

**Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025 @ 1:30-3:30
USBWP Conference Room**

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Bruce Mulkey, Chair

Agenda Modifications

Approval of June Meeting Notes

Presentation

- L6 Update – Loffredo/Murphy
 - Minimum streamflow water right result of dewatering event in 2001
 - Water resources board hold MSF
 - Since 2007 25-35 cfs protected for 100 days , March-November
 - Senior rights voluntarily subordinate and are compensated for restricted delivery at fair market rate
 - How far we've come in fish and diversion improvements
 - Early 90 – push up dams
 - 90s – Obermeyer weir installed
 - Today – outdated Obermeyer weir
 - Current infrastructure forced to operate in a way it was not designed for
 - Does not meet current fish passage criteria
 - What's next
 - FY25 alternative analysis funded by BOR
 - Identify and consider replacement, consolidation options through water user meetings
 - Alternatives to be considered for FY26 design and FY27 construction
 - 90cfs for 3000 irrigated acres in lower Lemhi
 - Screen program came into recurring maintenance dollars
 - To replace and refurbish screens across the basin
 - L-6 high priority for fish passage
 - As well as current failing infrastructure
 - Consolidate
 - L6 and L7
 - Lengthening dewatered stretch
 - Cost efficiency from a fish and screen shop point of view
 - Must work for the water users
 - L6 Replacement
 - New fish ladder
 - Relocated screen to south side of diversion lane
 - Working through additional options and are working with water users
 - Screen program money needs to be spent by end of FY27
 - Will be going after additional funds
 - Working to get ahead of this looming problem of failing infrastructure
 - Meeting monthly with water users and working to get everyone on board
 - Next meeting September 29th @1pm – Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program Office
- Lemhi River Basin Model: Updates, Applications, Tools (Carter Borden)
 - Use Tech Team Notes

USBWP Project Updates

- Recap from the Tech Team meetings – Jessica Buelow
 - Use her powerpoint
 - June – August
 - Proposal Ranking
 - River Valley Ranch design
 - Just Downstream Last Chance and downstream from doughton lane
 - 4 total phases

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- Construction slated to start next year
- Roughly 4 miles of the pahsimeroi
- Spotlight
 - Lemhi Regional Land trust
 - What the land trust is and isn't
 - And overview/explanation of easement
- September Tech Team Campout with Clearwater Region
 - 16th Touring Lemhi
 - 17th Yankee Fork
 - Advisory Committee members Welcome to attend

Old Business

- Egg Box (Snapp)
 - History of
 - Tribe has been using egg boxes since late 90's
 - Lack of hatchery production forced innovation and creativity
 - Made do with what they had
 - Result
 - Contributed to an estimated 6-35% of PBT assigned parr in panther creek
 - Egg box emigrants overlapped with natural origin juveniles @ LGD
 - Timing and survival similar to natural origin fish
 - Research and Dev
 - Received BIA funds
 - Worked with partner steel for more durable design
 - 2 chambered design
 - Built to work with force of the water
 - 1 Female worth of eggs per box
 - Fall 2021 South Fork
 - Putt 300,000 eggs from McCall into 43 incubators
 - Spent 3 days outplant, 3 more till fill with eggs
 - Monitoring
 - Removal and eval
 - Monitoring windows combined with temp profiles
 - Fry enumerated by sample counting
 - Results
 - High variability in hatch success range to 97% - 16%
 - Factors to success density, velocity
 - South Fork Salmon Continued
 - 287,064 eggs into 77 boxes in curtis and cabin creek
 - Consistent outplants in to hatch partners since 2021
 - Preliminary hatch success and electrofishing results are great signs
 - Should see 2 ocean adults in creel and at the rack in 2025
 - Fall 2022 panther
 - Placed 500k eggs into 122 boxes
 - Avg 4k per box
 - More perforation on box bottoms
 - Placed in wider range of substrate and velocities
 - Yankee Fork 23
 - 146,456 eggs into 40 boxes
 - Program typically relied on adult outplants
 - Outplants were successful but were hard to manage needed consistency
 - Evaluation ongoing
 - Higher success from boxes opposed to adult outplants
 - Continued evaluation
 - Outplanted new box design into south fork salmon in 2021. Should see 4 year old adults returning in 2025,26,27
 - 122 boxes were outplanted into panther creek in 2022 should see 4 year olds in 2026
 - BY 23 boxes in yankee fork 2024 yankee fork electrofishing
 - Sampled 2514 chinook parr across 6 – 100meter sites from 23 egg outplants

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- Concept design for facility captive brood as egg bank for panther creek
- Pros
 - Make use of vacant habitat
 - No facilities needed at outplant site
 - Reduced need for labor
 - Take advantage of extra brood
 - Reduced operation and maintenance for
- Cons
 - Understudied
 - Boxes could still be lost and/or damaged
 - Dependent on egg source
 - Time and money to develop tool
 - Unmarked fish
- Moving forward
 - Funds needed for box materials and implementation of designs
 - Funds needed to run genetics
 - Potential funds for graduate program
- Other Areas in the Upper Salmon ?
 - Future upper salmon tribs?
 - Middle fork tribs?

New Business

- FEMA draft floodplain map awaiting public comment
 - Tentatively public comment nov 6 and nov 20
- U of I
 - Fall Forum October 2nd – 3rd

Advisory Committee Membership

- Bureau of Land Management Guyer
 - Signed decision for aquatic restoration allowing things to move quicker
 - Looking into forest health work Williams lake area
- Governor's Office of Species Conservation Freeman/Edmondson
 - PCSRF tentatively will receive funds
 - Awaiting final decision
 - Moving in the right direction
 - Grizzly bears in East Idaho
 - Depredating on cattle
 - Bear/human interactions
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game Murphy
 - Field crews doing SGS surveys
 - Forecast for steelhead
 - Initial reports came in high
 - Since tailed off
 - Close to 2023 numbers
- Landowner – East Fork Baker
 - Not Present
- Landowners – Lemhi V.D. Olson / Mulkey
 - Pray for rain and snow
 - Below 1895 water rights
- Lemhi County Commissioner Caywood
 - No updates
- Lemhi SWCD Kauer
 - Wrapped up Kenney Creek Project
- Non-agency fish and wildlife interest C. Williams
 - 20th anniversary fundraiser
 - Honored mark Davidson
 - Overacker conservation leadership award
 - Announced matching funding for Tom and Theresa's ranch

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- Upper most parcel on carmen creek
- NRCS Chapman
 - No update
- Recreation Stringham
 - Not Present
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Snapp
 - No update
- UI Cooperative Extension – Salmon S. Williams
 - Not Present
- U.S. Forest Service Schade
 - Not Present

Vacant Positions

Custer County Commissioner
Landowner – Main Salmon
Landowner - Pahsimeroi

Next Meeting- Scheduled for December and March at 1:30 PM at the USBWP Conference Room

Adjourn