



## REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM PRIORITIZATION SUBGROUP MEETING Draft MEETING SUMMARY

**Date:** Monday March 16, 2020  
**Time:** 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
**Location:** COVID Conference Call

---

**Members Present:** John Crandall, Tracy Hillman, John Arterburn, Steve Fortney

**Others Present:** Greer Maier/UCSRB, Ryan Neimeyer/UCSRB, Robyn Pepin/Aspect, Jaime Cleveland/BPA, Katie McDonald/BPA

---

### Step 2 Overview

Greer Maier gave a brief overview of the group's current draft Step 2 approach. Step 2 starts with the life stage priorities for each population (Step 2a). These have been generated through the January and February life stage workshops. There were some comments received on the draft priorities that will go back out to those groups in each subbasin during additional watershed workshops in April/May.

The next part of step 2 is evaluation of habitat requirements for priority life stages in AUs/HUC12 where those priorities are identified (Step 2b). This evaluation looks at access, capacity/habitat quantity, and habitat quality. This evaluation occurs at the reach scale and results in scores for habitat function (degraded, at risk, and properly functioning). The occurrence of impairments then leads to the identification of projects to address those impairments (Step 2c). The combination of scores from Step 1, life stage priority, level of habitat impairment, and benefit of action could lead to an overall score. Greer will work with Tracy to develop the scoring methodology so that data in Step 2 is captured appropriately.

### Reaches

Because Step 2 habitat evaluation occurs at the reach scale the group needs to approve a reach layer for analysis. The draft reach layer has been developed based on the methodology developed for the EDT modeling. CCT/OBMEP developed it for EDT in the Methow and Okanogan and UCSRB contracted with ICF to develop a comparable layer for the Wenatchee and Entiat. The reach layer has been adopted for each species based on fish distribution. None of the reaches currently extend all the way into bull trout habitat. Greer Maier will work with Robyn Pepin to add in reaches with BT.

At the next watershed workshop the group will look at which streams or reaches are still missing that should be considered/evaluated. There was discussion about what rule set to apply when adding tributaries. The group considered using IP but may also use other information. Because there could be lots of different reasons to consider a tributary the group may not want to set firm guidance. Greer will note the rationale provided by the group and compile that information for the PWG.

The reach layer includes floodplain extent. Currently it uses NOAA/Morgan Bond's floodplain extent, but the group noted that that needs to be changed to Steve Fortney's floodplain extent layer that was developed for the mainstem AU's before they were removed. Robyn Pepin and Greer Maier will work on that.

Ryan Niemeyer discussed the current reach assessment breaks and how they compare with the RTT/EDT reach breaks. Because much of the data for Step 2 is coming from RAs there is a need to reconcile the two or at least understand where they are different for data compilation. In many cases the two overlapped but in other cases they were different (either smaller or larger). The goal is that the two spatial extents are the same between the two. The differences likely were due to the rules for developing EDT reach breaks.

There was discussion about if and how the reach breaks should be modified. There is a need to look at how EDT is using RA data and see if the PWG wants to adopt that methodology. RA have a somewhat standard way of defining reaches. EDT has a similar approach but it is unknown how they are different or similar. Steve Fortney also mentioned that he has some reach breaks for the Entiat to consider. He will work with Ryan to see if we can be consistent with them.

#### **Action Items:**

- Ryan will work with Eric Doyle and John Arterburn to talk about what to do about the differences in the reach breaks.
- Robyn will adopt the RA breaks where they are close to the existing EDT reach layer.
- Robyn will split the EDT reaches where there is more detail in the reach assessments.
- EDT reaches will be used if the RA reaches are larger.
- Steve Fortney will send Ryan the reach breaks for the Entiat to see if they were considered in the EDT reach break development.
- Greer Maier will work with Robyn to update the floodplain extent of the reaches to Steve Fortney's layer and to add in bull trout reaches and streams within the distribution of the species. They will also add in IP to the WebAp for future use refining the reach layer.
- UCSRB will work with the watershed workgroups to refine the reaches.

### **Life Stage Priorities- Step 2a**

Greer Maier/UCSRB gave an update on the Life Stage Priority development. The four workshops took place in January and February and went well. The draft priorities went out for review to the WATs and RTT. Comments that were received will go back to the groups that originally drafted the priorities. Only one commenters spoke to a need to change or refine the priorities. Greer Maier also mentioned the option of reconciling the barrier prioritization outputs with the life stage priorities. The group agreed that the highest priority barriers should be within at least a moderate priority AU for the appropriate life stage. Greer Maier will look at all the available barrier priorities by species and life stage (if available) and will bring that information to the watershed workshops for consideration in terms of updating priorities. Barrier priorities in the Methow and Entiat may be ready soon along with the Wenatchee. Lastly, there was some discussion of how the life stage use will be considered in the reaches. There may be a need to downscale life stage use to identify which reaches are used by which life stage to eliminate some from the evaluation.

#### **Action Items:**

- Greer Maier will work with Robyn and CF to get the latest barrier priorities that are ready for use and summarize those for the watershed workshops for consideration in updating the life stage priorities.
- UCSRB will work with the watershed workgroups to update the life stage priorities.

## **Habitat Evaluation based on Life Stage Requirements - Step 2b**

Habitat requirements for each life stages were drafted by the PWG in February and refined at the life stage workshops by participants. The PWG provided comments on the draft and Greer reviewed the more recent draft (provided with notes). The group went over the list and refined it. The group agreed to gather data on all the habitat elements identified on the table.

### **Data Sources**

The group discussed what data are available to inform an evaluation of the habitat quality based on habitat metrics identified in the table. The data sources for access have already been identified (barrier prioritization for longitudinal barriers and RAs for lateral barriers). The data sources for capacity/quantity were not discussed today but Greer Maier will follow up with Steve Fortney on potential ideas. The group has already identified some potential data sources and there needs to be some more thought on which one is most appropriate for each life stage.

Potential metrics and data sources for each of the habitat attribute have been identified in EDT, Reach Assessments (RAs)/Level 2 FS surveys, and UCSRB/local GIS data layers. Greer Maier sent Chris Jordan/NOAA the spreadsheet to enter any available data from CHaMP/ISEMP/IMW. UCSRB staff is working on getting all the RA and Level 2 data available into tables that can be uploaded to the reach network. Ryan will work with John Arterburn and Eric Doyle to get the EDT data in as well. It is possible that all the RA data has already been entered into spreadsheets or GIS layers in the Methow.

### **Action Items:**

- John Crandall will review and update (if needed) the bull trout habitat requirements.
- Ryan N. will work with Eric Doyle and John A. to get any data that was compiled for or developed from EDT
- Ryan N. and Greer M. will populate the cross walk RA/Level 2 data with habitat requirements.
- UCSRB will work with the watershed workgroups to identify data sources.

## **Protection Prioritization**

The PWG briefly reviewed the currently proposed strategy for prioritizing reaches for protection. There have been some updates to the strategy following the UW GIS class project from last year. Greer Maier will work with Tracy H. to write up the proposed strategy for PWG review.

The meeting adjourned at 3pm

The next Prioritization Workgroup meeting will be at the end of April.