

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 @ 1:30-3:30
Salmon Elks Lodge #1620 (901 Lombard St. Salmon Id.)**

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Mulkey, Chair

Daniel Bertram, John Loffredo, Gavin Aguilar, Megan Heller, Hunter Distad, Matt Belnap, Courtne Ghere, Ryan Hilton, Brian Drake, Jessica Buelow, Heidi Messner, Jeff Fealko

Agenda Modifications

Approval of March Meeting Notes

Presentation

- Yankee Fork – Joe Snapp
 - Egg boxes (2023)
 - Outplanted 146,456 eggs into 40 boxes in Yankee Fork Salmon River in 2023
 - Program typically relied on Adult outplants
 - Outplants were successful but were hard to manage needed consistency
 - Evaluation on going. 8 mile creek case study adult outplant eggbox comparison study
 - Loose egg boxes allowed fry to escape and cofounded egg to fry survival data
 - Visual signs of success
 - Sediment still an issue
 - Chinook outplants vs. egg boxes
 - BY22 parr production estimate was 2,883 using mark recapture. Assuming 5k eggs per redd, **outplant egg to parr survival was 4%**
 - Outplanted 13 egg boxes in 2023 at same location. Total of 38,230 eggs. In 2024, estimated BY23 parr production to be 11,323 using mark-recapture.
Estimated BY23 egg box outplant egg to parr survival was ~30%
 - Fish Salvage
 - Salvaged ~ 50 fish in Bonanza side channel
 - Stranded fish identified by Watershed solutions during RHA
 - Various species and age classes recovered
 - Salvage conducted late in the season
 - Electrofishing
 - Sampled 12 sites across 4 Yankee Fork sub watersheds in late September
 - Strong presence in middle and lower watersheds likely due to 23 eggbox outplants
 - 1709 (WFSC1) sampled as bonus site (More fish than we could handle).
 - Chinook Densities
 - Saw highest in 1709 (6.9CH/100m²)
 - High densities in WF01 (5.4CH/100m²)
 - 1709 channel shows chinook are entering and using habitat. Are they becoming entrained? PIT tag data will show this Spring
 - Upper Bonanza showed moderate densities.
 - No Chinook found above 8 mile creek
 - Early PIT Indicators
 - Early indication shows juveniles in upper watershed are overwintering
 - Juveniles are finding habitat projects and using them for winter refuge
 - eDNA
 - 44 samples taken throughout the Yankee Fork
 - No brook trout presence documented
 - Chinook presence in Five Mile, Ramey, Greylock, Jordan, Six Mile, and Nine Mile creek
 - Bull Trout present in McKay Creek
 - Temp Probes
 - Put out ten probes across the Yankee Fork during winter. Intended to compliment infrared flight and identify winter thermal refugia
 - Array Update

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- 4 additional arrays to YFSR planned proposed in 2024 YF IDTeam meeting
- Biomark conducted site evaluations in July 2024
- Cleaved down scope of additions to 2 (5 mile and WF)
- Solar/methanol generator combination
- PNF submitted to BPA December 2024. Hoping to install July 2025
- BIL Proposal Tribal Fish Passage
 - Address adaptive management needs in PS2 & 3
 - Remove little Hoover in PS3 maintaining perennial connection
 - Replace culvert in pond series 2 and build up riffle in main channel combating the 2017 downcutting event
 - Provide more fishing access in PS2
- 5 Year Plan
 - Low hanging fruit being addressed (Pond series)
 - Designs for Jerrys and Silver creek (possible PCSRF proposal), preachers side channel
 - LTPBR restoration in McKay creek, adaptive management of large wood project, large wood project in dredge reach, tributary confluence enhancement
- Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation Project – Team Update
 - Introduction
 - On call contractor
 - Winter 24/25 monitoring
 - Winter 24/25 cold snaps
 - What we learned
 - Winter 2024/2025
 - 24 cell linked cameras
 - Images every 15-30 minutes
 - Frequent drone flights
 - Thermometers
 - Weekly coordination calls
 - Weekly emails to stakeholders
 - Winter 2024/2025 cold snaps
 - January 17th, 2025
 - Below 0 F temperatures forecasted
 - Mobilize contractor to site
 - Team monitors conditions
 - No work by contractor
 - February 10th, 2025
 - Cold temps 2/13 – 2/14
 - Contractor mobilized
 - Temperatures increased on 2/15 and contractor not needed
 - Recent trends are showing winters aren't necessarily getting colder, but rather, seeing longer periods of cold snaps
 - Next Steps
 - Adaptive Management 2 goal was to push a potential jam location farther into the project area hoping that sufficient floodplain access would allow water and ice to flow around the jam. This involved straighten a few bends and filling of pools to speed flows up
 - Swale's are conveying ice up to a certain point, then getting backed up
 - Long term goal is to be able to maximize benefits to fish and maintain and/or improve ice jam flood risks to landowners in multiple large scale floodplain reconnection projects upstream of the Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation Project

USBWP Project Updates

- Recap from the Tech Team meetings – Jessica Buelow
 - April tech team
 - OSC's Terrestrial Program (Josh Uriarte)
 - Provided an overview of the OSC terrestrial program and its involvement with ESA listed terrestrial species
 - Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation Project (Courtne Ghere)

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- Gave a summary of the long-term restoration project on the Lower Lemhi
 - L-6 Minimum Streamflow (John Loffredo)
 - He gave an overview of the L-6 minimum stream flow agreement
- May tech team
 - Yankee Fork Restoration (Joe Snapp)
 - He gave an overview of Shoshone Bannock Tribes Yankee Fork Restoration Program
 - Monitoring the Response of the Yankee Fork to Process-Based Restoration (Emily Iskin)
 - She gave an overview on how process-based restoration is affecting surface water availability, vegetation vigor, river health, and increasing trends
 - Little Sawmill Creek Bank Restoration (Steve Fisher)
 - He gave an overview of the little sawmill project and how it accomplished moving cattle operation, bank restoration, fencing, irrigation improvements, and fish screening

Old Business

New Business

- Summer Tour Schedule- Bertram
 - BPA August 4th – 5th (Lemhi – Pahsimeroi)
 - Power Council June 9th
 - Tour of Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation project and L6
 - Tech Team Summer Meeting and Campout September 15th -18th

Advisory Committee Membership

- Bureau of Land Management Guyer
 - Looking to sign an aquatic restoration plan. Will allow them the ability to work on smaller restoration projects. Hiring freeze through July.
- Governor's Office of Species Conservation Freeman/Edmondson
 - Update from Daniel. Were expected a call from NOAA about PCSRF. BPA has made next year funding available. Planning to continue collaboration.
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game Murphy
 - Same funding source (PCSRF, BPA, Mitchell Act). Chinook fishery at Sawtooth not looking good (~140 fish)
- Landowner – East Fork Baker
- Landowners – Lemhi V.D. Olson / Mulkey
- Landowner - Pahsimeroi Wallis
 - Hot and dry in the PAH. Snow pack was very small this year. Harley would like BLM and USFS to address cheat grass issues
- Lemhi County Commissioner Caywood
- Lemhi SWCD Kauer
 - Starting construction on Kenny Creek project
- Non-agency fish and wildlife interest C. Williams
 - 20th anniversary celebration June 28th at Mcfarland property in Carmen. There will be online auction, music, in-person auction, and special announcement
- NRCS Chapman
 - LWG met yesterday in Challis (6/4/25) to discuss priorities and where funds should be allocated
- Recreation Stringham
 - Additional outfitters from Stanley moved to Salmon
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Snapp
- UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon S. Williams
 - Getting ready for fair and are fully staffed.

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- U.S. Forest Service Schade
 - Gebhart retired so they are trying to figure out how to fill positions. Received funding to do aquatic restoration, however, lost funding. Have disaster funding to address Moose and Red Rock fires. Action is moving slower. Fuel reduction and timber sales in the works.

Vacant Positions

Custer County Commissioner
Landowner – Main Salmon

Next Meeting- Scheduled for September 3rd at 1:30 PM at the USBWP Conference Room

Adjourn