



Technical Team Notes
Wednesday, 02/14/2024, 9:00 AM
Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Conference Room

- Facilitator:** Graham Freeman
- Introductions**
- Approval of December notes - Approved.**
- Guests:** Tulley Mackey

- New Business:**

- Proposal Ranking:**
 - Elk Meadows Habitat Improvement (Wood) – Cassi provided a presentation on a proposed trail reroute and low-tech restoration project in the Elk Meadows area within the SNRA. The trail reroute would open up approximately 4.8 miles of trail while decommissioning 2.8 miles of single track, multi-use trail on the Idaho Centennial Trail. The new trail would reroute around the north side of the meadow, instead of through the meadow, where users are damaging the meadow, trying to find the trail. Historically, the meadow was grazed by predominantly sheep and then cattle until 1993, when grazing was disallowed in the meadow complex. The historical grazing has caused geomorphic and hydrologic degradation to the meadow complex. However, since the removal of grazing, the meadow complex has been on a slow recovery that has been documented by Mark Multon and others. Beavers have a strong presence in the meadow complex and the dams provide a source of local grade control. However, some high and dry areas still remain (island complex) and there is a lack of instream habitat. The proposal includes the thinning of lodgepole pine within the historic meadow to reduce encroachment, while using that timber to provide instream habitat and BDAs. Fish data is sparse, but the available data suggests steelhead and chinook juvenile presence in the meadow complex. However, species diversity is dominated by brook trout in the upper reaches. A question was raised regarding establishing BDAs and the concern of attracting brook trout. But since brook trout are already present and dominant, there is less of a concern of a takeover. Project proponents include: TU, Idaho Parks and Rec, USBWP. IDPR is planning to provide funding and labor to reroute the trail. Currently, a proposed action was submitted to the SNRA for review and approval. Project will likely commence in 2026. Ranking for the project was adjusted based on TT discussion to provide a score of 73 (high priority).

- Old Business:**
 - PCSRF (Gongloff) – The last of the PCSRF contracts are out to sponsors for the current round. OSC is currently working on the application for the next round of NOAA funding and will be asking for \$22 million with the expectation that Idaho will be getting around \$9 million. Abbie will send out progress report requests for the new term, but doesn't expect a lot to report, since contracts just came out.
 - Advisory Committee Update (Salada) – next meeting is March 6th, 2024.

- Announcements:**

- Review Team Updates:**
 - Lemhi Projects (vacant) – still looking to identify a new chair for the Lemhi subcommittee. Seems logical to wait until IDFG has their new hires working in the basin. However, anyone can be a chair, not just project sponsors
 - North Fork Salmon (Jessica Buelow) - no updates
 - Pahsimeroi (Stacey Meyer) - no updates
 - Easements (Justin Petty)
 - Yankee Fork (Cassi Wood) - meeting scheduled for next week. Will be held in Fort Hall and by teleconference.
 - Upper Salmon (Cassi Wood) – Cassi sent out a Doodle Poll for the next meeting and is waiting for responses from members.

- Project Updates:**

Project Spotlight – This is a new effort in order to dive deeper into the projects. Initially we will be looking for volunteers to showcase a project and then transition into a rotating commitment after the summer break. During the next TT meeting in April, we will have two presentations, one from John Loffredo regarding the Idaho Water Transactions Program and another from Zachary Salada on the IRA funding for the BLM.

- Hawley Creek BDA Effectiveness Monitoring (Tulley Mackey) – Tulley provided a presentation on the effectiveness monitoring of the Hawley Creek BDAs. Tulley is doing this work as part of his graduate studies. The assessment tools utilized as part of this study could be modified/utilized to do similar types of monitoring on other low-tech restoration projects. Project site is on Hawley Creek, near the headwaters of the Lemhi River. The project area travels approximately 9 km through an alluvial fan and is composed primarily of a pool riffle geomorphology. Water was diverted for Ag purposes for over 100-years and largely returned back into the historic channel in 2005. In 2015, ditches were converted to pipes, and flood to sprinkler irrigation with a substantial water savings that would allow perennial flow and estimated 8 out of 10 years. BDA project objectives included increasing watershed connectivity via duration and frequency, improve aquatic and riparian habitat, and enhance water quality downstream. The study hypothesis was the BDA treatments improve aquatic habitat for ESA listed species. The study also quantifies changes in aquatic habitat using a novel approach. The monitoring data was collected from the DASH surveys and IDFG fish sampling data. The DASH surveys collected data on parameters deemed important to salmonids. BDAs were installed in 2017-2021 to enable hydrologic and geomorphic complexity. Tulley's work looked at a variety of parameters to assess change within the system as compared to reaches in Hawley with no BDAs. Drone imagery in conjunction with georeferenced ground control points were used to make comparisons on the ground, over time using change detection algorithms. The study found habitat/wetted area changes over time as well as higher species density in the treated reaches. The study found that BDAs create slow water habitat important for juvenile rearing (bioenergetics), sediment fall out i.e. aggradation and improved water quality downstream. BDA pools were used at a higher percentage of fish habitat relative to availability by multiple fish species.

BLM

- Short Creek BDA's – continuing to monitor and may do some additional installations/maintenance of existing this upcoming year.

CSWCD (Bragg)

- Warm Springs Culvert – ongoing with landowner
- Pole Creek Habitat – Phase I design complete and HIP is complete, cultural letters pending, 404 permit in progress. Phase II design at 60%
- P12 Source Switch Hays – No funding available with closure of Pahsimeroi contract – test well with BOR successful. Transfer pending. We seek funding options if feasible.
- Road Creek Culvert – design in progress
- Farr Fence – 80% fence material on the ground. Construction starting.
- Knapp Creek Project – Will begin engineer selection once contract is in place.
- Morgan Creek Fence – Pending EQIP funding.

FS (Schade)

- Panther Creek Habitat Restoration – no update
- Moyer Creek Bridge – no update
- SQ Culvert to Bridge – Bridge has been ordered.

IDFG (Buelow)

- Cole Instream Habitat – continuing to work on design and a path forward with landowner
- River Valley Ranch – have a concept design and in discussion with landowners about a phased approach.
- Page BDA – completed in the fall as part of a three-year installation. Will be looking at doing maintenance work this upcoming field season.
- Upper Patterson-Big Springs – Whitworth – will be going back on to the site this spring to do some riparian planting. Reseeding was done this winter.
- Last Chance Ranch – Upper Pahsimeroi Phase – project was completed in the summer followed by subsequent planting and strategic riparian fencing.
- IDL – BDA's completed in the fall as part of a three-year installation. Will be looking at doing maintenance work this upcoming field season.
- Kinnikinic Culvert and Poison Creek Culvert to Bridge – commenced RFQ process to hire a

consultant. Selected consultant is Quadrant.

- Last Chance Ranch – Phase II – at 30% design. Looking to do some staging and off-channel digging this year, with in-water work planned for 2025.
- Tower Creek Culvert to Bridge – Working with the transportation department on the AOP. Likely targeting 2026 for construction.

IDFG (Belnap)

- LLR Phase 1 adaptive management – site did experience some icing this winter, but no flooding incidents were reported. Continuing to work on the adaptive management phase of the project.
- LLR SR1- Phase 3 (PCSRF 009 21 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24) – moving on construction
- LLR SR1- Phase 4 (PCSRF 008 22 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24) – moving on construction
- Henry Reach – on hold until a new project manager can shepherd the project through implementation
- Stokes Pump Station – Daniel didn't know where this project was currently.
- Beyeler Pump Station – the ball is in Merrill's court to purchase the pump and get the right equipment installed.
- Lemhi Hayden Phase 1 and 2 (PCSRF 006 20 SA; PCSRF 007 21 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)

IDFG (Screen Shop)

- L20, 44, 45A, 51, 58B
- LWC-03
- SNF-03
- LBTC-03
 - All screen shop projects are in the works and being designed by Jared Bragg.

IWRB (Loffredo)

- U.S.F.S permanent rental transaction - instream rentals for Alturas Lake Creek and Salmon River abv EFSR have been finalized. The Valley Creek rental is still pending. Three USFS water rights were not included in the final rental for Salmon River abv EFSR due to incidental irrigation or permittee issues on the places of use. Solutions will be discussed at the next Upper Salmon Subcommittee meeting.
- Hat Creek water right acquisition (BPA IDWRWT-24)
- L6 - John will send out doodle pool to project stakeholders for a Subcommittee meeting regarding the L6 replacement project. Since we last met in December, USBR Boise staff and IWRB staff have assessed internal capacity for assisting in a feasibility study of various repair and replacement options and OSC has sought assistance from ACOE in walla walla.

IDWR (McCutcheon)

- Groundwater Surface Water Interactions in the Lemhi Basin (PCSRF 005 22 SA) – no update

LRLT (Williams)

- Snyder Easement – MOU was reviewed internally by LRLT staff. It was then sent to BPA for their review.
- Tonsmeire Easement (PCSRF 014 19 SA; 022 23 SA) – no update

LSWCD (Fisher)

- Vegetation Mgt. – Justin is currently working with the district to finalize the RFP to hire a contractor for the 2024 season.
- L45 Diversion and Habitat Improvement – no update
- Lemhi River and Kenny Creek Jackson Project – no update
- Ball Springs – waiting for landowner approval to move forward.

TNC (Petty)

- Peterson Ranch – appraisal was just completed. TNC currently looking through the appraisal document to before approaching the landowner.
- Peterson Ranch Acquisition – should be closed in the next week.
- Hanging T Ranch – met with the landowners and currently having Rio work on a restoration plan for projects to utilize as match for the easement this coming year.

TU (Stewart)

- LR32 Habitat Rehabilitation – off-channel work was mostly completed. There were a few log structures that weren't installed because the contractor ran out of wood. But the plan is to finish up this year after the ground has thawed and connect the new channel network.

TU (Wood)

- Bonanza City Stream Rehabilitation (PCSRF 018 19 SA) – no update

- ❑ Bar G Farms Culvert Replacement (BPA USB013-23) – no update
- ❑ Bar-G Muddy Springs Habitat Improvement (PCSRF 012 23 SA; BPA USB014-23 & USB010-24) – no update

Plan for Next Meeting: The next Tech Team meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 9am in the USBWP conference room.

Attendance

Name	Organization
Katie Berasi	LRLT
Daniel Bertram	OSC
Ryan Blackadar	USFWS
Karma Bragg	CSWCD
Hannah Branz	BLM
Jessica Buelow	IDFG
Chad Fealko	NMFS
Graham Freeman	OSC
Kat Gillies-Rector	IDFG
Abbie Gongloff	OSC
Andy Gregory	TU
Brian Hamilton	BOR
Chris Herr	USFWS
Lizzie Jossie	USFS
Paige Kimble	BLM
Tulley Mackey	MHE
Heidi Messner	LRLT
Alen Mosley	BLM
Kim Murphy	NMFS
Stacey Meyer	IDFG
James Paris	USFS - SNRA
Justin Petty	TNC
Zachary Salada	BLM
Justin Saydell	OSC
Joe Stewart	TU
Charli Williams	LRLT
Cassi Wood	TU
Hunter Distad	IDFG