmigration. eDNA will be used again next winter to help tease out where these juveniles are going. Habitat suitability modeling is also forthcoming. The Utah State University Geomorphic Unit Tool (GUT) was used to evaluate geomorphic assessment, but without prior assessments it will be difficult to assess the impacts of the project.

The repeat period of 3-5 years is significant because it allows time to monitor both physical and biological response; biological response will lag. is scheduled to end in 2022 and the Middle Entiat implementation won't be completed until 2021, so no post-project monitoring can be conducted through the AEM. The group discussed resources for additional monitoring. Participants asked if the LiDAR data could be shared and Phil will confirm with BPA. These data can be sent to Sarah for distribution. A draft report of these findings will be provided to BPA in 2-3 weeks; after they have released, it can be sent to UCSRB for distribution. IT participants noted raw data are also useful to obtain. Phil thought the data could be made available after BPA approval.

### SRFB Effectiveness Monitoring

Phil described the results and recommendations of the SRFB project effectiveness monitoring, which are available on SRFB website now.

#### **Action Items:**

- 3. Sarah and Phil will coordinate on process for sharing presentation with the region.**
- 4. Phil will ask BPA project manager about timeline-process for sharing AEM data and reports with the region.**
- 5. Available data will be distributed and posted on the UCSRB data portal.**

### RTT Habitat Action Prioritization Strategy

As no RTT member was available for today's meeting, Sarah gave a brief update on the RTT's Habitat Action Prioritization Strategy (Prioritization Strategy). The RTT is working on finalizing draft AUs (Step 1). During Step 2, the RTT will dive into more spatial detail, priority limiting factors, priority reaches and action types. Draft results from Steps 1 and 2 will go out to the WATs and IT for review and feedback. RTT will use results from Steps 1 & 2 to update its *Biological Strategy*, expected to be completed by the

end of 2019. The *Biological Strategy* will remain the framework from which the RTT develops criteria to score the biological benefit of proposed SRFB and BPA projects.

There were questions and uncertainty about who the lead on Step 3 will be, the feasibility input (e.g., permitting constraints, landowner willingness), how the RTT would use such information in scoring projects and how differences between the subbasins would be addressed. Participants discussed that Step 3 could be as simple as listing all the feasibility variables and then project sponsors could discuss each year the highest biological priority projects in context of these feasibility variables. Several years ago, the UCSRB would facilitate a similar discussion each year at the WAT meetings. Some participants saw value in such an approach for out-year planning, programming funds, and developing the annual Implementation Schedule that is submitted to NOAA. As described in the Prioritization Strategy, the IT and WATs were to have a key role in assessing the feasibility of implementing the prioritized actions, though it isn't clear yet what that looks like in terms of initiating this Step.

It was suggested getting greater clarity about the outcomes of the Prioritization Strategy in terms of action types vs. specific projects would be useful. Generally, it was discussed that project sponsors want to maintain the level of specificity in the current *Biological Strategy*, with only specific actions in specific streams noted where these are critical or must be implemented first, such as first fixing instream flow in the Methow. Another participant commented that sounds like feasibility and something that WATs and IT should have input on.

At this point, the IT participants wanted more input from the RTT on the following questions before they engaged more in Step 3:

- What is the outcome of Step 3: Feasibility Assessment and how will priorities be shifted or not, based on the feasibility information?
- How, when and where will Step 3 information be used by RTT? By sponsors? By WATs? By funders? By partners?
- There are 100+ AUs, but data to update the *Biological Strategy* is not generally collected at the AU scale. Are we trying to do feasibility at each of those AU scales or are we trying to do it broadly?
- Is the result of Steps 1 and 2 going to be a list of action-types or habitat projects?

Pete also noted that Step 3 won't replace or change the CAC's role in the SRF project ranking. CAC ranking criteria are on the UCSRB web site. They consider the RTT biological benefit score from the RTT when they score SRFB projects. Regardless of the RTT biological benefit score, the CAC members can still pull a project above or below the funding line based on their own criteria.

Sarah reiterated RTT is asking for IT and WAT participation at RTT meetings, and engagement and leadership from WATs and IT on Step 3. Melody also reminded the IT that the RTT continues to respond to IT (and WAT) requests to include these groups early and often in the Prioritization Strategy process. It was suggested another RTT workshop on Step 3, like the one held by the RTT on draft reach breaks, could be useful, as it would be more efficient for IT and WAT members to attend for a more in-depth, longer working session with the RTT, rather than just for a one-hour discussion item. Another suggestion was to return to having an RTT designee at each of the WATs. Sarah encouraged IT members to attend

the RTT meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, as the Prioritization Strategy will be discussed then. She will also distribute the draft IT meeting summary to the RTT Chair.

**Action Items:**

- 6. Sarah will send this draft summary to the RTT chair for consideration.**
- 7. Sarah will discuss with RTT the interest, timing, etc. for another RTT-hosted workshop on the Prioritization Strategy.**

### Yakama Nation Prioritization Approach

Jarred Johnson, Yakama Nation, gave a presentation on how YN conducts habitat action prioritization, and how YN uses feasibility information. Jarred discussed the project selection process, role of project prioritization, and the matrix used to summarize general project info: biological benefit score, cost estimate, cost/benefit ratio, and feasibility. The YN does not incorporate feasibility into project ranking because that is based solely on technical information from reach assessments. Feasibility is used to determine when and how YN implements projects.

Paul Wagner, CCT, described how he develops a list of prioritized projects for the Methow that includes projects that have some constraints but could possibly be implemented in the next year or two. At this point, the top two projects don't have landowner approval yet. When funding is year to year, it's important to look at priority projects that could be implemented in the next funding cycle if constraints can be addressed.

### Roundtable, Topic ID for Next Meeting

Sarah announced that Katie MacDonald, BPA Habitat RM&E program, will be calling in to the different WAT meetings beginning in March to give an update on monitoring to the region.

Mike Kaputa announced that Ecology finalized the PEIS for the Icicle Creek Water Resource Management Strategy. It took 6 years to complete and will likely take 10-15 years to implement.

Next RTT meeting is Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the CFNCW in Wenatchee.

Next IT meeting is June 4<sup>th</sup>

**Action Items:**

- 8. Sarah will send out an Outlook invite for IT meeting schedule**