**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program**

**Advisory Committee Meeting Notes**

**Thursday, September 5, 2019 @ 1 p.m.**

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program – Salmon, Idaho**

**Present:** Daniel Bertram (USBWP), Abbie Gongloff (USBWP), Chris Gaughan (USBWP), Mike Demick (IDFG), Mike Overacker (NGO), Todd Blythe (USBWP), Vince Guyer (BLM), Harley Wallis (Pahsimeroi Landowner), Steve Stringham (Recreation), Karryl Krieger (SCNF), Bruce Mulkey (Lemhi Landowner), V. Don Olson (Lemhi Landowner), Mike Kossler (LSWCD), Jeff DiLuccia (IDFG), Rosana Rieth (NRCS), Justin Petty (Tech Team), Cindy Salo (Private Citizen), Joe Young (Rio ASE Engineer, via phone).

**Welcome and Introductions** – Justin Petty was introduced as the new Tech Team Chair

**June 6, 2019 Meeting Notes:** Approved meeting notes.

**Presentations:**

* Lemhi River Sub-reach 4 Phase One Project (Jeff DiLuccia and Joe Young)

When the flooding event occurred at river mile 9.6 on the Stokes Ranch, the Eagle Valley Ranch sub-reach 2 was the only connected project upstream. During the event there was a lot of energy in the main channel which poured over into the low elevations existing in the Stokes field. To work in this river mile 9.6 area the group needs to vet any project ideas though the County Commissioners. This is geomorphic reach 14 which has a lot of levees, rip rap, and a lack of riparian vegetation which has led to bank erosion and subsequent gravel deposition. The levees have disconnected the floodplain. The 2018 flood eroded 40 feet of bank and this material was deposited in a new gravel bar. The 2018 flood was a 2- to 5-year event which is not extraordinary. After the 2018 event the channel at the Stokes location widened and the velocity of the river slowed leading to more deposition. The Sub-Reach 4 Phase 1 project was completed this past year and it reestablished the washed-out levee but with large wood in the bank to provide some fish habitat. The group is looking for solutions and ideas from the Army Corp of Engineers, Lemhi County, State IDT, FEMA, and the landowners downstream. There will be a presentation to the County Commissioners October 28.

[Don Olson weighed in on the presentation and talked about a large cottonwood pinned under the Highway bridge in the 1984 flood which led to the County cutting many cottonwoods off the banks as a preventative measure and they built the levee road out onto the Stokes field. Don mentioned that he has photos from 1984 showing large driftwood scattered across the fields.]

**Old Business -** None

**New Business** - **ISDA Project Update –** The ISDA monitored the Lemhi River this summer, measuring pesticide levels at 6 locations. They did not detect any pesticides and will look at Carmen Creek and Pahsimeroi in 2020.

**Tech Team Update**

* The Tech Team toured the Panther Creek Restoration sites. The tribes are working with low-tech restoration methods to build fish habitat features instream. The tour then moved on to the North Fork Salmon River touring IDFG restoration projects. The restoration projects in the North Fork are generally small scale due to the number of driveway bridges, but as neighbors are seeing the benefits of increased fish numbers more are interested in allowing projects on private land. Round 22 PCSRF funding applications are to be discussed with Daniel by September 25 and due to Boise October 11.

**USBWP project updates**

* Eighteenmile Breshears – The new pivot was placed on site and the old pivot stops were moved. This led to a pivot collision and damage to the old pivot.
* Hayden Creek Hermits –USBWP and TU are moving forward with a design and planning to add wood structures to add heterogeneity to the system.
* Hayden Fence – A fence will be installed this fall to keep cattle out of a Salmon redd production area.
* Lemhi Beyeler – Moving forward with design. Methods will include planting riparian vegetation, browse exclusion, channel narrowing, island braiding, side channels, and BDA’s.
* Beyeler Canyon Creek – This project was ranked at the September Tech Team. A presentation was given on the goals and objectives which include removing 12 pivot crossings and 1 vehicle ford to reduce sedimentation, add riparian vegetation, and create sinuosity and habitat complexity instream. The project has been awarded IDEQ 319 grant funds and matching funds will be applied for this coming year.
* Playfair Irrigation and Highway 28 Culvert – This project is moving forward with the ACOE as the lead agency working under the Idaho Programmatic. The project was funded in June with leftover PCSRF funds and will remove a fish barrier and build an irrigation system which will leave more water in Little Sawmill Creek, and fence and plant willows on the lower end of Little Sawmill Creek to reestablish riparian habitat function.
* Wellard Irrigation – Moving forward with design and permitting on the irrigation system. Will meet with Don Olson to discuss implications to L-8a.
* Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) in Lemhi and Custer Counties – The last 11 of 30 BDA’s permitted were built this summer in Hawley Creek. USBWP is working with BLM and private landowners to find suitable locations for additional BDA’s in the future. Salmon Youth Employment Program was recently awarded funding from the Idaho sage-grouse action team for building BDA’s over the next two years.

**BLM update**

* No update

**SCNF update**

* The BA for diversions in the upper basin was submitted. The Panther Creek diversion BA is the next to be completed. The Forest Plan Revision is being reorganized but still moving forward.

**IDFG Update**

* Screen shop is busy, the fall deer and elk season forecast is good, there have been multiple bear control actions this summer, there is an increase in complaints about turkey depredations, the fish crews are doing redd surveys, the hatchery will meet brood stock, there has been a few pronghorn poaching cases, and a poached Salmon case in Panther Creek.

**Harley Wallis**

* No update

**NRCS**

* Submitted a special projects application for the Lemhi Habitat Projects, $250,000/year for the next two years.

**LSWCD**

* The protest hearing on Leadore water rights was a long two days of testimony. A deposition is due out September 27 from the AG’s office.

**UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon**

* No update.

**Non-agency fish and wildlife interest**

* The Big Springs confluence project has completed the instream work.

**Recreation**

* Expecting low Steelhead returns.

**Adjourn**

***The next Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2019.***

**Commonly used Acronyms:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 25/35 | Minimum flows required at L-6 |
| ACEP | Agricultural Conservation Easement Program |
| AEM | Action Effectiveness Monitoring |
| AFS | American Fisheries Society |
| ANS | Aquatic Nuisance Species |
| AREMP | Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program |
| BA | Biological Assessment |
| BACI | Before, After, Control, Impact (study design type) |
| BEF | Bonneville Environmental Foundation |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| BMS | Beaver Mimicry Structure |
| BO/BiOp | Biological Opinion |
| BPA | Bonneville Power Administration |
| CHaMP | Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program |
| CMZ | Channel Migration Zone |
| CREP | Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program |
| CRSO | Columbia River System Operations |
| CSWCD | Custer Soil and Water Conservation District |
| CWT | Coded Wire Tags |
| DEQ | Idaho Department of Environmental Quality |
| DPS | Distinct Population Segment  |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| ELJ | Engineered Log Jam |
| EQIP | Environmental Quality Incentives Program |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ESU | Evolutionarily Significant Unit |
| FCRPS | Federal Columbia River Power System |
| FIA | Forest Inventory and Analysis program (USFS) |
| FLPMA | Federal Land Policy and Management Act |
| Four “H”s | The four factors affecting salmon recovery: Hatchery, Hydro, Habitat, Harvest |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| GM | Geometric Mean |
| HACCP | Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point |
| HGMP | Hatchery Genetic Management Plan |
| HPA | Hydraulic Project Approval |
| HSRG | Hatchery Scientific Review Group |
| IDFG | Idaho Department of Fish and Game |
| IDWR | Idaho Department of Water Resources |
| IMW | Intensively Monitored Watershed |
| IS | Implementation Schedule |
| ISEMP | Integrated Status and Effectiveness Monitoring Project |
| ISRP | Independent Scientific Review Panel |
| IT | Implementation Team |
| L-x | L- "fill in the blank" refers to any Lemhi River Diversion e.g. L-63 |
| IWRB | Idaho Water Resource Board |
| LRBM | Lemhi River Basin Model (Mike Basin Model for the Lemhi) |
| LRLT | Lemhi Regional Land Trust |
| LSWCD | Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District |
| LW/LWD | Large Wood/Large Woody Debris |
| MOA | Memorandum of Agreement |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MPG | Major Population Group |
| NFF | National Forest Foundation |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NPCC | Northwest Power and Conservation Council |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| OSC | Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation |
| P-x | P- "fill in the blank" refers to any Pahsimeroi River Diversion e.g. P-16 |
| PCSRF | Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund  |
| PHABSIM | Physical Habitat Simulation |
| PIBO | PACFISH/INFISH\* Biological Opinion |
| PIT Tag | Passive Integrated Transponder Tag |
| PNAMP | Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership |
| QAQC | Quality Assurance, Quality Control |
| QRF | Quantile Regression Forests |
| RA | Reach Assessment |
| RFP | Request for Proposals |
| RM | River Mile |
| RM&E | Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| RPA | Reasonable and Prudent Alternative(s) |
| S-x | S- "fill in the blank" refers to any Salmon River Diversion e.g. S-22 |
| SBT | Shoshone-Bannock Tribes |
| SNRA | Sawtooth National Recreation Area |
| SOW | Statement of Work |
| STEM Database | Status, Trend and Effectiveness Monitoring database at NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center |
| TA | Tributary Assessment |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| TRM&E | Tributary Research, Monitoring and Evaluation |
| TRT | Technical Recovery Team (NOAA) |
| TT | USBWP Technical Team |
| TU | Trout Unlimited |
| USACE | United States Army Corps of Engineers |
| USBR | Bureau of Reclamation |
| USBWP | Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| USFS | US Forest Service |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| USGS | US Geological Survey |
| VSP | Viable Salmonid Population |
| WAC | USBWP Advisory Committee |
| WAG | DEQ Watershed Advisory Group |
| WRP | Wetland Reserve Program |
| \*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.  |