

**Technical Team Agenda**  
**Wednesday, 08/30/2023, 9:00 AM**  
**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Conference Room**

- **Facilitator:** Abbie Gongloff **Note Taker:** Heidi Messner
- **Introductions:** Daniel took roll call.
  - **Approval of June Meeting Notes:** There was not a meeting held in June, no notes. (Great catch, Brian Hamilton.)
  - **New Business:**
    - **Draft BPA budgets, waiting on finalized budgets.**
    - **October: get estimated asks for PCSRF, make internal decisions.**
    - **Chris G. Get re-seeding lists to Justin/Chris and polygons for Sharaya.**
    - **Breann: tour on Big Timber details.**
  - **Proposal Ranking:**
    - Hat Creek Acquisition (Loffredo):
      - Since 2004, all/portion of three water rights have been leased into the water supply bank and rented for instream flow to the mouth of Hat Creek.
      - 68 irrigated acres have idled, 2.51 cfs instream for up to 6 river miles. Renewed rental helps meet monthly min. flows.
      - 20 years of water right rentals
      - 5 Steelhead redds, 2-3 adults holding; 2021 plume surveys showing juvenile Chinook salmon. Minimum stream flow ~16 cfs this time of year. No irrigation at mouth, not meeting minimum stream flow even with minimal consumptive use.
      - IDFG Fish Observations (2003, 2021 and 2022): Resident bull trout, steelhead spawning/rearing observations, and Chinook rearing observations.
      - The Storlie-Kaisers are planning on selling the property soon (240-acre property). Resumption of use is extremely high, easy to access from deer gulch access site, potential to develop an airstrip here, opportunities to turn this into a permanent transaction. Jon acquired an appraisal of \$1.5 million (June 2023).
        - Three senior irrigation water rights are valued at \$530,000 or 33% of total value.
        - \$211,155 per cfs.
      - Proposed to CNWTP for NPCC review in Aug 2023.
        - \$124k match from Accord Water Transaction Fund and \$55k match from IWRB for permanent rental fees.
      - If BPA will not pay for it outright, will need to make up for the remaining ask through PCSRF R26.
      - Interested in conservation easement also (LRLT)- funding fell through a few years ago. Owners came back in the last two months.
      - 16 cfs min. stream flow- not enough water rights in hat creek to meet this. 2.5 cfs helps meet this.
      - Based on early 2000 stream stat modelling. Last multiple years with no one pulling water from Hat, not meeting stream flow. No watermaster delivering flow there now.
      - LWCF funding, county-maintained road. Because this is a county access point, it is possible to use this.
      - LRLT will help with this. (The landowners called recently and want to pursue due diligence funding.)
      - Discussion over the fish passage barrier (rock fall), keeping spawning fish out of property.
        - (This is in the canyon section, long rock fields, significant slide.)
      - Anadromous in lower section. PCSRF may not support this on upper section.
      - Paper water rights, 4.5 cfs lower Hat Creek that water user can divert. Diversion closed and then Cerise opened it 3 years ago.
      - Project was ranked: total project score 63 (High Ranking), Priority 1
      - Summary:
        - The basin needs to preserve Hat Creek for its cold water refugia.
        - Core area for all life stages, could even benefit sockeye, and Hat Creek provides

thermal habitats.

- L-3A Diversion (Loffredo/Gaughan/Justin)-Seeking a Letter of Support for design only. Going through PCSRF.
  - Ditch capacity is 30 cfs, 10 cfs is typically diverted for conveyance.
  - Streamflow maintenance right for 30cfs was filed in April 2023.
  - Irrigation returns flow into the L-6 ditch, supplementing junior water users, or enters the Lemhi River via relic spring channels, providing off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.
  - L-3A water user (Dan French) is the senior water user on L-6 and L-7. Improvements made at L-3A would foster relationships for more subordination water at L-6.
  - In 2004, the diversion structure was put in place by BOR.
    - Headgate structure has stayed in place, but everything else has washed out due to high water flow events over the years.
  - The current push up dam is a temporary gravel dam and requires a lot of maintenance and fine sediment deposition into the Lemhi River.
    - The sluice pipe is plugged and inoperable due to the undersized pipe.
    - The diversion takes up a large portion of the Lemhi flow. The flow and clog are causing erosion issues to the wing dam.
    - The landowner has been trying to maintain the gravel push up dam with an excavator (3-5 times a year).
  - Bank erosion concern.
    - Mostly asking to fix the diversion.
    - Met with Jared Brag (IDFG), brief conversation.
    - Would like to install and new sluice? Leading up to the headgate (reduces erosion)
      - Short term fix. (~15 years)
      - Daniel: have discussion over putting new pipe in and have funding to have engineer firm to design best structure for this project.
      - The Olsons have a TNC easement on the left side of the river.
    - In kind: Jon will try to get 25-30% cost from Frenches to give water free of charge (would not fly for PCSRF if it's not money directly contributed to the project)
    - The French's were also willing to provide in kind match (rock/supplies) for this L-3A project.
    - Group consensus: need to discuss this topic more (can come back to TT in November).
      - Go after feasibility funds, priority 3.
      - Regarding PCSRF funds: Does this fit in the correct box?
      - TT group decided to hold off until October or November TT to pursue a letter of support on this.
- L-6 Analysis and Design (Loffredo/Gaughan):
  - Water users and water master on Lemhi River started to express interest to IDWR board that the diversion is on its last legs. Lots of maintenance is being absorbed by the water district.
  - There is fear that the structure may reach its lifespan soon. The Water resource board, with OSC, has found Chris G. as a sponsor. This will be the first step of a multi-year, multi-phase project and elimination of L-6.
  - Brief overview of lower Lemhi reach and diversion structures from L-8 to L-3
  - L-6 is the critical pinch point in the Lemhi River.
  - The Lemhi was dewatered in 2000, prompting ESA enforcement.
  - These diversions were built by BOR starting when salmon were listed in 92.
  - Issues:
    - L-6 is difficult to maintain and adjust seasonally and acts as a fish passage barrier at certain flows.
    - Concern that the diversion structure is not working appropriately when the minimum stream flows are called.
  - Opportunities:
    - Water users on L-6 appear receptive to exploring more efficient and easier-to-manage alternatives to the current structure, including transferring the L-6 POD to L-7.
    - Some senior water users expressed interest in discussing subordinating some of their senior water to the L-6 MSF to increase instream flows as part of the aging infrastructure efforts on L-3A and L-6 diversions.
  - Issues to consider with a consolidation of L-6 or replace. If elevations are correct, eliminate

- diversion.
    - Currently measure water at L-5.
    - Chris: plans/proposals. This is a big issue that needs thought concerning water right holders in L-6 and L-7.
      - Proposing 2 subcontracts with hiring a trusted local mediator to conduct meetings and communicate findings with the design firm.
      - With all public comments, advertise and hold up to 10 meetings (~1/month) to develop an acceptable plan.
      - Water users and agency folks. The design firm will come up with concept after meetings.
        - 15% after meeting 3, 30% design after meeting 6, feasibility report after meeting 8, etc. The design and report will need to address fish passage at all water levels, water user concerns, agency concerns, and be practical to build given constraints.
      - Aim for 2025 build. Feasibility report. Meetings will stall, so having a report will be beneficial. Have everyone on board (public, agencies, design firm, etc.)
      - Address issues of all fish life stages and all water levels, water user concerns, etc.
      - Talk with John L, Justin S, Chris G, Paddy (keep all involved)
      - Opportunity of fish data collection on Lemhi, water user involvement and agency involvement.
      - Letter of support with L-6 and L-7 water users.
        - Implied that there will be a series of landowner meetings and have voices heard.
        - Paddy M. concerns: Keep BOR involved in this design. The district doesn't want to "own" design.
          - How to control this without causing a fish barrier. Be careful of expectations and signing off on this. Long process, we need BOR to sit here and design/have input. (They were involved in the beginning, and we need to keep them in it.)
          - Ownership: construction contracts, water users need to hold ownership over the contract, skin in the game. BOR, think about temporary agreement that established responsibility to make sure benchmarks are made in this process.
          - It will never look appealing to fish people. Lots of concrete needs to divert a lot of water.
          - If we don't address this, L-6 is pinched with Highway 28, multiple landowners are connected to this diversion, and any big water event could put the structure at risk.
        - Historically a source switch to main salmon? (Chris?)- not a dead issue, should be revisited (Breann) Look at this for the S-13/14 diversion, take all L-6 users off around the horn. Leads to more issues:
          - Increases complexity of this project.
          - This will delay the project by years. Very complicated with lots of users (flood and pivot users.)
        - Increase POD if we illuminate L-6, by moving up to L-7. Or leave both and just rebuild L-6. (Lots to discuss)
        - Budget includes getting it to 30%
        - IIJA grants can go out to 4-5 years and don't need match.
        - BIL opportunities
        - No ranking process yet.
        - PCSRF funding?
        - TT in favor of giving a letter of support.
- L-3A0 flood to pivot (Stewart/Justin):
  - Lower Lemhi Reference reach habitat project area
  - Project planners have been working with the Cockrel's (converting from flood to pivot).
  - Trying to separate this out. From flood to pivot has been cost prohibitive.
  - Would like to convert from flood to pivot on L9 ditch and do a source switch down to L-3A0. Need one mile of three phase power installed.
  - As part of this project, want to install power, put a pivot on in a portion of the flooded pasture on the river side of old Lemhi Road (~13 acres).
    - The reason this came to light (working with this landowner for 10 years, DB), as

LLRR project was being developed, one hope would be to move the L-3AO diversion upstream. The landowners were on board except upstream owners. Put a stop to it then.

- Transfer from L-9 to L-3AO
  - About 1.1-mile-long conversion to power.
  - Bigger picture is working with Cockrel's, realigning the diversion, give Cockrel's an opportunity down the road to convert from flood to sprinkler. If support from the TT group down the road, could assist with this conversation.
- Farr Fence Salmon River (Karma Bragg):
- Island is owned by Farr's - were interested in going into an easement. Could be a long-term opportunity (working with Rosana).
  - Want to install jack post and pole fence.
  - Wildlife friendly fence, landowners are willing to do construction themselves. CSWCD would purchase.
  - Improve habitat by fencing the river.
  - Would like to address erosion on banks, interested in a conservation easement. Fund/apply for water improvements (Rosana)
  - 12-mile reach. Erosion has been happening from icing events and higher water. Could be a good project – similar to the Deer Gulch bank project.
  - Side channels are increasing in cfs.
  - Pasture management plan - light grazing/minimal use.
  - Set back more than 35' on bank.
  - Farr is an outfitter (fishing), interested in easement.
  - Warm springs on property.
  - Ranking 8500 of jack post and pole fence along with a stock water.
    - CSWCD doesn't want to take on larger scale bank stabilization/easement.
  - Hot springs will be turned into a state park=more subdivision out there, so this project is another step in the right direction for land conservation.
  - Ranking: Total project score of 51 (medium ranking); SHIPUSS 20 (Priority 1)
- Breann: Easement projects, letter of support from TT, application for LRLT to apply for tier 3 funds for new positions to get more projects down the road. Breann is going to PCSRF for this.
- DB: other grant opportunities available.
  - Needing money for staffing
  - Would fund a third of a person's position.
  - Funds are specific only for PCSRF projects. (Highest priority areas and reaches.)-easement opportunities.
  - LRST does not solicit. Tie this back to the best source for the \$\$ (Chad)
  - Support a Letter of Support.
- **Old Business:**
- PCSRF (Gongloff) see presentation:
    - Progress reports due the 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - Round 26 and next application period.
    - State got \$9 million in funds for FY 23.
    - \$7.7 million in Priority 1 (on ground projects)
    - \$900k in Priority 2 (large scale monitoring)
    - \$90k in Priority 3
    - In October, should have more updates.
    - PCSRF meetings will be November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.
    - Made a change in language after NOAA feedback.
    - Tiered match
      - Cannot bundle projects (overmatch and undermatch, that would go in the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier)
      - Design bundles are fine.
  - Additional application support
    - Handy FAQ's documentation, if interested, we can provide you with the presentation.
- **Announcements:**
- CBWTP Field Tour September 26<sup>th</sup> (Lemhi) and 27<sup>th</sup> (Pahsimeroi): Get more details from John L.
  - John L.: first field tour since before COVID- coming to USB. The tour is starting at L-6, waiting for permission on EVR.

- Go up to Hayden Confluence area.
  - Inviting TU and others...
- Lemhi- Beyeler Pump Station to discuss projects.
- Pahsimeroi Day- mouth of Hat Creek, site access.
- John sent out email reminders. Get more information from John.
- IDWRB Sept meeting in Salmon, work session Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>, general discussion on panther, L6, others, can and want to attend 8-1pm sac center.
- OR, WA, MT, implementors (TU, Deschutes River Cons., DEQ- WA, 30-40 practitioners and NWPC member as well, IDWR attendees as well.
- Managing water transactions in the basin.
- Breann: Tour Big Timber, wants to get to Carey Act Dam, day after next TT on oct 5, leave at 8:30, go up big timber which is a good PCSRF opp. Next year.
  - Tentatively head up leaving at 8:30 oct 5th go up to Big Timber
- **Review Team Updates:**
  - No updates due to running out of time and leaving for the TT campout at Boundary Creek, more to come next TT.

**Plan for Next Meeting:** The next Tech Team meeting is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the USBWP.