

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022 @ 1:30 p.m.
USBWP Conference Room**

Agenda

Attendees: Daniel Bertram, Mike Edmonson, Rosana Reith, Ken Gebhardt, Mike Overacker, Graham Freeman, John Lofredo, Justin Petty, Brian Drake, Bruce Mulkey, Jen Smith, Jeff DiLuccia, Stacey Meyer, Kat Giles-Rector, Chad Fealko, Justin Saydell, Heidi Messner, Matt Belnap, Abbie Gongloff, Matt Green, Joe Stewart, Ryan McCutcheon, Karma Bragg, Cassi Wood, Bob Minton, Chris Gaughan, Curtis Beyeler, Bryce Oldemeyer.

Agenda Modifications: None

Approval of Meeting Notes: Notes from the May 4, 2022 meeting were approved.

Old Business: None

New Business

- NRCS Program Updates (Rosana Reith)
 - Presentation on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs and Services.
 - NRCS works with landowners to address natural resource concerns on both private and federally managed lands.
 - Oversight for NRCS activities is provided by the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Lemhi and Custer SWCD's).
 - Local Working Group:
 - Local conservation is based on the principle that community stakeholders are suited to ID/resolve local natural resource problems.
 - ID priority resource concerns for the upcoming year.
 - EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)
 - Voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production while improving environmental quality.
 - Offers financial/technical assistance to help participants install structural practices/implement practices on agricultural land.
 - Targeted to address specific resource issues (sage grouse, cheatgrass, Joint Chiefs' Initiative, energy conservation, EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts)
 - Application deadline- October 7, 2022, typically due in April.
 - CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)
 - Applications are evaluated on existing practices and activities that will be implemented during the life of the agreement.
 - Agreements are for 5 years—payments are made annually.
 - Annual payments are based on existing conservation practices and planned future practices.
 - Application deadline is in January.
 - ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)
 - Helps farmers/ranchers keep their land in agriculture.
 - NRCS provides financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing Ag Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.
 - CTA (Conservation Technical Assistance)
 - Non-cost program
 - Technical assistance and information in provided to landowners.
 - Food Security Act (1985)
 - Requires producers participating in most programs administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to abide by certain conditions on any land owned or farmed that is highly erodible or that is considered a wetland.
 - To maintain eligibility, participants must also certify that they have not produced crops on converted wetlands after December 23, 1985, and did not convert a wetland after November 28, 1990, to make agricultural production possible.

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Presentations

- Web application for fish movements/ Henry's Reach Fish Movement (Bryce Oldemeyer-Mount Hood Environmental)
 - Henry's Reach Fish Movement:
 - Interested in the proportion of juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead that use side-channels, entrances of side-channels, and the residence times for fish that enter side channels.
 - Installed Litz-cord antennas on the Henry's Reach restoration project on the Lemhi River.
 - Talked about developing an application to visualize fish movement through the Henry's Reach complex.
 - Downstream Rearing (DSR) and Natal Reach Rearing (NRR) Juvenile Emigration Strategy Comparison:
 - Two dominant juvenile migration strategies exhibited by Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon.
 - DSR (Downstream Rearing)
 - Leave Lemhi River as sub yearlings
 - June-December
 - Rear downriver (presumably in Salmon River) before migrating to the ocean (smolt phase)
 - NRR (Natal Reach Rearing)
 - Leave Lemhi River as yearlings
 - March-June
 - Migrate straight to ocean
 - Both DSR and NRR life histories are important, could use more data to get a migration timing and growth/condition.
 - Environmental conditions impact NRR/DSR decisions.
- Lemhi Effectiveness Monitoring (Stacey Meyer—IDFG)
 - Goal is to support implementation of biologically beneficial habitat actions in the Lemhi sub-basin.
 - Measure fish response to habitat actions (tributary and reach scale).
 - Guide habitat implementation (adaptive management).
 - Monitor and evaluate through:
 - Spawning ground surveys (#'s of adult fish)
 - Electrofishing surveys (juvenile fish abundance/distribution)
 - Rotary screw traps (juvenile migrant abundance/productivity)
 - Bull trout weirs (fluvial distribution)
 - Snorkel surveys (presence/absence/distribution)
 - PIT-tag arrays (distribution/survival)
 - 31 tributaries in the Lemhi sub-basin.
 - By creating suitable habitat, fish will have the opportunity to overwinter in the Lemhi River basin.
 - Suitable habitat is needed for all life stages (cold water tributaries, floodplains, off-channel/complex habitat.)
 - Continuous monitoring to establish where restoration is needed and what types of habitat are needed.

Tech Team Update

Petty

- Campout (August 31-September 1), Stanley, ID
- Ranked Projects (SQ Creek, Last Chance Pahsimeroi, Patterson Big Springs, Kinnikinic, Poison Creek and Warm Springs Culvert)
- Mid-Pahsimeroi Planning Effort
- L6 discussion

USBWP Project Updates

- L45, Kenny Creek

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Advisory Committee Membership Update

- Bureau of Land Management
- Governor's Office of Species Conservation
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Landowner – East Fork
- Landowners – Lemhi
- Landowner - Pahsimeroi
- Lemhi County Commissioner
- Lemhi SWCD
- Non-agency fish and wildlife interest
- NRCS
- Recreation
- UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon
- U.S. Forest Service

Price
Edmondson
Murphy
Baker
V.D. Olson / Mulkey
Wallis
Madsen
Beyeler
Overacker
Rieth
Stringham
Williams
Schade

Vacant Positions

Shoshone – Bannock Tribe
Custer County Commissioner
Landowner – Main Salmon

Next Meeting

- October 5th at 1:30pm

Mulkey

Public Comment
Adjourn