USBWP Upcoming Projects (2019-2021)

Todd Blythe – Project Planner June 6, 2019 Advisory Committee







Upcoming Projects

- 1) Lower Lemhi Reference Reach
- 2) Hayden Creek Hermits
- 3) Hawley-Eighteenmile Junction

- All three projects have BPA funds for engineering



Upper Salmon Basin watershed program

Upcoming Projects

- 1) Lower Lemhi Reference Reach Conserve Fish Habitat
- 2) Hayden Creek Hermits Create Fish Habitat
- 3) Hawley-Eighteenmile Junction Improve Water Quality

- All three projects have BPA funds for engineering



- Approximately 1 mile stretch of the Lemhi
- No major alterations to the channel
- No development in the floodplain
- "Natural" river behavior







Upper Salmon Basin watershed program



Upper Salmon Basin



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Homegrown, Common-Sense Conservation

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- Potential project that would:
 - 1) Conserve the good habitat that naturally exists in the Reference Reach
 - 2) Protect Private Property from further loss
 - 3) Create new habitat
 - 4) Still allow for dynamic river behavior





Upper Salmon Basin

Hayden Creek Chinook Salmon redds



- Largest trib to the Lemhi (~30-40% of flow)
- Listed as a priority in the Lemhi sub-basin by IRA
- Can account for nearly half of the total Chinook redds for an average year, but lacks rearing habitat
- Project goal to improve instream habitat and floodplain connectivity
- Land owner is cooperative
- Sponsor Trout Unlimited





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Hayden Creek Hermits Project Design

- Increase instream habitat heterogeneity and floodplain inundation using wood structures (mimic natural woody debris inputs).
- 15% design finished USBWP and Trout Unlimited



= 12" to 18" diameter logs (variable length of 4' to 6'; can be handled by two people)



Example of Complex Morphology (good habitat) on Hermits Property

Build up of large woody debris Active floodplain on both sides of channel High flow side channels Emergent gravel deposits Depth/velocity variations Good bank cover



- Good opportunity to improve habitat on a stretch of Hayden Creek with a willing land owner.
- Could be a test-piece for Hayden Creek that opens the door for future projects on more degraded reaches.



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Upper Salmon Basin watershed program Temperature Benefits from Hyporheic Exchange





Natural Gradient and Icing





- Design a more natural channel alignment that:
- 1) Improves sediment and thermal conditions
- 2) Benefits Carl Ellsworth's operation (no loss of irrigated land, reduce pivot crossings, aid with icing issues)
- 3) Can include riparian vegetation
- 4) Provides better habitat

