

December 3, 2014

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98504

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation:

In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment:

If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. You also may submit written comments to the Board by emailing them to Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, at wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:

If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at (360) 902-3086 or TDD (360) 902-1996.

Wednesday, December 3

Lunch will be provided at 12:10 p.m. The agenda is based on a working lunch.

OPENING AND WELCOME

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| 9:00 a.m. | Call to Order | <i>Chair</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine Quorum • Review and Approve Agenda (<i>Decision</i>) • Approve September Meeting Minutes (<i>Decision</i>) | |

MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS

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| 9:10 a.m. | 1. Management Report | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report B. Legislative and Policy Updates C. Performance Update D. Financial Report (<i>written only</i>) | <i>Kaleen Cottingham Wendy Brown Jen Masterson</i> |

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| 9:30 a.m. | 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report | <i>Brian Abbott Tara Galuska</i> |
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| 9:45 a.m. | 3. Reports from Partners | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Council of Regions Report B. Washington Salmon Coalition Report C. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups D. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates | <i>Jeff Breckel Darcy Batura Colleen Thompson SRFB Agency Representatives</i> |

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| 10:05 a.m. | General Public Comment: <i>Please limit comments to 3 minutes.</i> | |
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BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

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| 10:10 a.m. | 4. Department of Fish and Wildlife 21st Century Salmon | <i>Jim Scott Kelley Cunningham Erik Neatherlin</i> |
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| 10:55 a.m. | BREAK | |
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11:10 a.m. 5. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects *Brian Abbott*

11:25 a.m. 6. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit *Brian Abbott*

11:40 a.m. 7. Monitoring Panel: Updated Approach for 2014-15 *Dr. Marnie Tyler*

12:10 p.m. LUNCH

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

12:25 p.m. 8. 2014 Grant Round

- A. Overview *Tara Galuska*
- B. Slideshow of featured projects proposed for funding *Grant Managers*
- C. Review Panel Comments *Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel Chair*

1:25 p.m. 9. 2014 Grant Round, continued

D. Regional Area Comment Period to Discuss Project Selection and Projects of Concern (Optional, maximum 10 minutes per region)

- Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board *Alex Conley*
- Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership *Miles Batchelder*
- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board *Derek Van Marter*
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board *Steve Martin*
- Puget Sound Partnership *Jeanette Dorner*
- Northeast Washington *Joe Maroney*
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board *Jeff Breckel*
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council *Scott Brewer*

Public Comment on Grant Funding and Projects: *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

2:40 p.m. BREAK

2:55 p.m. 10. 2014 Grant Round, continued

E. Board Funding Decisions

- Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
- Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership
- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
- Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Northeast Washington
- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Hood Canal Coordinating Council

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

4:10 p.m. 11. Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015 *Tara Galuska*
Kat Moore

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

4:40 p.m. 12. Adopt 2015-17 Large Capital Project List for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Program *Tara Galuska*
Michael Blanton

5:25 p.m. ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS
September 17-18, 2014

Agenda Items without Formal Action

| Item | Follow-up Actions |
|--|--|
| 1. Management Report A. Director's Report B. Financial Report C. Performance Report | No follow-up action requested. |
| 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report | Chair Troutt requested that RCO staff work with Upper Columbia regional staff to formulate and present a plan to the board in December which should focus on alleviating the recent fire-damage to salmon habitat. |
| 3. Reports from Partners | No follow-up action requested. |
| 4. Open Public Meetings Training | No follow-up action requested. |
| 8. Monitoring Panel Update | No follow-up action requested. |

Agenda Items with Formal Action

| Item | Formal Action | Follow-up Actions |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| August 2014 Meeting Summary | APPROVED | No follow-up action requested. |
| 5. Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects | <p>APPROVED \$6,286,390 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment A.</p> <p>APPROVED \$1,864,626 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Hood Canal Region for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment B.</p> <p>APPROVED \$16,714,230 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital Project funds for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment C, provided that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board contribution to the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Construction project be subject to a special condition related to the WSDOT share to meet any court imposed conditions in the culvert case.</p> | No follow-up action requested. |

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| 6. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Projects | APPROVED \$1,937,647 in salmon project funds for the six projects within Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) shown in Item 6, Attachment A. | No follow-up action requested. |
| 7. Monitoring Contracts (Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Using 2014 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds) | <p>APPROVED the status and trends (fish in/ fish out) monitoring contract with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$208,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.</p> <p>APPROVED the effectiveness monitoring contract with Tetra Tech in the amount of \$336,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.</p> <p>APPROVED the four Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) monitoring contracts with the Department of Ecology in the combined amount of \$1,207,515 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.</p> <p>APPROVED funding for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board monitoring panel through individual contracts which combined total \$80,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.</p> | No follow-up action requested. |

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 17, 2014

Place: Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

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|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| David Troutt, Chair | Olympia | Bob Cusimano | Department of Ecology |
| Nancy Biery | Quilcene | Jennifer Quan | Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Bob Bugert | Wenatchee | Susan Cierebiej | Department of Transportation |
| Sam Mace | Spokane | Megan Duffy | Department of Natural Resources |
| | | Stu Trefry | Washington Conservation Commission |

Tour

The board began the tour of projects at 8:30 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. The tour concluded at 5:00 p.m. A social hour hosted by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board lasted from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. The board did not conduct business during the social hour.

Member Rockefeller and Member Biery were both excused from the tour.

Date: September 18, 2014

Place: Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

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|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| David Troutt, Chair | Olympia | Bob Cusimano | Department of Ecology |
| Nancy Biery | Quilcene | Jennifer Quan | Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| Bob Bugert | Wenatchee | Susan Cierebiej | Department of Transportation |
| Sam Mace | Spokane | Megan Duffy | Department of Natural Resources |
| | | Stu Trefry | Washington Conservation Commission |

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and a quorum was determined. Board member Phil Rockefeller was excused from the meeting.

The members of the board and audience introduced themselves. Julie Muyliaert, president of the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce, thanked the board for coming to Winthrop to visit and support the community, especially in the wake of the recent fires and floods. Chair Troutt also acknowledged the staff contributions to coordinating the tour and arranging for the board, staff, and audience to attend, as well as the resilience and dedication of the salmon recovery community that continues to thrive.

Agenda adoption

Moved by: Member Bob Cusimano

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

August 2014 Meeting Summary

Moved by: Member Sam Mace

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, submitted the proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule to the board. Director Cottingham suggested the north Puget Sound area for the 2015 tour; more information about this meeting will be finalized in upcoming months. Wendy will send reminder dates for members to hold the dates on their calendars.

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Management Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham introduced Greg Tudor, Chief Information Officer, who provided technical support to the meeting, as well as Wendy Brown, the new Policy Director. Wendy was previously the Washington Invasives Species Council Executive Director; she assumed her new role in August.

RCO recently launched the Public Lands Inventory website. The new online, interactive map of Washington State's natural resource and recreation lands owned by public entities can be found at <http://publiclands.smartmine.com/>. Director Cottingham encouraged the board and audience to visit the site and provide feedback.

The Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation delivered their final recommendations on Friday, September 12. RCO participated in the Task Force and helped prepare the report over the past six months.

On September 12, RCO submitted the 2015-17 capital budget requests, including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board decisions from the August meeting. A financial packet is included in the meeting materials, along with the performance report. Results from the Governor's office regarding the budget requests should be available in December.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, presented information regarding the Salmon section grant round. As of today (September 18, 2014), 156 of the 157 projects funded by the board in 2013 are under agreement and in active status. Performance measures for 2013 included board funded projects being in active status by June 4, 2014. Totals for 2013 included 1,480 projects funded and 1,498 projects completed.

Ms. Galuska updated the board on the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP). RCO staff worked closely with partner agencies to get the 2014 FFFPP projects underway, including the remaining funding from the \$10 million received in 2012 and \$2 million from 2013. Staff continues to close out the 42 projects that were constructed during the 2013 summer. In summer 2014, 52 new projects went under construction, with 58 fish passage barriers removed on small, private forestlands. The remaining \$1.8 million will be dedicated to 18 new projects with 19 crossings, thereby expending the remaining allocation for 2013; construction is scheduled to begin next year.

Even with these new projects, there are still 458 eligible landowners with 678 crossings on the waiting list. A steering committee with agency representatives prioritizes barriers based on indexes including habitat quality, fish species, and barrier functions. Although this may result in delayed implementation, there exists high demand for project funding and potential projects sponsors are patient.

The board discussed the FFFPP funding criteria. In certain cases no sponsor match is required; however, a \$5,000 match is required if the landowner is harvesting or in the process of harvesting. Eastern Washington projects require a match of \$2,000. In order to meet the criteria, landowners must harvest less than two million board feet of product for three years prior to applying for the grant.

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) is a proven and innovative program for ecosystem restoration and adaptive management strategies for Puget Sound shorelines. RCO works with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to establish projects. Currently, there are 20 ESRP projects underway; these projects received \$12 million in 2013. Six additional projects, managed by RCO staff, received \$2.3 million through the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program for beach restoration. On July 15, ESRP released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2015 projects announcing the opening of the application process for the 2014 ESRP grant competition. This process produces the 2015 ESRP Investment Plan presented to the Washington Legislature for funding consideration. ESRP received 20 applications, and provided a prioritized list of projects for inclusion in RCO's Capital Budget request of \$20 million for this program.

Ms. Galuska informed the board that a table of major amendments approved by the Director is included in the memo (Item 2 – Salmon Recovery Report), which details three cost increases. Three additional cost increases, approved after the finalization of this memo, will be included in the December report. Director Cottingham indicated that one of the later amendments includes the Qwuoloot project, for which a sub-committee was formed at the August meeting to approve additional funding.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO): Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, presented information regarding several current GSRO tasks. A communications plan and summary recommendations were presented at the June meeting. Following the direction provided by the board, staff developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to begin implementation of the recommendations, which was presented at the August 2014 meeting. The RFP document is under internal staff review, and will be submitted for external partner review by October 10. Staff anticipate having a contractor on board by December. Pyramid Communications will receive a contract extension to complete the regional briefing work and the salmon recovery network diagram. Work continues on the lead entity directory, intended to increase efficiency and availability of information for each region.

The State of the Salmon report will be published by the end of the year. The Department of Ecology and WDFW collaboratively produced data for several State of Salmon indicators. They are publishing their data to <https://data.wa.gov/>. GSRO staff met with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), and WDFW to increase coordination of data, technologies, and messages for our respective reports: The State of Our Watersheds report (NWIFC), the State of the Sound report (PSP), and our State of Salmon report.

Mr. Abbott provided a brief update on the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board chaired by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. The board currently prioritizes tasks on statewide process while utilizing existing infrastructure and basic understanding of the current network to focus on fixing barriers. Mr. Abbott emphasized the value of opening new habitat which is much more efficient than restoring degraded habitat. Member Quan provided context on the board origin, which resulted from the injunction related to culvert barriers, and will address how local jurisdictions fix fish barriers. It is an attempt to get ahead of the significant funding needed to fix the barriers both up and down stream while coordinating fish recovery across the state.

Chair Troutt stated the value of working with staff and regional staff in the Upper Columbia region to use returned funds for recovery from the wildfires of 2014. Chair Troutt asked RCO staff to work with regional staff and bring a plan to the board in December to help alleviate the damage from the fires.

Item 3: Reports from Partners

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): Scott Rumsey, Protected Resources Division, thanked the board, RCO, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) for hosting and encouraging NOAA staff to attend the meeting and tour of sites. Mr. Rumsey expressed being personally humbled and inspired by the passion and diligence that sponsors demonstrate in their work to recover salmon populations and habitat.

Mr. Rumsey presented information on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 5-year reviews for West Coast Salmon and Steelhead, briefly describing what the reviews cover, the opportunities for reviews in 2015, and a draft timeline for 2015.

Section 4 of the ESA requires the Secretary (of the Interior) to review the status of each threatened and endangered species at least once every five years and determine whether the species should 1) retain its current listing status; 2) be removed from the list; 3) be changed from an endangered to a threatened species; or 4) be changed from a threatened to an endangered species. The 5-year review report updates the status and trend information for every listed species, reviews new information regarding re-delineation of existing distinct population segments, recommends changes to hatchery membership, identifies hatcheries diverging from local genetics, addresses new information regarding threats faced by listed populations, and evaluates overall landscape changes. This review reports on the progress towards recovery, highlights key accomplishments and successes, underscores challenges that remain or emerge, and addresses any critical gaps in high priority actions or regulatory mechanisms. The final report would recommend needed updates to projects, critical research or monitoring gaps, and recovery plans with in-depth analyses of data and alignment of assessment metrics. This process ensures that data remains consistent between NOAA and what is reported from the WDFW in the State of the Salmon and Watersheds Report.

Mr. Rumsey provided the following draft outline for the 2015 5-year review:

- 2014 – initiate pre-planning with co-managers and recovery partners
- Nov. 2014 – NOAA science centers receive updated viability information
- Jan. 2015 – Federal Register notice announcing 5-year reviews
- Mar. 2015 – Comment period closes
- Jun. 2015 – Internal draft viability report(s) from science centers
- Jul. 2015 – “Domain teams” convene and evaluate status/trends threats
- Nov. 2015 – Internal draft 5-year review reports complete
- Jan. 2016 – Transmit recommended findings to HQ
- Mar. 2016 – 5-year review finding published in Federal Register

The 5-year review will include all 28 salmon and steelhead species in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and

California. With regards to status changes, the regional recovery plans articulate the delisting benchmarks for currently listed species. The presence of extinction risks (in terms of population trajectories or emerging threats) help to determine the listing status of a species. Climate changes adds various levels of complexity, and every attempt is made to consider these factors in risk assessments for listed species. Examples include threats such as the fires experienced in Okanogan County. NOAA uses analog and large-scale models to look at local population impacts and continues to take these issues into consideration.

Chair Troutt thanked NOAA for attending the tour and witnessing on-the-ground projects and the people doing the work in the field.

Council of Regions Report: Jeff Breckel thanked the board for funding the communications strategy which will coordinate efforts across statewide agencies, tribes, and stakeholders in order to support communications and messaging for salmon recovery regional plans.

The regional organizations held discussions with NOAA indicating areas to strengthen within the State of Salmon report, which should link to the 5-year status review.

The Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board was receptive to the work done by the regions and Lead Entities to set priorities and collect data on barriers within regions; however, challenges still exist at the cross-regional and statewide levels.

The Council is planning to meet with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the regions regarding the Bull Trout Recovery Plan. The regions would continue to evaluate monitoring related to delisting and threat criteria, which includes habitat status, threats, trends within regions, and determining whether projects are maintaining a net gain or loss within the watershed.

Monitoring resources are scarce, leading regions to evaluate more efficient uses of funding. Regional monitoring programs are data resources, each one unique to the issues of that area, but there are collective conversations about what is happening in each region. The State of the Salmon report assists in highlighting gaps and critical areas of need, and monitoring is included in these issues.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Darcy Batura, Chair, and Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the tour, noting that it was an excellent opportunity to make connections with other regions, the board, and RCO staff as it promotes trust and strong relationships.

The WSC recently changed the name of the organization in effort to extend, strengthen, and reach true collaboration between partners. As part of this effort, the importance of a collective salmon message for local citizens and the state was emphasized, and demonstrated by the investment in a communication plan that builds trust across the state. The WSC works with project sponsors to meet goals and conditions discussed by the review panel, and also reports on lead entity accomplishments related to salmon recovery.

Ms. Batura and Ms. Hatch-Winecka provided updates on the Lead Entities as highlighted in the WSC report, which can be found in the September board materials at:

http://www.rco.wa.gov/boards/srfb_meetings.shtml

The board discussed the use of drones, which the Snake region uses for project design and monitoring. Drones are less expensive and provide an opportunity to reduce cost while providing accurate information. Regions will continue to explore using drones as an option, particularly in disaster-response situations to assess damage and recovery priorities.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG): Jason Lundgren, Executive Director of Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, provided a local update for his region, including a map of their current projects, as well as the basic structure of the RFEGs. Collectively they are seeking to identify sustainable funding options in lieu of the federal funding which they currently receive.

In 2010, the WDFW watershed stewards held a board-recruitment luncheon and started a new organization, with new staff and a nine-member volunteer board. Mr. Lundgren stated that the size of the region allows the group to work on smaller streams with native trout. He emphasized that the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) is currently one of the most efficient grant programs, and educating landowners could lead to positive results across the state.

The scope of the RFEGs covers five types of projects: education (e.g. documentaries, classroom workshops and demonstrations, communication efforts, etc.); fish passage; riparian planting; in-channel and floodplain restoration; and river restoration, including large woody debris placement.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Jennifer Quan informed the board that WDFW will submit their operating budget requests to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on September 19. The performance-level packages include a \$17.7 million request, specifically related to salmon recovery in the Puget Sound, aquatic invasive species, and commercial and recreational fee increases. The 15% reduction equates to \$11 million, specific to salmon recovery issues this would affect the HPA program by 40% and include the closure of up to nine hatcheries. Member Quan provided project updates specific to the Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program which can be found at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/news/oct1614a/>.

Washington Conservation Commission (WCC): Stu Trefry informed the board that the WCC submitted their budget requests to OFM, noting deep concerns over the 15% budget reduction exercise as approximately 80% of WCC funds are distributed to local districts. After the budget reduction practice, the districts would lose about 17% of their budget – nearly \$2 million. The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is seeking a \$5-6 million budget to achieve the goals around conservation habitat funding; the voluntary stewardship program needs roughly \$7.6 million to operate. Local districts put together a \$1 million request for green infrastructure related to storm water in Puget Sound. Finally, there is a budget request for \$3 million for forestry assistance for small landowners. WCC will bring these requests before the legislature again next year.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Member Cierebiej provided an update on the completion of a large restoration project on the Hoh River. The project included engineered log jams to alleviate erosion and provide fish habitat. WSDOT completed 11 fish barrier passage corrections, and completed new pages for fish passage on their website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/FishPassage/>.

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Member Megan Duffy reported on the proposed Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan. Information about the plan, including public meeting notices, can be found at: http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/News/Pages/2014_09_09_aquatichcp_nr.aspx. Member Duffy encouraged interested parties to look at the environmental impact statement and provide feedback.

In July, Peter Goldmark, Commissioner of Public Lands, signed a protected easement with the U.S. Navy about 70 miles long on the west side of Hood Canal from 18-70 feet that restricts commercial and industrial activities in that area. Member Duffy indicated that DNR would carry forward the budget request for restoration projects on state and aquatic lands. The DNR ask will include creosote-piling and derelict boat removal. Concerning Eastern Washington the budget request will include fire response capacity, forest health program, and geological hazards included in burned areas.

Washington Department of Ecology (DOE): Member Cusimano shared that Carol Smith would represent DOE at board meetings starting in December. DOE is also preparing their budget requests for submission to OFM, which includes a reduction in the reduce the water resource program by 22.5 full time employees (about \$4.6 million). The budget request would eliminate watershed planning, reduce flood hazard grants, and generate other minor cuts related to the budget.

Member Cusimano expressed appreciation for attending the tour and the meeting, thanking the Washington Conservation Corps and their vital efforts in supporting salmon recovery throughout the state. Member Cusimano stated that the Governor brought forth the Clean Water Initiative to reduce the thousands of toxic compounds within our environment not currently addressed by current water quality standards. The Governor will bring forth a bill to address these issues at a later date.

General Public Comment

No public comment was provided at this time.

Break 11:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 4: Open Public Meetings Training

**This item was presented out of order.*

Wendy Brown, Policy Director, provided required open public meeting training which included a 16-minute video produced by the Attorney General's Office. All board members present for the meeting participated, and Wendy Loosle followed up with member Phil Rockefeller to make training available.

Ms. Brown informed the board of their general obligations regarding public records and public disclosure requests. Ms. Loosle is RCO's new public disclosure agency contact and is available to answer questions in the future.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 5: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, presenting information regarding Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding requests to the board. In accordance with Manual 18, Appendix P, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) is asking the board to approve funding for projects in Puget Sound utilizing the balance of 2013-15 PSAR funds (currently \$8,151,016) and 2013-15 PSAR large capital funds (currently \$16,714,230).

Ms. Galuska provided background on the requests, which are outlined in detail in the board memo (Item 5). Two projects from the PSAR 2013-15 large capital list were presented: RCO Project [14-1022](#) Fir Island Farm Restoration Construction, and RCO Project [14-1366](#) Kilisut Harbor Restoration Construction.

The board discussed funding concerns and fish passage requirements with regards to the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Construction project. Member Cierebiej informed the board that WSDOT contributed \$30,000 for design review and a feasibility study. Although WSDOT has not designed the fish passage yet, the project is larger than the minimum required by WSDOT to allow fish passage. Suggestions included using some of the funds provided through the board to exceed the minimum requirements that would be required by WSDOT to meet the court injunction in the culvert case. Considering the court order, and

resulting delays impacting construction and funding, Chair Troutt explored the option for postponing a decision to approve funding. Director Cottingham recommended approving a placeholder with a condition that WSDOT will provide funding for their share (at this point unknown), and include language to state that RCO will maximize the benefit above the court order requirements and approve additional funding at December's meeting.

- Member Bugert moved to approve \$6,286,390 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment A of the board materials. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.
- Member Bugert moved to approve \$1,864,626 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Hood Canal Region for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment B of the board materials. Member Mace seconded. Motion approved.
- Member Bugert moved to approve \$16,714,230 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital Project funds for the projects shown in Item 5, Attachment C of the board materials, provided that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board contribution to the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Construction project be subject to a special condition related to the WSDOT share to meet the court order conditions. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.

Item 6: Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Projects

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, and Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, briefed the board on projects located within IMW study areas presented in March, including the approval of spending up to \$6 million over the next three years with a maximum investment of \$2 million per year for the Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal IMWs. At this meeting, the board was asked to approve funding for six projects identified and submitted within IMW study areas using SRFB project funds for the 2014 grant round.

Lead entities followed their local process of technical and citizen review prior to submitting the IMW-related project lists to RCO on July 31, 2014. Two IMW areas, Hood Canal and Lower Columbia, submitted six projects for a total of \$1,937,647. The IMW restoration treatment projects received input from the IMW Technical Oversight Committee, who concurred that funding these projects will advance the implementation of IMW efforts. The treatment reaches need these additional restoration actions in order to effectively compare a control and treatment reach and monitor the results to determine if the actions result in improved habitat, water quality, and fish abundance (or production).

Public Comment: Jeff Breckel, Director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), summarized the process of project review and prioritization. The ranked lists are the result of partnerships across the state who have helped to coordinate proposals and project design. Communities have held meetings to move the work forward, and they coordinate with the IMW technical review team. Voice appreciation for SRFB support. The SRFB waived the match requirement for IMW projects, although some projects provide a match anyway.

- Member Biery moved to approve \$1,937,647 in salmon project funds for the six IMW projects shown in Item 6, Attachment A, of the board materials. Member Mace seconded. Motion approved.

Item 7: Monitoring Contracts (Federal Fiscal Year 2015 Using 2014 PCSRF Funds)

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, and Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, presented four areas for funding consideration, recommending financial support to the board's monitoring programs similar to the levels requested in previous years. Mr. Abbott provided a brief summary of the contract and funding issues, which is outlined in the board materials in more detail (Item 7).

GSRO staff recommend that all monitoring contracts be aligned with the federal fiscal year and go into effect on October 1, 2014. This action is anticipated to provide greater expediency and efficiency with monitoring funds, more transparency of monitoring efforts, and additional reporting of IMW progress. It should also provide the board with more precise and succinct information for decision-making.

Mr. Abbott explained two issues that need resolution. First, a memorandum of understanding may be required for NOAA Northwest Science Center to accept federal funds. Second, there is a funding shortfall between the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 Awards for monitoring programs (\$1,840,000) and the cumulative components of the funding requests (\$2,090,989). Mr. Abbott intends to address these issues with the IMW monitoring panel, and will bring options to the December meeting for the board to consider.

- Member Bugert moved to approve the status and trends (fish in/ fish out) monitoring contract with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$208,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.
- Member Bugert moved to approve the effectiveness-monitoring contract with Tetra Tech in the amount of \$336,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.
- Member Bugert moved to approve the four IMW monitoring contracts with the Department of Ecology in the combined amount of \$1,207,515 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.
- Member Bugert moved to approve funding the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's monitoring panel through individual contracts, which combined total \$80,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) 2014 funds, for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015. Member Biery seconded. Motion approved.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 8: Monitoring Panel Update

Dr. Marnie Tyler summarized the Monitoring Panel's progress and recommendations to date. The monitoring panel convened June 5, 2014 and addressed the following tasks:

1. Develop a revised strategic monitoring plan, which would update the 2003 *Draft Monitoring Strategy for Habitat Acquisition and Restoration Projects*.
2. Create a functional adaptive management framework with clearly written expectations and a process for timely implementation.
3. Evaluate by performance, each component of the Board's monitoring program and provide guidance and funding recommendations to the Board.

4. Recommend changes in policy or funding criteria for project effectiveness monitoring and intensively monitored watersheds;
5. Compare and share monitoring results to determine if lessons learned in other monitoring efforts could be applied to Board programs.

Dr. Tyler provided an overview of the standards for the monitoring panel's responsibilities and their process for decision-making. The panel will prepare a report for the Salmon Conference, scheduled in late May 2015.

Dr. Tyler shared the recommendations put forth by the monitoring panel: 1) Revise the monitoring strategy; 2) Create a functional adaptive management framework; 3) Evaluate each component of the Board's monitoring program. 4) Recommended changes in policy or funding criteria; 5) establish a monitoring web page for each monitoring component including project effectiveness, and IMW status/trends.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. by Chair Troutt.

Approved by:

David Troutt, Chair

Date



The mission of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead, and other at-risk species through the collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia region.

11 Spokane Street, Ste. 101, Wenatchee, WA 98801

phone: (509) 662-4707

www.ucsrb.org

November 12, 2014

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

I am writing to thank you again for visiting the Upper Columbia region in September. The timing of your visit was impactful for several reasons. Following the Carlton Complex Fire, your visit brought resources to Methow Valley businesses at a time when they were most needed. Additionally, the tour of project sites throughout the Methow subbasin, including those in one of the most severely burned areas, provided ample opportunity for meaningful conversations and resulted in specific actions.

In fact, following the board's and Director Cottingham's leadership in providing an emergency response to the fires, I am pleased to announce that six bridges are being installed on Frazer Creek to provide ample room for the creek to find a new path in the coming years (see attached map). These bridges are being installed instead of culverts, which was the planned response, largely because of the interest you took in helping our local project sponsor find the appropriate solution. Recreation and Conservation Office, and Governors Salmon Recovery Office staff worked closely with me, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation and the WA Department of Transportation to pool all available resources. This is truly an emergency response in that the creek will continue to migrate significantly over the next several years as a result of the severe debris flows following the fire and rain. The additional space afforded to the creek will allow for ecological process to restore on its own while also protecting critical nearby infrastructure (i.e. state highway and houses).

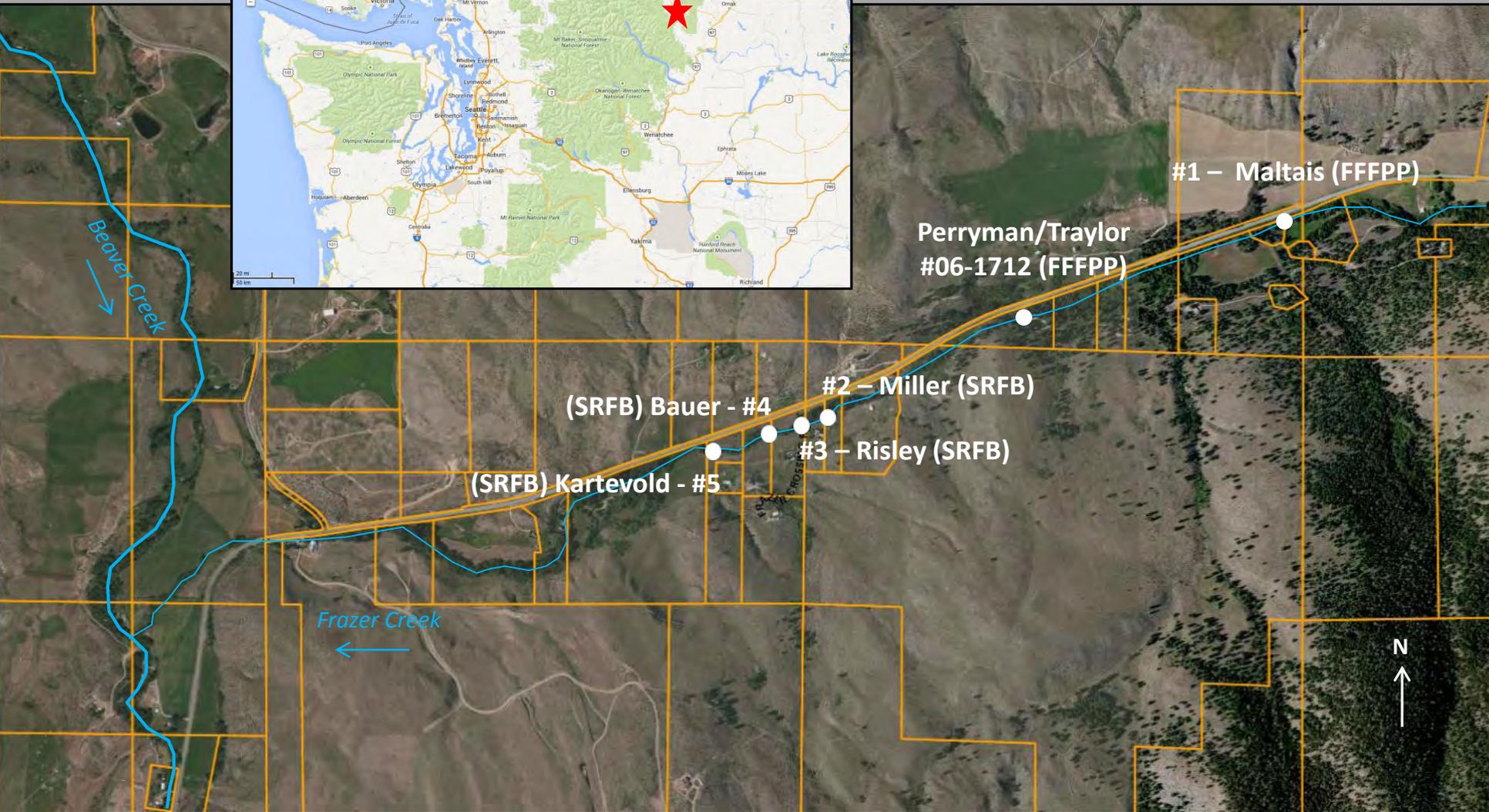
As a salmon recovery partner, and a citizen of the Methow Valley, I am deeply appreciative of the leadership and assistance the board and RCO/GSRO staff provided locally.

Respectfully,

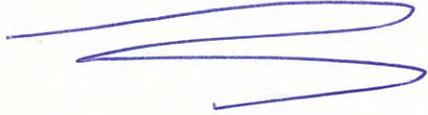
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Van Marter".

Derek Van Marter
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Parlette
Representatives Condotta and Hawkins



To SRFB



1010 NW 4th. Ave.
Camas, WA 98610

10-8-14

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFIC

Jim Scott, Asst. Director, Fisheries
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Klickitat River

Mr. Scott:

An important function of your agency is to provide insight and/or approval regarding certain activities which affect Washington's fish resources. This letter is a request to concentrate particular attention to present and forthcoming stages of a problematic Klickitat River "restoration" project being conducted jointly by The Columbia Land Trust and Yakima Nation.

Both of these groups have a good record of natural resource management, yet on this Klickitat River project things have somehow gone sadly astray. The Land Trust employs *no fish biologists*, and the *ongoing work is being planned and supervised mainly by a Yakima Nation hydrologist*.

Since inception of this project 4 to 5 years ago, I have questioned the soundness and increasing magnitude (now nearly a 5 mile total) of in-river and bank "pullbacks" involved. Most or all of them address imagined fish habitat deficiencies, and they commonly degrade existing habitat.

It is vital that the plans and associated permits facilitate only necessary work and contain no loopholes. Unfortunately, either loophole work or violation of permit terms is occurring. For example, muddy water from the project curtailed downstream angling three days last week. This violation of state and federal water standards resulted either from pullbacks or active creation of a highly questionable side channel where none previously existed.

Of particular concern is the fact that most of the over five million state-provided dollars spent on the project to date were earmarked for fish habitat restoration and improvement. Converting sections of the 80-year-old Klickitat canyon railroad bed to a more natural looking landscape is a worthy endeavor where appropriate, yet funds dedicated to fish habitat betterment should not be used to do so.

During a long career as a fish biologist for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department, I worked closely with many projects covered by dredge and fill regulations. But I never encountered such a misguided series of senseless pullbacks, continuing year after year, as

those occurring along the Klickitat River. As a steelhead angler I have fished the upper Klickitat River for years, so am quite familiar with portions already altered and those remaining undisturbed by the project.

Soon the project co-sponsors will be formulating plans, plus seeking approval and funds, for 2015-16 work. I fear that this will involve more proposed pullbacks. However, I can presently identify no areas within the entire 15 mile long project area where additional ones would be justifiable as fish habitat improvement.

In the next few days via e-mail I'll plan to send you a copy of a letter sent last December to the Land Trust outlining my project concerns. Some photos which depict the ongoing pullback work may be included as well.

Please encourage WDFW employees to closely follow this project to assure that it is planned and conducted properly. (Some of your personnel are reportedly supportive of the pullbacks and some are not). And feel free to contact me if I might be of assistance in identifying or pursuing relevant particulars.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchison
360 837-8011

cc: Cindy LeFluer, WDFW
Dave Howe, WDFW
SRFB ✓

1010 NW 4th. Ave.
Camas, WA, 98607

12 - 13 - 13

Glenn Lamb, Executive Director
Lindsay Cornelius, Stewardship Lead
Columbia River Trust
1351 Officers' Row
Vancouver, WA 98661

Re: Klickitat River Restoration Project

Glenn and Lindsay,

As you know, I've been keenly interested in your Trust's Klickitat River restoration project since its inception. That ongoing project, which extends approximately 15 miles, is located mainly along the river's west shoreline in a semi-isolated canyon section above the mouth of the Little Klickitat River. Within that stretch of your ownership is an old, abandoned rail bed, later used as a logging truck road.

While a member of the *Klickitat area fisheries Technical Advisory Group* a few years ago, I strongly supported your eventually successful acquisition of that river frontage land because its natural resources would be protected and public access maintained. I still do. There was little discussion at that time of forthcoming multi-year restoration work.

You also know that, as a retired fish biologist and Klickitat River angler, I've since voiced concern over fish habitat impacts resulting from the project's extensive "pullbacks", pullbacks being the dredging of road-related large rocks, plus some associated soil and vegetation, from both the river and its banks. These pullbacks collectively now extend two to three miles, and more are planned.

Your reasons provided for conducting the pullbacks, as they affect fish habitat, have been: to allow river access into historic channels, increase large woody debris (LWD) availability, improve river water temperature, and increase the number of pools. Those objectives and how they are influenced by your present work are discussed below.

Past floods, particularly a giant one in 1996, have breached the old haul road to the extent that almost no previously existing floodplain is now "landlocked on the other side of the road". Remaining roadbed sections which directly front the river are tucked tight against the adjacent, steep west hillside; they therefore constrict the floodplain minimally. Consequently, the floodplain throughout the canyon remains predominately unrestrained and wide. These features can be confirmed by *on-site inspection and/or referral to excellent recent Google Earth photos.*

Those photos, by zooming-in, also clearly reveal the large amount of LWD now distributed throughout the canyon's river channels and floodplain. At times this material causes boating accidents, but as a rule is best left undisturbed due its fish habitat value. Grass, willows and shrubs have routinely been planted where the pullbacks are completed. Although creation of additional LWD sources is not a demonstrated high need, increased emphasis on planting larger vegetation, especially red alder and bigleaf maple, would better provide LWD and river shading.

Regarding shade, review of available temperature records shows that some Klickitat River tributaries have excessive summer water temperatures, while the main river seldom does. *Warmest summer water temperatures in the project's canyon area remain mostly in the 60 to 70 degree F. range.* And a BPA funded fish hatchery using river water is currently proposed downstream near Wahkiacus.

Though the river's temperature remains generally favorable for salmonids, establishing additional shade trees in the riparian zone is sound practice if associated activities (eg: excessive pullbacks) are not counterproductive.

Referral again to the Google Earth photos shows that larger canyon vegetation, mainly red alders, line almost all of the river's west shore where the road closely parallels it. Those trees provide good shade and have become established naturally, often in the toe of road rip-rap, in river carried fines deposited over decades. The ongoing project dredges rip-rap from around the trees, and reaches both to and into the river. This appears to serve little justifiable purpose, plus it encourages erosion of the newly bared slopes and survival of the existing trees. What criteria are applied when planning and conducting pullbacks?

Rather than continue this arbitrary practice, but still address your LWD and shade objectives, the following procedure is suggested in rocky riverside areas where trees are lacking: without any pullbacks, introduce and compact topsoil into rip-rap interstices, predominately near the river's mean high water level, then plant healthy alder and maple starts there. Monitor this effort over several years, comparing its success to the previously replanted pullback areas.

Pools are a vital component of good stream habitat for both juvenile and adult salmonids. Eventual pool creation by the river itself, aided by pullbacks, is another of your stated objectives. But the jury will remain out for some time regarding results of these efforts.

Some project workers reportedly became excited this past fall to see an adult salmon in a "pool created the day before". Pools don't form that quickly, certainly not at low flows when heavy equipment work is underway. That pool was dug or expanded purposely by the equipment - possibly without following specifics of the project's state and federal permits. And the salmon observed there was likely a fall chinook, not showing a preference for the new pool, but one of many migrating upstream and beginning to spawn at the time.

Unfortunately for salmonids, deep pools are few and far between in the Klickitat canyon. Due to this scarcity, the river's adult salmon and steelhead during upstream migration rely heavily on runs that provide moderate water depths and varied velocities among rocky substrate. Adult spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead, in particular, depend on this type of resting habitat for several weeks or months prior to spawning. Project pullbacks in such runs are degrading this resting habitat by removing large rock, both from the river and from its banks below high water level.

In previous correspondence I have pointed-out existence of an important long run adjacent to the haul road midway between the Stinson Flat and Lietel boat ramps, a run which should not become altered by pullbacks. Additional examples are the popular runs immediately above and below the Stinson Flat boat ramp. These runs, though close to the haul road, provide favorable angling sites as well as ideal adult fish resting habitat. Existing alders and the river's large rock substrate there contribute to those attributes.

In the 1980s the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation purchased most private land along the lower 17 miles of Oregon's nearby Deschutes River. Since then, that Foundation has sponsored riparian vegetation planting, exclusion of cattle, and installation of several modern pit toilets there. Although two railroad beds, one long abandoned, parallel the lower Deschutes, no attempts have been made to remove railroad rip-rap from the river or its banks. Like the Klickitat River, the Deschutes is short of pools, so its adult summer steelhead also heavily utilize rocky runs abutting the rip-rapped railroad slopes.

As each recent year passes, it's become apparent that a major goal of the ongoing Klickitat work is merely cosmetic - to render the haul road less visible and have the canyon look "natural" again. That's the message contained in various project descriptions, including the Trust's Facebook entries and flyers provided last summer at the haul road gates. Some Klickitat canyon visitors have been informed that, once the replanted vegetation in the pullback areas matures, the sites will be "healed and look natural". These folks usually don't understand that important fish habitat at some sites was permanently and unnecessarily compromised. This visual enhancement via landscaping activity, located above as well as below the road, is being done with funds earmarked primarily for fish habitat improvement.

Columbia Land Trust purchased the canyon lands in 2007 for \$478,000. Since then, over two and a half million dollars have been employed for the canyon restoration work, much of this amount directed at the continuing questionable removal of rip-rap. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has provided the bulk of these funds. This autumn marked the end of the project's "Phase 4", with additional ones scheduled in forthcoming years.

But during future phases, it appears well past time to phase-out additional pullbacks, and concentrate instead on project aspects that won't threaten Klickitat River fish habitat. Much of the restoration work accomplished to date is quite worthwhile, such as asphalt removal, enhancement of side channels, and conversion of the former roadbed to desirable wildlife habitats. Still, much of the funding used for pullbacks to make the canyon "look natural" could have been, and could yet be, utilized elsewhere for positive

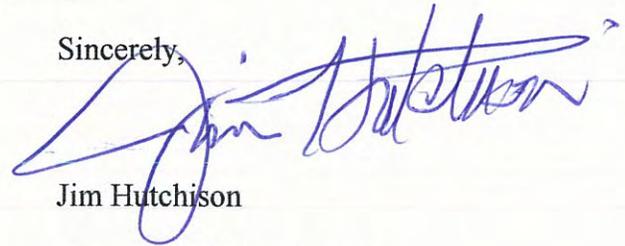
actions that your Trust typically undertakes - like marshland recovery, invasive plant control, or purchase of additional Pine Creek (Lewis River tributary) bull trout habitat.

I fully support your Trust in its numerous worthy endeavors. And you have remained courteous and professional in responding to my Klickitat project concerns, Lindsay. Yet I have received little indication that my comments are being shared or acted upon by others involved in the project's planning process. That is why I've attempted to summarize my thoughts for you and others here. I'll be sharing them with interested parties, as hopefully your Trust will.

I realize that some natural resource specialists will differ with me regarding some of this letter's contents. That is expected, especially in an undertaking as diverse as yours on the Klickitat. And yes, a fish biologist 80 years ago would then have opposed how railroad construction impacted the river. But given the facts herein, he or she would now certainly have questions concerning the wisdom of conducting miles of problematic pullbacks meant to be corrective.

Despite some opinion differences, we all undoubtedly agree that by sharing and applying everyone's best thoughts the canyon will receive its best future stewardship. I'll remain available should you wish to discuss this subject further.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchison

wilandhutch@gmail.com

cc: SRFB ✓

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014

Title: Director's Report

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities, including operations, agency policy issues, and legislation. Information specific to salmon grant management, performance management, and the fiscal report are in separate board memos.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing |

In this Report

- Agency operations
- Legislative, budget, and policy updates
- Update on sister boards

Agency Operations

New Contract for Habitat Work Schedule

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has been working with the Department of Enterprise Services, Paladin, and the Attorney General's Office to develop a new contract between RCO and Paladin for Habitat Work Schedule software licensing and services. The [Habitat Work Schedule](#) is an important online database that displays information on salmon recovery actions and goals. The final contract is nearly complete. It creates a long-term umbrella agreement that allows RCO to maintain the same overall terms and conditions, and buy annual license "subscriptions" and related services.

Staff Give Results Washington Presentation on Salmon Recovery

On September 10, Governor Jay Inslee attended a Results Washington meeting with natural resource agency directors. State salmon recovery efforts were again highlighted during the meeting by Mark Clark of the Conservation Commission, who delivered a presentation on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Mark's presentation included discussions with two participants in the Conservation Reserve Program – Bob Falkner, who has participated in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and Steve Martin of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. Watch the [meeting on TVW](#).

Board Survey

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is committed to ensuring the board has the tools it needs to make informed and transparent decisions (RCO Organizing Principle: Innovative Support Services – Goal 2). In order to gauge if RCO is succeeding, the agency made it a priority to conduct a board member

survey towards the end of calendar year 2014. The survey will target members of both the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board and questions will focus on the meeting agenda, materials and presentations. The results will be tallied and shared with both boards in early 2015.

Information Technology Strategic Planning and Survey Work Underway

The Information Technology (IT) strategic planning project is underway. OTB Solutions, the selected contractor for this project, designed a survey that went out to all staff of RCO and the Puget Sound Partnership this month. In addition, OTB has interviewed the two agencies' executive teams and IT staff about their respective technology capabilities and needs. The project will culminate before the end of the year in a SWOT (strength-weakness-opportunity-threat) analysis and a technology roadmap to help our agencies make better informed technology decisions.

Department of Transportation to Help with Reviewing Projects for Cultural Resources

RCO has signed an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to have them review projects for possible cultural resources impacts, potentially saving our grant recipients time and money. Currently, the Department of Archeology and Historical Preservation (DAHP) requires all projects disturbing ground to survey the sites for possible cultural, Native American, or other historical resources. WSDOT's archaeology staff will review the potential projects and provide a recommendation based upon their resources and expertise about which sites are the most likely to have cultural resources, hopefully cutting down on the number and cost of surveys. Consultation with DAHP and the tribes will still be conducted by RCO's cultural resources coordinator and staff.

Staff Attend Lean Pilot Training

In early October, twelve RCO staff and seven staff from the Puget Sound Partnership participated in a half-day LEAN pilot training delivered by the Governor's Office. Lean has been embraced by the Inslee Administration as a way to help Washington state government create a culture that encourages respect, creativity and innovative problem solving, continuously improves and eliminates waste from government processes, aligns efforts across state agencies and delivers results that matter to Washingtonians. The training was a high-level overview of LEAN and included interactive sessions in which staff were involved in case studies, role playing, lectures, and video to be introduced to and deepen their understanding of 1) Washington State government's definition of Lean; 2) how to solve problems using the Plan-Do-Check-Act process; and 3) how to develop people through coaching. Staff provided feedback after the session and eventually the training will be rolled out to all managers within the state.

RCO Celebrates 50 Years

RCO celebrated its 50th Anniversary with the Governor and over 100 of its closest friends, partners, employees, and former employees on October 29. The celebration was held in the grand State Reception Room in the Legislative Building in Olympia. On hand to help us celebrate was Joanna Grist, executive director of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, Carrie Hite, president of the Washington Recreation and Parks Association, and Karen Daubert, executive director of the Washington Trails Association. April Mills and Rebekah Uthoff, two members of the Bremerton Beyond Accessible Play, told their heartwarming story of the joy people of all ages felt playing at an RCO-funded playground in Bremerton that is fully accessible to people with disabilities. When it came time to open the microphone to the audience, Phil Anderson, director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, spoke about the agencies' partnership. When the festivities ended, not a cupcake remained.

Employees on the Move

We've hired a new executive coordinator for the Invasive Species Council. Raquel Crosier will begin working here in January. She is a former Invasive Species Council member, having represented the Northwest Power and Conservation Council from 2011-2013, and is currently completing a master's degree in conservation biology at the University of New South Wales. Her area of study is on biodiversity loss and invasive species. Before her work as policy analyst at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Raquel was the legislative assistant to Senator Phil Rockefeller and committee assistant to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. She brings with her a deep knowledge of invasive species issues in the Pacific Northwest, as well as excellent policy, research, and administrative skills.



Meg O'Leary, who has been on staff for several months working on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force for Parks and Outdoor Recreation, has been hired to stay until June to help on the Policy Team. Among other tasks, Meg is currently preparing the 2014 State Land Acquisition Forecast Report for the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group. She's been a fantastic co-worker and the Policy Team is grateful to have her aboard.



Legislative, Policy, and Budget Updates

RCO's Budget Submitted

RCO's budget requests (for both operating and capital) were submitted to the Office of Financial Management in early September and posted on our [website](#). The Governor's budget will be released in December.

RCO Helps on Levee Modification and Side Channel Development Project Negotiation

In August, I began facilitating discussions between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Ecology, and Yakima County about whether or not DNR's authorization is necessary for two Salmon Recovery Funding Board restoration projects along the Yakima and Naches River. After two meetings, including one on the ground, the County and DNR agreed that the County would apply for a short-term use authorization for the projects to remove the remaining rip rap/levee at the two sites along the Yakima River (and any other site specific project with SRFB funding). For the longer term, DNR will begin the process of developing an MOU to define the "going forward" relationships and processes so that the future projects (whether they be salmon recovery, Gap-to-Gap, or Floodplains by design projects) can proceed without unnecessary procedural or uncertainty delays. The goal is to get an MOU that pulls the parties together periodically to talk about upcoming projects, plans, designs and issues.

Policy Team Wraps Up Phase 2 of WAC Changes

The Policy Team has been working to continue implementing the Tier 1 and Tier 2 policy assignments from the 2013-15 Policy Work Plan. One of the Tier 1 assignments recently completed is the second phase of revisions to our Washington Administrative Code (WAC). This phase included updates to WAC Chapter 286-13 that revise RCO's procedures for maintaining public records and fulfilling public records requests. The revisions incorporate procedures for electronic public records, changing the costs for fulfilling public records requests, and closely follow the model rules adopted by the Office of the Attorney General.

Update on Sister Boards

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

The board held a very productive meeting in late October. The first day of the meeting focused on grant application review and approval for projects within the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program accounts and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement account. On the second day, the board held a public hearing for the second phase of proposed changes to the Washington Administrative Code, focusing on alignment of our public records and disclosure rules with new legislation that went into effect this year. The next board meeting is scheduled for April.

Washington Invasive Species Council

The Washington Invasive Species Council met in September and shared hot topics on nutria control at Capital Lake, Spartina and gypsy moth control efforts, proposed changes to the 2015 state noxious weed and plant quarantine lists, Eurasian watermilfoil control efforts in the Columbia River, and new guidance from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on carrier contamination. The council also discussed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's proposed invasive species legislation to fund its aquatic invasive species program. Jill Silver, from the 10,000 Years Institute, attended the meeting to talk to the council about funding a weed economic assessment for Washington State. Margaret Tudor, from the Pacific Education Institute, shared all of the great work the institute has done on the council's behalf to incorporate invasive species education and prevention protocols into elementary through high school education. The council will meet again in December to discuss the agency legislative requests on invasive species and recent work on upgrades to the *WA Invasives* reporting mobile app.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands group) met in September and shared information about the outdoor recreation economic study, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee's public lands economic impact assessment, and agency budget submittals for the 2015-17 biennium. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a presentation on the development of its priority landscapes work, and RCO's Jen Masterson demonstrated the public lands inventory web application. Staff is working on writing the 2014 *State Land Acquisition Forecast Report*, which includes information on proposed state land purchases from the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and Natural Resources, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission. The group will meet next in December.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Performance Report
Prepared by: Jennifer Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes fiscal year 2015 grant management and project impact performance measures for projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board). The data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of November 3, 2014.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

In this Report

- Project Impact Performance Measures
- Grant Management Performance Measures

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in fiscal year 2015. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing.

Five salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to November 3, 2014), with three passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 10.84 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

| Measure | FY 2015 Performance |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Blockages Removed | 5 |
| Bridges Installed | 2 |
| Culverts Installed | 1 |
| Fish Ladders Installed | 0 |
| Fishway Chutes Installed | 0 |

Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible

| Project # | Project Name | Primary Sponsor | Stream Miles |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 11-1393 | QIN S.F. Salmon River Culvert Replacement Project | Quinault Indian Nation | 5.8 |
| 11-1394 | QIN F-17 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project | Quinault Indian Nation | 0.8 |
| 11-1395 | QIN F-15 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project | Quinault Indian Nation | 0.11 |
| 11-1462 | Coal Creek Culvert Replacement | Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition | 2.9 |
| 11-1520 | Silver Creek Association- Bridle Creek R9 | Skagit Fish Enhancement Group | 1.23 |
| Total Miles | | | 10.84 |

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2015 operational performance measures as of November 3, 2014.

Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

| Measure | FY Target | FY 2015 Performance | Indicator | Notes |
|--|---------------|---------------------|-----------|---|
| Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding | 85-95% | 83% | ● | A total of 12 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed in fiscal year 2015. Staff mail agreements on average 58 days after a project is approved. |
| Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less) | 65-75% | 84% | ● | A total of 220 progress reports were due in fiscal year 2015 for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 184 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded in 8 days. |
| Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days | 100% | 94% | ● | During fiscal year 2015, 376 bills came due for SRFB-funded projects. 353 bills were paid on time. Bills may not be paid on time because of incomplete sponsor paperwork or lack of proper documentation. |
| Percent of Projects Closed on Time | 60-70% | 57% | ● | A total of 49 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close fiscal year 2015. Twenty-eight of these projects closed on time. |
| Number of Projects in Project Backlog | 0 | 15 | ● | Fifteen SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. |
| Number of Post-Completion Inspections Done | No target set | 4 | N/A | |

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Management Status Report: Financial Report
Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

Summary

This financial report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of October 2014.

The available balance (funds to be committed) is \$33 million, with the majority of these funds to be awarded to projects by the December 2014 board meeting. The amount for the board to allocate is approximately \$30.9 million, primarily in new state and federal funds as well as returned funds. The amount for other entities to allocate is \$2.1 million.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Balance Summary

| Fund | Balance |
|--|-------------|
| Current State Balance | \$9,839,854 |
| Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring | \$8,783,068 |
| Current Federal Balance – Activities | \$5,183,903 |
| Lead Entities | \$0 |
| Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) & Puget Sound Restoration (PSR) | \$7,139,556 |
| Estuary and Salmon Restoration | \$410,007 |
| Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP) | \$1,739,279 |
| Puget Sound Critical Stock | \$0 |

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 10/23/2014 (fm16)
 Percentage of biennium reported: 66.7%

| Grant Programs | BUDGET | COMMITTED | | TO BE COMMITTED | | EXPENDITURES | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | New & Re-appropriation 2013-2015 (\$) | Dollars (\$) | % of Budget | Dollars (\$) | % of Budget | Dollars (\$) | % of Completed |
| State Funded | | | | | | | |
| 2003-05 | \$159,127 | \$159,127 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$159,127 | 100% |
| 2005-07 | \$947,980 | \$936,749 | 99% | \$11,231 | 1% | \$565,163 | 60% |
| 2007-09 | \$1,892,914 | \$1,892,914 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$755,342 | 40% |
| 2009-11 | \$210,888 | \$210,888 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$210,888 | 100% |
| 2011-13 | \$7,238,131 | \$6,923,651 | 96% | \$314,480 | 4% | \$4,292,922 | 62% |
| 2013-15 | \$14,382,000 | \$4,867,858 | 34% | \$9,514,142 | 66% | \$471,852 | 10% |
| State Funded Total | \$24,831,040 | \$14,991,186 | 60% | \$9,839,854 | 40% | \$6,455,295 | 43% |
| Federal Funded | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | \$4,221,631 | \$4,221,631 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$4,221,631 | 100% |
| 2010 | \$12,634,686 | \$12,634,685 | 100% | \$1 | 0% | \$6,559,779 | 52% |
| 2011 | \$12,613,585 | \$12,613,585 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$5,144,016 | 41% |
| 2012 | \$19,269,120 | \$19,269,120 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$9,007,215 | 47% |
| 2013 | \$18,284,837 | \$18,284,837 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$4,484,886 | 25% |
| 2014 | \$18,111,376 | \$4,144,405 | 23% | \$13,966,971 | 77% | \$189,446 | 5% |
| Federal Funded Total | \$85,135,234 | \$71,168,263 | 84% | \$13,966,972 | 16% | \$29,606,973 | 41% |
| Grant Programs | | | | | | | |
| Lead Entities | \$7,116,243 | \$6,704,154 | 94% | \$412,089 | 6% | \$3,071,443 | 46% |
| Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration | \$83,787,108 | \$76,647,552 | 91% | \$7,139,556 | 9% | \$20,243,877 | 26% |
| Estuary and Salmon Restoration | \$16,749,076 | \$16,339,069 | 98% | \$410,007 | 2% | \$5,551,465 | 34% |
| Family Forest Fish Passage Program | \$11,911,409 | \$10,172,130 | 85% | \$1,739,279 | 15% | \$6,724,848 | 66% |
| Puget Sound Critical Stock | \$2,486,851 | \$2,486,851 | 100% | 0 | 0% | \$1,446,912 | 58% |
| Subtotal Grant Programs | \$232,016,961 | \$198,509,204 | 86% | \$33,507,757 | 14% | \$73,100,811 | 37% |
| Administration | | | | | | | |
| SRFB Admin/Staff | \$4,265,478 | \$4,265,478 | 100% | - | 0% | \$2,239,235 | 52% |
| Review Panel | \$677,173 | \$677,173 | 100% | - | 0% | \$361,511 | 53% |
| Subtotal Administration | \$4,942,651 | \$4,942,651 | 100% | - | 0% | \$2,600,746 | 53% |
| GRANT AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL | \$236,959,612 | \$203,451,855 | 86% | \$33,507,757 | 14% | \$75,701,557 | 37% |

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Tara Galuska, Section Manager, Salmon Recovery Section

Summary

The following are some highlights of work recently completed by the staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing |

Grant Management

2013 Grant Cycle Update

As of October 20, 2014, 152 out of 157 projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in 2013 are under agreement and in "active" status. Grant managers are working with sponsors to sign agreements for the five remaining funded projects. Our performance measure was to have all 2013 board-funded projects in active status by June 4, 2014. Of the active projects, some sponsors are well underway with project implementation.

2014 Grant Cycle

In the spring of 2014, sponsors submitted 215 salmon project applications into PRISM, RCO's project database, for the 2014 grant cycle. Between April and June 2014, the lead entities coordinated project site visits with the review panel and RCO staff. The site visits were an opportunity to see the project sites, learn about the project specifics, and provide feedback to the sponsor in a project comment form. The deadline for salmon grant applications was August 15, 2014; lead entities were required to submit their ranked project lists by this time. The RCO staff and the Review Panel evaluated 185 salmon projects. In September 2014, the board approved 26 projects utilizing Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding and 6 projects within IMW areas utilizing salmon state and federal funds.

The 2014 grant cycle includes submission and review of five components. The board funded the following three components at the September 2014 board meeting:

- 1) PSAR projects utilizing the remaining 2013-15 PSAR funds.
- 2) PSAR large capital projects utilizing the remaining 2013-15 PSAR large capital funds.

- 3) Projects within the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) utilizing up to \$2 million reserved by the board to advance the work of the IMWs. As noted early, the board approved 6 projects within IMWs.

At the December 2014 meeting, the board will be asked to fund the remaining two components:

- 4) All salmon applications for state and federal funding approval.
- 5) PSAR large capital projects for the 2015-17 biennium. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) released a request for proposals (RFP) with specific criteria for the submission of 2015-17 large capital projects by August 15, 2014. The technical review panel reviewed all projects entered into PRISM, and PSP reviewed and ranked them. The Board will approve the list of projects and add them as alternate projects on the current ranked list of projects. Once the Legislature appropriates funds during next session, RCO staff will be able to quickly put the projects under contract. The request to approve these projects in advance of funding is so that the lists can be shared with the Office of Financial Management and the Legislature.

As described in the components above, the board has already approved requests for funding for 2013-15 PSAR projects and projects within IMWs at the September 2014 board meeting. The board will make funding decisions at the December 2014 meeting for the remainder of the funds appropriated during the current biennium and approve the PSAR large capital project lists for the next biennium. Applications were due in two phases to meet the project review and approval timelines. Application due dates were July 1, 2014 for 2013-15 PSAR and IMW projects, and August 15, 2014 for all other projects.

Utilizing an early action process, RCO was able to allocate the remaining 2013-15 PSAR funds, as well as funding for the IMW projects. The early PSAR projects required a full, completed application prior to conducting project site visits. As of May 15, 2014, the regular PSAR account had \$8,151,016 available for allocation and \$16,714,230 available for two large capital PSAR projects. The technical review panel met on July 14-15, 2014 to review all early PSAR and IMW projects. The board approved allocation of all remaining PSAR funds at the September board meeting.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP) Projects Underway

In August 2014, the FFFPP Steering Committee approved the 2015 project list for projects proposed for funding consideration. The 2015 list includes 15 projects with 18 barrier crossings. There are still 458 eligible landowners with 678 crossings on the waiting list.

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that have closed between August 1, 2014 and October 20, 2014. To view information about a project, click on the blue project number. From that link, you can open and view the project attachments (e.g., designs, photos, maps, and final report).

Amendments Approved by the Director

The table below shows the major amendments approved between August 1, 2014 and October 20, 2014. Staff processed 41 project related amendments during this period, but most were minor revisions related to project scope or time extensions.

| Number | Name | Sponsor | Program | Type | Amount/Notes |
|-------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 11-1499 | Buck Creek Fish Passage Design | Underwood Conservation District | Salmon Federal Projects | Project Cost Change | Increase cost by \$34,500 to explore additional options for conveying flow and containing overflow on Buck Creek a tributary to the White Salmon. |
| 14-2260 | Frazer Creek Emergency Response | Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation | Salmon State Projects | Project Cost Change | Increase costs by \$31,927 for emergency bridge construction. |
| 10-1843 | Dillwater LWD Enhancement | Chelan County Natural Resources | Salmon Federal Projects | Project Cost Change | Decrease SRFB share reduced to 46% and reduce match to 54% due to lower than estimated project costs. |
| 13-1312 | Little Rattlesnake Creek Road Decommission | Mid-Columbia RFEC | Salmon State Projects | Project Cost Change | Decrease \$15,000 in state SRFB funds, due to lower construction bids. |
| 13-1144 | Lower Ohop Restoration Phase III | South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | Project Cost Change | Decrease by \$23,000 of 2013-15 PSAR PIDA and \$40,000 2013-15 of 2013-15 PSAR to total \$2,210,871, reflecting savings from lower than expected project costs. |
| 12-1378 | Powell Wetland Protection | Nisqually Land Trust | Salmon Federal Projects | Project Cost Change | Increase by \$40,000 2013-15 PSAR funding returned from project #13-1144 and \$7,100 in sponsor match to total \$77,100 due to higher than expected project costs. |
| 12-1598 | West Beach Creek Restoration Phase 2 | NW Straits Marine Conservation Foundation | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | Project Cost Change | The Puget Sound Partnership and RCO approved the use of \$77,721 of remaining 2009-2011 biennium PSAR funds to select the low bid for construction. |
| 09-1598 | Thatcher Bay Nearshore Restoration Implementation | Skagit Fish Enhancement Group | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | Project Cost Change | The Puget Sound Partnership and RCO approved the use of \$208,010 of remaining 2009-2011 biennium PSAR funds to cover higher bid for the construction. |
| 12-1207 | Lower Day Creek Slough Habitat Enhancement | Skagit Fish Enhancement Group | Salmon Federal Projects | Project Cost Change | Increase by \$8,721 of SRFB funds for increased bridge cost. |
| 09-1277 | Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration – Construction | Tulalip Tribe | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | Project Cost Change | The Puget Sound Partnership and SRFB approved the use of \$400,000 of remaining 2009-2011 biennium PSAR funds to cover higher bid for the construction. |

Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of October 23, 2014.

- Staff works with sponsors to place “pending” projects under agreement, following approval at the December 2014 board meeting.
- Active projects are under agreement. Sponsors are working on implementation with RCO support for grant administration and compliance.

| | Pending Projects | Active Projects | Completed Projects | Total Funded Projects |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Salmon Projects to Date | 29 | 345 | 1,618 | 1,992 |
| Percent of Total | 1.5% | 17.3% | 81.2% | |

This table does not include projects funded through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Although RCO staff support these programs through grant administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

Upper Columbia - Fire Impacts to Fraser Creek

GSRO and RCO Salmon Section staff worked cooperatively with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) to assist five landowners to replace their stream crossings with bridges. Fraser Creek suffered a catastrophic flood that overwhelmed five stream crossings by filling the channel with hundreds of yards of sediment brought downstream. Intense rains directly following a wildfire in the area triggered the flood event, which closed State Highway 20 for several weeks while WSDOT worked to repair the damage.

The total estimated cost of the five projects is approximately \$600,000. WSDOT provided RCO \$102,000 in federal emergency funds to assist with four of the five crossings. Funding from FFFPP was available for the fifth site because it was already enrolled in the program before the flood event occurred. The remaining funding for these projects came from projects within the region’s return funds. The expected completion date for these projects is mid-December. Staff will provide a brief overview at the board meeting on December 3, 2014.

Salmon Recovery Conference – May 27-29, 2015 Vancouver, Washington

The 2015 Salmon Recovery conference is scheduled for May 27-29, 2015, in Vancouver, WA. RCO and GSRO staff are collaborating with WDFW to host the event, and Long Live the Kings is providing logistical support. A multi-stakeholder Conference Advisory Committee is helping frame the agenda, which is likely to include plenary sessions covering topics of interest to all. A call for abstracts will go out in mid-November; sessions on project lessons learned will continue to be an important part of the conference. Registration will open after the first of the year.

Communications Strategy

Pyramid Communications delivered the final communication strategy framework to GSRO in May. Two primary goals of the strategy are to: 1) tell a common story visually, making the message immediately

apparent and relevant to the public, and 2) recognize that the funding landscape and cast of champions has changed since 1999, providing the need to target essential decision makers in order to amplify the voice of salmon recovery. The strategy suggests regional-scale changes to communications, including common messaging and an aligned design standard.

In late August, the board agreed to continue to invest in a communication strategy and funded a series of recommendations. The objective is to improve and strengthen communications between key partners in Washington State's salmon recovery network. A coordinated workgroup will provide a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship building across the various organizations.

GSRO and RCO jointly issued a request for proposals to hire a facilitator for the workgroup with potential contractor responses due November 7. The facilitated meetings will begin after the first of the year. At the same time, regional areas will be receiving a briefing from Pyramid Communications on the importance of developing a region-specific communications strategy in order to help them develop individual proposals for planning and implementation. A letter of request is due to GSRO by January 31, 2015.

State of Salmon in Watersheds Report

The Department of Ecology (DOE) and The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) produced data for several State of Salmon indicators. They are publishing their data to <https://data.wa.gov/>, the state's web-based tool for charting and tracking live data that feeds into the State of Salmon in Watersheds report website. Our web designer is currently pulling this data into our development site.

GSRO staff met with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), and WDFW to increase coordination of data, technologies, and messages for our respective reports: the State of Our Watersheds report (NWIFC), the State of the Sound report (PSP), and our State of Salmon in Watersheds report. All three documents report similar indicators. This coordination will also decrease pressure on our data sources in the long term.

In addition to the website, GSRO will be producing a short, printed Executive Summary. A draft of the summary will be finished by December 31, 2014. New to the online report will be several interactive multi-media salmon stories presenting a range of accomplishments and challenges in salmon recovery from around the state. GSRO will show some examples at the February 2015 meeting.

Habitat Work Schedule

GSRO meets regularly with the new Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Action Committee, made up of Lead Entity coordinators, who help to inform GSRO about what system-users need, how to clarify metrics and streamline the system, and which outside data would be useful to bring into HWS. GSRO staff continues to work with Lead Entities to improve the quality of salmon project data and to align HWS and the grant management data from PRISM for historic projects where the data had been out-of-sync. GSRO and the Lead Entities are identifying priority HWS metrics to report across the state at various scales, including in the State of Salmon report at the state scale. GSRO and Lead Entities are also working with PSP to report Puget Sound Action Agenda targets using specific PSP metrics that Lead Entities tracked in HWS.

GSRO and RCO have been working with the Department of Enterprise Services (DES), Paladin Data Systems, and the Attorney General's Office on a new contract agreement between RCO and Paladin for HWS software licensing and services. A final contract will be completed in November, based on the newly negotiated contract terms. The process took a considerable amount of time, but the results will provide for better outcomes.

Fish Barrier Removal Board

GSRO is serving on the state's new Fish Barrier Removal Board, created by the Legislature last session. WDFW is chair of the board, with representative members from the Department of Natural Resources, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Association of Counties, Yakama Indian Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, WSDOT, and GSRO. The purpose of the board is to identify and expedite the removal of human-made or human-caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most efficient manner practical. The board tasks include developing a statewide fish passage barrier correction strategy.

Membership, agendas, minutes, and current products are available on the WDFW website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>. The board is very interested in using existing human infrastructure (lead entities, Regions, RFEs) to prioritize projects.

Mitigation Matching Demonstration Project

GSRO solicited contractor proposals in early February for a project that matches transportation projects with habitat restoration and protection projects. Funding (\$100,000) for this work was included in the state capital budget. RCO received three proposals and then coordinated with an evaluation team to select Eldred and Associates. The work involves developing a tool that enables a landscape mitigation approach and evaluates compensatory mitigation in an ecosystem context. This project will show how technology can streamline permitting by providing ease-of-access to habitat project lists and mapped locations, which can help permitting agencies and permit applicants to implement projects more efficiently. Mitigation matching can assist the State of Washington and RCO to optimize the benefits of their salmon recovery, habitat protection, and restoration planning by identifying proposed projects and actions that align with transportation mitigation obligations.

RCO and GSRO's salmon restoration project tracking and reporting systems, along with other agency data systems, will help make mitigation matching in Washington State possible. Salmon project information paired with that from WSDOT and other state permitting agency technologies create an excellent opportunity to test the benefits of mitigation matching. A tool that helps match salmon and mitigation projects will be presented at the board meeting in February 2015. The contract with Eldred and Associates will run through the end of the year. GSRO and RCO staff is working on a factsheet, a webpage, and other tools that will help inform partners on the progress of this work.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel

The recently created Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) has been working over the summer to create reporting requirements and expectations for contractors, implementing the three components of the monitoring program. GSRO staff aligned the monitoring program contracts on the federal fiscal year and adding in the new reporting requirements developed by the panel. The five-member monitoring panel is working on updating the monitoring approach, and expects to have the document finalized by the end of the year.

Attachments

- A. Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from July 28, 2014-October 23, 2014

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from July 28, 2014-October 23, 2014

| Number | Name | Sponsor | Program | Closed On |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 12-1622 | Lower White River Floodplain Rehabilitation Design | Cascade Col Reg Fish Enhance | Salmon Federal Projects | 7/28/2014 |
| 13-1504 | Stillaguamish Chinook CWT | Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians | Coded Wire Tag Program | 7/29/2014 |
| 11-1598 | Willapa Bay - N. Nemah River Conservation Project | Columbia Land Trust | Salmon State Projects | 7/30/2014 |
| 09-1749 | Tribal Hatchery Reform 2009 | NW Indian Fisheries Comm | Salmon Federal Activities | 7/31/2014 |
| 12-1524 | Middle Fork Nooksack LWD Design | Nooksack Salmon Enhance Assn | Salmon Federal Projects | 7/31/2014 |
| 09-1263 | Tolt River Riparian Area Restoration | Seattle City Light | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/1/2014 |
| 10-1186 | Upper Tychman Slough Restoration | Sound Salmon Solutions | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/1/2014 |
| 09-1661 | Clearwater River LWD Project | South Puget Sound SEG | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/1/2014 |
| 12-1782 | North Pacific Coast LE - UW #A77277 | University of Washington | Salmon-LE Fed Contracts | 8/1/2014 |
| 12-1165 | Haapa Habitat Enhancement Design Project | Lower Columbia River FEG | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/4/2014 |
| 12-1312 | Beard's Cove Restoration Design | Great Peninsula Conservancy | Salmon State Projects | 8/6/2014 |
| 09-1657 | Summer Chum Riparian Project - East Jefferson | North Olympic Salmon Coalition | Salmon State Projects | 8/7/2014 |
| 13-1354 | Reid Harbor Conservation Easement | San Juan Preservation Trust | PSAR Large Capital Projects | 8/7/2014 |
| 12-1598 | West Beach Creek Restoration | NW Straits Marine Cons Found | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/7/2014 |
| 11-1372 | Nason Creek LWP Alcove Acquisition | Chelan-Douglas Land Trust | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/8/2014 |
| 11-1600 | L Cowiche Creek Restoration Design | Yakima County Public Services | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/11/2014 |
| 10-1785 | Yakima River Delta Habitat Assessment | Mid-Columbia RFEG | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/15/2014 |
| 12-1107 | Dungeness Flow Enhancement-Recharge and Storage | Washington Water Trust | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/15/2014 |
| 07-1752 | Intensively Monitored Watersheds FY 08 | Ecology Dept of | Salmon Federal Activities | 8/22/2014 |
| 11-1633 | Intensively Monitored Watersheds 2012 | Ecology Dept of | Salmon Federal Activities | 8/26/2014 |
| 12-1730 | Kukutali Preserve Stewardship Planning | State Parks | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 8/26/2014 |
| 10-1574 | Salmon & Snow Creek Riparian Project | North Olympic Salmon Coalition | Salmon State Projects | 8/26/2014 |
| 10-1843 | Dillwater LWD Enhancement | Chelan Co Natural Resource | Salmon Federal Projects | 8/27/2014 |
| 09-1610 | Donovan Creek Acquisition and Restoration - 135 | Hood Canal SEG | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 8/29/2014 |

| Number | Name | Sponsor | Program | Closed On |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 12-1153 | Tolt River Conservation | King County DNR & Parks | Salmon Federal Projects | 9/4/2014 |
| 11-1599 | North River Knotweed Control Project | Pacific Conservation Dist | Salmon Federal Projects | 9/4/2014 |
| 12-1919 | Puget Sound IP Model Resolution Update | NW Indian Fisheries Comm | Salmon Federal Activities | 9/5/2014 |
| 11-1263 | Middle Pilchuck River Habitat Enhancement Project | Sound Salmon Solutions | Salmon State Projects | 9/10/2014 |
| 11-1364 | Porter Levee Restoration - Design | King Co Water & Land Res | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 9/16/2014 |
| 08-1952 | Manastash Creek Diversion Consolidation | Kittitas Co Conservation Dist | Salmon Federal Projects | 9/16/2014 |
| 11-1368 | Big Spring Creek Restoration - Construction | King County DNR & Parks | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 9/24/2014 |
| 11-1470 | Gorst Creek Habitat Enhancement | Mid-Puget Sound Fish Enh Grp | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 9/24/2014 |
| 12-1410 | Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Use Assessment 2012 | Wild Fish Conservancy | Salmon Federal Projects | 9/25/2014 |
| 11-1572 | NF Nooksack Wildcat Reach Restoration Phase 2 | Nooksack Indian Tribe | Salmon State Projects | 9/26/2014 |
| 13-1442 | PERS SRV Film Footage - Salmon Recovery Monitoring | Wahoo Films, LLC | Salmon Federal Activities | 9/30/2014 |
| 12-1729 | Returning Natural Origin L. Col Coho Study | Fish & Wildlife Dept of | Salmon Federal Activities | 10/1/2014 |
| 11-1395 | QIN F-15 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project | Quinault Indian Nation | Salmon Federal Projects | 10/1/2014 |
| 11-1675 | 2011 Implement Tribal Agreements | Fish & Wildlife Dept of | Salmon Federal Activities | 10/2/2014 |
| 13-1336 | Chewuch River Instream Flow Enhancement | Trout Unlimited-WA Water Proj | Salmon Federal Projects | 10/6/2014 |
| 08-2061 | Turner's Middle Valley Skamokawa Restoration | Wahkiakum Conservation Dist | Salmon Federal Projects | 10/6/2014 |
| 10-1940 | WDFW Smolt Monitoring 2011 | Fish & Wildlife Dept of | Salmon Federal Activities | 10/9/2014 |
| 09-1680 | NF Nooksack Farmhouse Reach Feasibility and Design | Nooksack Indian Tribe | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 10/16/2014 |
| 12-1514 | NF Nooksack (Xwqélém) Wildcat Reach Phase 3 | Nooksack Indian Tribe | Salmon Federal Projects | 10/17/2014 |
| 11-1381 | North Fork ELJ Placement | Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 10/20/2014 |
| 12-1260 | Ala Spit Restoration Phase 3 | Island County Health Dept | Salmon Federal Projects | 10/20/2014 |

Washington Council of Salmon Recovery Regions
Report to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
December 2014

The regional directors met in October and focused on the following items:

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Council of Regions continues to look for ways to strength recovery related monitoring. Unmet monitoring needs significantly diminish or threaten the ability of regional organizations and their partners to effectively assess and guide recovery efforts.

COR continues to work with GSRO and RCO to make monitoring projects eligible for funding from the SRFB habitat project funds. To ensure consistency with monitoring priorities identified in salmon recovery and regional monitoring plans, we recommend that such projects be sponsored only by a regional organization or in partnership with a regional organization. We know that this recommendation raises the issue of maintaining an appropriate balance between funding for habitat projects and monitoring. While this approach may not be appropriate in all regions, we believe that regional organizations in consultation with their lead entities are in the best position to identify the right funding balance in their regions to address the most important regional monitoring needs.

The Council also endorsed an RCO/GSRO proposal to EPA for the development of an adult salmon migrant data exchange.

- **Review of the latest draft Bull Trout Plan with the US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Representatives from USFWS presented an update on the 2014 draft bull trout plan. The comment period closed December 3. The next step is for the service to draft regional unit implementation plans (RUIP). Throughout 2015 USFWS will work with the Coastal and Mid-Columbia units to craft their plans that will describe details on how threats will be addressed and prioritize actions listed, and, identify cost and responsible parties.

- **Communications and Outreach Strategy**

Each region is working to implement the state communication and outreach strategy completed by Pyramid earlier this year. In August the SRFB authorized moving ahead with this work. Between November and February GSRO and Pyramid will meet with regional boards to explore ways to customize the strategy and develop local implementation plan. Regional boards are to submit letters of intent for developing regional communication and outreach plans. At the same time the directors are working GSRO, WDFW, lead entities and fish enhancement groups to improve internal communications. GSRO will provide an update securing a Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) facilitator. All of these tasks were funded by the SRFB in August.

- **NOAA's 5-Year Status Review**

NOAA is reaching out to each of the regional organizations to discuss the process for completing the status review. The Federal Register Notice will be issued in January 2015. NOAA hopes to improve coordination by working with the regional organizations to ensure that applicable information and data is considered during the review process. The draft schedule for submitting updated VSP information is by the end of year.

- **State of the Salmon**

GSRO provided an update on editing information for the 2014 report. Each region is working on different pages and datasets. GSRO developed a schedule to help sequence deliverables. At this writing more than half of the webpages have been reviewed.

WSC Officers

Darcy Batura, Chair
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair
WRIA 13 & 14 Salmon Recovery
Lead Entities

Richard Brocksmith
Skagit Watershed Council

John Foltz
Snake River Salmon Recovery
Board Lead Entity

Rich Osborne
N. Pacific Coast & Quinault
Indian Nation Lead Entities

Joy Juelson
Upper Columbia Salmon
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Dawn Pucci
Island County Lead Entity

Jason Wilkinson
Lake Washington, Cedar,
Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)
Lead Entity

Members

Todd Andersen
Kalispell-Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Vacant
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Cheryl Baumann
N.Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

Jeff Breckel
Lower Columbia Lead Entity

Alicia Olivias
Hood Canal Lead Entity

Ashley Von Essen
Nisqually Lead Entity

Greg Schuler
Klickitat Lead Entity

Mike Nordin
Pacific County Lead Entity

Doug Osterman
Green, Duwamish and Central
Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA
9) Lead Entity

Marian Berejikian
Westsound Watershed Council

Becky Peterson
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board

Barbara Rosenkotter
San Juan Lead Entity

Lisa Spurrier
Pierce County Lead Entity

Pat Stevenson
Stillaguamish Tribe Lead Entity

Donald "Kit" Crump
Co-Lead for Stillaguamish
Watershed Lead Entity

Denise Di Santo
Snohomish Lead Entity

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



Community-Based Salmon Recovery

November 26, 2014

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members,

The Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) has been busy over the last few months. A main area of focus has been the Regional Area Project Meetings. The priority of these meetings is to address the projects of concern (POCs). In order to do this effectively, we work directly with each project sponsor to ensure that they understand the Review Panel's concern, and work collaboratively on a strategy to address the concern. In addition to clearing POCs, Lead Entity coordinators work together with their region to create a presentation highlighting:

- Where projects are located and how they fit into the regional priorities.
- Other funding sources significantly contributing to restoration and how it all fits together.
- Science demonstrating effectiveness of regional recovery efforts.
- Considerations of other factors influencing recovery: hydropower, hatcheries, and harvest.
- Challenges to implementation that they'd like to highlight.

These meetings are an excellent opportunity to find workable solutions for some of the more complex project issues around the state. It also facilitates a good discussion around region-related successes, challenges and priorities.

WSC Supports Salmon Funding Requests

Our membership and representatives from our partners, COR, WDFW, and PSP, met at Seahurst Park on October 1 to discuss WSC funding priorities, funding updates from our partners, new funding mechanisms, and how we can support RCO's salmon recovery funding requests. Nineteen of the 25 lead entities attended the meeting.

Key outcomes of this meeting involved working group tasks to help prepare for legislative outreach, including the development of a revised Legislative Advocacy Handbook. The WSC Executive Committee in partnership with the Funding Committee wrote example letters that could be modified and sent to the Governor's Office – with the goal that with multiple letters arriving in sequence, they will acknowledge that it is critical for the state to maintain their investment in salmon recovery. Multiple letters were submitted as a result of this effort.

Defining Outreach for Lead Entities

As we work to implement the Communication Framework in our local watersheds, we need to have a better idea of how we are conducting outreach across all 25 lead entities. At the WSC level, we are hoping to help each individual Lead Entity identify and/or implement an outreach plan, identify priority audiences, and use a targeted common and local message to help move salmon habitat restoration forward at the statewide level. We also hope to help Lead Entities identify the top influencers in their watersheds so that they might develop relationships with those individuals.

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION

Community-Based Salmon Recovery



The WSC Communications & Outreach Team developed a robust survey about outreach tasks, and each lead entity completed the survey as part of their annual reporting. The following are a few highlights from the survey results:

- Eleven of the 25 Lead Entities have an outreach plan; 6 were updated within the last year;
- General outreach strategy varies statewide from an opportunistic approach to a well-honed and sophisticated outreach program;
- The primary goals of outreach are to educate, build awareness, and move people to action;
- Top 3 priority audiences: Private Landowners, Legislative Representatives, & Local Elected Officials. These same 3 were also ranked as the audience with which we have the least outreach success;
- Regions and Lead Entities are doing a good job coordinating their efforts;
- Lead Entities and project sponsors are doing a good job coordinating their efforts;

We recognize that time and resources for outreach are limited; therefore development of a well-defined and targeted approach should prove to be cost effective. In the immediate future, the WSC Communications & Outreach team seeks to convey the importance of legislative outreach with our statewide peers, and help provide basic training, common messaging, and outreach material for targeted approach for the upcoming legislative session. This survey clearly identified the need to implement a targeted outreach effort towards our legislators during a critical time for Lead Entities, our partners, and salmon recovery and restoration in Washington.

Lead Entity Staff Changes

Statewide, we have continued to experience a high rate of turnover among Lead Entity Coordinators. The WSC serves an important resource for helping new Lead Entity Coordinators get up to speed by facilitating the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs. To that end, WSC is in the process of updating the Lead Entity Guidance Manual which serves as a comprehensive welcome packet, intended to introduce new hires to lead entity work and provide the contacts and resources to get this important work done.

WSC Welcomes New Lead Entity Staff:

- Denise DiSanto, Snohomish Basin Lead Entity
- Bill Armstrong, Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity
- Kit Crump, Stillaguamish County Lead Entity

Lead Entity Vacancy:

- Chehalis Basin

Lead Entity Legislative Outreach - January 27!

Communicating with state legislators and other elected officials is important to maintain and increase policy and funding support for salmon recovery. Regular outreach to legislators educates them about the importance of salmon recovery and the ongoing efforts in local watersheds. There is much that salmon recovery leaders can do within their existing capacity, especially making sure their elected representatives and staffs are informed about the successes of the salmon recovery effort. Since most Lead Entity outreach efforts are paid for with public funds we cannot lobby; however, we can provide information that helps our elected officials to effectively lead. We hope many Lead Entity Coordinators will join us here in Olympia on January 27!

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION

Community-Based Salmon Recovery



2015 Lead Entity Retreat – January 27 – 29

Planning for the Lead Entity Training and Retreat is underway. The goal of this annual event is to facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs. A few items on the shortlist for discussion during the retreat include;

- New funding mechanisms
- Legislative outreach debrief
- SRFB Review Panel – working together to implement large and complex projects
- SRFB Stewardship category
- Communications training – reaching the top influencers in our watersheds
- Monitoring funds
- HWS statewide metrics
- Open discussion period for new Lead Entities

Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet)

WSC continues to participate in and support the work of the SRNet team (WDFW, GSRO, COR, WSC, & RFEG Coalition). As you know SRNet is a forum that brings together local and state entities that are implementing salmon and steelhead recovery in Washington State. Our recent work has focused on the development of our charter document and the selection of a facilitator/organizer to help the team to meet its goals over the next year and beyond.

On behalf of WSC, I thank you for your continued support,

Darcy Batura
Yakima Basin Lead Entity Coordinator & WSC Chair

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the proposal for a project in Upper Columbia in response to the wildfires in August 2014.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Proposed Motion Language

The Board moves to approve funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the project identified by the Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board that would help salmon recover after the catastrophic fires in Okanogan County.

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) held its September 2014 meeting in Winthrop, a community that suffered from the largest wildfire in Washington State history. On the first day of the meeting the board toured six project sites, including one fire-damaged project along Beaver Creek. Based on these observations, the board requested the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) to prepare a proposal for the December meeting focused on salmon recovery in the areas most devastated by the fire.

The UCSRB technical team completed a study on the emergency fire response needed for salmon recovery habitat improvements (Attachment A). They propose funding a project identified in the study. Currently, approximately \$250,000 in returned funds is available to support such an effort. Staff from the Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board will propose and present this emergency response project for funding at the December meeting.

In addition, the RCO acting in consultation with board members, the Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and others, worked to address an emergency response that was impacting Highway 20.

In October 2014, the RCO director approved using returned funds for emergency repairs to four fish passage crossings on Frazer Creek and to include a fifth emergency repair as part of the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPP). A post-fire rain event caused a catastrophic flood, filling the channel with hundreds of yards of sediment which traveled downstream. The flood event closed State Highway 20 for several weeks while the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) worked to repair the

damage. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff worked cooperatively with WSDOT, UCSRB, FFFPP, and the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation to assist five landowners with replacement of their stream crossings with bridges.

The total cost of the five bridges is estimated to be approximately \$600,000. WSDOT provided RCO \$102,000 in federal emergency funds to assist with four of the five crossings. The fifth site was funded by FFFPP because it was already enrolled in the program before the flood event occurred. The remaining funding for these projects came from returned funds from other projects within the region. These five projects are expected to be complete by mid-December.

Staff Recommendation

Staff supports funding the project for emergency salmon recovery response to the fire in the Upper Columbia Region. The board has an annual grant round and holds \$500,000 each year for unanticipated cost increase requests. The current balance of \$250,000 of those funds could support the emergency response. Staff recommends selecting a project that could be implemented within one year of the board meeting and that would provide near-term benefit to previously funded project(s) in the basin. The funds could be provided to the region and/or an existing regional sponsor that has experience carrying out the scope of work on the proposal, such as a Conservation District, a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group or other non-profit.

Next Steps

If approved, the RCO staff will work with the region to get the funding under contract immediately, so that work could start right away.

Attachments

- A. Report from the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board: Prioritizations of Areas and Potential Actions for Burned Areas in the Upper Columbia as a Result of the 2014 Fires, November 2014
- B. Thank you letter to the board from the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Prioritization of Areas and Potential Actions for Burned Areas within the Upper Columbia as a Result of the 2014 Fires

November, 2014

Fish and Fire Effects Subgroup:

Chuck Peven
Jennifer Molesworth,
Kate Terrell,
Tracy Hillman
John Crandall,
Greer Maier,
Brandon Rogers, and
Karl Polivka.

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Introduction

The year 2014 experienced extensive wild fires within the Upper Columbia River basin. The first fire started near Mills Canyon in the Entiat River valley on July 8 and may have been human-caused. About a week later, a widespread lightning storm passed through the Upper Columbia region and started multiple fires. The fires burned on private and state lands as well as within the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. Combined, over 360,000 acres (550 sq mi; 1,400 km²) acres were burned (Table 1 and Figure 1).

In the following report, we describe the fires that occurred throughout Upper Columbia River basin, evaluate assessments that were developed by multidisciplinary teams, and make recommendations on short-term actions that may ameliorate the effects of the fires on important salmonids. While we describe the fires that occurred in both Chelan and Okanogan counties, our focus is the Methow and Okanogan River subbasins and therefore, we do not recommend actions within this report for Chelan County.

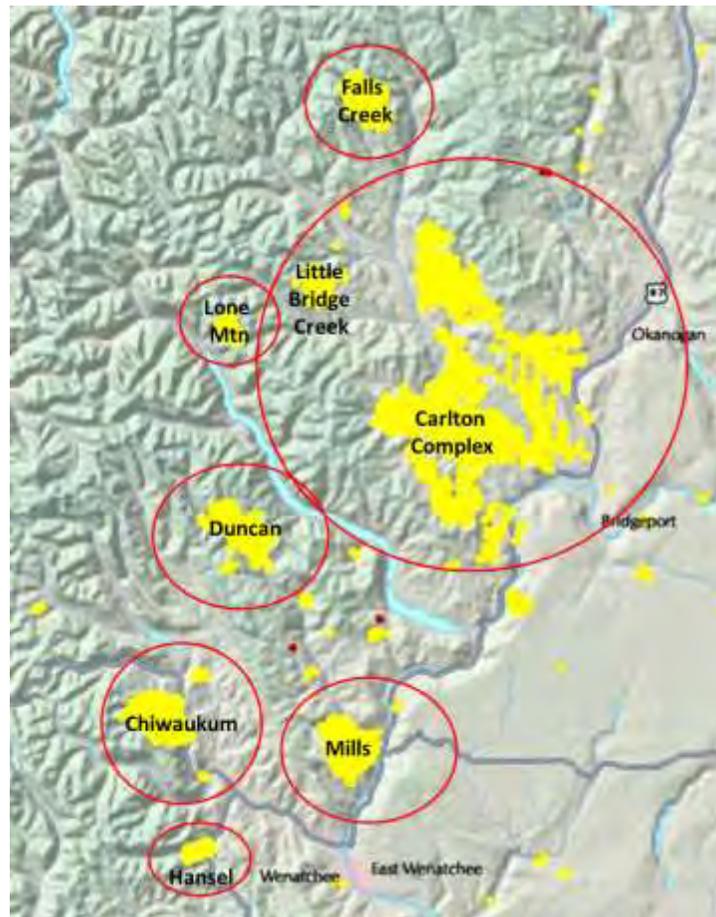


Figure 1. Extent of fires in the Upper Upper Columbia River basin in 2014. Image derived from http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/data/activefiremaps/nwx2014275_1500.jpg.

Description of Burned Areas

Wenatchee Basin

The “Chiwaukum” fire began on July 15 and burned over 14,000 acres southeast of Lake Wenatchee (Figure 1). For management purposes, this fire was combined with “Shoofly, Mills Canyon, Kelly Mountain, Hansel, and Alpine” fires and was named the “Chiwaukum Complex.”

Entiat Basin

The “Mills Canyon” fire began on July 8. It burned approximately 22,500 acres, primarily on the south side of the Entiat Valley in the lower few miles of the river basin. The fire reached the Columbia River and headed south (Figure 1).

The “Duncan” fire started during the storm in mid-July and burned almost 13,000 acres, primarily in the North Fork Entiat River drainage (Figure 1).

Methow-Okanogan

The 256,108 acre Carlton Complex fires started on July 14. The Carlton Complex started as four fires: the Stokes Fire, the Gold Hikes Fire, the French Creek Fire and the Cougar Flat fire. These fires grew into one larger fire on July 20 (Figure 1).

A summary of the extent of the main fires of 2014 is found in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of the main 2014 fires in each major subbasin of the Upper Columbia Region.

| Watershed | Fire Name | Approximate Acres Burned |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Wenatchee | Chiwaukum Complex | 14,000 |
| Entiat | Mills Canyon | 22,500 |
| | Duncan | 13,000 |
| Methow-Okanogan | Carlton Complex | 256,108 |
| Total | | 305,608 |

Potential Effects of Fires on the Aquatic Environment of Listed Salmonids

Fires can have many specific influences on aquatic ecosystems, including decreased stream channel stability, greater and more variable discharge, altered coarse woody debris delivery and storage, increased nutrient availability, higher sediment delivery and transport, and increased solar radiation and altered water temperature regimes (Dunham et al. 2003). The extent to which wildfires affect streams is a function of burn severity, fire intensity, burn area, topography, soil properties, climate, and channel proximity (Johnson and Molesworth 2014). Wildfires can reduce soil infiltration capacity and increase runoff and erosion. Figure 2 depicts a generalized representation of the effects of fire over time on physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of riverine systems. Figure 2 represents the “pulsed” nature of the effects of fires in the short-term, and how the ecosystem recovers over time.

It is important to separate short- and long-term effects of fires on adjacent aquatic environments. Short-term effects are usually direct and can negatively affect the biological and physical needs

of fish, but long-term effects (generally indirect) can change biota and the physical environment and are generally thought to be positive for fish (Johnson and Molesworth 2014). Below, we describe briefly the potential short- and long-term effects that can be expected from fires on the aquatic environment.

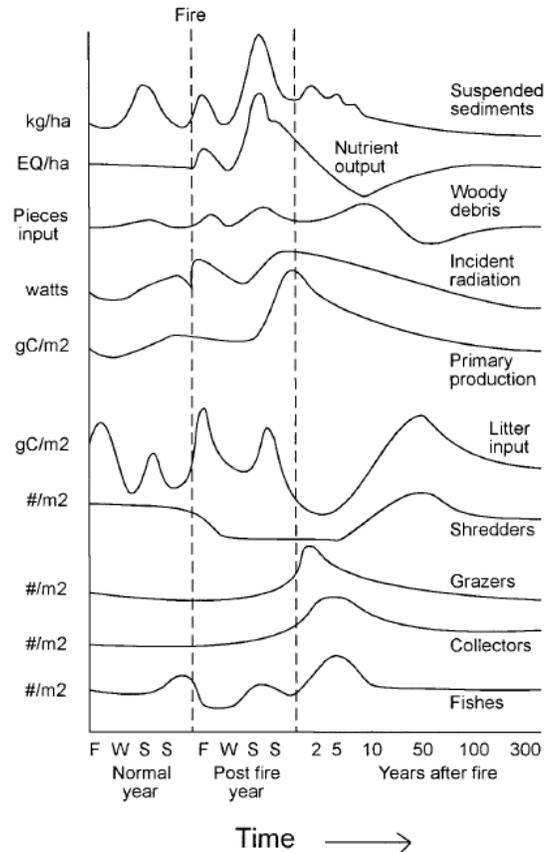


Figure 2. Hypothetical changes in physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of fluvial systems following fires (letters FWSS represent fall, winter, spring, and summer, respectively). From Gresswell (1999).

Short-term (< 5 years)

Most of the short-term effects of fire on the aquatic environment are dependent on the severity of the burn, soil and vegetation types, and weather conditions. Potential short-term, post-fire effects include: increased water temperature, peak flows and channel scour, surface erosion and fine sediment delivery, and landslides and debris flows (Johnson and Molesworth 2014). Many of the high and moderate severity burn areas have a high potential for surface erosion from overland flow that may enter headwater and tributary channels causing sediment bulking that can be transported during subsequent high flow events.

Long-term (> 5 years)

The long-term effects of fire on the aquatic environment are dependent on the amount and intensity of the fire, quality of the affected habitat, and habitat needs of the species affected. In general, over time, large wood input, fresh bedload and gravel could have a positive effect on fish habitat.

Objective of this exercise

Our objective is to review assessments and consider other information to develop a prioritized list of burned areas that are in need of short-term actions. The prioritized list of burned areas will include possible actions considered to be feasible and effective.

To accomplish our objective, we reviewed the work that was completed by the various Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team reports and other information. Table 2 depicts the information that was reviewed.

Table 2. Reports and other information that was reviewed for this report.

| Title | Agency | Citation |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chiwaukum Fire Burned Area Emergency Response. Fisheries Resource Assessment. | USFS | (Johnson 2014) |
| Burned Area Report (Mills Canyon Fire). 8/8/14 | USFS | (USFS 2014b) |
| Burned Area Report (Duncan Fire). 9/8/14 | USFS | (USFS 2014a) |
| Carlton Complex Fire, State and Private Lands, Burned Area Emergency Response Aquatic Resources Report | YN and USBOR | (Johnson and Molesworth 2014) |
| Burned area emergency response (BAER) report. Carlton Complex fire (state and private team). 9/14/14 | Okanogan Conservation District et al. | (OCD et al. 2014) |
| A biological strategy to protect and restore salmonid habitat in the Upper Columbia Region. | RTT | (RTT 2014) |

Review Material

BAER Reports

The BAER is a national interagency group that has three basic objectives:

1. Determine if an emergency condition exists after the fire.
2. Alleviate emergency conditions to help stabilize soil; control water, sediment and debris movement; prevent impairment of ecosystems; mitigate significant threats to health, safety, life, property, and downstream values at risk.
3. Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of emergency treatments.

The BAER Teams conducted their evaluation and developed reports for each of the complex fires. The following information is based on the reports identified in Table 2.

In the Wenatchee and Entiat River subbasins, the BAER teams were primarily focused on Federal lands, because most of the fires (except Mills Canyon) were on USFS land. In the Methow and Okanogan River subbasins, a larger percentage of state and private lands burned.

Thus, in the Methow and Okanogan River basins, there is a BAER report for state and private lands. This is not the case for the Entiat and Wenatchee River basins.

RTT Biological Strategy

One of the functions of the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team (RTT) is to develop a strategy to identify key biological considerations in protecting and restoring salmonid habitat. The strategy was first developed in 2000 and has been updated periodically since then. Within the latest biological strategy (RTT 2014), restoration areas that the RTT has categorized as *assessments units* have been prioritized within each subbasin. Assessment units, as defined by the RTT represent either a portion of a primary sub-watershed or the entire sub-watershed, and, if the former, are used to categorize that sub-watershed into smaller units. In the future, the RTT plans on defining smaller geographic areas for assessment units (see Okanogan subbasin in Table 2), so the ecological concerns (limiting factors) can be better defined for tributaries within the subbasins.

It is not the intent of this report to reprioritize the assessment units within the biological strategy, but to use the information found within it to assist our recommendations.

The current prioritization of each assessment unit, priority actions for those assessment units and various comments are shown in Appendix A.

Methods

To understand the potential effects of fires on aquatic environments, we reviewed the information on the severity of the fires within each of the sub-watersheds where the fires occurred. The severity of fires can be used as a surrogate for the potential response of a sub-watershed to storm events. That is, in areas of moderate to high severity burns, there is a high potential for surface erosion from overland flow that may enter headwater channels causing sediment bulking that can be transported during subsequent high flow events.

After determining the severity of the burn in each sub-watershed, we then determined the proximity of each burn area to known areas of spawning or rearing of important salmonids (salmon, steelhead, and Bull Trout). In our analyses, we believed it was important to include sub-watersheds that do not contain spawning or rearing habitat, but may affect areas that do (for example, by moving large amounts of sediment into spawning or rearing areas).

In addition, we evaluated whether storm events have the potential to affect migration and passage of salmonids into rearing or spawning habitat.

Results and Discussion

Wenatchee and Entiat Subbasins

The Chiwaukum Complex fire burned about 14,000 acres within the Wenatchee River subbasin (HUC 5). Eighty-four percent of the fire occurred within the boundaries of USFS land (Figure 3).

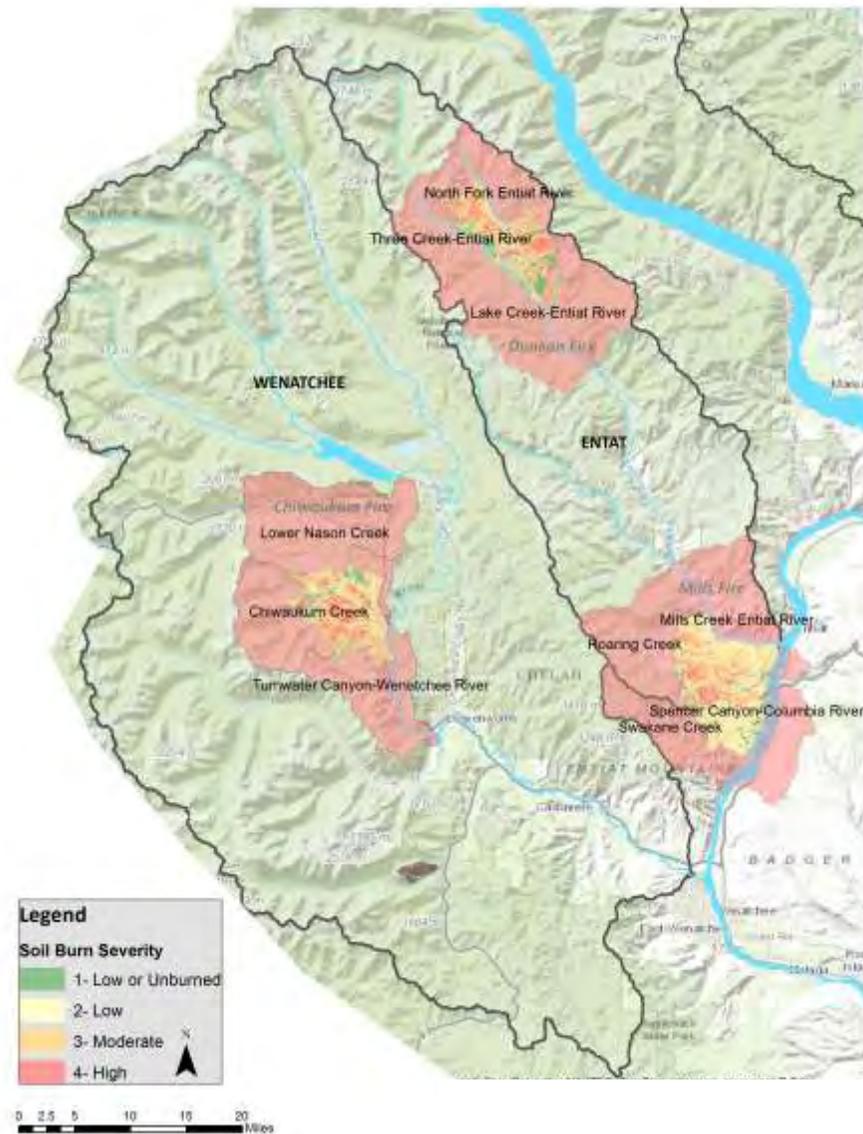


Figure 3. The Chiwaukum Complex fire showing burn severity and sub-watersheds.

The Wenatchee River is unique among subbasins in the Upper Columbia Region in that it supports the greatest diversity of populations and overall abundance of salmonids. The Wenatchee basin has many major spawning areas (MaSAs) for both spring Chinook salmon and steelhead, and important spawning and rearing areas for summer Chinook, sockeye salmon, Bull Trout, Pacific lamprey, and Westslope cutthroat trout.

There is not a lot of anadromous salmonid habitat within the Chiwaukum Complex (Wenatchee Basin) fire perimeter. The area does support important Bull Trout and Westslope cutthroat trout rearing and spawning habitat (Johnson 2014). The primary streams used by salmonids within the fire perimeter include Chiwaukum and Skinney creeks. These streams are used by steelhead, Bull Trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, resident rainbow trout and non-native brook trout, with

some potential rearing for spring Chinook. There is also some limited steelhead spawning in Skinney Creek and lower Chiwaukum Creek.

Most Bull Trout spawn in Chiwaukum Creek between Rkm 5.5 and Rkm 9.3. There is an impassable set of cascades and falls in this area (around Rkm 9.3). The fluvial form migrates out to the Wenatchee and Columbia rivers to forage, mature, or overwinter. Brook trout have been introduced and reproduce in Chiwaukum Creek.

In the Entiat River subbasin, nearly 33,000 acres burned (this includes areas that burned in Swakane and Spencer canyons).

Important spawning and rearing areas occur throughout the Entiat River basin. There is one MaSA for steelhead and one for spring Chinook. In addition, Bull Trout, Westslope cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey inhabit various areas of the basin.

The Duncan fire (approximately 12,700 acres; all on USFS land) was managed as part of the Chiwaukum Complex. It occurred upstream of the anadromous area in the Entiat River basin. Anadromous fish are blocked by a falls located at river mile 36. Bull Trout are not known to occur in the North Fork Entiat River however, sediment transport from the fire and surrounding area has a high likelihood of affecting spawning habitat within the anadromous zone downstream (M. Cooper, USFWS, pers. comm.).

The Mills Canyon fire burned just over 20,000 acres and approximately 55% of the burned area occurred on USFS lands. Several salmonids (Chinook, coho, steelhead, and Bull Trout) use the section adjacent to the Mills Canyon fire for a migration pathway, spawning (summer Chinook and steelhead), or rearing (all species).

Severity of Burned Area

In the Wenatchee and Entiat subbasins (including some side-canyons of the Columbia River), about 45,000 acres burned (Table 3), which was approximately 25% of the area of the sub-watershed that were burned. Of the acres burned, over 7% of the areas was moderate-to-high severity (Table 3, Figure 3).

Table 3. Burn severity in sub-watersheds that burned in the 2014 fires.

| Watershed | Sub-watershed | Fire Name | Total Acres (in sub-watershed) | Total Acres Burned | Percent of Sub-watershed Burned | Acres Burned (severity) | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Low | Moderate | High | Percent Mod-High of Sub-watershed |
| Wenatchee | Chiwaukum Creek | Chiwaukum Complex | 30,876 | 8,979 | 29.1 | 3,499 | 3,490 | 1,990 | 17.7 |
| | Lower Nason Creek | Chiwaukum Complex | 31,679 | 369 | 11.6 | 199 | 166 | 4 | 0.5 |
| | Tumwater Canyon (Wenatchee River) | Chiwaukum Complex | 21,202 | 2,374 | 11.2 | 883 | 1,152 | 339 | 7.0 |
| Entiat | Mills Creek | Mills Canyon | 32,412 | 10,658 | 32.9 | 5,051 | 6,289 | 1,418 | 23.8 |
| | Roaring Creek | Mills Canyon | 16,280 | 653 | 4.0 | 366 | 283 | 4 | 1.8 |
| | Lake Creek | Duncan | 37,648 | 4,761 | 12.6 | 985 | 1,574 | 709 | 6.1 |
| | North Fork Entiat River | Duncan | 17,374 | 4,487 | 25.8 | 1,153 | 1,996 | 696 | 15.5 |
| | Three Creek | Duncan | 22,154 | 3,443 | 15.5 | 753 | 1,404 | 483 | 8.5 |
| Columbia | Spencer Canyon | Mills Canyon | 25,686 | 8,641 | 33.6 | 6,779 | 1,619 | 243 | 7.2 |
| | Swakane Creek | Mills Canyon | 13,258 | 226 | 1.7 | 209 | 17 | 0 | 0.1 |
| Methow | Alder Creek | Carlton Complex | 29,805 | 8,348 | 28.0 | 6,724 | 1,279 | 345 | 5.4 |
| | Alta Coulee | Carlton Complex | 19,889 | 15,788 | 79.4 | 12,550 | 2,183 | 1,055 | 16.3 |
| | Bear Creek | Carlton Complex | 11,547 | 7,395 | 64.0 | 5,872 | 1,237 | 287 | 13.2 |
| | Benson Creek | Carlton Complex | 24,266 | 20,706 | 85.3 | 10,014 | 5,639 | 5,053 | 44.1 |
| | Black Canyon Creek | Carlton Complex | 15,856 | 6,521 | 41.1 | 5,095 | 927 | 499 | 9.0 |
| | French Creek | Carlton Complex | 19,392 | 17,021 | 87.8 | 11,500 | 4,503 | 1,019 | 28.5 |
| | Gold Creek | Carlton Complex | 38,945 | 7,149 | 18.4 | 6,180 | 800 | 168 | 2.5 |
| | Libby Creek | Carlton Complex | 25,866 | 1,245 | 4.8 | 1,147 | 93 | 6 | 0.4 |
| | Lower Beaver Creek | Carlton Complex | 30,747 | 27,157 | 88.3 | 20,295 | 4,730 | 2,131 | 22.3 |
| | McFarland Creek | Carlton Complex | 25,313 | 21,488 | 84.9 | 16,751 | 3,729 | 1,008 | 18.7 |
| | Pearrygin Creek | Carlton Complex | 25,769 | 1,706 | 6.6 | 1,500 | 188 | 17 | 0.8 |
| | South Fork Beaver Creek | Carlton Complex | 17,542 | 2,199 | 12.5 | 1,812 | 320 | 67 | 2.2 |
| | South Fork Gold Creek | Carlton Complex | 17,936 | 1,399 | 7.8 | 1,037 | 231 | 130 | 2.0 |
| | Squaw Creek | Carlton Complex | 10,170 | 5,051 | 49.7 | 3,604 | 845 | 603 | 14.2 |
| Texas Creek | Carlton Complex | 20,446 | 16,976 | 83.0 | 12,195 | 3,924 | 858 | 23.4 | |

| Watershed | Sub-watershed | Fire Name | Total Acres (in sub-watershed) | Total Acres Burned | Percent of Sub-watershed Burned | Acres Burned (severity) | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | | Low | Moderate | High | Percent Mod-High of Sub-watershed |
| | Thompson Creek | Carlton Complex | 28,485 | 1,694 | 5.9 | 1,395 | 283 | 17 | 1.1 |
| | Upper Beaver Creek | Carlton Complex | 22,643 | 4,165 | 18.4 | 3,119 | 795 | 251 | 4.6 |
| Okanogan | Chiliwist Creek | Carlton Complex | 26,594 | 18,867 | 70.9 | 12,150 | 5,080 | 1,638 | 25.3 |
| | Davis Canyon | Carlton Complex | 29,964 | 8,145 | 27.2 | 7,136 | 844 | 165 | 3.4 |
| | Lower Loup Loup Creek | Carlton Complex | 14,597 | 5,066 | 34.7 | 4,466 | 526 | 74 | 4.1 |
| | Starzman Lake | Carlton Complex | 11,996 | 10,036 | 83.7 | 9,340 | 558 | 138 | 5.8 |
| | Swamp Creek | Carlton Complex | 36,774 | 18,440 | 50.1 | 12,018 | 5,120 | 1,302 | 17.5 |
| | Tallant Creek | Carlton Complex | 39,175 | 2,014 | 5.1 | 1,807 | 185 | 21 | 0.5 |
| Columbia | Antoine Creek | Carlton Complex | 12,062 | 290 | 2.4 | 269 | 20 | 1 | 0.2 |
| | Indian Dan Creek | Carlton Complex | 10,318 | 10,315 | 100.0 | 9,329 | 928 | 57 | 9.6 |
| | Lake Pateros | Carlton Complex | 7,587 | 5,184 | 68.3 | 5,108 | 75 | 1 | 1.0 |
| | Watson Draw | Carlton Complex | 16,029 | 11,465 | 71.5 | 10,948 | 509 | 9 | 3.2 |
| Summary per fire | | | | | | | | | |
| Chiwaukum Complex | | | 83,757 | 11,722 | 51.8 | 4,581 | 4,808 | 2,333 | 8.5 |
| Mills Canyon | | | 87,636 | 20,178 | 23.0 | 12,405 | 8,208 | 1,665 | 11.3 |
| Duncan | | | 77,176 | 12,691 | 16.4 | 2,891 | 4,974 | 1,888 | 8.9 |
| Carlton Complex | | | 589,712 | 255,829 | 43.4 | 193,360 | 45,550 | 16,919 | 10.6 |

Methow and Okanogan Subbasins

The following discussion is modified from Johnson and Molesworth (2014).

The Carlton Complex fire burned a total of 256,108 acres within the Methow River subbasin (HUC 5) and the Okanogan River subbasin (HUC 5). Anadromous fish bearing sub-watersheds within the fire perimeter include the Lower Methow River, Bear Creek, Beaver Creek (including Frazer Creek), Libby Creek, Gold Creek, Black Canyon Creek, the Okanogan River, and Loup Loup Creek.

The lower Methow River (river mile 34 to the confluence with the Columbia River) is used by summer Chinook and ESA-listed steelhead for pre-spawn holding, spawning, juvenile rearing, and migration. This area also provides critical migration corridor and juvenile rearing habitat for ESA-listed spring Chinook. ESA-listed Bull Trout use the lower Methow River for rearing, foraging, and migration. Pacific lamprey use this reach for spawning (potentially), winter holding, rearing, and migration. Specific impacts to Pacific Lamprey are difficult to predict because population dynamics are relatively unknown.

The Okanogan River is designated critical habitat for steelhead, which primarily use it as a migration corridor to spawning tributaries. The Okanogan River does have a strong population of summer Chinook that use the river for spawning and early rearing, and sockeye salmon use the river as a migration corridor.

Severity of Burned Area

As stated above, about 256,000 acres burned (Table 3), which was about 43% of the total area of the sub-watersheds that were burned. Of the acres burned, nearly 11% of the areas were moderate-to-high severity (Table 3, Figure 4).

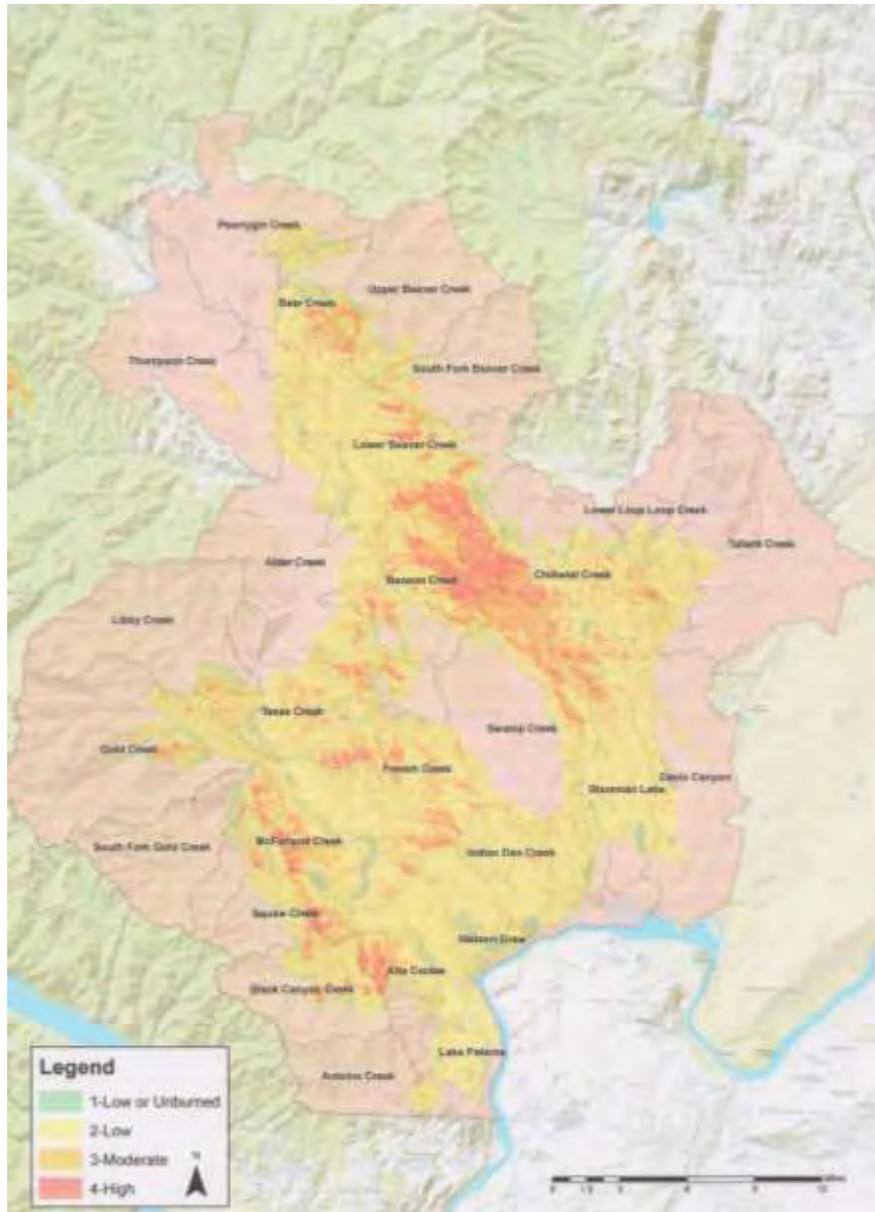


Figure 4. The Carlton Complex fire showing burn severity and sub-watersheds.

Effects of the Fires

Wenatchee-Entiat Basins

Chiwaukum Complex

Water quality in the burned area and in downstream unburned reaches will be negatively affected by ash, sediment, and debris; sediment is likely to flow through burned area streams into the Wenatchee River and beyond. Post-fire effects to the Wenatchee River and the Chiwaukum Creek watershed could include increased water temperatures, peak flows, and channel scour, along with landslides and debris flows. Chiwaukum Creek experienced some high-to-moderate burn severity, and increased sedimentation could negatively affect the Bull Trout population.

Effects on spring Chinook and summer steelhead habitat upstream of the Chiwaukum Complex should be minimal. Negative effects to fish species in the Wenatchee River are possible, but impacts should be minimal. Damage to fisheries on Chiwaukum Creek, though, is likely (50 to 90 percent occurrence within 1-3 years).

Soil loss caused by post-wildfire erosion in some areas will result in a long-term loss of soil productivity. Natural recovery of ground cover vegetation is likely over the next 3-5 years, but in areas that were severely burned, pre-fire conditions will not be restored until a new forest stand is established.

Mill Canyon Complex

Potential post-fire effects to the Entiat Watershed include increased water temperature, peak flows and channel scour, surface erosion and sediment delivery, and landslides and debris flows. These post-fire effects may affect the survival of ESA-listed fish eggs, fry, juveniles, and adults downstream of the fire. They may also alter habitat and channel conditions. Because of the proximity of steep drainages within the fire area (Mills Canyon, Dinkelman Canyon, Roaring Creek) the potential for detrimental impacts to listed fish habitat is high.

Soil loss caused by post-wildfire erosion in some areas will result in a long-term loss of soil productivity. Natural recovery of ground cover vegetation is likely over the next 3-5 years, but in areas that were severely burned, pre-fire conditions will not be restored until a new forest stand is established.

Methow River Basin

Fish-bearing streams

Johnson and Molesworth (2014) suggest that the fish bearing streams and areas that are likely to be most affected by the Carlton Complex fires are: the lower Methow River, Beaver Creek (including Frazer Creek), and Benson Creek. Other fish bearing streams that were part of the Carlton Complex that had some burned area includes Gold and Libby creeks, but the severity and total area burned is not expected to affect fish. The following is a description of the impacts to the fish bearing streams that has been modified from Johnson and Molesworth (2014).

Lower Methow River

About 12.8% of the Methow Subbasin burned in the Carlton Complex Fire. About 4% of the Methow subbasin was burned at moderate to high fire severity. The lower Methow River has already been affected by post-fire ash and debris flows that occurred following high intensity rain fall over the burned area in mid-August. Tributaries entering the eastside of the Methow River, including Beaver Creek, Frazier Creek, Benson Creek, Canyon Creek, Leecher Creek, French Creek and Cow Creek, all delivered large quantities of fine and coarse sediment to the mainstem Methow and will most likely continue to do so for several years.

Beaver Creek

The Beaver Creek watershed is 70,932 acres in size and enters the mainstem Methow River at RM 34. About 42% of the watershed was burned and 12% was burned at moderate to high severity (Table 3). The lower six miles of Beaver Creek flows through private lands that are

used mainly for growing irrigated alfalfa, mixed hay, and for livestock production. Debris flows after the mid-August storms from Frazer Creek dramatically affected the lower two miles of Beaver Creek. Dead rainbow/steelhead trout and sculpin were observed immediately following the fire and again following ash and debris flows created by storms in mid-August.

Juvenile spring Chinook salmon can be found in low abundance in the lower two miles of Beaver Creek. Steelhead spawn and rear within the lower eight miles of Beaver Creek. Bull Trout are occasionally found in low numbers in the watershed, but their status is uncertain at this time. Brook trout populations in the upper watershed are robust. Re-introduced coho salmon also are beginning to colonize lower Beaver Creek.

About 40% of riparian areas in Beaver Creek burned in the fire; 16% of the riparian burn was moderate to high severity. Prior to the fire, warm summer water temperature was an issue in lower Beaver Creek. The loss of riparian shade will further increase water temperatures until vegetation develops to provide shade. Riparian areas are already re-sprouting vigorously and are expected to recover quickly. The extent of riparian area burned in Beaver Creek is one of the larger effects to fish from the Carlton Complex fire.

In the last ten years, salmon and steelhead recovery efforts have been applied extensively in Beaver Creek to improve instream flows, re-establish fish passage at roads and irrigation diversions, improve habitat complexity, protect and re-establish riparian areas, acquire conservation easements, and restore beaver populations. These projects appear to be functioning well, providing favorable channel bed-form and complex habitats. For example, The Old Schoolhouse Fish Habitat Enhancement Project was completed by the Yakama Nation's Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Project in 2013. This project consisted of 12 engineered log structures, channel realignment and development of a spring fed side channel. All work elements associated with this project survived the Carlton Complex Fire and the debris flows that occurred on August 13, 2014. The large wood structures racked transient debris, increased floodplain inundation, and efficiently attenuated stream energy.

Frazer Creek

Frazer Creek enters Beaver Creek about 2.7 miles above the confluence with the Methow River. Upstream fish passage is blocked at the first irrigation diversion 0.3 miles upstream of the Beaver Creek confluence, yet juvenile steelhead use this lowest stream segment for rearing. Upstream of this barrier, several private driveways can seasonally interrupt fish passage.

Several additional anthropogenic features also impair ecological function in Frazer Creek. Washington State Highway 20 and utilities constrict much of its historic floodplain. Due to channel aggradation, the road surface elevation is currently at or below the low flow water elevation. This is causing the highway cut-bank to capture all of Frazer Creek's water and channel it down the roadway. Residential homes, barns, and outbuildings also occupy portions of the lower three miles of floodplain. Additionally, there are several culverts and bridges that lock the channel in place and require debris removal to function properly.

Benson Creek

Benson Creek is a 24,266 acre watershed that enters the Methow River at RM 32.5 (Figure 4). About 36% of the watershed was burned and 44% of the burn area was of moderate to high severity (Table 3). The Highway 20 crossing over Benson Creek is a barrier to fish. However, it is unknown if native salmonids occupied Benson Creek before construction of the highway and water diversions. Natural gradient and hydrologic conditions would likely limit salmonid use in Benson Creek.

Benson Creek flows through upper Finley Canyon and into a series of reservoirs that were stocked with brown trout, a non-native, piscivorous, salmonid species. Two of the reservoirs breached and two more were damaged during the mid-August storms, causing large amounts of water and debris to reach the Methow River.

Non-fish-bearing streams

Non-fish-bearing watersheds that were significantly burned and could affect downstream salmonid habitat include French, Squaw, Texas, Leecher, Canyon, and Cow creeks. Canyon and Leecher creeks are not shown in Figure 4. They enter the Methow River from the east between Benson and Texas creeks, while Cow Creek enters the eastside of the Methow River downstream of Texas Creek. These creeks and canyons had a high percentage of moderate-high intensity burned areas and all contributed debris to the Methow River after the mid-August storms.

Okanogan River Basin

The Okanogan River is about 115 miles long and originates in southern British Columbia. Listed fish and fish species of concern in the U.S. portion of Okanogan River include steelhead, summer Chinook salmon, and sockeye salmon (the Colville Tribes are currently in the process of trying to reestablish a spring Chinook population). The lower reach of the Okanogan River that was affected by the fire is used as a migration corridor for all salmonid species. Loup Loup Creek provides the only suitable spawning habitat in the burned area of the Okanogan watershed. Before the fires in 2014, ecological concerns in the lower Okanogan included elevated stream temperatures, increased fine sediment loads, and reduced habitat complexity (Revised Biological Strategy (RTT 2014)).

Fish-bearing streams

In the Okanogan River basin, the primary stream that was severely burned and could affect salmonid habitat is Chiliwist Creek. Chiliwist Creek is 26,594 acres; 71% of the watershed burned and 25% burned at moderate to high intensity (Table 3). Juvenile steelhead rear in the lower 0.3 miles of the stream (RTT 2014).

The rain storms in mid-August caused debris flows and mud to flow down the creek and into the Okanogan River. Most of the mobilized woody debris, cobbles, and gravels settled out on the large alluvial fan at the confluence with the Okanogan River; however, increased surface flows contributed large amounts of fine sediment to the Okanogan River.

While nearly 35% of lower Loup Loup Creek burned, only 4% burned at moderate-high intensity, and the effects of the fire are believed to be minimal to fish (Johnson and Molesworth 2014).

Non-fish-bearing streams

No non-fish-bearing streams that burned are believed to be a concern for fish resources in the Okanogan River basin.

General Recommendations

Johnson and Molesworth (2014) made some general (not sub-watershed specific except for Frazer Creek) recommendations for short- and long-term habitat recovery. These recommendations were:

- Increase/encourage large wood recruitment and retention to mainstem Methow River and fish-bearing tributaries.
- Restore natural floodplain function and channel dynamics within perennial fish-bearing streams. The need for this action is particularly evident in Frazer Creek where continued floodplain constriction will likely produce large quantities of fine sediment.
- Consider Brook Trout eradication in Frazer Creek in 2015. The recent flood events in Frazer Creek have likely reduced brook trout populations and now may be the best time to ensure complete removal. Further, upstream investigation is necessary to determine if there is a seed source for Brook Trout in this system.
- Limit excessive fine sediment delivery to fish-bearing streams, but allow for bedload materials to be transported. Bedload provides cobbles and gravels for spawning and larger material for rearing habitat. Work with engineers to design anthropogenic features that accomplish ecological and infrastructure objectives.
- Riparian replanting and maintenance where weed invasions could impair native vegetation recovery. This should be prioritized to address fish-bearing and perennial streams.
- Repair fence lines that protect recovery of riparian areas from potential grazing.
- Improve irrigation diversion structures to accommodate increased sediment loads predicted to affect stream conditions for the next 5-7 years. Additionally, fish screens should be updated to improve function and decrease maintenance requirements.
- Improve or reestablish fish passage at irrigation diversions and road crossings.
- Remove and upgrade undersized culverts and bridges that routinely cause property damage and require debris removal to function.

In addition, Johnson and Molesworth (2014) also recommended certain monitoring should take place. These recommendations were:

- Temperature monitoring in Beaver Creek
- Sediment monitoring in spawning areas in Beaver Creek and lower Methow
- Fish population recovery in Beaver Creek. Fish populations in the lower 6 miles of Beaver Creek were likely severely reduced by recent flooding and debris flows. Recolonization will likely occur quickly. A robust fish distribution data set was collected in the years prior to the fire and provides a good opportunity to measure population recovery following a major disturbance.
- Fish Habitat Enhancement project performance should be monitored in Beaver Creek and lower Methow River. Several major fish habitat projects were completed in 2012 and 2013 and were burned over by the fire. Comparing the recovery of these treated areas to

non-treated area could provide important information that could be used in future project designs.

- Monitor Beaver population recovery and effects on burned riparian corridors.
- Repeat 2012 stream habitat assessment in Beaver Creek to compare pre-burned with post burned conditions and to monitor habitat changes over time.

Culvert and Road Crossings

Many culverts and road crossings were either damaged after the mid-August storms or are in danger of being damaged in areas that were not affected by the August storms but are still vulnerable. In September, Okanogan County Public Works developed a list of potential culvert or water crossing failures based on adjacent terrain and whether a strong storm event were to happen. The list of crossings and associated costs are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. County (only) road culvert and road crossings that are vulnerable to damage from storm events within the Carlton Complex fire perimeter (source: Okanogan County Public Works).

| Watershed | Sub-watershed | Road | Mile post | Size of Crossing (feet) | Total Cost Estimate |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Methow | French Creek | Burma | 3.508 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Texas Cr | Texas Cr | 5.013 | 30 | \$ 175,000.00 |
| | Benson Cr | Benson Cr | 2.670 | 24 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| | Squaw Cr | Squaw Cr | 0.113 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Squaw Cr | Squaw Cr | 0.404 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Squaw Cr | Squaw Cr | 1.588 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | McFarland Cr | McFarland Cr | 0.626 | 30 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Beaver Cr | Lower Beaver Cr | 0.344 | 18 | \$ 60,500.00 |
| | Bear Cr | Lester | 1.121 | 12 | \$ 50,500.00 |
| | Bear Cr | Davis Lake | 0.342 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Lower Methow R | Bill Shaw | 1.205 | 10 | \$ 10,500.00 |
| | Lower Methow R | Bill Shaw | 1.707 | 15 | \$ 20,500.00 |
| | Lower Methow R | Bill Shaw | 2.835 | 15 | \$ 20,500.00 |
| | Benson Cr | Thurlow | 0.479 | 24 | \$ 50,000.00 |
| | Frazer Cr | Finley Canyon | 0.404 | 30 | \$ 175,000.00 |
| | Beaver Cr | Balky Hill | 2.054 | 15 | \$ 55,500.00 |
| | Bear Cr | Twisp-Winthrop Eastside | 6.932 | 60 | \$ 350,000.00 |
| | Bear Cr | Bear Cr | 0.809 | 60 | \$ 350,000.00 |
| | Bear Cr | Bear Cr | 1.314 | 60 | \$ 350,000.00 |
| Okanogan | Chiliwist Cr | Chiliwist | 0.617 | 48 | \$ 325,000.00 |
| | Chiliwist Cr | Chiliwist | 0.815 | 48 | \$ 325,000.00 |
| | Chiliwist Cr | Chiliwist | 1.238 | 48 | \$ 325,000.00 |
| | Tallant Cr | Old 97 | 17.074 | 2' RCB | \$ 500,000.00 |
| | Chiliwist Cr | Old 97 | 12.749 | RCB | \$ 500,000.00 |
| | Davis Canyon | Old 97 | 11.132 | RCB | \$ 150,000.00 |
| | Swamp Cr | Paradise Hill | 4.098 | 36 | \$ 200,000.00 |

| Watershed | Sub-watershed | Road | Mile post | Size of Crossing (feet) | Total Cost Estimate |
|--------------|---|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Columbia | Whitestone Cr | Rat Lake | 0.130 | 48 | \$ 325,000.00 |
| | Columbia (between Pateros and Brewster) | Watson Draw | 0.503 | 48 | \$ 300,000.00 |
| | Columbia (between Pateros and Brewster) | Indian Dan Canyon | 4.445 | 30 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| | Columbia (between Pateros and Brewster) | Indian Dan Canyon | 4.784 | 30 | \$ 200,000.00 |
| Total | 30 | | | | \$ 6,268,000.00 |

The Okanogan County Public Works also developed a list of actions in some heavily burned areas that would ameliorate some of the effects of the fire. These actions and associated costs are shown in Table 6.

Table 6. List of potential actions within heavily burned areas within the Carlton Complex fire perimeter.

| Road | Treatment | Quantity | Unit Price | Cost | Notes |
|--------------|--|----------|-------------|---------------------|--|
| Benson Cr | Hydro mulch soil stabilization (acres) | 5 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | Steep burned slope above road |
| Texas Cr | Straw Waddles (lin. ft) | 2000 | \$ 5.00 | \$ 10,000.00 | Steep burned slope below road, above creek |
| Chiliwist | Hydro mulch soil stabilization (acres) | 6 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 12,000.00 | Multiple slopes |
| Chiliwist | Straw Waddles (lin. ft) | 1200 | \$ 5.00 | \$ 6,000.00 | Shorter steep slopes above road |
| Total | | | | \$ 38,000.00 | |

Conclusions and Recommendations

Prioritization of Potential Actions

It is important to understand the long-term dynamics of fire and its effects on fish and/or the aquatic environment. Short-term effects are generally negative, while long-term effects are generally positive. Regardless, because of the area and intensity of the Carlton Complex fires, short-term effects from the fires should be minimized to the extent possible.

Below we prioritize actions and recommend their implementation at the watershed level or at finer scales where possible. We based our prioritization on whether the watershed is currently salmonid-bearing, the severity of the burn within the sub-watershed, and whether passage or migration may be blocked (e.g., if a culvert plugs) after a storm event. Table 7 shows prioritized watersheds and restoration actions.

Table 7. Top priority watersheds and potential actions, including estimated costs for the Carlton Complex fires of 2014.

| Subbasin (in priority order) | Salmonid Use | Burn Severity (percent of sub-watershed moderate-high burn) | Potential fish blockage after storm event | Potential Actions (in priority order) | Estimated Cost (primarily from Tables 5 and 6) | Comment |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Beaver/Frazer Creeks | Steelhead, Bull Trout, some spring Chinook rearing | 12 | High | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate Lower Beaver Creek, Bally Hill, and Finley Canyon road culverts for debris load movement and replace culvert or place bridge over creek. 2. Investigate private road culverts and crossings to determine whether they need to be replaced with appropriate sized culverts or bridges. 3. Repair fish screens on irrigation diversions. 4. Relocate Frazer Creek diversion to restore fish passage. 5. Evaluate fish habitat structures after high water 2015 to determine if repairs are needed. 6. Repair off channel stock watering – Beaver cr 7. Replant riparian where appropriate and reduce weeds. | Riparian: \$225,000 Culvert replacement: \$481,000 Irrigation Diversions \$150,000 Investigate private roads: \$25,000 | Ten Frazier culverts and 1 Beaver Cr culvert are in need of replacement; 5 are funded – need funding for remaining 6. Cost estimates for riparian and investigation of private roads are not rigorously estimated. Cost for potential installation of bridge replacement not estimated. |
| 2. Lower Methow eastside tributaries | None | Benson Cr - 44 French Cr - 29 Texas Cr - 23 Cow Cr Canyon Cr Leecher Cr | NA | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate Burma Road (French Creek), Texas Creek, Benson Creek, and Thurlow road culverts for debris load movement and replace with appropriately sized culverts or place bridge over creeks. | Culvert replacements: \$2,627,000 Hydro-mulch: \$200,000 Straw | Cost for installation of potential bridge replacement not estimated. Cost estimates for riparian and investigation of sediment reduction is not rigorously estimated. |

| Subbasin (in priority order) | Salmonid Use | Burn Severity (percent of sub-watershed moderate-high burn) | Potential fish blockage after storm event | Potential Actions (in priority order) | Estimated Cost (primarily from Tables 5 and 6) | Comment |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Investigate sediment reduction methods for Cow, Canyon, and Leecher creeks. 3. Hydro-mulch soil stabilization in Benson Cr. 4. Place straw waddles in Texas Cr. | waddles: \$10,000 Investigate creeks for sediment reduction: \$25,000 | |
| 5. Chiliwist Creek | steelhead rearing | 25 | Moderate-high | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate three culverts within Chiliwist Creek and one over Highway 97 for debris load movement and replace culvert or place bridge over creek. 2. Hydro-mulch soil stabilization and place straw waddles. | Culvert replacements: \$975,000 Hydro-mulch: \$100,000 Straw waddles: \$6,000 | |
| 6. Monitoring | NA | NA | NA | Monitor the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sediment in spawning gravels in Beaver Cr. 2. Fish recolonization in Beaver Cr. 3. Repeat USGS electro fishing surveys 4. Habitat re-assessment of lower 8 miles of Beaver Cr. 5. Channel cross sections at alluvial fans on mainstem. | | Some of the monitoring should occur more than one year. |
| Total | | | | | \$4,824,000 | |

Conclusion

The fires of 2014 burned substantial areas within several sub-watersheds within the Upper Columbia that could affect important salmonids and other aquatic species. While current science suggests that the long-term effects of fire on fish are primarily beneficial, there are short-term effects that can be detrimental, primarily from fine sediment transport and blocked culverts (and subsequent blocked passage). We prioritized potential actions within important fish and non-fish bearing watersheds. Our suggested priority is to replace at-risk culverts or road crossings with appropriate sized culverts or bridges, and then work on reseeded or other work to reduce potential sediment load movement. While our list of potential actions is not comprehensive, we believe that it will be a good starting point for reducing the short-term effects of the fires that burned in 2014.

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Appendix A. Priority (within each subbasin) actions for habitat restoration projects in the Upper Columbia Region by assessment unit (based on Table E1, RTT 2014).

| Assessment Unit (in priority order) | Priority Action Type | Comments |
|--|---|--|
| Wenatchee Subbasin | | |
| Nason Creek | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Various assessments have been completed (BOR 2009a, 2009b, 2009c). Some projects have been implemented (side-channel reconnections) and various other projects are in development, with some soon to be implemented. |
| Upper Wenatchee River | Increase LW retention and recruitment to increase complexity in a manner that is consistent with natural channel structure and function. | An assessment was recently completed (Inter-fluve 2012). An implementation plan to determine appropriate locations and prescriptions is currently being developed by stakeholders. Preference for actions that enhance natural accumulations of LW. |
| Icicle Creek | Assess passage at boulder field, reconfigure Icicle/City of Leavenworth diversions | If the boulder field is currently inhibiting passage due to anthropogenic effects, then take measures to improve upstream adult passage over the boulder field. <i>(EDT and ICTRT intrinsic potential model predict very large increases in capacity for steelhead with access to the upper Icicle).</i> |
| Peshastin Creek | Increase instream flow and channel complexity | Develop a restoration plan that includes restoration of natural processes where possible, normative flow levels, migration corridors, and holding and rearing habitat in lower Peshastin Creek. |
| Lower Mainstem (Mouth to Tumwater Canyon) Wenatchee River | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Side-channel and/or off-channel connection or other actions that address causal mechanisms for ecological concerns. |
| Mission Creek | Increase water quantity, and restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Need additional information on fish use and assessment of habitat degradation. |
| Little Wenatchee River | Increase floodplain connection. | Not a priority at this time |
| White River | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and instream structure complexity. | Mostly in the lower few miles. Not a priority at this time |
| Middle Wenatchee River | None | Continue to assess passage at Tumwater Dam and adopt management practices of passage is compromised. Not a priority at this time |
| Chumstick Creek | Increase water quantity, and reestablish riparian. | Practically all passage barriers have been addressed. Not a priority at this time |
| Chiwawa River | Remove anthropogenic barriers, if warranted. | Investigate whether to replace culverts at Minnow and Deep creeks. Not a priority at this time |
| Lake Wenatchee | Protect remaining near-shore habitat and investigate means to reduce impacts of bulkheads if possible. | Not likely to be able to do much in this AU. Additional information on fish use may be helpful, but only if it leads to potential actions. |
| Entiat Subbasin | | |

| Assessment Unit (in priority order) | Priority Action Type | Comments |
|---|--|--|
| Middle Entiat River (Stillwater Reach) | <p>Remove or modify levees, undersized bridges that reduce habitat potential, bank armoring, and other human features that affect channel form and function.</p> <p>Increase LW recruitment and retention to increase complexity in a manner that is consistent with natural channel structure and function.</p> | <p>Setback or modification might achieve partial process reconnection and would be of lower benefit for this ecological concern. In some cases modification (i.e. hydraulic connection only) would not address this ecological concern.</p> <p>Should be appropriately sited and scaled and numerically consistent with the Entiat watershed DIP and the ISEMP monitoring design.</p> |
| Lower Entiat River | <p>Where possible, restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, structure and form, including instream structural complexity, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> <p>Large woody material, log structure or log jam, rootwads</p> | <p>This area is set for implementation of projects in 2014.</p> <p>Small to moderate sized structures need to be strategically placed in lower energy areas such as side-channels, or along the banks in appropriate locations.</p> |
| Mad River | <p>Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, structure and form, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>Not a priority at this time</p> |
| Upper-Middle Entiat River | <p>Where possible, restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, structure and form, including instream structural complexity, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>Not a priority at this time</p> |
| Methow Subbasin | | |
| Upper Methow River | <p>Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>Channel migration, LW recruitment, or other actions that address causal mechanisms for ecological concerns. Implementation of Lynn and Maquire (BOR; 2008).</p> |
| Lower Twisp River | <p>Increase instream flow; restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>MVID west efficiencies to increase instream flow. Where possible remove dikes and levees and manage roads to allow for natural channel migration. These actions will likely have additional benefits to other limiting factors such as water temperatures. Implementation (Inter-fluve 2010). Suspend practice of effecting diversions with push-up berms.</p> |
| Upper-Middle Methow River | <p>Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel structure and form and migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>Channel migration, LW recruitment, or other actions that address causal mechanisms for ecological concerns. Complete Assessment of "Silver Reach" area.</p> |
| Lower Chewuch River | <p>Increase instream flow; restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport.</p> | <p>Still may be some opportunities with the Chewuch and Fulton irrigation and Barkley withdrawals (i.e. maintaining the ongoing agreement with Trout Unlimited). These actions will likely have additional benefits to other limiting factors such as water temperatures.</p> <p>Use all assessments that have been completed for this area to guide location and specific actions. These actions will have additional benefits to other limiting factors such as water temperatures. Encourage USFS road planning work to address sediment. Beaver reintroduction that could be universal need.</p> |

| Assessment Unit (in priority order) | Priority Action Type | Comments |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Beaver Creek | Increase instream flow; restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Now that structural passage barriers are nearly complete, efforts should focus on guaranteed water in the creek and connection with the Methow River. Other protection and restoration measures that contribute to increasing or maintaining instream flow would also be a priority. Determine if temperature is an issue. |
| Middle Methow River | Increase instream flow; restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. Reduce death and injury to juvenile salmon and steelhead. Reduce juvenile stranding. | Suspend practice of effecting diversions with push-up berms. Reduce entrainment of juvenile fish into diversion-associated channels. |
| Wolf Creek | Ensure screening is in compliance with NMFs protocols and investigate alternatives to reduce or eliminate stranding of fish. | Water is diverted into a small secondary channel and then screened water is in turn diverted from that channel. Even with good shut-down protocols, fish get stranded in the secondary channel. |
| Gold Creek | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel structure and form and migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Not a priority at this time |
| Libby Creek | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel structure and form and migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Not a priority at this time |
| Upper Twisp River | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel structure and form and migration, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Not a priority at this time |
| Upper Chewuch River | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Not a priority at this time |
| Early Winters Creek | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, floodplain interaction, and sediment transport. | Not a priority at this time |
| Lost River | Restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel structure and form and migration, and floodplain interaction. | Not a priority at this time |
| Lower Methow River | Increase instream flow; restore natural geo-fluvial processes, for example, channel migration, floodplain interaction | Not a priority at this time |
| Okanogan Subbasin | | |
| Upper Salmon Creek | Increase winter water quantity. | |
| Loup Loup Creek | Increase water quantity; add small log structures to increase complexity and jump start gravel sediment processes. | |
| Okanogan River 01 | Reconnect big side channel at Conservancy Island - a few smaller spots downstream - motorcycle track; ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | |

| Assessment Unit (in priority order) | Priority Action Type | Comments |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Upper Omak Creek | Remove barriers | |
| Okanogan River 04 | Side-channel at Peterson and Wilson; reduce predator densities; ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | |
| Upper Antoine Creek | Remove barriers and conduct watershed assessment | |
| Lower Salmon Creek | Restore year round flows | |
| Okanogan River 05 | Reduce predator densities; ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | |
| Okanogan River 02 | Ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | |
| Nine Mile Creek | Gravel augmentation and complexity projects to restore gravel sediment processes in lower 1 mile. | |
| Similkameen River - Lower | Create ground water feed off channel habitats (Driscoll Island) | |
| Johnson Creek | Remove barriers and conduct watershed assessment | |
| Lower Antoine Creek | Gravel augmentation and complexity projects to restore gravel sediment processes | |
| Okanogan River 03 | Ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | |
| Similkameen River - Middle | Create ground water feed off channel habitats (Klein site and North side) | |
| Lower Omak Creek | Protection and ground water inputs during summer and winter | |
| Okanogan River 06 | Reconnect side channels and off-channel habitats. | Not a priority at this time |
| Inundated Okanogan River | Reduce predator densities; ensure pump screens are in compliance with current criteria. | Not a priority at this time |
| Okanogan River 07 | Restore Natural flow patterns | Not a priority at this time |
| Bonaparte Creek | Reduce fines; flood plain reconnection; and improve complexity | Not a priority at this time |
| Tunk Creek | Reduce fines; flood plain reconnection; and improve complexity | Not a priority at this time |
| Aeneas Creek | Remove barriers. | Not a priority at this time |
| Chiliwist Creek | Remove barriers; Remove livestock and replant riparian | Not a priority at this time |
| Similkameen River - Upper | No actions identified. | Not a priority at this time |
| Siwash Creek | Supplement flows. | Not a priority at this time |
| Tonasket Creek | Restore complexity and gravel sediment process in lower 1 mile. | Not a priority at this time |
| Wild Horse Spring Creek | Livestock Fencing; Lawn Removal supplement flows with groundwater | Not a priority at this time |
| Wanacut Creek | Supplement flows with ground water and reestablish gravel processes | Not a priority at this time |



The mission of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead, and other at-risk species through the collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia region.

11 Spokane Street, Ste. 101, Wenatchee, WA 98801

phone: (509) 662-4707

www.ucsrb.org

November 12, 2014

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917 Olympia WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

I am writing to thank you again for visiting the Upper Columbia region in September. The timing of your visit was impactful for several reasons. Following the Carlton Complex Fire, your visit brought resources to Methow Valley businesses at a time when they were most needed. Additionally, the tour of project sites throughout the Methow subbasin, including those in one of the most severely burned areas, provided ample opportunity for meaningful conversations and resulted in specific actions.

In fact, following the board's and Director Cottingham's leadership in providing an emergency response to the fires, I am pleased to announce that six bridges are being installed on Frazer Creek to provide ample room for the creek to find a new path in the coming years (see attached map). These bridges are being installed instead of culverts, which was the planned response, largely because of the interest you took in helping our local project sponsor find the appropriate solution. Recreation and Conservation Office, and Governors Salmon Recovery Office staff worked closely with me, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation and the WA Department of Transportation to pool all available resources. This is truly an emergency response in that the creek will continue to migrate significantly over the next several years as a result of the severe debris flows following the fire and rain. The additional space afforded to the creek will allow for ecological process to restore on its own while also protecting critical nearby infrastructure (i.e. state highway and houses).

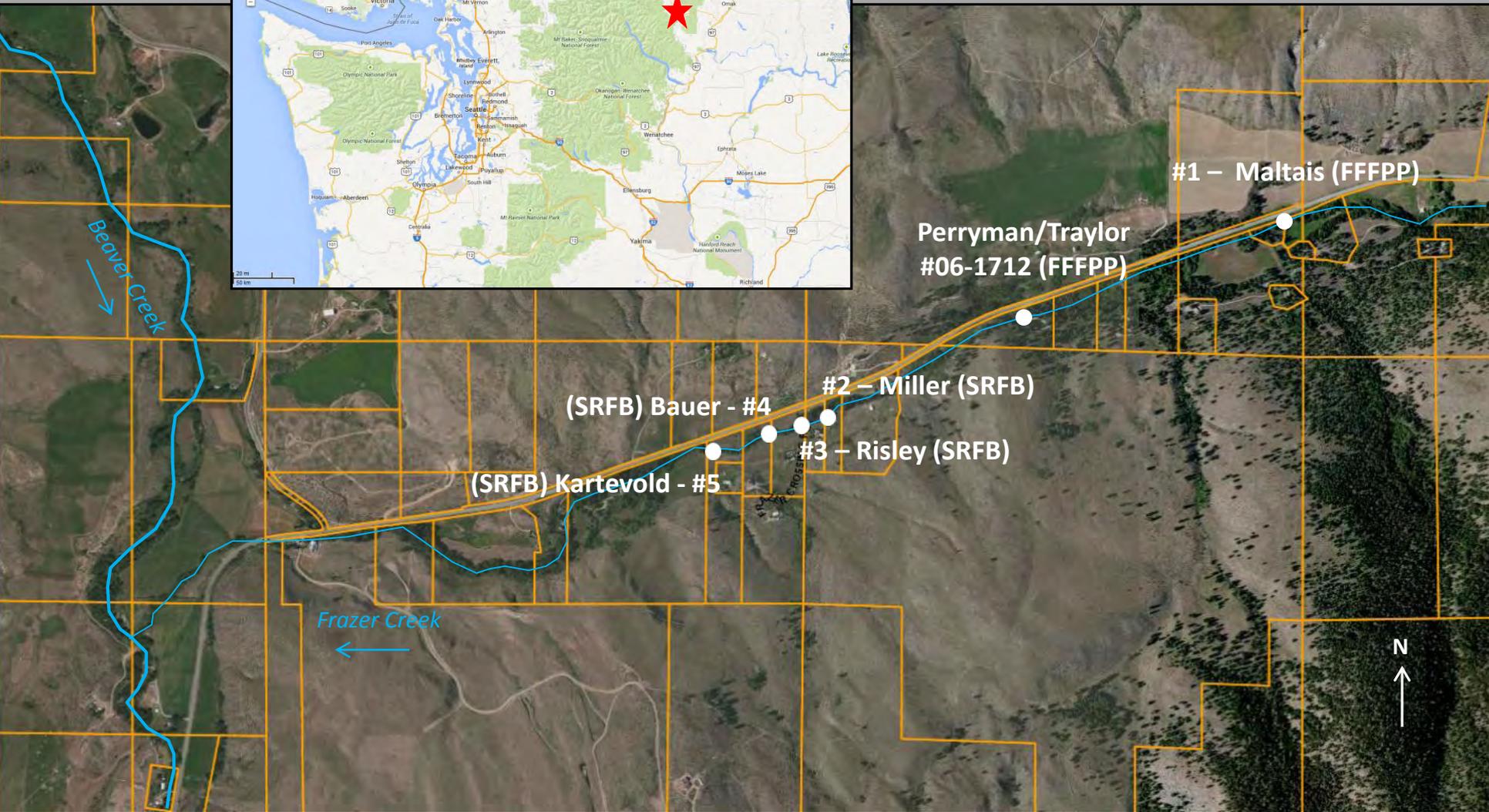
As a salmon recovery partner, and a citizen of the Methow Valley, I am deeply appreciative of the leadership and assistance the board and RCO/GSRO staff provided locally.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derek Van Marter".

Derek Van Marter
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Parlette
Representatives Condotta and Hawkins



#1 - Maltais (FFFPP)

Perryman/Traylor
#06-1712 (FFFPP)

(SRFB) Bauer - #4

#2 - Miller (SRFB)

#3 - Risley (SRFB)

(SRFB) Kartevold - #5

Beaver Creek

Frazer Creek



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Intensively Monitored Watershed Funding Deficit
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes potential options for the board to consider to cover the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) deficit of \$260,000. No decision is necessary at this time due to ongoing discussions about one of the options.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

During the September 2014 meeting, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) allocated \$1,831,515 to three monitoring components: Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), for \$1,207,515; Effectiveness Monitoring for \$336,000; and Status and Trends Monitoring (fish in/fish out) for \$208,000. In addition, the board approved \$80,000 for the newly formed monitoring panel.

The state of Washington competes annually for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) awards, and we requested the maximum amount of \$25 million this year. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) provides the 2014 PCSRF awards in early July; Washington received \$20.5 million total. The gap between the original amount requested for the monitoring components and the actual award amount is \$406,533. In general, when the actual award amount is less than the originally requested amount, the process requires successful applicants to update their requests to reflect the actual award amount. The resulting reduction in the available funds left the board monitoring program under-funded by \$260,000.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) manages the contract for the board's IMW program. For two of the IMW projects, WDOE subcontracts a portion of the funding to NOAA's Northwest Science Center to perform specialized monitoring work. However, NOAA's Northwest Science Center is not able to utilize federal funding (in this case, PCSRF) from WDOE due to a perceived conflict of interest. NOAA is concerned that it may appear as if they are giving federal funding to themselves as a condition of the PCSRF award. In the past, RCO has provided state salmon capital funds to WDOE for this portion of the IMW funding. The Office of Financial Management provided guidance to RCO, advising that capital funds are not to be used for stand-alone monitoring projects.

At the September board meeting, GSRO staff described this dilemma. The board was able to fund the IMWs, minus the Northwest Science Center portion and agreed that staff should bring back options for them to consider at the December meeting.

Staff have worked closely with the Northwest Science Center and NOAA PCSRF staff to find a solution to this federal funding issue. After several emails and phone calls with NOAA staff, we were able to amend our 2014 PCSRF contract by adding language specific to the Northwest Science Center subcontract with WDOE which would allow PCSRF to be used. At the time of the writing of this memo, we are waiting to hear back from the Northwest Science Center's fiscal managers to see if the amendments are acceptable.

GSRO and RCO staff reviewed all current contracts related to monitoring and hatchery reform. RCO staff met with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to explore contracts with a potential balance that could support funding this deficit. Currently the WDFW has 24 hatchery reform, monitoring, and research contracts, with a balance of \$8.03 million.

WDFW has work scheduled on these contracts and no available balance to contribute to IMW monitoring without impacting their hatchery reform and monitoring obligations. However, the WDFW is open to the idea of reducing one of their current activity contracts, as long as the funds are added back in with the 2015 PCSRF award.

Options

GSRO staff have developed a series of potential options based on three scenarios.

Scenario 1: NOAA Science Center **is able** to accept PCSRF dollars from WDOE.

- A. GSRO/RCO staff will amend the PCSRF agreement giving NOAA the ability to accept federal funding.
- B. No activity funding was identified that could be allocated to IMW monitoring. We see two options.
 - i. Option 1: Reduce a 2014 activity project (e.g., WDFW hatchery reform)—where the funds won't be spent in 2015— by \$260,000. Utilize the funding by adding to the IMW contract in December 2014. This funding would be added back in to the activity project with the 2015 PCSRF award.
 - ii. Option 2: Reduce the 2015 grant round funding reserved for projects within the IMWs by \$260,000. The SRFB has committed \$2 million per annual grant round over the next three years. The remaining funding available for IMW projects in 2015 would be \$1,740,000.

Scenario 2: NOAA Science Center **is not able** to accept PCSRF dollars for their specialized monitoring work.

- A. Other sources of funding will have to be sought by WDOE or NOAA and be in place by March of 2015 to continue the monitoring effort.
- B. Without additional non-federal funding to continue the NOAA monitoring effort, two IMWs will be severely compromised.

Scenario 3: NOAA Science Center is pursuing a potential solution with the NOAA regional office.

- A. At the time of the writing of this memo details of this option are unknown. Staff will provide an update at the board meeting if details become available.

Staff Recommendations

Staff submits the following recommendations for board discussion at the December meeting. Staff will incorporate board guidance and bring the issue back to the board for a decision at the February 2015 meeting.

In the case of **Scenario 1**: NOAA Science Center **is able** to accept PCSRF dollars from WDOE.

- Staff recommends Option 1, and will identify a project with funding that could be reduced during 2015. Implementation is planned for 2016. WDFW staff have offered using a hatchery reform project with the understanding that funding would be backfilled with the PCSRF 2015 award.
- The board could also choose Option 2, to reduce the IMW project allocation next year by \$260,000 to fill the IMW deficit.

In the case of **Scenario 2**: NOAA Science Center **is not able** to accept PCSRF dollars for their specialized monitoring work.

- Staff requests that the board provide direction on how to approach a reduction in the IMW monitoring program.

In the case of **Scenario 3**: Details may be provided at the December board meeting.



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: 2014 Grant Round
Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

Summary

At the December meeting, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) will be asked to approve the projects identified in "Attachment 8 - Funding Tables," of the [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) (funding report). The report provides background on the process for identifying and evaluating the projects under consideration, as well as the project lists.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Proposed Motion Language

Motions are included as Attachment A.

Background

For the 2014 grant round, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) set a target funding amount of \$18 million, based on known and anticipated state and federal funds. The 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report (funding report) was published on November 19, 2014.

The funding report serves a number of purposes:

- Consolidates the project selection processes from lead entities, regions, and the review panel;
- Summarizes the grant round, as well as information submitted by the regional organizations and lead entities to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) regarding their local funding processes;
- Incorporates the work completed by the board's technical review panel, including their collective observations and recommendations on the funding cycle; and
- Serves as the basis for the board's funding decisions: applicants submit their projects for board consideration through the application and evaluation process described in the Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18, Section 3.

The funding report includes projects under consideration as "[Attachment 8 – Funding Tables](#)." All listed projects in the tables, if approved, will receive federal funds from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) or state bond funds.

The funding report is organized into four sections:

- Introduction and overview of the 2014 grant round;
- Discussion of the Review Panel and their findings;
- Region-by-region summary of local project selection processes with links provided.
- Attachments

Project Approval

At the December meeting, the board will consider each region's list of projects and make funding decisions by regional area. The board will receive a final copy of the funding report, including "Attachment 8 – Funding Tables," at the meeting. Each region will have ten minutes at the board meeting to discuss the project selection process, highlighting any issues on their regional lists and some of their outstanding projects. Regions have the opportunity to address "projects of concern" that remain on their lists.

The PCSRF grant award, combined with returned funds and other available state funds, make an \$18 million grant cycle possible. RCO also sets aside \$500,000 for the upcoming year (2015) for unanticipated cost increases. The proposed regional allocations in the funding tables reflect the \$18 million funding target. Each regional area and corresponding lead entities prepared their respective lists of projects in consideration of the available funding. Several lead entities also identified "alternate" projects on their lists. These projects must go through the entire lead entity, region, and board review process. Project alternates within a lead entity list may receive funds within one year from the original board funding decision, and only if another project on the funded portion of the list cannot be completed or is funded by another entity other than RCO.

There are two projects of concern (POC) included in the funding tables that were submitted to the board. One project is on the Thurston (WRIA 13) lead entity list. Should the board decide not to approve this project, the lead entity and region's allocation will be reduced by project amount. The other project is on the Hood Canal citizen's approved list as an alternate. The region is seeking to move this project up on the list and is seeking funding approval for the POC.

The board also will be approving a 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) regional large capital project list at the December meeting (Item 12 on the agenda).

Supporting Documents

The 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report is available online at <http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/salmon/2014-SRFB-Funding-Report.pdf>.

Attachments

- A. 2014 Grant Round: Suggested Motions

2014 Grant Round: Suggested Motions

Yakima Region

Move to approve \$1,776,600* for projects and project alternates in the Yakima Mid-Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Note – not part of motion: this includes one project for the Klickitat Lead Entity totaling \$516,162.*

Washington Coast Region

Move to approve \$1,620,000 for projects and project alternates in the Coastal Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Upper Columbia Region

Move to approve \$1,953,000 for projects and project alternates in the Upper Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Snake River Region

Move to approve \$1,598,400 for projects and project alternates in the Snake River Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Puget Sound

Alternate 1 (Removes the project of concern): Move to approve \$6,736,720 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014, and DOES NOT include funding for project #14-1405, Pioneer Park Restoration Preliminary Design, a project of concern.

Alternate 2 (Funds the project of concern): Move to approve \$6,795,035 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014, including funding for project #14-1405, Pioneer Park Restoration Preliminary Design, a project of concern.

Northeast

Move to approve \$360,000 for projects in the Northeast Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Lower Columbia

Move to approve \$2,700,000 for projects and project alternates in the Lower Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 5 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Hood Canal

Alternate 1 (Approves citizen's list and keeps project of concern as an alternate): Move to approve \$1,195,165 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates, including project #14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, an alternate and project of concern, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the citizen's approved projects list in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Alternate 2 (Approves citizen's list and removes the project of concern as an alternate): Move to approve \$1,195,165 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates, NOT including 14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, an alternate and project of concern, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the citizen's approved projects list in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Alternate 3 (Approves Region's recommendation and funds the project of concern): Move to approve \$1,195,165 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates, including funding for 14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, a project of concern, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the Region's approved project list in Attachment 9 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

Alternate 4 (Approves Region's recommendation and removes the project of concern): Move to approve \$1,019,728 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates, NOT including project #14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, a project of concern, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the Region's approved projects list in Attachment 9 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

****NEW motion alternate added 12/1/2014**

Alternate 5: Move to approve \$1,019,728 in SRFB funds for projects # 4, 6 and 8 and project alternates, except for project #13, in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014. Defer action on project # 13 and hold \$175,437 for Hood Canal pending board decisions at the February 2015 meeting, following continuing discussions between the review panel, sponsor, and the regions.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

JEFFERSON, KITSAP & MASON COUNTIES
PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM & SKOKOMISH TRIBES
STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES

1 December 2014

David Troutt, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Natural Resources Building
PO Box 40917
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Chair Troutt:

As Executive Director of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) I am writing to urge the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to consider and adopt the Hood Canal Lead Entity project list as prepared by the Hood Canal Citizen's Committee with the revision of placing the South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment project in a position to be funded with available SRFB monies.

The HCCC is a council of five member governments including Mason, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties and the Skokomish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board of Directors, as the Lead Entity for the Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, used the 2014 funding round as a transition year in the implementation of their salmon recovery prioritization based on actions addressing limiting factors and specific salmon recovery plan actions. The HCCC Board appointed Citizens Committee (CC) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) implemented the HCCC process for project prioritization for the 2014 grant round carefully. HCCC convened a salmon program forum that includes all of the HCCC partners to engage in development of the salmon recovery prioritization and establishment of the process for consideration of projects to be funded through the 2014 SRFB process. The HCCC Board, as the Hood Canal Lead Entity, adopted the approach for 2014 (see Attachment A) and directed the Lead Entity CC and TAG to engage accordingly.

The HCCC Board of Directors respects and very much appreciates the work of the advisory groups associated with the Hood Canal Lead Entity process, especially the Citizens Committee (CC). Throughout 2014 the HCCC Board and the CC engaged in a collaborative process to develop the project list (see Attachment B). The HCCC Board approves the project list as developed by the CC with the exception as noted above. After much deliberation and discussion the HCCC believes that the South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment project is a critical and top priority for funding in 2014. The Skokomish chapter of the Chinook Recovery Plan states: "The highest priority habitat factors identified for restoration are passage over obstructions (at

the Cushman Dams, South Fork gorge cascades, and dry channel in the lower South Fork), channel stability (in the upper South Fork, followed by stability in the lower valleys), water temperature (several areas), key habitat amount, and the inundation of the upper North Fork by Lake Cushman (represented in the factor “sediment load”).”¹

The salmon recovery approach being developed by the HCCC and used to guide the 2014 LE process places the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon, including Skokomish watershed Chinook salmon, as paramount for attention and funding. The HCCC understands that the South Fork Skokomish project is designed to take the first step in addressing this high priority habitat factor by conducting an assessment of fish passage in the South Fork Skokomish Canyon, exploring feasible corrective actions, and developing conceptual designs for those feasible actions. Given the importance of this project and the potential to positively affect the recovery of Skokomish Chinook salmon, the HCCC is recommending an adjustment of the Hood Canal Lead Entity Citizens Committee list (see Attachment C). The practical application of this adjustment is that the South Fork Skokomish project, number 13 on the CC list, would get funded by reducing the amount from the project ranked number 8. It should be noted that all of the Hood Canal Lead Entity Citizens Committee (CC) projects recommended for funding were also recommended by the HCCC Board of Directors to receive funding from the SRFB in 2014.

As the HCCC salmon recovery prioritization continues to be developed, HCCC will also be revising the Hood Canal Lead Entity process. These revisions will include clearly defining the roles and responsibilities for all groups and partners involved in Hood Canal salmon recovery efforts and clearly establish the role of the HCCC Board of Directors as the Hood Canal Lead Entity and participation in the Hood Canal Lead Entity Citizens Committee. The HCCC Board is fully engaged in salmon recovery and desires to include meaningful roles for our many partners. We offer to keep the SRFB apprised of our developing approach for prioritized salmon recovery in the Hood Canal watershed and bringing the realization of delisting and salmon recovery closer to fruition. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or desire to discuss the HCCC further.

Sincerely,



Scott Brewer
Executive Director

¹ see page 132 of the Skokomish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan

PugetSoundPartnership

LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

December 1, 2014

David Troutt, Chairman, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Natural Resources Building
PO Box 40917
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501
RE: South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment Project #14-1334

Dear Chair Troutt and other members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board,

The Puget Sound Partnership is the state designated regional organization for the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. For the SRFB project review process, one of the primary roles of the regional organization is to review all projects submitted by the lead entities in that region for consistency with their strategy. For projects targeted to benefit Puget Sound Chinook that means a review of consistency with the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan chapter for that watershed. This review includes Chinook projects proposed for SRFB funding in the Hood Canal lead entity.

There have been some questions this year about the process used in Hood Canal to rank the project list and the SRFB Review Panel has raised questions about the South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment Project. As the region we believe that this project is consistent with the Skokomish watershed's Chinook Recovery Plan chapter and should be funded. We also believe that this discussion raises important policy issues for consideration by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. However this discussion merits more than the 10 minutes allotted on this SRFB agenda for regions to discuss issues with the Board. The questions surrounding this project could also benefit from more direct discussion between the SRFB Review Panel, the project sponsor, the Skokomish Tribe, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Puget Sound Partnership.

With this in mind our request to the SRFB is to withhold the amount of funding from the project ranked number 8 on the Hood Canal list that could be moved down to fully fund the South Fork Passage project and defer that funding decision to the first SRFB meeting in 2015.

I plan to be in attendance at the SRFB meeting and am happy to answer any questions you have regarding this request at that time.

Sincerely,



Jeanette Dorner
Director of Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Review Panel Comments
Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager
Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel Chair

Summary

The chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) will present topics of interest for discussion at the December meeting. This memo provides a brief overview of the topics.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) strives to ensure that the review panel remains an independent body that can provide insight to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) on projects, grant round processes, and needed improvements to Manual 18. In 2012 RCO selected a chairperson to be responsible for providing direct feedback to the board (previously feedback was solicited from staff). The chair of the review panel is currently Kelley Jorgensen.

The review panel chair and some panel members will present several topics that warrant clarification or policy guidance for future projects. Based on the discussion with the board, the review panel will work with staff to refine policies in Manual 18 for future grant rounds.

Review Panel Topics of Interest

General Grant Round Process Observations and Recommendations

The review panel is comprised of eight members who completed field and project reviews as well as design reviews for the 2014 grant round. At the early project proposal stage, the review panel evaluated 215 projects. Those were winnowed down to 195 projects submitted by the application deadline. After the applicants submitted draft application materials last spring, the review panel members conducted site visits in all lead entity areas. As intended, the draft application materials and site visits were very helpful for the review panel to identify technical concerns and communicate with project sponsors early in the review process so they could incorporate changes into their final project applications. The review panel provides a project comment form for each project with feedback on the site visit and the final application.

The review panel, with their statewide perspective on projects and the grant round, offers the following list of topics and observations to the board:

- **There is a potential state-wide funding gap for large, complex multi-phased projects** – There is some concern within the review panel about the likelihood that these phased, large scale projects will obtain adequate funding in the future for the later phases.
- **Funding pool for significant projects** – The review panel sees a continued need for appropriately-scaled funding sources state-wide (not just in the Puget Sound). There is a need for a funding pool that could be applied to lead entity project lists when they have unique, high benefit, and time-sensitive project opportunities that are technically ready for funding. This could be a separate competitive pool that could be used to fund projects outside of Puget Sound. Many of these projects are limited by the current allocation formula.
- **Process-based restoration projects** – There exists significant variability of the capacity and ability of lead entities and sponsors to identify, develop, and implement larger, reach-scale, process-based restoration strategies. Often the types of projects require much greater levels of collaboration, planning for multiple phases, and leveraging multiple funding sources to make these projects happen.
- **Lessons learned** – Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) monitoring – The panel would like to see the results from IMW monitoring incorporated into project design.
- **Cost-benefit analysis** – The review panel anticipates the need for additional resources or tools to evaluate these larger, more expensive capital projects in a comparably robust, technical way. An adaptive approach requires more specific or different cost-benefit criteria and an appropriate evaluation tool or process.
- **Value Engineering** – The review panel recommends that the board support investigation of “Value Engineering” as an evaluation tool to improve cost effectiveness in large-scale projects. The review panel would assess the available data and look for patterns in local and state review comments regarding cost-benefit analysis, and recommend a total dollar threshold that would trigger a value engineering analysis during the appropriate project design process.
- **Typical project element “actual cost” ranges** – Last year the chair of the review panel, chair of the Puget Sound Regional Implementation Team, and Puget Sound Partnership staff discussed the potential review of typical projects costs presented in ranges for the benefit of those involved in restoration projects. The group discussed requiring a more detailed cost-benefit analysis of more expensive projects that are over a certain dollar amount (yet to be determined). This type of tool would be especially valuable for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) large capital projects. Following the review of published costs, the review panel could prepare a table of typical project element price ranges for inclusion in Manual 18 or as a resource to project sponsors.
- **Project Partners**- The review panel has observed a pattern in which sponsors have significant challenges when working with some larger agencies whose primary mission is not salmon recovery, but who have an obligation to contribute to ecosystem restoration. For several years, the review panel has observed projects involving stakeholder or funding agencies, including the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). These interactions add significant time, costs and complications to projects. For example, WSDOT participation in projects is important because many fish passage projects

involve state highway infrastructure. There is a need for higher-level agency-to-agency coordination to develop consistent guidance for WSDOT regions and for sponsors in the areas of early project input, requests for cost reimbursement for items like design review and construction inspection, and added protection elements for infrastructure.

Conditioned Projects

The review panel is conditioning an increasing number of projects for review of products or design deliverables – in part because projects are coming in for implementation funding before their assessment or design deliverables are complete. The review panel conditioned a total of 30 projects this year, requiring review at different points in the design process (typically of alternatives identified before selection of a preferred alternative), or of preliminary design products before proceeding to final design. The summary of the projects with their conditions can be found in the [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) (funding report), Attachment 7. There were more projects conditioned this year than last year, due to the higher number of complex, multi-phased projects coming forward for funding.

Noteworthy Projects

Noteworthy project proposals may be large, impressive projects that take multiple years of phased construction or implementation to accomplish, have a high cost benefit, or be a complex, collaborative approach to salmon recovery or a combination thereof. A number of past noteworthy projects were phased projects – leading to a potential future noteworthy project when they get fully completed.

This year’s project proposals resulted in four noteworthy projects, outlined below and in [Table 4](#) of the funding report.

Noteworthy Projects

| PROJECT NUMBER and NAME | SPONSOR LEAD ENTITY REGION | GOAL | PHASE/FUNDING |
|--|--|--|---|
| 14-1737 Barkley Irrigation Company – Under Pressure | Trout Unlimited Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board | A collaborative effort to improve instream flows by 6-10 cfs and reduce mortality of ESA listed salmon with irrigation efficiencies. | Construction SRFB funding |
| 14-1366 Kilisut Harbor Restoration Construction Phase | North Olympic Salmon Coalition, Hood Canal Lead Entity and North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity/ Hood Canal and Puget Sound | Replace two culverts and road with a bridge to improve nearshore habitat and passage, opening up to 20 acres of tidal channels | Construction Funded with ESRP, 13-15 PSAR large cap and proposed for 2015-2017 Lage Cap PSAR |
| 14-1382 Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration | Clallam County North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity Puget Sound | Set back levees and restore up to 130 acres of floodplain habitat | Construction Proposed for 2015-2017 Large Cap PSAR |
| 14-1857 Rock Creek Conservation Easement Assessment | Eastern Klickitat CD Klickitat Lead Entity Mid Columbia | Will protect up to 850 acres with 18 miles of riparian habitat | Conservation Easement SRFB funding |

Manual 18 Recommendations

Manual 18

The review panel does not have any major policy revisions to suggest for Manual 18, but they are working with staff to reduce redundancy in the application proposal section and to guide sponsors towards identification of objectives and an overall logic framework.

The panel is asking for more details on:

- Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound (S.M.A.R.T) objectives;
- Information on site-specific, species-specific life stage fish use of project areas and/or reaches, and how projects are targeting restoration solutions for limiting factors specific to those life stages. These should also be tied into objectives; how are project actions intended to benefit specific species and life stages?;
- Information on organizational cost-controls;
- Enhanced coordination between project sponsors and principal investigators within Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) to better distribute monitoring results and incorporate into project designs;
- Budget and scope of work templates;

Next Steps

Based on the board discussion and direction, staff will work with the review panel and stakeholders to clarify Manual 18 for future grant rounds. If additional policy work is needed, staff and the review panel chair will bring forward recommendations at the February 2015 board meeting.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Manual 18 Changes for 2015 Grant Cycle: Administrative Changes and Minor Policy Clarifications
Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

Summary

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff will summarize the proposed administrative revisions to [Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection](#). These revisions incorporate comments submitted by lead entities in their semi-annual progress reports, suggestions from the board's technical review panel, and clarifications and updates from RCO staff.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

Manual 18 contains the instructions and policies needed for completing a grant application for submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and for managing a project when funding is approved.

Each December, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends manual updates to the board for the upcoming grant round. The revisions incorporate comments submitted by lead entities in their semi-annual progress reports, suggestions from the board's technical review panel, and clarifications and updates suggested by the staff.

The board is briefed on the revisions in December so that lead entities and regions have a final version of the manual for developing their projects and processes at the start of the grant round. The RCO director has authority to approve administrative changes and minor policy clarifications, but staff reviews them at the December meeting so that (a) the board is informed and (b) the changes are reviewed in an open public meeting. The board makes any larger policy decisions that may be incorporated into Manual 18.

Manual 18 Changes Proposed for 2015 Grant Cycle

Administrative Updates and Policy Clarifications

RCO staff plan to make some administrative updates and minor policy clarifications to Manual 18, including the following:

- Updated 2015 grant schedule.
- Updated project proposal to include more detailed information on a project's goals and objectives.
- New guidance on riparian buffers as recommended at the June 2014 board meeting.
- Updated language on a grant recipient's long-term compliance obligation. This language is consistent with RCO's other programmatic manuals.
- New example cost estimates for restoration, planning, and acquisition projects as guidance for applicants.
- New PRISM-based submittal process for the lead entity's ranked project lists.

Policy Changes

Monitoring eligibility

In March 2014, the board's monitoring sub-committee recommended that the board consider allowing monitoring to be an eligible project type. Such a project type could be funded as part of the region's project list, using their current grant round allocation. Staff offer the following narrative and recommendations to be considered by the board at the December meeting.

Monitoring covers a wide array of potential activities. The GSRO should work with regional organizations to define specific monitoring activities that could potentially be funded and discuss this with the board in December. The board could provide staff guidance to bring back fully developed eligibility language in February for inclusion in Manual 18.

The Stillwater Monitoring Recommendations (2013) and the monitoring sub-committee both recognized the importance of implementing long-term monitoring programs to meet de-listing criteria for threatened or endangered salmon stocks. Earlier this year regions went through an extensive monitoring budget preparation exercise. Staff recommends that the board focus potential eligibility in those regional areas that are closest to de-listing certain listed stocks. It should not be a requirement for regions to monitor; rather, it should be up to each region to decide if they want to take advantage of available but limited monitoring resources. For monitoring projects, staff recommends that the board's monitoring panel review the stated objectives in the regional proposal(s) for consistency.

Review Panel Recommendations

The Review Panel is not recommending any major policy changes at this board meeting.

Opportunity for Stakeholder Comment

Staff sent out an initial request to lead entities and regions for their comments and feedback for improvements to the 2015 manual. Staff has also had informal discussions with many stakeholders about proposed changes to the manual. Lead entities, regions, and other stakeholders will have another opportunity for comment on the proposed changes after the December 2014 board meeting.

RCO will also be conducting a grant round survey with applicants, staff, and other stakeholders. Part of this survey will ask for improvements to the manual, PRISM, technical review, and other aspects of our grant process.

Next Steps

Staff will share the proposed changes to Manual 18 at the December board meeting. Based on board discussion, staff will refine the proposals and share draft language for with the lead entities and regional organizations for their review and comment. The RCO director has authority to approve administrative changes and minor policy clarifications following final revisions. It is expected that the manual will be finalized in January or February 2015.

Attachments

- A. 2015 Grant Schedule

2015 Grant Schedule (Draft)

| Date | Action | Description |
|------------------|---|--|
| February 13 | DUE DATE: Requests for Review Panel site visits | Lead Entities must submit their requests for site visits to RCO staff by this date. |
| February-June 30 | Review Panel site visits (required) | RCO grant managers and review panel members review draft application materials, go on lead entity-organized site visits, and provide technical feedback based on materials and visits. Site visits must be completed before June 30, 2015. |
| February-June 9 | Project draft application materials due (required) | Applicants enter application materials through PRISM Online (see required draft application materials on page 28). The lead entity will provide applicants with a project number from the Habitat Work Schedule before work can begin in PRISM Online. Complete this step as early as necessary to fit into lead entities' schedules, and at least three weeks before the site visit . Complete draft application materials are required to secure a site visit by the review panel. |
| February-May | Application workshops (on request) | RCO staff holds an online application workshop. Additional in-person trainings can be provided to lead entities upon request. |
| May 27-29 | Salmon Recovery Conference | Bi-annual salmon recovery conference will be held in Vancouver, WA. |
| February-July 15 | SRFB review panel completes initial project comment forms | Approximately two weeks after the site visits, RCO grant managers will provide the review panel comment forms to lead entities and applicants. Applicants must address review panel comments through revisions to their Appendix C project proposal (using the MS Word track changes feature). |
| August 14 | DUE DATE: Applications due Lead entity submittals due | Applicants submit final application materials, including attachments, via PRISM Online. See the Final Application Checklist on page 38. New this year, lead entities must submit draft ranked lists via PRISM. |
| August 17-28 | RCO grants manager review | All applications are screened for completeness and eligibility. |
| August 28 | Review Panel begins post-application review | RCO grant managers forward project application information to review panel members for evaluation. |
| September 4 | DUE DATE: Regional submittal | Regional organizations submit their recommendations for funding, including alternate projects (only those they want the SRFB to consider funding), and their Regional Area Summary and Project Matrix. |

| Date | Action | Description |
|-----------------|--|--|
| September 21-23 | SRFB review panel meeting | The review panel meets to discuss projects, prepare comment forms, and determine the status of each project. |
| October 2 | Project comment forms available for sponsors. | RCO grant managers will provide the review panel comment forms to lead entities and applicants. Projects will be identified with a status of "Clear," "Conditioned," "Need More Information" (NMI), or "Project of Concern" (POC). |
| October 13 | DUE DATE: Response to project comment forms | Applicants with projects labeled Conditioned, NMI, or POC provide responses to review panel comments through revisions to the project proposal attached in PRISM. If the applicant does not respond to comments by this date, RCO will assume the project has been withdrawn for funding consideration. |
| October 21 | Review panel list of projects for regional area meeting | The review panel reviews the response to comments and identifies which projects to clear. They recommend a list of POCs to present at the regional area project meeting. |
| October 26-28 | Regional area project meetings | Regional organizations, lead entities, and applicants present regional updates and discuss POCs with the review panel. |
| November 4 | Review panel finalizes project comment forms | The review panel finalize comment forms by considering application materials, site visits, applicants' responses to comments, and presentations during the regional area project meeting. |
| November 10 | Lead entity submits final ranked list | Lead entities submit final ranked lists in PRISM. RCO will not accept changes to the lists after this date. Updates submitted after this date will not appear in the grant funding report. |
| November 18 | Final 2015 grant report made available for public review | The final funding recommendation report is available online for SRFB and public review. |
| December 9-10 | Board funding meeting | Board awards grants. Public comment period available. |

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: December 3, 2014
Title: Adopt 2015-17 Large Capital Project List for
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Program
Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board will be asked to approve the 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund large capital project list at the December meeting. This memo and the [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) provide background on the process for identifying, evaluating, and ranking the projects under consideration as well as the project list.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Proposed Motion Language

Approve the 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund large capital project list as presented in Attachment A, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Background

The Legislature approved \$70 million in the 2013-15 state capital budget for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR) grant program. Of this appropriation, \$30 million was for the regular local watershed (formula driven) PSAR grant round; the remainder (\$40 million) was for regional large capital projects. This list was provided to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in December 2013. This year, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council made a decision to recruit, rank, and approve a project list in advance of the legislative session for funding as part of the 2015-17 capital budget. The board distributes PSAR funds in coordination with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).

The [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) (funding report) provides information in Attachment 6 the recruitment process (the Request for Proposals (RFP)) and the scoring criteria used to rank the large capital project list. PSP coordinates with lead entities and the RCO staff to submit projects. Both PSAR regular (formula-driven allocation) and regional large capital projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects. Only projects that received a "Clear" or "Conditioned" status from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) were submitted for approval. [Attachment 7](#) of the funding report provides a summary of "Conditioned" projects.

The regional large capital projects were approved by the PSP as strategic, large projects that are high priority and significantly large in scope (scale, complexity, and cost). These projects cost more than is typically available within the standard PSAR allocations.

The review panel has evaluated all projects presented for approval. The PSP Leadership Council and the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council have approved these projects. With the board's approval, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director will have the authority to enter into agreements for the projects once the PSAR account is funded by the Legislature in 2015.

Board Decisions

The board is asked to approve PSAR funding for the projects listed in Attachment A and to authorize the RCO director to enter into agreements for the projects once the PSAR account is funded by the Legislature in 2015.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the 2015-17 PSAR large capital list for the projects listed in Attachment A and to authorize the RCO director to enter into agreements for the projects once the PSAR account is funded by the Legislature in 2015.

Analysis

Review of the Proposed Projects

The 2015-17 PSAR large capital projects were evaluated through the board's review process for the 2014 grant round. The review panel conducted site visits for each lead entity and provided comments for all project applications, including early action projects. Lead entities followed their local process of technical and citizen review before submitting their project list to RCO by August 15, 2014.

- The PSP Leadership Council approved the PSAR process and regional project list through a resolution adopted on September 24, 2014. The Leadership Council and the Salmon Recovery Council delegated the timing of the distribution of funds to the lead entity citizen's committees and the regional review of fit to recovery strategy to the Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT).
- The local watershed technical committees and the RITT have reviewed these projects and determined they are consistent with the regional and watershed recovery strategies.
- The review panel evaluated projects for technical feasibility, including field reviews, and recommended them for funding. The review panel met in September 2014 to finalize comments on the PSAR large capital projects.
- The projects would advance the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the PSP's Action Agenda.

Next Steps

Once the PSAR account is funded in 2015, the RCO Director will enter into agreements for PSAR large capital projects using the list of projects approved by the board. . RCO will use the board-approved PSAR returned funds policy should any of these large capital projects be completed under budget or terminated without spending PSAR funds.

Supporting Documents

The funding report is available on the web at
<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/salmon/2014-SRFB-Funding-Report.pdf>.

Attachments

A. 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital Project List in Ranked Order.

2015-17 PSAR Large Capital Project List in Ranked Order

| Lead Entity | Project Number | Project Name | Amount¹ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Nisqually River Salmon Recovery | 14-1688 | Busy Wild Creek Protection | \$5,889,000 |
| North Olympic Peninsula | 14-1382 | Lower Dungeness River | \$11,867,000 |
| WRIA 1 | 14-1665 | MF Porter Creek Reach | \$3,088,656 |
| Hood Canal Coordinating Council | 14-1366 | Kilisut Harbor Restoration | \$8,986,384 |
| WRIA 1 | 14-1666 | NF Nooksack (Xwqelem) Farmhouse | \$5,796,581 |
| Island County | 14-1114 | Waterman Nearshore Acquisition | \$845,029 |
| WRIA 1 | 14-1667 | SF Nooksack (Nuxw7iyem) Nessel Reach | \$3,247,295 |
| Skagit Watershed Council | 14-2170 | Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan Restoration | \$2,994,205 |
| Pierce County/ WRIAs 10/12 | 14-1184 | Neadham Road Acquisition and Levee | \$6,887,266 |
| WRIA 9 | 14-1389 | Downey Farmstead Restoration | \$4,890,965 |
| Pierce County/ WRIAs 10/12 | 14-1189 | South Prairie Creek | \$3,330,487 |
| Hood Canal Coordinating Council | 14-1376 | Skokomish River Natural Rehabilitation | \$1,835,607 |
| WRIA 9 | 14-1327 | Porter Levee Setback, Floodplain | \$4,675,000 |
| North Olympic Peninsula | 14-1385 | Dungeness Landscape Protect | \$8,009,650 |
| North Olympic Peninsula | 14-1371 | Pysht Estuary Saltmarsh | \$4,291,267 |
| Pierce County/WRIAs 10/12 | 14-1187 | Alward Road Acquisition | \$4,514,100 |
| San Juan | 14-1887 | Kellet Bluff/Hart Property | \$825,000 |
| WRIA 14 Kennedy-Goldsborough | 14-1403 | West Oakland Bay Restoration | \$1,906,499 |
| WRIA 8 | 14-1194 | Evans Creek Relocation | \$2,500,000 |
| WRIA 13 Deschutes | 14-1407 | The Big Three Culvert Package | \$3,644,273 |
| WRIA 14 Kennedy-Goldsborough | 14-1397 | Little Skookum Inlet Shoreline | \$596,010 |
| Total | | | \$90,620,274 |

¹ The total reflects only project cost and not program management costs. Final costs may vary as other funding becomes available.