Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Program

Technical Team Update

September – November 2025

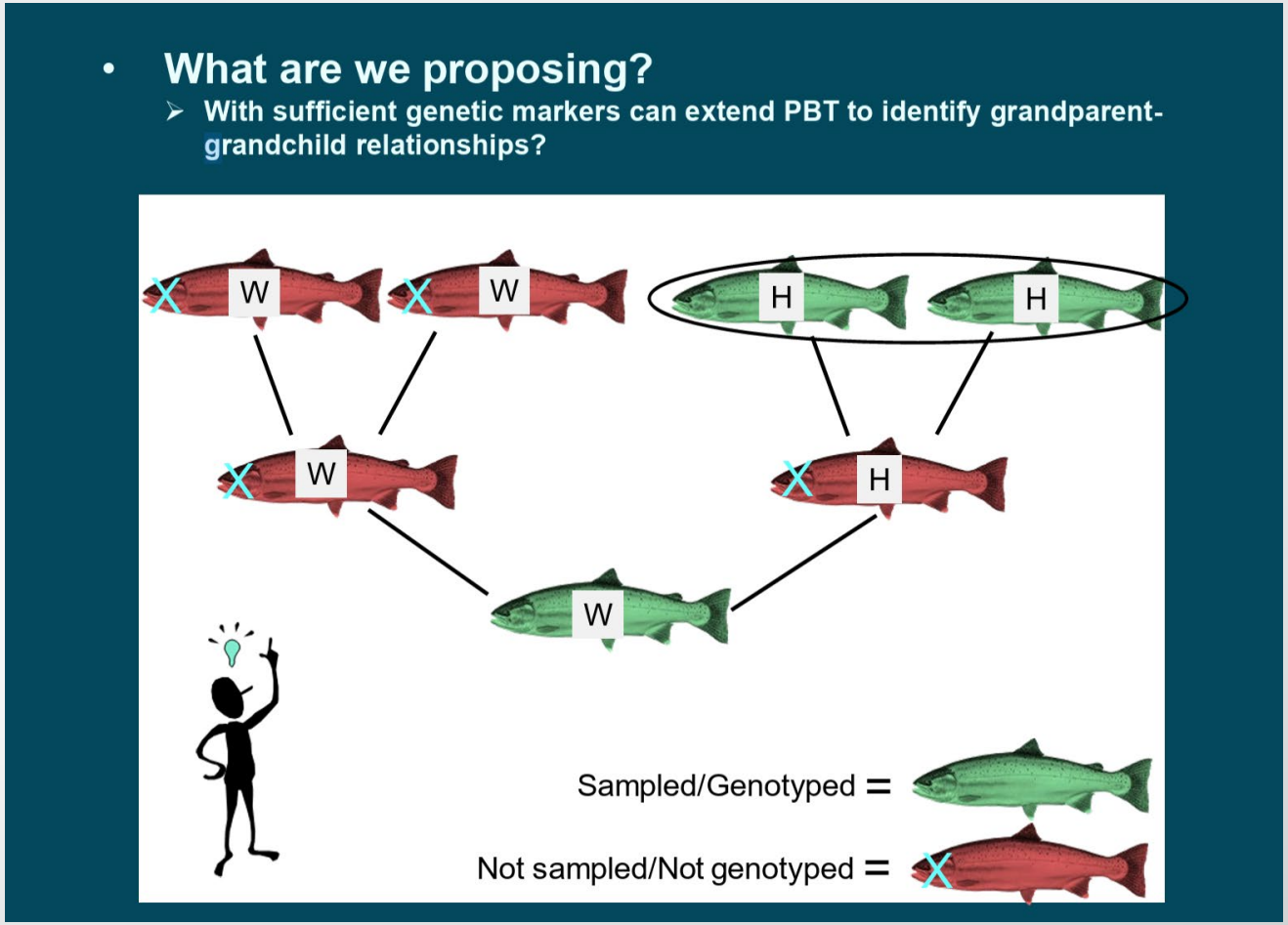
September Tech Team Meeting

- Presentations and Proposal Rankings
  - Evaluating genetic introgression from hatchery-origin steelhead in the Snake River Basin using advanced grandparentage inference (Matthew Campbell – IDFG)
  - Lemhi River Basin Model Updates and Tools (Carter Borden – CCI)
  - Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation Project (Megan Heller – IDFG)

- Project Spotlight
  - Mount Hood Environmental (Jessica Buelow)

September Presentation

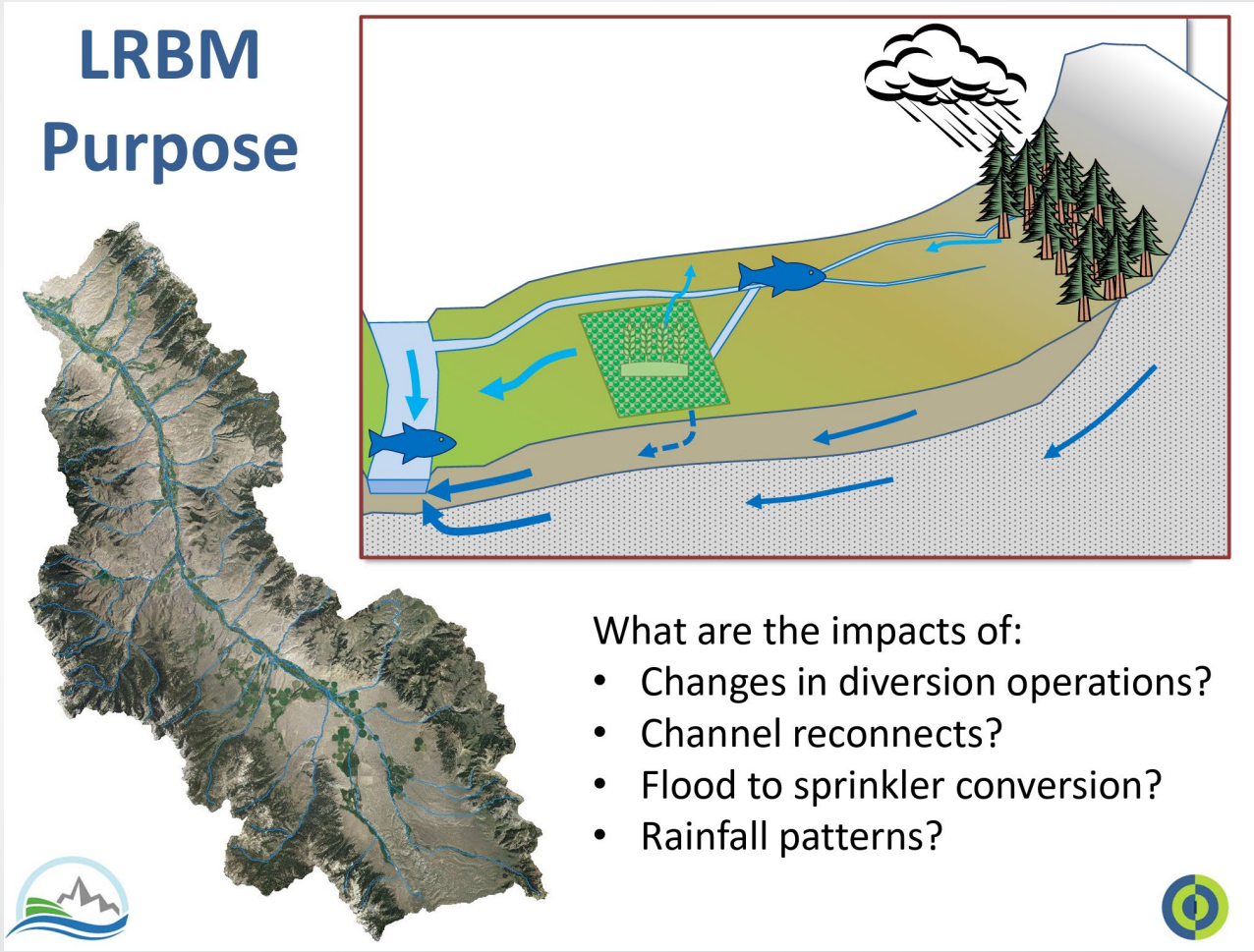
- Grandparentage Project update
  - Benefits of PBT (Parent Based Tagging)
    - Better estimation of wild escapement at Lower Granite Dam
    - Better estimation of hatchery escapement at Lower Granite Dam
    - Better estimation of in and out of state harvest
    - Can be used to identify the origin of straying hatchery fish



- Presented by: Matthew Campbell – IDFG Fisheries Genetics Program Coordinator

September Presentation

- Lemhi River Basin Model Update
  - Discussed the purpose of the model and updates of how it can be used for habitat actions

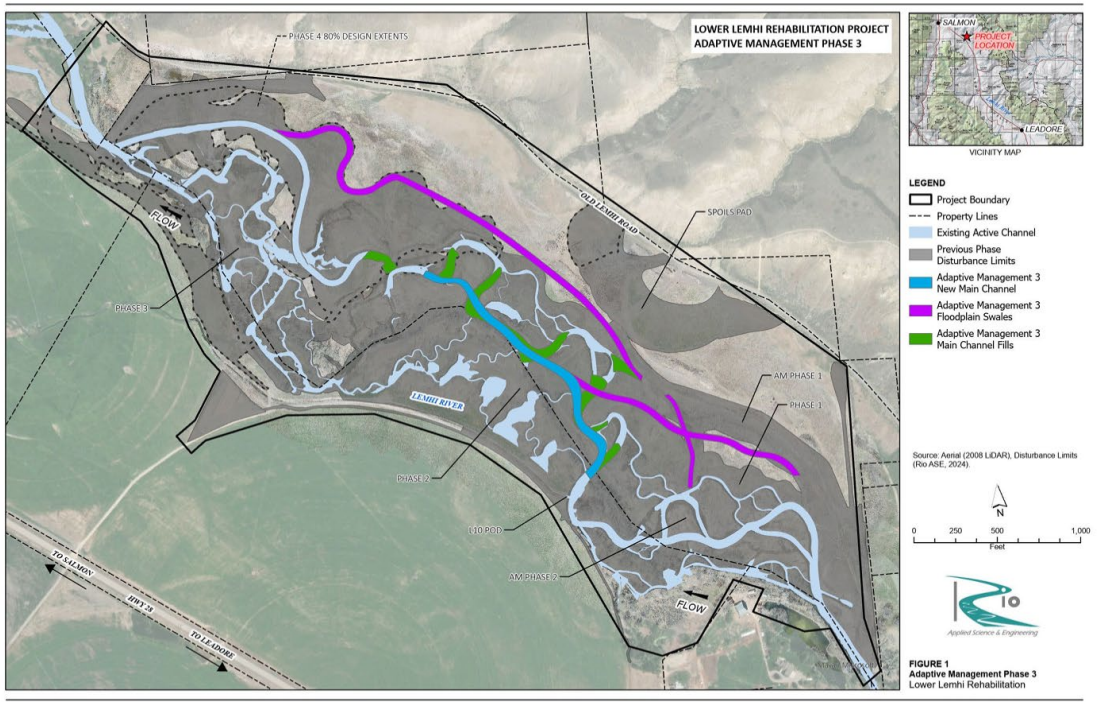


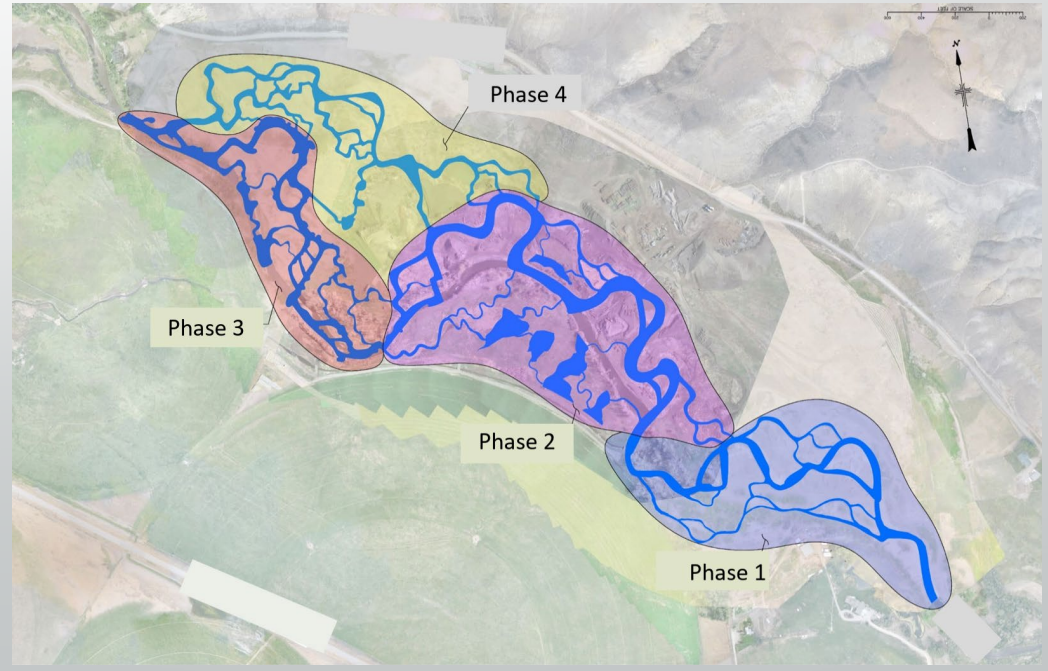
- Presented by: Carter Borden– Centered Consulting International LLC (CCI)

September Project Update

- Lower Lemhi Rehabilitation Project (Bohannon Creek Cattle Company)
  - Adaptive Management (Starting now)
  - Phase 4 (Starting May 2026)
  - Revegetation (Ongoing through fall of 2028)

- Presented by: Megan Heller– IDFG





September Spotlight Presentation

- An overview of the recently completed project Last Chance Ranch Phase 2 – Pahsimeroi River

- Presented by Jessica Buelow - MHE

MOUNT HOOD ENVIRONMENTAL

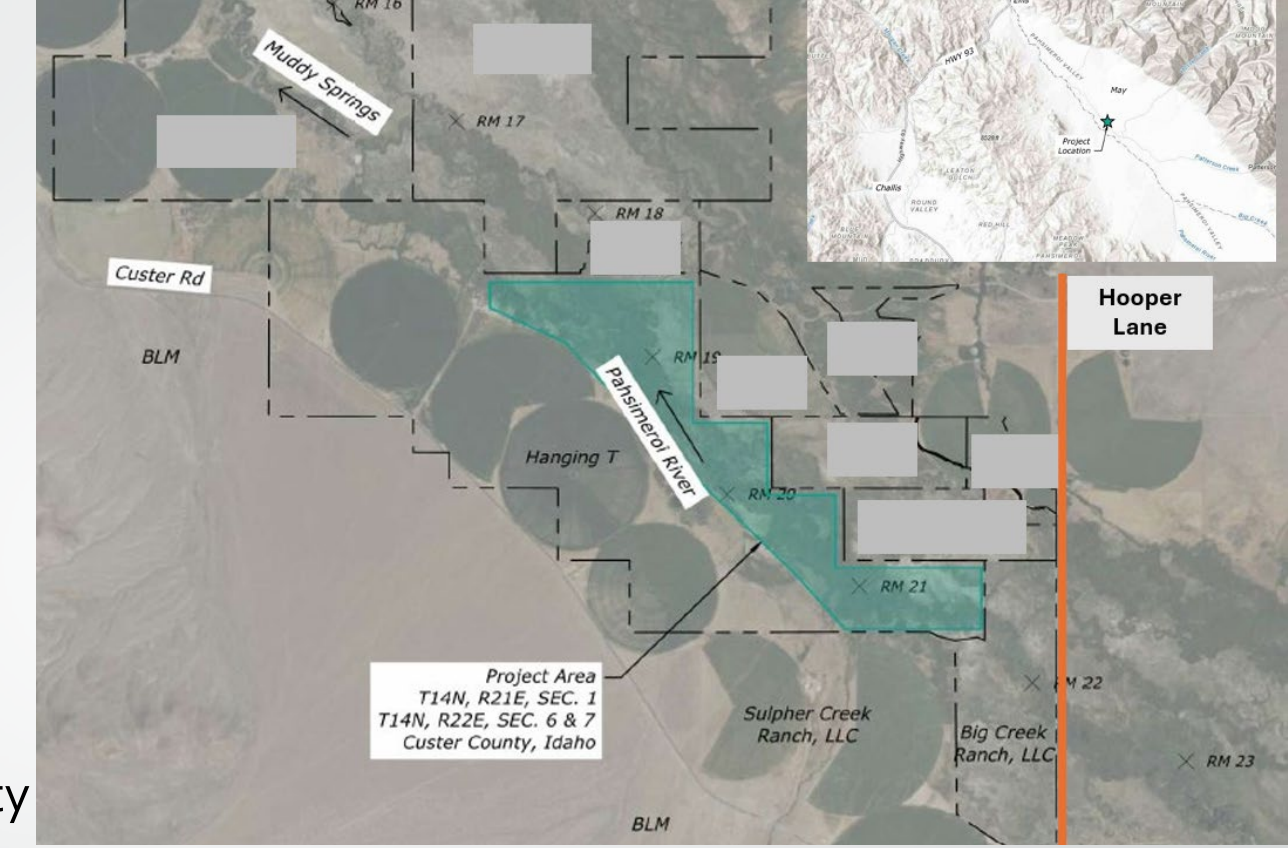
October Tech Team Meeting

- Proposal Ranking
  - Hanging T Phase 1 Implementation (Courtnie Ghere - IDFG)
  - Hayden Creek Screw Trap (Courtnie Ghere)
  - Mule Shoe Bridge Replacement (Hunter Distad - USBWP)
  - Tower Creek Private Culvert to Bridge (Steve Fisher -LSWCD)

- Project Spotlight
  - The Nature Conservancy (Toni Ruth)

October
Project Ranking

- Hanging T Ranch Habitat Implementation Pahsimeroi River
  - Establish and maintain riparian vegetation
  - Improve fish cover quantity and quality
  - Reduce fine sediment inputs
  - Maintain existing beaver activity
  - Maintain or improve instream flows
  - Balance restoration with ranch operations



Implement in summer 2026

- Presented by: Courtnie Ghere– IDFG

October
Project Ranking

- Hayden Creek Screw Trap Project Implementation
  - Current location is a potential restoration area
  - Relocate trap to IDFG Property
  - Increase trap efficiency by increasing depth

- Presented by: Courtnie Ghere– IDFG

October
Project Ranking

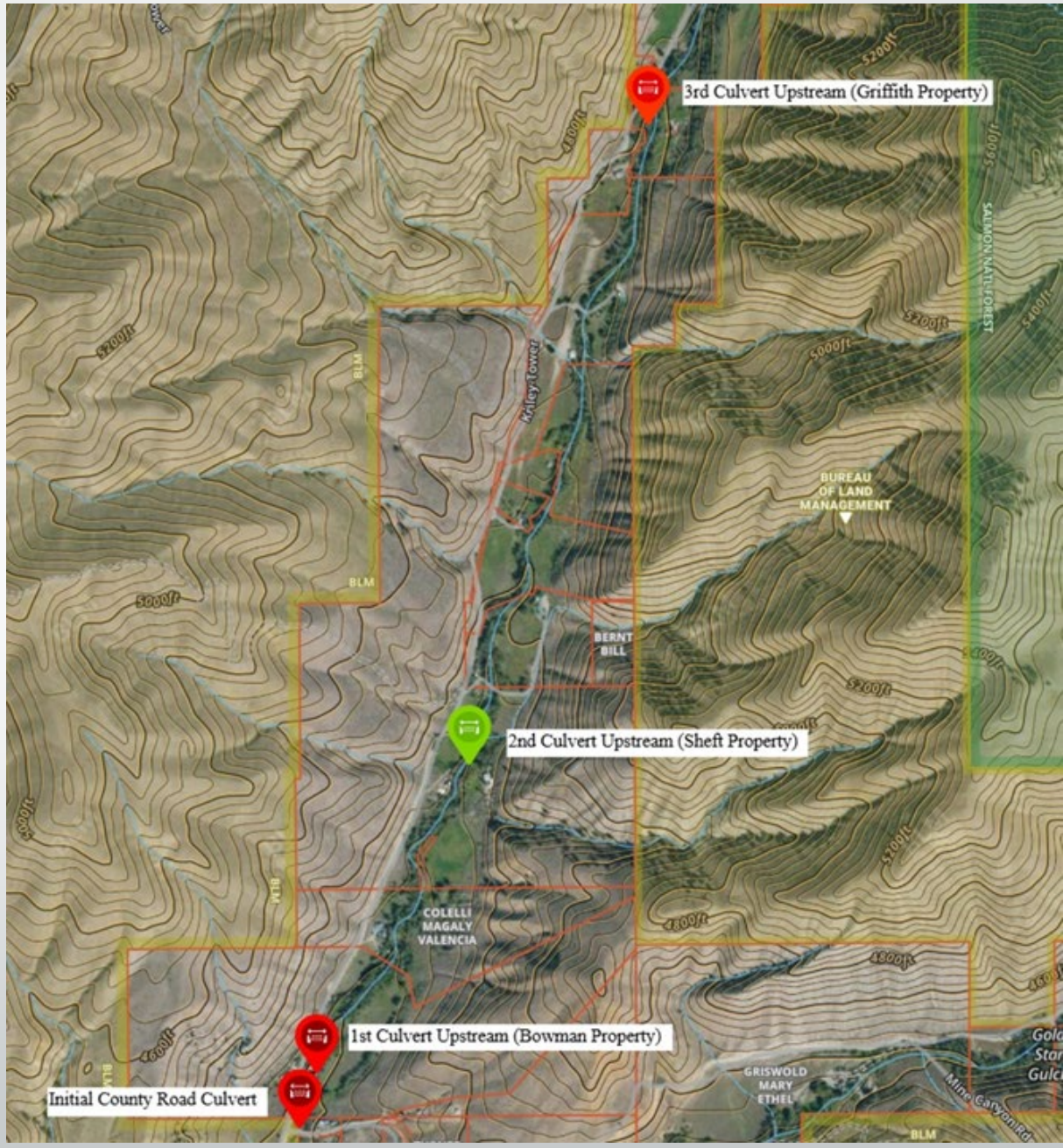
- Muleshoe Bridge
  - Existing bridge on private property
  - ~ 2 miles downstream of Tendoy
  - Partial fish passage barrier
  - Frazzle ice producer
  - Design in 2026
  - Construction in 2027
  - LSWCD project sponsor

- Presented by: Hunter Distad (USBWP)

October
Project Ranking

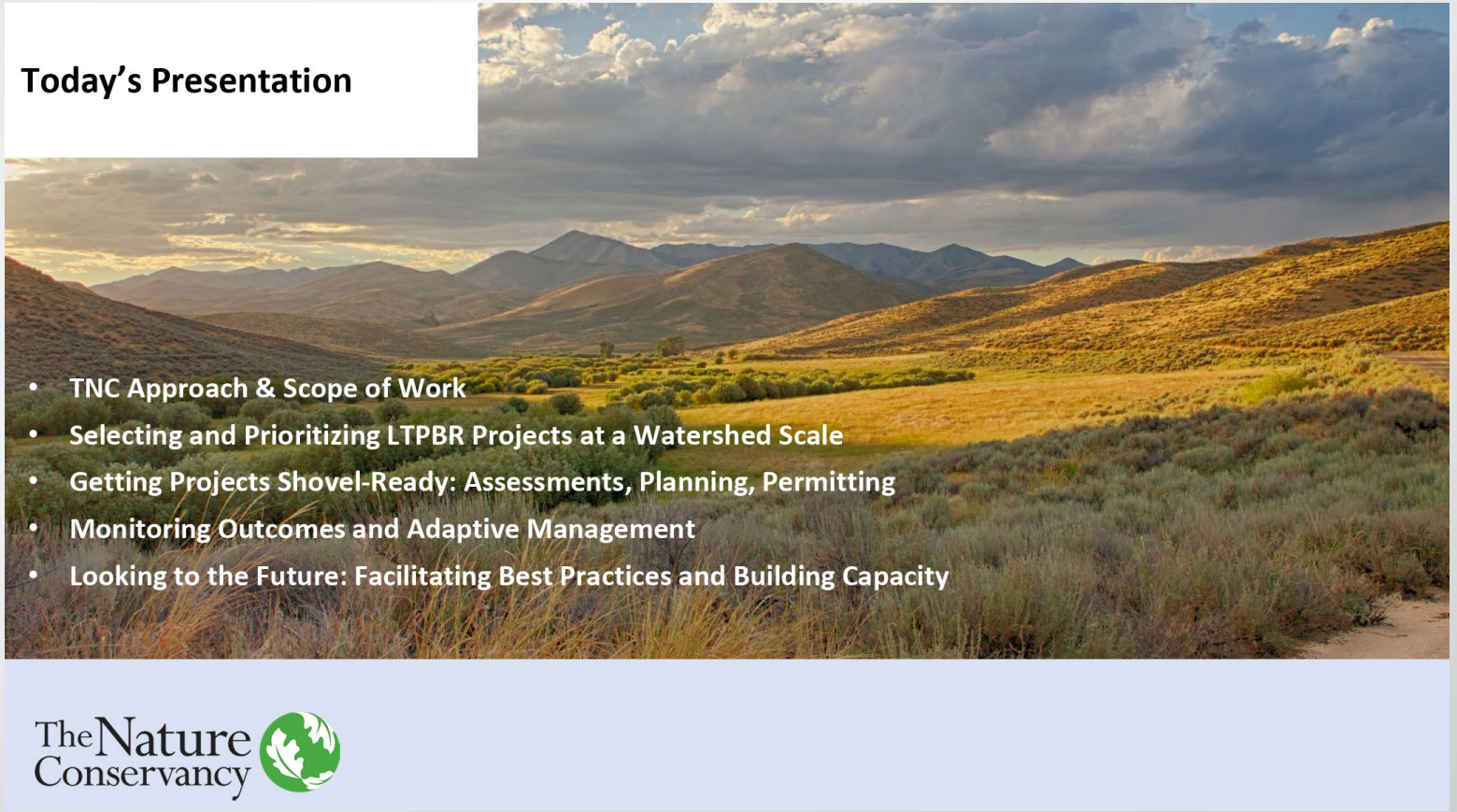
- Tower Creek Culverts
  - IDFG has funding to replace the culvert on East Fork Rd.
  - 2 additional culverts upstream on private
  - Construction in 2027

- Presented by: Steve Fisher - LSWCD



October Spotlight Presentation

- An overview of TNC's Riparian Restoration program using Low Tech Process Based Restoration methods
- Presented by Toni Ruth - TNC



November Tech Team Meeting

- Proposal Ranking
  - Diamond D Loon Creek Passage Project (Jessica Buelow - MHE)
  - Lemhi River Ranch Restoration Project (Jessica Buelow)
  - Lemhi Haydon Reach Phase 3 (Megan Heller – IDFG)
  - L6 Letter of Support (John Loffredo – IDWR)
  - Bar G Farms Pahsimeroi River Habitat Rehabilitation (Cassi Wood – TU)
  - Warm Springs Stream Complexity (Karma Bragg – CSWCD)

- Project Spotlight
  - Cancelled due to the amount of Rankings

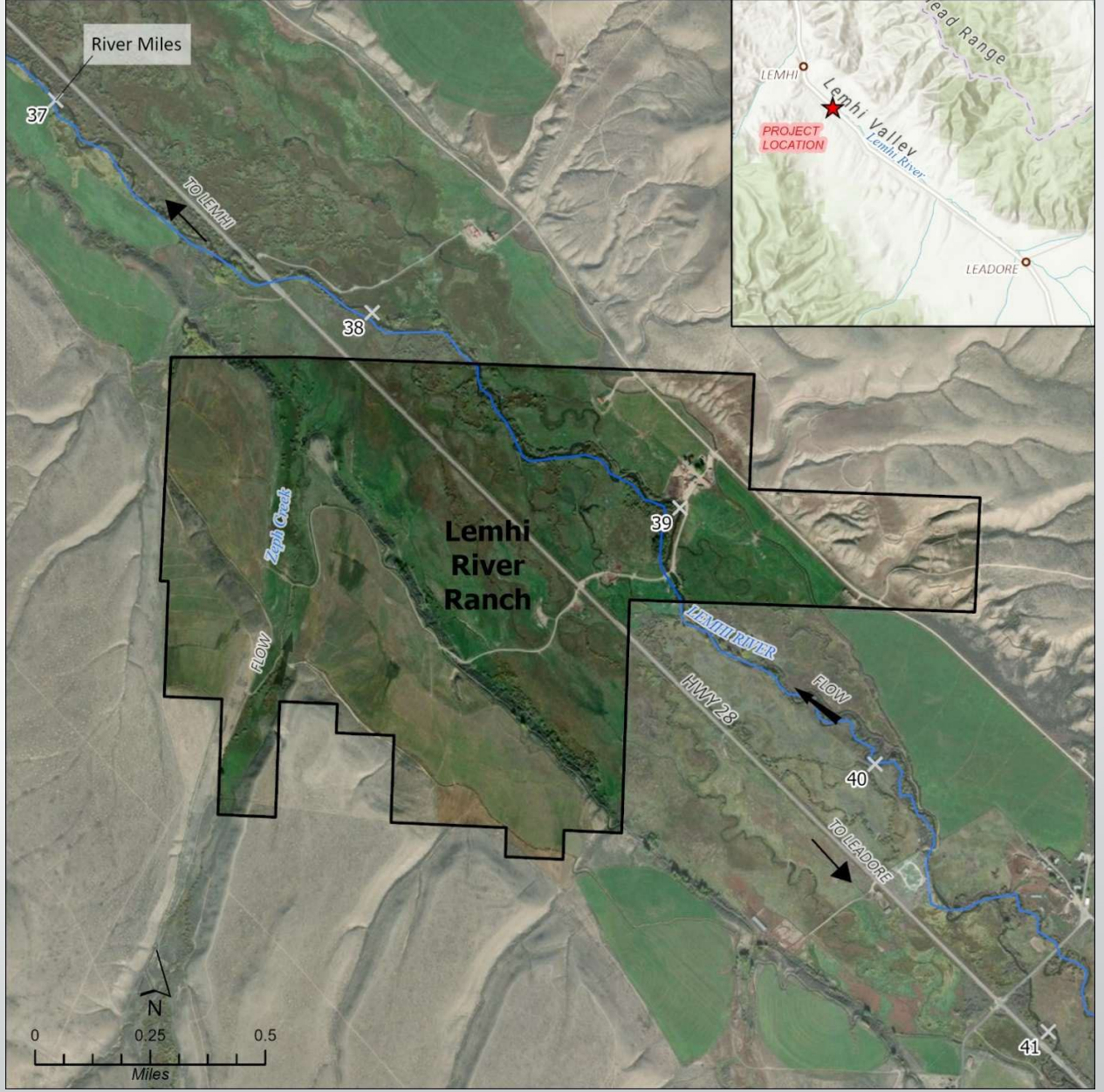
November Project Ranking

- Diamond D Loon Creek Passage Project
  - Elevate the penstock out of the floodplain
  - Final phase of three phase project.
  - Previous projects included water savings and fish screens
  - Partner with CSWCD
  - Construction in 2027

- Presented by: Jessica Buelow - MHE

November Project Ranking

- Lemhi River Ranch Restoration
  - Just downstream from Mcfarland Campground
  - 1 mile Lemhi River
  - Improve channel processes and capacity
  - Construction in 2027



- Presented by: Jessica Buelow - MHE

November Project Ranking

- Middle Lemhi River Hayden Reach Phase 3
  - Just upstream of Hayden confluence with the Lemhi
  - Increase channel length and width
  - Floodplain inundation
  - Increase complexity – increase off channel
  - Implement in Fall 2026/2027

- Presented by: Megan Heller - IDFG

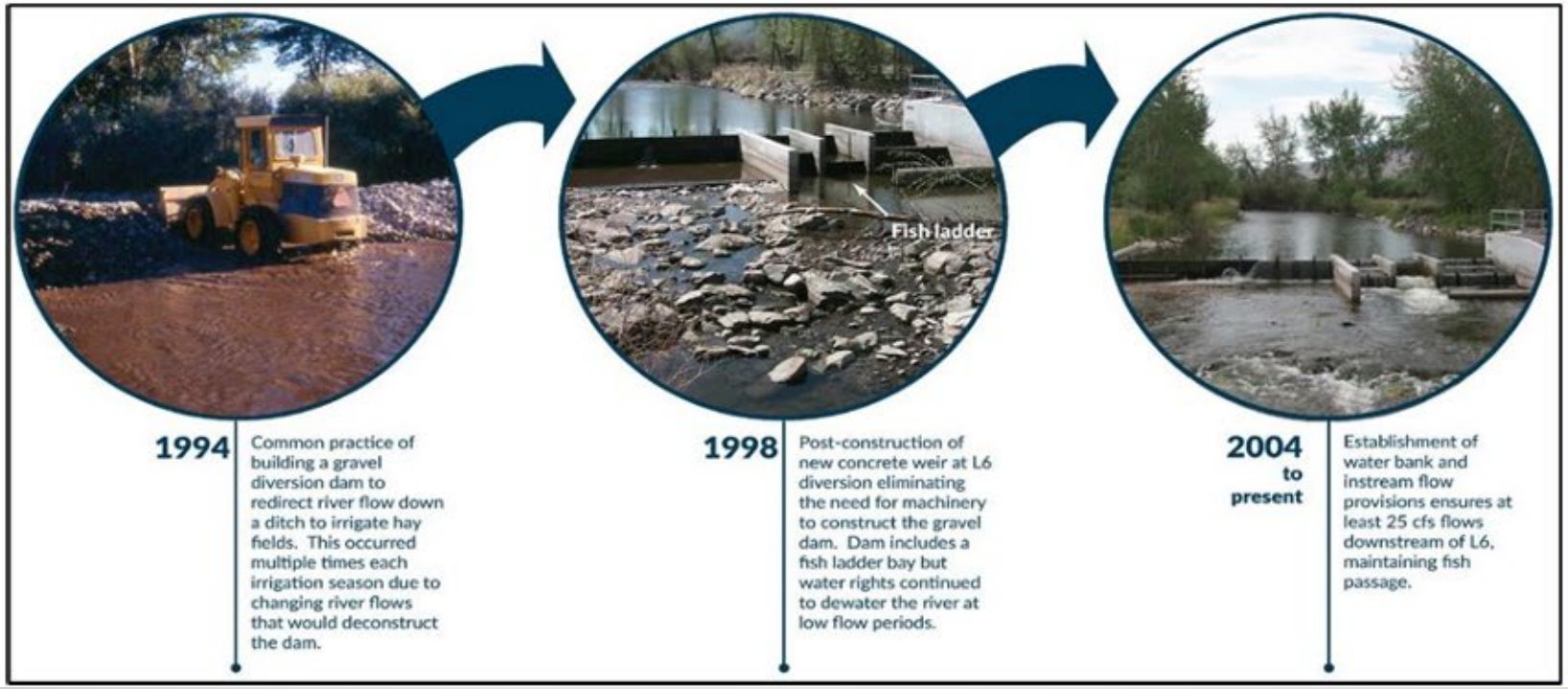
November Letter of Support

- Presented by: John Loffredo - IDWR

Problem:

Obermeyer Weir design does not meet current function.

Flushing flow paradigm in 1990s replaced by minimum stream flow paradigm in 2001.



Emerging Issue:

Current infrastructure forced to function in a way it was not designed for.

Automation failing due to overuse of moveable parts. Twice annual instream excavator work needed to move diversion plates. L-7 has similar maintenance issues. Long-term functionality outlook is poor.

- Lemhi River L6/L7 Diversions: Repair and Partial Consolidation
  - Monthly water users meetings to determine the best approach
  - Partial consolidation of L6 and L7 an option, also modified location
  - Joint project between IDWR and IDFG

November Project Ranking

- Bar G Farms – Pahsimeroi River Habitat Rehabilitation
  - 9 miles upstream from Salmon River
  - 1.15 miles of mainstem restoration
  - Goal to increase rearing habitat capacity
  - Construction in 2026 (Phase 1) and 2027 (Phase 2)

- Presented by: Cassi Wood - TU

November Project Ranking

- Warm Springs Sediment Reduction and Habitat Complexity
  - 2 barriers removed on property
  - Reduce sediment
  - Habitat complexity
  - Potential treatments include: Coir logs islands, Willow banks, BDA's

- Presented by: Karma Bragg- CSWCD

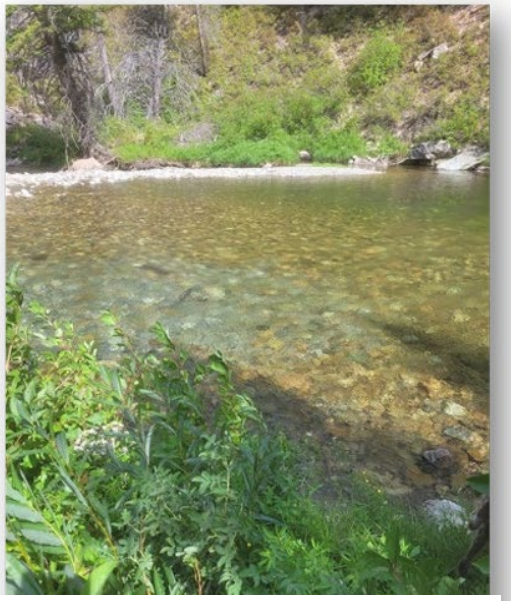
Warm Springs above the Lower Culvert 2022

Warm Springs above the Lower Culvert Fall 2025

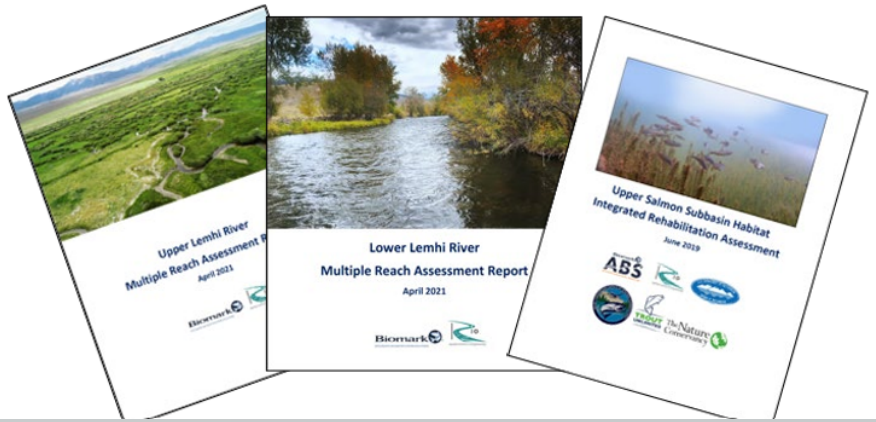
November Letter of Support

- IDFG Monitoring Staff Support
  - IMW funds dissolving June 2026
  - Temporary funding from PCSRF, not a long-term strategy
  - Funds would partially support a biologist and a technician

Fish-in and fish-out monitoring



Natal Reach Rearing vs Downstream Rearing



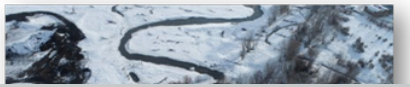
Research Question:

Are NRR/DSR ratios changing?

Are there more NRR individuals?

What are the pros/cons of being NRR vs DSR?

- **Growth**
- **Survival**
- **Outmigration timing**



- Presented by: Matt Belnap - IDFG

Questions?