



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM WENATCHEE PRIORITIZATION WORKSHOP Draft MEETING SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Location: Remote

Present: Ryan Niemeyer/UCSRB, Greer Maier/UCSRB, Hans Smith/YN, Scott Bailey/CCNRD, Jeremy Cram/WDFW, Mike Kaputa/CCNRD, Jose Vazquez/USFWS, Tracy Hillman/BioAnalysts, Allison Lutes/CCNRD, Jason Bredart/YN, John Crandall/Methow Salmon Recovery, Micky Fleming/CDLT

Major Action and Decision Items:

Decisions/Recommendations to PWG:

- At-Risk Rating for Food Lower Chiwawa AU
- Add WDFW temperature data to RAW Data
- Changed pool ratings for Lower Chiwawa AU
- Rounded confinement up to 60% in Lower Chiwawa O2
- Rounded confinement up to 60% in Nason Creek O2
- Proposed to change the confinement filter at the end of step 2 to show where in the reach to work (focus on unconfined areas within the reach)
- Proposed to pick up actions for 1s and 3s in HQ assessment- generate a list for each for HQ
- Proposed to default to RA REI values (when available) for Pools and Wood

Action Items:

- Add Nason 15 to LF sheet
- Add RA data to Nason 14
- Lower Chiwawa Temperature ratings- check on DOE listings and WDFW data- follow-up by email
- Check on substrate ratings in Chiwawa- follow-up by email
- Fix Chiwaukum AU

Meeting Summary

Greer Maier/UCSRB convened the meeting at 9 am. She overviewed the prioritization the process and described how the prioritization process has generated priority actions for reaches based on reach assessment data. Greer shared the overview of the prioritization process. Step 1 was completed last November. For Step 2, this included having multiple pathways to generate priority reaches. This has been on-going since November, so Step 2 has almost been going for a year. The three pathways include "habitat function" with the goal to restore habitat function in unconfined reaches. The second pathway is addressing limiting factors for high priority life stages. The third pathway is related to restoring fish passage. These three pathways will result in RTT priority actions, which will then inform projects and be tracked. Greer mentioned that today we would review if reaches have changed due to an impact like wildfire, landslide, development, etc. where the current condition is different than when the reach changed.

Currently the tool is developed for Spring Chinook and Steelhead. But Bull Trout functionality in the Tool will be developed later in this month. We will have a later meeting for tool results for the Wenatchee Bull Trout results.

Habitat Quality and Limiting Factors Pathway Overview

Habitat quality filters these filters bring forth the reaches that will be the focus for action categories.. The filters were a) in step 1 watersheds, b) mostly “unconfined”, including at least 4 life stages.

For Limiting Factors filters, the filters included a) in step 1 watersheds, b) High Priority life stages, c) Life Stage use by reach, d) floodplain actions (only do in Unconfined)

Barriers – high priority barriers and medium priority barriers in priority AUs.

Greer overviewed the “Master” spreadsheet that includes both the raw data for the reaches and the habitat attribute and habitat quality scores for the habitat quality and limiting factor pathways.

Greer mentioned that the RTT decided to defer the protection evaluation until next year.

LIMITING FACTOR NOTES:

LOWER NASON

-we reviewed the Life Stage Scores. When we first reviewed Nason Creek, the group agreed that results looked good for the habitat attributes scores. We discussed how pool ratings are low (1 – inadequate) in Lower Nason Creek reaches 05 – 07.

Several participants mentioned that several projects have happened in Nason Creek.

Participants discussed undercut banks. Participants acknowledged that many reaches will not produce undercut banks based on geomorphic constraints.

FRY

Lower Chiwawa – lake of flow and lack of floodplain

SUMMER REARING

Lower Chiwawa

Temperature were discussed

Nason Creek Lower

Cover-Wood and Undercut banks were issues in several

WINTER REARING

Lower Chiwawa

Potential issues with embeddedness. Jeremy Cram is going to check the egg survival study to look at embeddedness.

Level 2 surveys were saying the Lower Chiwawa pools were

----- STEELHEAD -----

ADULT MIGRATOIN

Only look at flow.

SPAWNING

Greer discussed how temperature and flow ere an issue.

We discussed contamination ratings in Lower Mission Creek – the group decided to keep it.

WINTER REARING

Wenatchee River Olalla:

Lack of wood and lack of side channels were two primary habitat attributes rated 1 in the Wenatchee River Olalla Canyon reaches. Participants agreed that this was correct.

Lower Nason

Cover Wood is lower in some reaches (a 1). There is only one reach that is rated 1 for Cover-Boulder. Jeremy Cram that they have not seen flow or icing issues in the Wenatchee.

Wenatchee River Beaver

Cover-Wood was poor for many reaches. Some boulders were at risk. Several Off-Channel Side-Channel were rated 1, several others were at 3.

Wenatchee River Beaver 08 and 09 were labeled “Adequate”, but in reality in Reach Assessment the reaches were “at risk”. Several participants voiced difficulty in just using ocular estimates for these assessments

Action:

- **Greer:** verify why Nason Creek Lower 15 did not show up when filtering out for Nason Creek Lower AU
- **Ryan:** Look into why Lower Nason Creek 14 was not included in reach assessment (Hans said it should be included in those data) – ADD the Nason Creek Lower 14 data to MASTER data table
- **Ryan:** Double check missing in Lower Nason Creek 04 (Jason mentioned this should be legit).
- **Ryan:** Double check

