



Technical Team Notes
Wednesday, 02/01/2023, 9:00 AM
Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Conference Room and
IDFG – 600 S. Walnut St. Boise, Id

□ **Facilitator:** Jessica Buelow **Note Taker:** Justin Saydell

□ **Introductions**

□ **Approval of November Meeting Notes** – January meeting notes were approved.

Agenda Updates

Windy gave a summary of the recent icing issues in the Lemhi. She described the effort that folks at IDFG have done to help out landowners, including filling sandbags, working with the sheriff's department to mobilize and coordinate equipment. More information will follow. Windy showed some aerial photos of the flooding.

□ **New Business:**

Justin Saydell from USBWP has been working with IDWR and the Corps to pin down dates for a site visit. We have scheduled April 6th (Pahsimeroi) and April 7th (Lemhi) for the site visits. Please get Justin sites that you want to show the regulatory agencies for 2023 construction season by February 10th. Logistics and an agenda will be sent out to the group at a later date.

□ **Presentation:**

- John Powell from IDFG gave a presentation on Pinniped Predation of salmon in the Columbia River. There are two types of pinnipeds in the Columbia River: California sea lions and Steller sea lions (the bigger of the two). Both can live 20-30 years. The population declined prior to the marine Mammal Protection Act. After the act was passed, increases of 7% annual growth occurred until the population reached carrying capacity (California sea lions). In 2018, NOAA approved lethal control of pinnipeds. Bonneville Dam is a popular foraging site all year for sea lions. The dam has seen a 6.5% recruitment increase from the estuary. Haul out counts have dramatically increased since 2013 largely due to smelt runs into the estuary. Increased sea lion abundance is associated with increased non-harvest losses of Chinook.

In 2008 NOAA authorized the removal of California sea lions with specific conditions (no more than 92 annually and only after individuals were trapped and made identifiable, after 5 observed days at the dam, observed eating salmon, and subject to non-lethal hazing first. Peak salmonids consumed occurred between 2015-2017. The proportion of California sea lion to Stellar sea lions consuming salmon with Stellar sea lions now consuming more.

The endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act passed in 2018 which modified section 120 of the marine mammal protection act allowing for tribal co-management, improved efficiency, and the removal of criteria for lethal removal.

Recent studies have suggested that of the 245 California sea lions removed since 2008, 54,657 salmon have been saved.

“Problem” sea lion individuals are known to recruit others perpetuating the problem. The focus has been on reducing recruitment through a collaborative approach in order to reduce problem sea lions.

- RivHab gave a presentation on the use of Thermal Imagery in Project Design. USBWP flew their drone with the infrared camera on the West Fork of Little Bear Creek. Imagery has the ability to identify cool water areas, such as pools and seeps for summer thermal refugia. The analysis was done on a large cobble system. The camera output was a thermal index color spectrum. The UAV also captured LiDAR. The software to process the information is only getting better and will help with both processing

and flight times in the future.

❑ **Old Business:**

- ❑ PCSRF (Gongloff) – For PCSRF round 26, OSC will be asking for \$20 million up \$6 million from the round 25 ask.
- ❑ Wood Procurement – The Forest Service is planning an internal meeting to discuss future opportunities in operations on wildlife fires, forest thinning, etc. to make wood available to project sponsors.
- ❑ Advisory Committee Update – Advisory Committee last met in December 2022 and received presentations on the Lower Lemhi Habitat Availability and Utilization and Lemhi River fish monitoring at restoration sites. The next meeting is planned for March 1, 2023.
- ❑ Bonneville Power Administration (Leitzinger) – BPA has a Cooperative Agreement with project sponsors. Award letters have been drafted.

❑ **Review Team Updates:**

- ❑ Yankee Fork (Cassi Wood) - Had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. Notes from that meeting will be sent out soon. There is another meeting planned for February 23rd in Challis in the CSWCD office. The Pahsimeroi Subcommittee meeting will follow.
- ❑ Upper Salmon (Cassi Wood) – Still trying to get a meeting established that works for a representative with the SNRA. After Sharon retired, the group needs to find someone else who will be attending these meetings from the SNRA.

❑ **Project Updates:**

BLM

- ❑ Cottonwood Bank Stabilization – Have a contractor on board and will start work the 3rd week of July

CSWCD (Bragg)

- ❑ Diamond D Hydro – headgate is ready to install.
- ❑ Road Creek Culvert Replacement – planting will occur in the spring.
- ❑ Muddy Springs – project is ready to be implemented, just waiting for the new BPA contract.
- ❑ Pole Creek Habitat – moving forward on engineering.

FS (Schade)

- ❑ Panther Creek Habitat Restoration – the Tribe is pulling together design on Panther Creek.
- ❑ Moyer Creek Bridge – bridge installation will occur this year.
- ❑ SQ Culvert to Bridge – fully funded construction in 2024, surveying will occur in March.

IDFG (Buelow)

- ❑ North Fork Instream Habitat Complexity
 - Habitat Assessment – project is moving forward.
 - Working with Jeanne on the Ty Cole property. Working on a funding plan.
- ❑ Pahsimeroi River Restoration
 - Last Chance Upper Pahsimeroi Phase – had field visits with BOR last week and working towards 80%
 - Page BDA – Phase 3, working on permitting.
 - Upper Patterson-Big Springs – Whitworth – working towards 80% with field visits scheduled
 - Lower Duck – planting will occur in the spring with strategic fencing
 - AOP grant was submitted for Tower Creek culvert. A ranking is expected in March.

IDFG (DiLuccia)

- ❑ SR1- Phase 3 – construction has started
- ❑ SR1- Phase 4 – currently in design
- ❑ Beyeler Pump Station – working on a solution to fix the pump station.

IDFG (Screen Shop)

- ❑ Final numbers on flow agreements are coming in.
- ❑ The shop is gearing up for the new season.

IDWR (McCutcheon)

- ❑ Groundwater Surface Water Interactions in the Lemhi Basin – Currently working on data valuation for stream flow. Need to monitor well connections. The model has been going slow due to the consultant doing work abroad.

LSWCD (Gaughan)

- Vegetation Mgt. – working on the contracting for 2023 weeding and seeding
- Lemhi mainstem above Hayden – construction of phase 1 is currently underway
- L45 Diversion and Habitat Improvement – current at 30% design
- Kenny Creek – currently at 30% design
- 2 RFPs out for Bar 20 and Ball Springs projects.

TU (Green)

- Hayden Creek Hermits BLM Habitat Improvement – TU has budgeted some adaptive management funds in case some of the project accidentally ends up in the upper diversion. Will fund the removal of wood from the wood loading areas.
- LR32 Habitat Rehabilitation – currently in 80% design.
- There is a new TU position open for a project manager if there is any interest.

TU (Wood)

- Bonanza City Stream Rehabilitation – pulled a time-lapse camera for a period in Nov. During the Nov. cold snap, a small section of the reach lost surface connection due to icing. Jim Gregory has made a informative video that was sent out in Daniel's last email to the Tech Team.
- Bar G Farms Culvert Replacement – Currently ordering materials. The aluminum culvert complies with the Made in America Act. Aluminum is lighter than galvanized steel so it is cheaper to install.

Plan for Next Meeting: The next Tech Team meeting will be March 1st at 9:00 a.m. at the USBWP in Salmon.