



**Technical Team Agenda**  
**Wednesday, 04/03/2024, 9:00 AM**  
**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Conference Room**

<https://idahogov.webex.com/idahogov/j.php?MTID=m8af4dd0c29033835a5f36967893b4722>

Join by phone 1-415-655-0001

Access code: 2462 120 8226

- **Facilitator:** Abbie Gongloff
- **Introductions**
- **Approval of March notes**
- **Agenda Updates**
- **Guests:**
  
- **Presentation:**
  - Inventory of aquatic organism passage in BLM priority watersheds (Dan Dauwalter – TU)
    - Inventory road-stream crossings in priority watersheds.
      - 2022 – 3 HUC 10's given to each field office
      - 2023
        - Built out from 2022 surveys
        - Resurveyed 2004 Millenium Inventory
        - Resurveyed Twin Falls District
      - Identify target crossings within HUC 10's
        - Overlaid roads with native trout layers
        - Identify low water crossings using imagery.
        - Inventory w/ field crews
          - ERSI Field Maps (Arc Online)
          - <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=b6f98c0058f5431891341c10108df356&extent=-117.9455,42.6141,-109.8321,45.0777>
          - Following Southeastern Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP) Protocols
            - <https://aquaticbarriers.org/>
            - Entered into Survey 123 app
          - Has the ability to track progress within the field app.
        - Passability Score
          - SARP Score: 0 to 1 (Blocked – Passable)
            - Each Variable scored separately
              - Openness
              - Height
              - Outlet drop
            - Variable weighted
            - Scores
              - No barrier: 1.0
              - Insignificant barrier: 0.80 – 0.99
              - Minor barrier: 0.60 – 0.79
              - Moderate Barrier: 0.40 – 0.59
              - Significant barrier: 0.20 – 0.39
              - Severe barrier: 0.00 – 0.19
      - Across 2022 and 2023 were able to survey 931 crossings.
      - During 2023 revisited sites done by Millenium consulting in 2004 to address how far into the future are road-stream crossing surveys relevant.
        - Revisited 84 culverts
        - Followed previous protocol, more of a stoplight chart (Green, Grey, Red).
        - Preliminary results
          - Red surveys in 2004 primarily stayed red
            - With a few that moved to green or a bridge
          - Grey surveys in 2004
            - 1/5 surveys got worse

- Green surveys in 2004
  - Primarily stayed green
  - 2/8 had a worse rating in 2023
- Of the 84 revisits 20-25 changed over time
- Bridges are clear fixes
- Follow up site that changed from Red-Green address what changed.
- Training available following SARP Protocols at the Joint AFS meeting 4/29/24.
  - Half day in classroom/ half in the field
  - Limited seats available
- Science based framework for assessing AOP at the watershed scale.
  - SARP AOP tool updated quarterly.
  - Small watershed: expert based -----Large region: Data driven.

□ **New Business:**

- Gaging needs within the Upper Salmon Basin (McCutcheon, Bertram)
  - IDWR currently has roughly 50 gages in the Upper Salmon basin.
    - These gages help with water rights, water transactions program, and salmonid recovery.
  - Variety of portal options
    - IDWR Streamflow portal
      - Accessible for all to capture daily streamflow.
      - Data typically finalized over winter.
    - HDR Engineering (Subcontractor for IDWR)
      - This data is typically uploaded to IDWR site.
    - USGS – Salmon River basin
  - Future Directions
    - Reestablish a gage at North Fork Salmon River near HWY 93 bridge.
      - This gage would aid in minimum streamflow monitoring, and guiding IDFG Screw trap operations.
      - Potential for new water transactions
    - Alturas Lake Creek Gage
      - Help water transactions program to administer water rentals.
      - Important to keep water users and BPA up to date.
    - Salmon River below Sawtooth Weir above Redfish Lake Creek
      - Would help aid hatchery weir operations.
      - Get in touch with IDFG hatchery staff on location, above or below or potentially both.
    - Lemhi Below Canyon Creek
      - Would be used for cumulative upper Lemhi runoff gage.
      - Could simplify minimum streamflow monitoring.
      - Potential to swap Canyon minimum streamflow to upper Lemhi minimum streamflow above Big Timber Creek.
      - Moving forward to get this gage in place.
    - Removal of Hawley, Canyon, and/or Eighteen Mile gages
      - Hawley Creek/ Eighteen Mile
        - Upper Hawley gage site gets primary use.
        - May not have a need for all 3 gages on Hawley Creek.
          - Could likely do away with Lower Hawley and Eighteen Mile gage sites.
      - Canyon Creek
        - Lower gage site is contracted out and has telemetry capabilities
          - Could be a potential cost savings to remove and proceed with just the upper Canyon gage.
    - Get in touch with all partners on putting together a list of potential sites for telemetry.
    - Bohannon Creek
      - New landowners making access to gage sites difficult.
        - Upper Bohannon gage site is used for runoff and could potentially be relocated to Upper Agency or Pratt Creek.
        - The Lower Bohannon gage site used to monitor water transactions and can't be moved.
          - Coordinate with OSC/IDFG on working on better access.

- Permitting Workshop (Saydell, Bertram)

- With partners request to better understand the permitting process, OSC is working with regulatory agencies to schedule a workshop. Tentatively June 12<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 5pm at the IDFG Regional office. If you have any specific question email Justin Saydell
  - CB Fish Workshop (Saydell, Bertram)
    - With all the new faces in the basin, Amy Hines is providing a workshop/showcase going over workflow within CBFish to all partners. Taking place in teams 4/4/24 @ 10am.
  
- **Proposal Ranking:**
  
- **Old Business:**
  - PCSRF (Gongloff)
    - If you have not submitted progress reports. Get them submitted ASAP.
  - Advisory Committee Update (Salada)
    - Met 3/6/24 @ IDFG Regional office, where Greg Schoby gave a presentation on the Chinook/Steelhead forecasts on how IDFG develops these forecasts. Matt Belnap also presented on the Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation project and touched on icing in the Lemhi River basin. Next Meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm @ USBWP
  - Bonneville Power Administration (Leitzinger)
    - Upcoming CBFish training provided by BPA May 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>. (2–3-hour training)
  
- **Announcements:**
  - AFS 4/29-5/3
    - Taking place in Spokane, WA.
    - Joint Meeting with ID, WA, and B.C.
    - Early registration available till April 5<sup>th</sup>.
    - A variety of workshops are available to sign up for and attend for those that are interested.
  - Ryan Banks (Daniel Bertram’s counterpart in Moscow, Idaho) – On board for Clearwater Tech Team campout. Will plan for early/mid August – more details to come.
  
- **Review Team Updates:**
  - Lemhi Projects (Kat Gillies-Rector) – Met March 13. Discussions centered on several topics: relocation of the Hayden Creek Screw Trap to new IDFG property, with considerations for design and historical preservation; irrigation conversion from flood to sprinkler systems at Spiro & Hayden Creek, addressing water rights, fish screens, and habitat concerns; updates on L6 Committee's efforts for weirs repair/replacement, including potential funding sources; changes in gauge data links; concerns about water distribution and channel management in the Thor Project area; proposals regarding L-63 ditch reactivation and Canyon Creek Minimum Stream Flow adjustments; Karl Tyler Irrigation's plans for partial pivot installation and associated environmental impacts; and ongoing assessments and risk management discussions regarding icing issues in project designs, with considerations for future protocols and analyses.
  - North Fork Salmon (Jessica Buelow):no updates
  - Pahsimeroi (Stacey Meyer): discussed scheduling an upcoming meeting soon, as more items have come to the table.
  - Easements (Justin Petty): Get in touch with Justin Petty on a field tour taking place 4/24. Vetting more projects to present at tech team.
  - Yankee Fork (Cassi Wood): Meeting 4/24 1pm-4pm in Challis.
  - Upper Salmon (John Loffredo): Met 3/19. In 2023, presentations on the Sawtooth Hatchery Project highlighted a complex effort to address infrastructure and habitat issues upstream of the hatchery intake weir, involving negotiation of a master agreement between BOR and TU, and BOR and OSC for future project development. Concerns were raised by IDFG hatchery staff about potential risks to hatchery infrastructure from projects upstream, including anchor ice in winter months and large woody debris during high water. The next steps involve identifying project sponsors and funding sources for improving fish weir and habitat issues, with ongoing involvement of key

stakeholders including tribal representatives and federal agencies. Similarly, the USFS's Stage-Zero working group discussed potential projects in SNRA's geography, emphasizing the need for coordinated guidance and proposals from USBWP and other project sponsors or interest groups (TU/NOAA/IDFG). TU's Elk Meadows project plans for trail re-routing

and highway culvert-to-bridge design are underway, with upcoming meetings scheduled with the SNRA. Additionally, updates on permanent water rental agreements, diversion easements, and habitat restoration projects were discussed, along with plans for a summer field tour and a fall meeting to address ongoing issues.

□ **Project Updates:**

**Project Spotlight**

- Yankee Fork Bonanza (Wood)
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svvvbLioUQ0&t=2s>
  - Historic dredge mining removed a majority of finer sediments that were provided.
  - Project completed in 2019, to address mine tailings left behind. To address river sinuosity, habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity.
    - Drought year in 2020, resulting in the channel going dry post completion.
    - Combined with loss of surface flow due to lack of sealing, adaptive management was needed.
    - Adaptive management included adding gravel to leaking (unsealed) channel segments.
    - Adding these gravels allows for finer sediments to gather and fill in over time to maintain flow.
    - Extensive flow monitoring 2020-2023 to determine the effectiveness of channel sealing efforts.
    - Surface flows in 2023 remained uninterrupted and it has been determined that further adaptive management is not needed at this time.
    - Photo point monitoring being done by the Forest service, and flow monitoring will continue this year.

**BLM**

- Furey Lane – No Updates
- Short Creek BDA's – No Updates

**CSWCD (Bragg)**

- Warm Springs Culvert (PCSRF 020 23 SA)
  - Delay in working with landowner due to unavoidable personal issues.
- Pole Creek Habitat
  - Phase 1 ready for July implementation
- Road Creek Culvert (PCSRF 019 23 SA)
  - Working through BPA design comments.
- Farr Fence (PCSRF 011 23 SA)
  - Currently under construction
- Knapp Creek Project (PCSRF 010 23 SA)
  - In the process of securing engineering.
- Morgan Creek Fence
  - In limbo at the moment until EQIP Funds are determined.

**FS (Schade)**

- Panther Creek Habitat Restoration
  -
- Moyer Creek Bridge
  - Install in the start of the work window.
- SQ Culvert to Bridge (PCSRF 007 23 SA; BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
  - Hung up on bridge fabrication.

**IDFG (Buelow)**

- Cole Instream Habitat (PCSRF 014 23 SA; BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
- River Valley Ranch (BPA USB012-23)
  - RIO/BOR 30% design complete.

- Page BDA (BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
  - CAN REMOVE Completed Last Fall
- Upper Patterson-Big Springs – Whitworth (PCSRF 006 21 SA; BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
  - IDFG doing revegetation in May.
- Last Chance Ranch – Upper Pahsimeroi Phase (PCSRF 020 22 SA; BPA USB012-23)
  - BOR adaptive management is set to occur summer 2024, with access for Phase 2 being included.
- IDL – BDA's (BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
  - CAN REMOVE Completed Last Fall
- Kinnikinic Culvert to Bridge (PCSRF 019 22 SC; 005 23 SA; BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
- Poison Creek Culvert to Bridge (PCSRF 019 22 SC; 005 23 SA; BPA USB012-23 & USB009-24)
- Last Chance Ranch – Phase 2 (PCSRF 013 23 SA; BPA USB009-24)
  - Working with BOR on the design.
- Tower Creek Culvert to Bridge (BPA USB009-24)
  - Hung up on contracts with OSC and IDT.

**IDFG (Heller) – Absent/No Updates**

- LLR Phase 1 adaptive management (PCSRF 021 23 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)
- LLR SR1- Phase 3 (PCSRF 009 21 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)
- LLR SR1- Phase 4 (PCSRF 008 22 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)
- Henry Reach (PCSRF 007 21 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)
- Stokes Pump Station
- Beyeler Pump Station
- Lemhi Hayden Phase 1 and 2 (PCSRF 006 20 SA; PCSRF 007 21 SA; BPA USB001-23 & USB001-24)

**IDFG (Screen Shop) – Absent /No Updates**

- L20, 44, 45A, 51, 58B
- LWC-03
- SNF-03
- LBTC-03

**IWRB (Loffredo)**

- U.S.F.S permanent rental transaction
  - 3 rentals finalized.
  - 2 completed awaiting finalization.
- Hat Creek water right acquisition (BPA IDWRWT-24)
  - Moving forward, likely closing in September.
  - Increased due diligence for sponsors to keep BPA up to date.
- L6
  - District to propose feasibility study with BOR set to complete study.
  - Carry over soil moisture has reduced irrigation demand so far this spring, reducing the need for water buyback to meet minimum streamflow for now.

**IDWR (McCutcheon)**

- Groundwater Surface Water Interactions in the Lemhi Basin (PCSRF 005 22 SA)
  - Gearing up for field work.
  - Water quality evaluation in April for the Lemhi.
  - Working on modeling the change from flood to sprinkler irrigation for Karl Tyler.

**LRLT (Williams)**

- Snyder Easement (ACQ001-23)
  - Perpetua Resources is working with RIO & handling the permitting to develop 30% design for restoration work.
- Tonsmeire Easement (PCSRF 014 19 SA; 022 23 SA)
  - Met with Dan in February.
  - On track to close out in 2024.

**LSWCD (Fisher)**

- Vegetation Mgt. USBWP (BPA USB002-23 & USB002-24)
  - RFP for weed spray was sent out with a deadline of 4/16/24.
- L45 Diversion and Habitat Improvement (PCSRF 011 22 SA; BPA USB005-23 & USB004-24)
  - Concept design awaiting OSC review
- Lemhi River and Kenny Creek Jackson Project (PCSRF 011 22 SA; BPA USB009-23 & USB003-24)

- No updates
- ☐ Ball Springs (PCSRF 011 22 SA; BPA USB006-23 & USB005-24)
  - No Updates
- ☐ Bar 20
  - Landowner Meeting taking place May 8<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm @ Lemhi Grange Hall

**TNC (Petty)**

- ☐ Peterson Ranch (PCSRF 012 20 SA)
- ☐ Hanging T Ranch (PCSRF 006 22 SA)

**TU (Stewart)**

- ☐ LR32 Habitat Rehabilitation (PCSRF 004 21 SA; BPA USB001-23)
  - Construction is taking place this summer.
  - Reseeding last year's construction.

**TU (Wood)**

- ☐ Bonanza City Stream Rehabilitation (PCSRF 018 19 SA)
  - Can Remove
- ☐ Bar G Farms Culvert Replacement (BPA USB013-23)
  - Wrapped up, proceeding with fencing and seeding.
- ☐ Bar-G Muddy Springs Habitat Improvement (PCSRF 012 23 SA; BPA USB014-23 & USB010-24)
  - No update on design.

**Plan for Next Meeting:** The next Tech Team meeting is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the USBWP conference room.