

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 5th, 2024 @ 1:00-3:00  
Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Conference Room**

**Agenda**

Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Mulkey, Chair

Agenda Modifications

Approval of December Meeting Notes

Presentation

- NPCC Council update and the FWL program amendment process – Windy Schoby
- Council Overview
  - Authorized by congress through the Northwest Power Act in 1980
  - Governors of ID, MT, OR, and WA appoint two members to the council
  - The Act requires the interstate Council to develop regional power plan and Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife program
- Responsibilities under the Northwest Power Act of 1980
  - Develop and periodically amend a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydroelectric facilities in the Columbia River Basin while assuring the Pacific Northwest and adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply
  - Develop a conservation and generation power plan to add low-cost electrical energy resources and continue to assure the Pacific Northwest and adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply
  - Inform and involve the public
- The Story of WPPSS
  - Overestimated load forecasting led to proposal to build 5 nuclear power plants
  - Massive cost overruns resulted in only 1 plant ever being built
  - Financial disaster led to one of the largest bond failures in US history + Bonneville debt service payments that remain today
  - Congress decided an independent agency should forecast load and recommend resources+ fish and wildlife for mitigation for hydropower
- Power Planning
  - Develop, via extensive public process, a Power Plan to ensure an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply for the Pacific Northwest
  - Components include load forecasting and analysis of available generating resources and conservation measures
  - Review and revise the Power Plan every 5 years
  - Current plan is the 2021 Northwest Power Plan. Will begin the review of the Power Plan next year
- Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program
  - Develop via extensive public process – a program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydropower system in the Columbia River Basin
    - All hydropower, not only federal
    - All fish and wildlife impacted by hydropower; salmon and steelhead have special significance
  - Updated every 5 years, based primarily on recommendations from state and federal fish and wildlife agencies, tribes, and others
  - Program includes on-site (flow, passage) and off-site (habitat restoration, artificial production) measures
  - Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process is completed first and becomes an element of the Power Plan
  - Directs approximately \$275 million/year in direct funding of BPA Fish and Wildlife Program
  - Additionally, BPA has foregone revenue from hydropower operations for fish passage
- Why is it important
  - Blocked 4,600 stream miles, or about 31% of previously accessible habitat for anadromous fish
  - Altered sediment and nutrient transport
  - Inundated habitat

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- Impacted food web
- A retrospective of the councils fish and wildlife program represents a 40-year effort to protect mitigate, and enhance fish, wildlife and habitat affected by the hydrosystem in Columbia Basin
- It is one of the largest fish and wildlife mitigation efforts in the world
- Amendment Process
  - Call for amendment recommendations
  - Call for public comment on the recommendations
  - Review the recommendations and comments; prepare draft amendments
  - Seek public review and comment, hold hearings and consultations on draft amendments
  - Develop and adopt final amendment
  - Develop and adopt findings and response to recommendations
  - Roughly 2 years to implement amendments
- Current Program: 2014 + 2020 Addendum
  - Measures grouped into 23 strategies and 59 subbasin plan management plans
  - Goals and objectives reviewed and revised in 2020 Addendum
  - Program Strategies
    - Ecosystem Function
      - Habitat
      - Non-native and invasive species
      - Water quality
      - Predator management
    - Artificial Production
    - Other Strategies
      - Wild fish
      - Use of hatcheries for reintroduction
      - Anadromous fish mitigation in blocked areas
  - Examples on the Ground
    - Asset Management
      - Program identified “Long-term maintenance of the assests that have been created by prior program investments” as highest emerging need
      - Asset Management Strategic plan was developed with BPA to address non-recurring maintenance needs for hatcheries, fish screens, and mitigation lands to ensure longevity and integrity of past investments
      - Inventories and facility assessments identified non-recurring investment needs for hatchers and fish screens
      - FY22 RDC allocated \$25 million to hatcheries
      - FY23 RDC will allocate \$19 million to fish screen programs
    - Invasive Species
      - 2014 program added measures to monitor, prevent, control, remove, and eradicate non-native and invasive species with emphasis on zebra and quagga messules
      - Council worked with USACE to fund additional detection stations
      - Facilitated early detection of quagga mussels and rapid response plan on Snake River in 2023

USBWP Project Updates

- Recap from the Tech Team meetings – Zachary Salada/Jessica Buelow
  - December Meeting
    - 3 Presentations to Acquire Letters of Support for PCSRF
      - Funding Request to continue research on Grandparentage testing of steelhead
        - Presented by Matthew Campbell (IDFG)
      - Funding Request to continue flow monitoring in the Lemhi and Pahsimeroi drainages for 2 years
        - Presented by Ryan McCutcheon (IDWR)
      - Funding Request to continue research and monitoring in the Lemhi Basin
        - Presented by Bryce Oldemeyer
        - Partnership with IDFG and Biomark

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- PCSRF Round 27 Presentations and Awards
  - 18 Upper Salmon Basin Projects received PCSRF Funding
- Project Spotlight
  - Custer Soil and Water Conservation District
    - Tasks included
      - Improved POD
      - Water Savings
      - Barrier Removal
      - Improved Riparian Corridor
      - Instream Restoration
    - Retain 18 cfs in Pole Creek
    - Better flow in Mainstem Salmon for 17 miles to hatchery
- January Meeting
  - Presentation
    - Northwest Power and Conservation Council 101 (Windy Schoby)
      - An explanation of what NPCC does and the amendment process
  - Project Spotlight
    - Salmon Challis National Forest (Kelly Schade)
      - A project spotlight of restoration projects on Panther Creek, along with Shoshone Bannock Tribe
- February Meeting
  - Presentation
    - Upper Snake River Quagga Mussel 2024 Response (Jeremy Varley)
      - Actions taken on the snake River in order to prevent the spread of Quagga mussels by Twin Falls
  - Project Spotlight
    - IDFG Screen Shop Fisheries Monitoring (Kat Giles-Rector)
      - An overview of fish monitoring in the Salmon Basin and the Fish Screen Monitoring Program
- USBWP Project Updates

Old Business

New Business

- Lemhi History Report – Jude Love
  - Lemhi History Report is complete, if you would like a copy the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed has copies for you if you would like a copy

Advisory Committee Membership

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Bureau of Land Management                 | Guyer               |
| • Governor's Office of Species Conservation | Freeman/Edmondson   |
| • Idaho Department of Fish and Game         | Murphy              |
| • Landowner – East Fork                     | Baker               |
| • Landowners – Lemhi                        | V.D. Olson / Mulkey |
| • Landowner - Pahsimeroi                    | Wallis              |
| • Lemhi County Commissioner                 | Caywood             |
| • Lemhi SWCD                                | Kauer               |
| • Non-agency fish and wildlife interest     | C. Williams         |
| • NRCS                                      | Chapman             |
| • Recreation                                | Stringham           |
| • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes                   | Snapp               |
| • UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon         | S. Williams         |
| • U.S. Forest Service                       | Gebhardt            |

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Vacant Positions

Custer County Commissioner  
Landowner – Main Salmon

Next Meeting- Scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM at the USBWP Conference Room

Adjourn