

Methow Restoration Council

August 19, 2014

Participants:

Name	Organization/Affiliation
Carmen Andonaegui	WDFW
Charlie Snow	WDFW
Chris Coffin	WA Department of Ecology
Chris Johnson	MSRF
Crystal Elliot-Perez	Trout Unlimited
Derek Van Marter	UCSRB
Don Phillips	Local Citizen
Heather Simmons	WA Department of Ecology
Jarred Johnson	Yakama Nation
Jenni Novak	WDFW
Jennifer Molesworth	Reclamation
Jeri Timm	WWP-TU
Jessica Goldberg	MSRF
John Crandall	MRC
John Sunderland	Methow Conservancy
Joy Juelson	UCSRB
Leslie Michel	Okanogan Conservation District
Kate Terrell (Phone)	USFWS
Lynda Hofmann	WDFW
George Schneider	Local Citizen
Sean Koester (Phone)	CCFEG
Susan Crampton	Local Citizen

Meeting Notes:

John Crandall—Monitoring Update: next week we will do sediment sampling in the Mainstem Methow; this will be the fourth year. The effort was implemented by Ecology to have a more robust framework for sediment sampling and also gives fine sediment sampling. It also complements the FS work on the Chewuch and Twisp; unfortunately, they have no funding this year for the first time in 12 years. We have help from the Ecology's Washington Conservation Corps crew; we will also be doing some sampling from Beaver Creek this year.

Jennifer Molesworth—it is really great that Ecology is funding that. You need continuous sampling to see any trends over time.

John—our lowest site is Silver, and it currently has the highest amount of fine sediment in the basin. Also next week we will do a lamprey survey. USFWS letting us use their lamprey electrofishing equipment. We will sample three sites in the Methow and three sites in the Chewuch; since 2003 we haven't found any lamprey in the Big Valley reach, but will be looking in the area below Weeman. It is not known why they aren't there; YN has a program to outplant adults from dams; also looking at rearing larval lamprey to outplant, but still not clear how the process works. There may be a significant hatchery program for lamprey coming to the Methow. Probably just the releases here, but I'm not sure. Chris Johnson—do you think the changing conditions at the mouths of the tributaries are improving lamprey habitat? Are you sampling for that?

John—not at this time. Lamprey are long-term residents, resilience of a population to a disturbance has a lot to do with how they come into the disturbance; challenges to the species/impairment will affect their response to the disturbance.

John—the riparian forest in beaver creek burned a lot; we have 7 or 8 temp loggers in Beaver Creek that we have had going for several years, a good longitudinal profile; we will likely leave them for a period, all appear to be functional; we expect Beaver Creek to get warmer. We also have flow monitoring in Beaver Creek. Ecology will also be installing flow monitors, one above irrigation potential, and one below irrigation potential.

Jennifer—Beaver Creek actually has a lot of water in it because the water is too gooey to irrigate.

John—we will continue with water quality monitoring and will get sediment sampling, temp monitoring, and we will also try to follow up on the USGS efforts on fish sampling from last year.

It has been a very low-flow year prior to the recent rain; expect it to go right back to that.

Joy Juelson—we have a mobile PIT tag array that you can borrow if you like

Charlie Snow—I think ours is still there, but it doesn't upload automatically, check with Charles.

John—we did lose a PIT tag array on Upper Beaver Creek.

Chris J—we also lost a camera; we insure a variety of equipment that we acquire through Ecology; but there is a lot of equipment that isn't insured. It would be nice to get a master list of equipment that maybe we could insure as a group

John—we will also be getting some post-burn vegetation monitoring, looking at different treatments; we will also look at Frazer Creek.

The AEM monitoring program from BPA has hit the ground in the Methow. They did the Twisp River Floodplain site last week – around a 600-meter reach. I don't know where else they are going; they had a lot of Yakama sites on their lists, they will do Silver this fall. Good stuff. We can work on getting the data.

Discussion – fires

Heather Simmons—did you have air temperature loggers?

John—we did at Upper Beaver

Jarred—also at Old Schoolhouse we had one that survived, but there were only hourly readings, so we could have missed the highest temperature

John Crandall—Outreach Update: Jennifer and I are looking for people to help with the display at the Interpretive Center. We are looking at what it would look like, costs, etc., some support from the Bureau, potential Ecology funding; a lot of good opportunity to do a long-term display on the watershed at the Interpretive Center.

Chris J—if we want to have interactive stuff, if you require technology, we can get that through the nonprofit source for equipment

John—we did Methow River Camp, which was going on during the week of the fire. We got the kids in the creek to look at fish, water quality, side channel vs. main stem habitats; it was pretty cool.

Joy—some of you have heard that there will be some outreach funds with lead entities; I will be meeting with Char Schumacher at Okanogan County. We will be developing a small grant program, and will make it a fair process. It is a small amount - \$25,000. Money will go through the board with collaboration with the county. Char and I are working on the details for proposal format, criteria. Lead Entity funds, anything that helps with salmon recovery or that helps get projects on the ground will score highest.

Chris Johnson—Beaver Project Update: [handout] the project is in its seventh year, and is a very active project. We had a lot of our grant funders call us to get information on how the fires affected the project. We are making adjustments, we did get up into some of the burned areas, and it was better than hoped.

Lynda Hofmann—has anyone been up Texas Creek?—you can see all the old beaver dams up there now. Pretty interesting.

Chris J—the Beaver Project is rolling forward, if there are situations that you think Kent/ the beaver project should be aware of, please contact us; we are looking for opportunities to expand the project. We did see areas where after the burn there were beaver chews.

Fire Damage Discussion

Chris J—next, would like to open up the discussion. A lot of groups have been doing outreach to the community, Okanogan Conservation District, Yakama Nation, Methow Conservancy. Methow Salmon has written a proposal to BPA to do a quick survey of different treatment methods from Balky Hill down to the Highway, including Frazer Creek.

Jennifer—the BAER team can probably provide this, the FS has done extensive work on what does and does not work, they do a lot less now.

Chris J—we are doing photo points, not meant to be a restoration guide, but rather a snapshot in time.

Leslie—we have a form that people can use if they are doing site visits, we will be talking about getting some groups together with different disciplines represented to go out and look at the sites, talk with the landowner. NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) is looking at immediate threats to life and property.

Chris J—will that information about where you are working be available?

Leslie—yes; we would like to improve coordination. We haven't done any site visits, would like to work with other agencies. BAER will be assessing burn intensity; we can use that information also

Jennifer—yesterday Craig Nelson sent out an email on how we can coordinate with the BAER, is this separate?

Leslie—they are all separate, but we will work together and get the same training; we will meet with the FS, the FS will do forest land and the rest of us will do the state and private.

Derek Van Marter—one of the things that is lacking is the specialists to help assess the private and state land

Leslie—hydrologists, engineers, geologists, cultural resources, biologists

Chris J—unless you work for an agency that will pay your way, very difficult for small non-profits to cover the labor

Leslie—may only be one day per week for a person to do the site visits; the BAER team would need to be a 10-day commitment. We have to do the BAER assessment first, and then we come up with the treatments. Some of it can be determined with site visits. Methow Conservancy, MSRF have been doing some site visits.

Chris J—we are focusing on getting resources in to deal with ag issues that are impacting riparian areas.

John Sunderland—the BAER process is assessing the need, the second thing is what prescriptions we are using, most is light and moderate burn severity, issues related to reclaiming fire lines, weed susceptibility, slope stability, the third thing is where we get the funds

Chris J—the fourth thing is how we avoid unnecessary agricultural impacts. If we can start merging this information, that would be helpful

John S—it is all going to OCD

Chris J—have also been putting together a list of infrastructure that were previously funded with public funds, they are putting together a legislative funding packet. If you know of others, get the information

to Craig Nelson to OCD and John Culp with the Conservation Commission, or send it to us and we will pass it along.

Leslie—a lot of pieces, and the BAER process will be a 10 day process, plus the site visits which are separate from the BAER team. If you can be on the BAER team, let Craig know.

Jeri Timm—we did a brief recon on Beaver Creek, most of the damage to pivots, etc. is electrical

Chris J—guidance from conservation commission is to look at the project, not the individual components.

Jennifer—also look at screens, pumps, etc. that are messed up from the goo

Discussion—sediment, sluicing, OCD still the clearinghouse for resources and information

Joy—is OCD expecting more resources to be available, how do we find the information?

Leslie—Kirsten at OCD is managing that

Chris J—would like to link through the MRC web page. Looking at whether anyone has any money to stockpile trees

Jarred—the Yakama Nation has the ability to stockpile trees; we prefer fir

Chris Coffic—keep asking for money, as things progress things keep opening up.

Chris J—if people find funding sources, let us know and we can get the information out through the MRC

Heather—the 2016 water quality funding cycle kicks off on September 11th in Ellensburg, likely at the university

Lynda—do need to remind people that if they need to work on their diversion on the creek side of the screen, remove trees, etc., they need a permit; if you are talking to people, it would be good to remind them. They can get an emergency permit.

Discussion—leaving trees in the river, moving them out of the main flow path to avoid people cutting them out

Chris J—once we take a tree that has fallen and move it, not sure what the liability is under the liability legislation.

Joy—there will be an implementation team meeting on September 9th in Chelan; it will focus on the fires in the upper Columbia subbasins, what has happened, what is happening now, and what we expect to happen in the future. Will also look at what is happening on the ground, what are the priorities and funding resources. We will be looking for local experts. We are hoping to get some forest ecologist, and a fire ecologist.

Jennifer—it would be nice if you could get an aquatic ecologist too.

Joy Juelson—Implementation Schedule Update/Work Session: we need to update the list every year, and we need to run it through the watershed action teams. [handout] active and proposed projects—need to make sure that your projects are in there, that the status is correct. If you could key in on projects that you are going to propose, that would also be helpful. We will be bringing it back in a month for the final review.

Joy—SRFB Process Update: our regional process is now complete. The list is done; we have two projects that are below the funding line. Everything above the line will likely get funded. Sent the list to the state and the state Review Panel will review all of the projects; they may ask for more information or label a project a “project of concern” (POC). We have two Citizen Advisory Committees, and they adopt a final list, which they did last week. This year, the biggest thing that happened was that this year the Okanogan citizens committee asked that the Barkley project reduce their ask. The joint committee reduced Barkley to \$723,000. The joint committee also moved Goat Creek up and Skinney Creek down. Any project under the line after the POC process is an alternate.

Chris J—when will the official notifications happen?

Joy—December. Also, the SRFB meeting will be at Sun Mountain on the 18th, with project tours on the 17th. They will be touring completed sites—Chewuch Canal, Hancock Springs, Winthrop Hatchery/Beavers, Twisp Ponds, and M2. (*UPDATE – the SRFB will tour Beaver Creek burned areas instead of Hancock Springs.*)

Derek—there will be a no-host bar at Sun Mountain on the evening of the 17th. We will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of UCSRB; will have a cake.

Roundtable

Jennifer Molesworth – Reclamation: Over the next three days, Reclamation and BPA will be touring sites, looking at existing project, future projects, and on Friday an interagency coordination meeting. We will be doing work on the Marracci and Fort Thurlow diversions this fall.

Jenni Novak—WDFW: irrigation shutdown is around the corner, and I will be up here helping with that. After this will be heading to Beaver Creek to assess the problems with the screens, have a priority list. I will be focusing on the people who need to be watering now.

Chris J—has George Hocksbergen contacted you about the Batie?

Jenni—no, but he may have been in contact with James.

Chris J— I talked to Ecology; the monitoring weir at Red Shirt has been removed; it is worth looking at. Has been posted no trespassing but the signs have no validity. The landowner of the property has been in contact me.

Jenni—the Goat Creek diversion will go to construction to move the screen closer to the point of diversion, will also move the fish bypass. As a result, will need to put a few boulders to extend the wing dam to divert water at low flows, v-notch for low flow passage. Still waiting on permits.

Charlie Snow—WDFW: we did lose our lower Methow PIT array during the fire—right above Miller Hole WDFW access above Pateros. Hope to have it reinstalled shortly. Working on spring Chinook surveys and getting access to areas.

Most of the areas affected by the fires is not in spring Chinook habitat; they were pretty well distributed before the fires. We did net-catch spring Chinook for broodstock before the fires.

John C—we need to get a better integration between the H's; this could potentially remove 1/5 of the broodstock of the Chewuch off of the spawning grounds. These are the fish that we are trying to create habitat for.

Charlie—that is an involved question, that activity is vetted through the hatchery management process

John C—it's complicated, of course

Charlie—the broodstock collection method does help us get a better genetic group from the hatcheries; process seemed to work well; the number of fish is pretty low. A way to get back to what a supplementation program should look like to improve the genetics. Only a few different holding pools in the Chewuch that you can target this way. Targeting wild fish.

Chris J—having the hatchery input to this group is very helpful; glad to not have physical passage collection barriers in the Chewuch.

Charlie—if you are going to have a hatchery program, it is best to do it with wild fish. Mitigation driven. Steelhead also has some harvest component.

Lynda—how do you set your targets for the number of fish you collect on the Chewuch?

Charlie—based on a back calculation from the number of smolts you want to produce.

Chris J—if the region wanted to argue that a river should be hatchery fish free, then that would be a much higher level conversation.

Charlie—don't know how you would do it, might be able to shift where the fish are placed, but can't let people off of their mitigation requirements.

Discussion—tied up in the FERC licensing, HCPs, makes it complicated

Charlie—in the future, some changes will be focused on controlling the adult returns rather than the smolts.

Jarred Johnson—Yakama Nation: Brandon is organizing a community bbq and potluck at Twispworks for September 6th, centered on trying to raise funds for people affected by the fires, will be bringing up a big BBQ trailer and bringing up fish from the lower river. Would like help with outreach, publicity, and also workers for the day. Room One, and the Cove are affiliated.

Chris J—talked with Tory and Amanda, and there is some confusion on the dates; would be nice to get as many groups as possible helping with the outreach.

Jarred—the purpose is a fire benefit.

Jeri—that is the county fair weekend

Discussion—dates, if we can get people organized that quickly

Jeri Timm—Trout Unlimited: MVID signed their contracts with DOE and TU last weeks; looking to get the project on the ground in late fall.

Leslie Michel—OCD: the natural resource technical team meeting this afternoon at 1:00 at the Grange.

Crystal Elliot—TU: I have been talking to the head of toxic cleanup at Ecology regarding the contaminated tailings falling into the Methow at the Red Shirt Mill site. Also working on addressing suction dredging here in Washington State, which is the last place with little regulation on that—it is basically a free for all. There have also been some statewide HPAs issued for high banking—basically vacuuming up the stream bank, and the permits are statewide so they can do it everywhere. They don't have to get permits or pay fees, under the gold and fish pamphlet.

John Crandall—I am excited to see the first SRFB funded bull trout specific project going in.

Chris J—MSRF: I want to acknowledge that Ecology has been flexible and open to responding to the fire on our existing grants; I really want to acknowledge that and show our appreciation.

Derek Van Marter—UCSRB: in the context of all H, we do have the comprehensive habitat report completed, will be releasing that at the SRFB meeting; Greer has already started on the hatchery report for the Upper Columbia. Working on improving the coordination between the H's; have seen a lot of changes in the hatchery world over the last 5 years. Stay tuned on those reports.

Sean Koester—CCFEG: regarding our Outreach and Education program, we are bringing the film "Dam Nation" to the Methow this fall, dates TBD. You can expect to see some posters coming up to educate the public.

Joy—someone hosted this in Leavenworth, and it was really well attended, an interesting mix of people were interested and attended.

Chris J—when the SRFB is here in September, we have talked about having a session on riparian plantings at the Twisp Ponds; would like to look at on the ground and talk about plant management.

Joy—when Marc gets back from vacation we can talk to him about that.

Chris J—it is the first time that RCO has had that grant category, and it would be good to have feedback.

Next Meeting October 21st

Definitions of Commonly used Acronyms	
AEM	Action Effectiveness Monitoring
ANS	Aquatic Nuisance Species
AREMP	Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program
BACI	Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type)
BEF	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
BO/BiOp	Biological Opinion
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee (for SRFB funding applications)
CAO	Critical Areas Ordinance
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (pronounced "cubfwah")
CCFEG	Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group
CCT	Colville Confederated Tribes
CHaMP	Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program
CMZ	Channel Migration Zone
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
CSF	Community Salmon Fund
EDT	Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCRPS	Federal Columbia River Power System
FFFP	Family Forest Fish Passage Program
FIA	Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS)
Four "H"s	The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HGMP	Hatchery Genetic Management Plan
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
HSRG	Hatchery Scientific Review Group
HWS	Habitat Work Schedule
IMW	Intensively Monitored Watershed
IS	Implementation Schedule
ISEMP	Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project
ISRP	Independent Scientific Review Panel
IT	Implementation Team
LW/LWD	Large Wood/Large Woody Debris
M2	Middle Methow (a project area defined as the reach between Winthrop and Twisp)
MaDMC	Monitoring and Data Management Committee (pronounced "madmac")
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRC	Methow Restoration Council
MSRF	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (pronounced "em-surf")
MVRD	Methow Valley Ranger District
MWC	Methow Watershed Council
MYAP	Multi-year Action Plan (also sometimes called the 3-year workplan)
NFF	National Forest Foundation
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPCC	Northwest Power and Conservation Council

OBMEP	Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program
OWL	Okanogan Wilderness League
PCSRF	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (pronounced "Pacsurf")
PIBO	PACFISH/INFISH* Biological Opinion
PNAMP	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
PUD	Public Utility District
QAQC	Quality Assurance, Quality Control
RA	Reach Assessment
RCO	(Washington State) Recreation and Conservation Office
REI	Reach-based Ecosystem Indicators (used in Reach Assessments)
RFEG	Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
RFP	Request for Proposals
RM	River Mile
RPA	Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s)
RTT	Regional Technical Team
SEPA	State Environmental Policy Act
SMP	Shoreline Management Plan
SOAL	State Owned Aquatic Lands
SOW	Statement of Work
SPIF	Specific Project Information Form (used with the Corps ESA programmatic)
SRFB	(Washington State) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (pronounced "surfboard")
SRP	State Review Panel (for SRFB funding applications)
STEM Database	Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center
UCSRB	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
TRT	Technical Recovery Team (NOAA)
USFS	US Forest Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VSP	Viable Salmonid Population
WAT	Watershed Action Team (the MRC is our WAT)
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WNFH	Winthrop National Fish Hatchery
WWP-TU	Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited
YN	Yakama Nation

*PACFISH/INFISH The PACFISH/INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) Effectiveness Monitoring Program was initiated in 1998 to provide a consistent framework for monitoring aquatic and riparian resources on most Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands within the Upper Columbia River Basin.