



REGIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM DRAFT AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Conference Call/Teams Meeting

Time	Topic	Presenter/Lead
9:00 AM	Welcome and Introductions - Review September Agenda - Review July Meeting Notes and Action Items	Hillman, RTT Chair
9:15 AM	RTT & UCSRB Updates: - Science Coordinator Position - SRFB Update - Barrier Prioritization	Hillman/RTT Edwards/UCSRB
9:45 AM	SRFB Monitoring Grant Round Proposed Approach MaDMC Membership and Scoring	Edwards/UCSRB
10:00 AM	Entiat Fish Kill	Desgroseillier/WDFW
11:00 AM	RTT Project Scoring Criteria: Review Multiple AU/Reach Language and Protection Project Scoring	Edwards and Camp/UCSRB
12:00 PM	Adjourn	Hillman/RTT Chair

Microsoft Teams meeting:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 253 021 636 948

Passcode: zonYvs

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-813-7062,,96077259#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 960 772 59#

For more information, contact: Tracy Hillman/RTT Chair (tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net)

Notes 9/9/2026:

Tom Kahler, Tom D, John A, Catherin Willard, Steve Fortney, Hans Smith, Tracy Hillman, Carlos Polivka

Jesse Wilson, Meghan Camp, Ariel Edwards, Amee Bahr, Ben Woodworth, Jeff Jorgensen, Mike Kane, Ann Grote, Greg Fraser, Aaron Rosenblum, Charles Frady, Greer Maier,

(HARP model has completed Stillaguamish comparison, still working on UC)

Group welcomed Tom D to the RTT. Tom was unanimously accepted into the group earlier this month.

Tracy H also requested the group to find an engineer to join the fray.

Sept Agenda – approved by all

July Notes – approved by all.

To Do's Retained: Redd maps/cold water patches public links removed

RTT & UCSRB updates:

Science coordinator

SRFB update

Barrier prioritization – a subgroup met to review, but the group was very small. So the group is trying to reschedule. Tracy H is hoping to schedule it right after an RTT meeting to get more attendance.

Action: UCSRB/Tracy H send out a doodle poll and get the next meeting scheduled

Steve Fortney asked about next MaDMC meeting – Carlos said this has not been scheduled and has not happened yet. Carlos will work on this?

Monitoring Grant round:

Ariel reviewed proposed plan for 2027 round

TH reviewed the 2027 updated:

\$973,855 available for monitoring

Two types of monitoring: one you can get done in 1-3 years, or phased monitoring (long-term, no guarantee that it will continually be funded)

Strategic priorities: life stage bottlenecks (ex. survival of pre-spawners), limiting factors, and effectiveness monitoring (most of the focus will be on riparian and floodplain reconnection monitoring).

Request is between \$5k-300k. no match.

John A: asked about the one-time funding versus phased projects

Tracy H: clarified that both types are coming out of the same pot of money. The phased approach will just have a different scoring criteria. Even the phased projects must demonstrate that the phase applied for is a stand-alone, beneficial project.

Tracy H also asked about if we would like to open up scoring of monitoring proposals to MaDMC members as well (non RTT MaDMC members).

Tom K and Carlos P voiced support to open it up to MaDMC members who are interested in being involved, as long as that was acceptable by RCO/GSRO.

Action: Tracy H will reach out to members who are not present to confirm they do not have any issues with the decision.

Decision: All approved

Entiat Fish Kill:

Tom Desgroseillier presented on the fish kill event that occurred last month in the Entiat.

Also asks people to think about post-fire monitoring, and what we can do in our region in the future.

Aug 13-14, rainfall event over the active Little Giant Fire. This caused a substantial sediment pulse originating from silver creek and pope creek. Resulted in a mortality of a documented 107 adult summer Chinook, and others. Aug 15 is when first fish mortalities were reported at lower Entiat juvenile trap.

Limited in survey due to turbidity and bias towards larger fish. There were also limits to access due to fire.

Believe this was a discrete mortality event.

Potential impacts to juvenile chinook and steelhead: could see significant impacts to brood year 2025 spring chinook. Will take time to sort out how impactful this is.

Remain unresolved: cause of mortality

Option 1 = elevated sediment (impair respiration)

Option 2 = DO depletion (fire debris may increase oxygen demand and deplete oxygen availability)

Option 3 = other WQ changes (ash and fire-derived compounds, fire retardant, etc.) lots of unknowns here

Support for anoxic conditions: fish observed swimming on margins, gasping, heads out of water.

Possible lower mortality for juveniles.

Curtis et al. 2025 documented a comparable rain-on-fire event in the Klamath River Basin in 2022.

Substantial sediment and ash transport, 5.25 hrs of anoxic conditions, subsequent fish mortality.

Concern about impacts to bull trout, steelhead, and adult spring chinook – especially those up higher near where these pulses originated but weren't able to survey.

Entiat spring Chinook has a particularly high extinction risk (highest for all UC populations). All of the spawning and rearing occurs in the mainstem here, so it was all exposed to this sediment.

Monitoring opportunities here: continuous water q monitoring?

Questions:

TH: Has anyone looked at current restoration project areas?

- Tom D can say that yes there are some direct impacts, but will leave it up to sponsors to bring those projects forward.

Steve F: Are there places that fish may have been able to survive this pulse? And could restoration actions create refuges from this sort of event?

- Tom D – landowner reports that there were chinook fry dead in John Small Pond. No confirmed refuge areas other than the Mad River or other tribs that were running clean.

Anne Grote: asked about benthic organisms (macroinverts, lamprey, mussels)

- Certainly on the radar.

John A: Noted that fire has been happening in the Okanogan quite a bit as well. Have documented fish kills on Omak in the past, what they thought was directly from fire retardant. Would be interested in looking more into the effects of fire retardant on WQ. Wonders if we can separate retardant effects and sediment effects. Would love to continue this long-term monitoring discussion – status and trends monitoring.

- Have done some leg work on how we could test for retardants.

Tom K: Followup on John Small Pond – wonders if the mortality was related to overcrowding, or sediment? This is a spring fed pond, so seems odd if the mortality resulted from sediment.

- Unsure at this point – haven't visited the site or discussed with the landowner.

Tom D also shared some tracking of a wild adult spring chinook female in the little Wenatchee River. It looks like at least one spring chinook was able to pass the falls "barrier". Also found juveniles up there, so that area seems to be passable. (Forest road 65 meets 6701)

Scoring Criteria:

Meghan presented the proposed language to allow for more flexible reach rank scoring criteria. Multiple RTT members noted that they appreciated the flexibility this provides, but noted that keeping track of these changes and deciding how that may feedback into prioritization would be important to consider.

RTT members also noted we may want to clearly put the onus on the sponsor to present alternative data to be considered.

It was suggested that an "expert opinion" column could be added to our prioritization spreadsheet to fill in where expert opinion varies from prioritization scores.

To move things forward, Tracy, Ariel, and Meghan will work together on the language for this scoring criteria and share it with the RTT for edits and comments.

Next, Ariel presented new wording to codify how the RTT scores projects that span multiple Assessment Units and/or reaches.

The RTT agreed with the projects in multiple AUs language as presented:

- *Any project that spans multiple Assessment Units will be scored by the RTT as follows:*
 - *If the project spans 2 contiguous AUs, the RTT will take the higher tier of the contiguous areas.*
 - *If the project spans more than 2 AUs, or the AUs are not contiguous, then the RTT will average the tiers.*

The RTT proposed a slight update to the language for projects in multiple reaches.

Action items:

- Ariel/Meghan/Tracy draft of scoring criteria protection alternate pathway
- Ariel, Meghan, Tracy re-word the "projects in multiple reaches" scoring criteria wording to take the higher reach rank when reaches are contiguous.
- Ariel, Meghan, Tracy re-word the flexible reach scoring criteria