Revised 6/17/19

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

July 10-11, 2019
Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, Yakima, WA

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: To comment at the 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. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, at the address above or at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov

Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or email Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received by June 24, 2019 to ensure availability.

Wednesday, July 10

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. — *Chair Rockefeller*

Call to Order

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda ***(Decision)***
- Approve March, 2019 Meeting Minutes ***(Decision)***
- *Recognition for Member Neatherlin & Member Smith's service to the board*
- Remarks by the chair

9:15 a.m.

1. Director's Report

A. Director's Report — *Kaleen Cottingham*
   - Introduction of New GSRO Staff
   - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Award

B. Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates — *Wendy Brown*
   - Overview of Salmon Recovery Funding

	- Orca Legislation Update C. Lean Update D. Regional and Lead Entity Contract Updates E. Performance Update *(Written only)* F. Fiscal Report *(Written only)*	*Kaleen Cottingham* *Jeannie Abbott*
10:00 a.m.	**2. Salmon Recovery Management Report** A. Salmon Recovery Management Report • Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report • Salmon Section Report • 2018 Grant Round Survey Results	 *Erik Neatherlin* *Tara Galuska* *Brent Hedden*
10:45 a.m.	**3. Reports from Partners** (7 minutes maximum per presentation) • Council of Regions • WA Salmon Coalition • Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups **General Public Comment:** *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*	 *Alex Conley & John Foltz* *Alicia Olivas* *Aaron Peterson*
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
11:15 a.m.	**4. Conference Debrief & Decision on 2021 Conference**	*Scott Robinson, Jeannie Abbott and Tara Galuska*
12:00 p.m.	**LUNCH**	
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
1:00 p.m.	**5. Salmon Delisting Discussion** - Hood Canal Summer Chum - Mid-Columbia Steelhead	*Scott Brewer, John Foltz and Alex Conley*
BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION		
1:45 p.m.	**6. Targeted Investments Survey Results and Next Steps**	*Kaleen Cottingham, Tara Galuska and Wyatt Lundquist*
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
2:45 p.m.	**7. Monitoring Panel Recommendations Following Workshops**	*Keith Dublanica, Pete Bisson and Leska Fore*
3:30 p.m.	**BREAK**	
3:45p.m.	**8. Allocate Funding for 2019 Grant Round, 2019-20 Capacity Funding and 2019 Monitoring Funding**	*Tara Galuska, Jeannie Abbott and Keith Dublanica*
4:15 p.m.	**9. Implementing New Grant Round Timeline For 2020 (Lean Study)**	*Tara Galuska*

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
4:45 p.m.	**10. Tour Prologue**	*Alex Conley*
5:00 p.m.	**ADJOURN**	*Chair*
5:10 p.m.	**Informal Social – Location TBD**	
6:00 p.m.	**Dinner on Our Own**	

Next meeting: September 10-11, 2019 - Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

July 10-11, 2019
Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, Yakima, WA

Thursday, July 11

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SITE TOUR - YAKIMA BASIN LEAD ENTITY

8:00 a.m. **Meet at Holiday Inn in Yakima**
802 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima, WA 98901

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Van loading
- Drive to next site
- Vans depart 8:15am

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

8:25 a.m. **Cowiche Siphon**
5477 W. Powerhouse Rd., Yakima, WA 98908

- 30 minutes on site
- Discussion on passage barriers and relationship to Nelson Dam
- Associated SRFB project(s): https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=16-1753
- Vans depart 9:05am

Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District

9:25 a.m. **Snow Mountain Ranch**
2648 Cowiche Mills Rd., Cowiche, WA 98923

- 45 minutes on site
- Discussion: SRFB acquisition, passage barriers, floodplain restoration, and instream work
- Associated SRFB project(s): https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=02-1614
- Vans depart 10:20am

Celisa Hopkins, Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

10:30 a.m. **Pioneer Rd.**

- 45 minutes on site
- Discussion: fish passage and screening, floodplain restoration, instream work
- Associated SRFB project(s): https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?

Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District

	ProjectNumber=12-1328 https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=06-2200 • Vans depart 11:25am	
11:40 p.m.	**LUNCH** - Picnic at Mighty Tieton Warehouse *608 Wisconsin Rd., Tieton, WA 98947* • 45 minutes for lunch • Vans depart 12:40pm *Note: Lunch provided for RCO Staff and Board Members Only*	
1:00 p.m.	**Ramblers** • 45 minutes on site • Discussion: Gap to Gap Floodplain Restoration and Enhancement plan, Floodplains by Design coordination • Associated SRFB project(s): https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=12-1327 • Vans Depart 1:55pm	*Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County*
2:05 p.m.	**End of tour and return to Holiday Inn**	
2:15 p.m.	**Depart Yakima – Olympia, WA**	

Next meeting: September 10-11, 2019 - Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501

Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board

Lead Entity

SRFB Site Visits

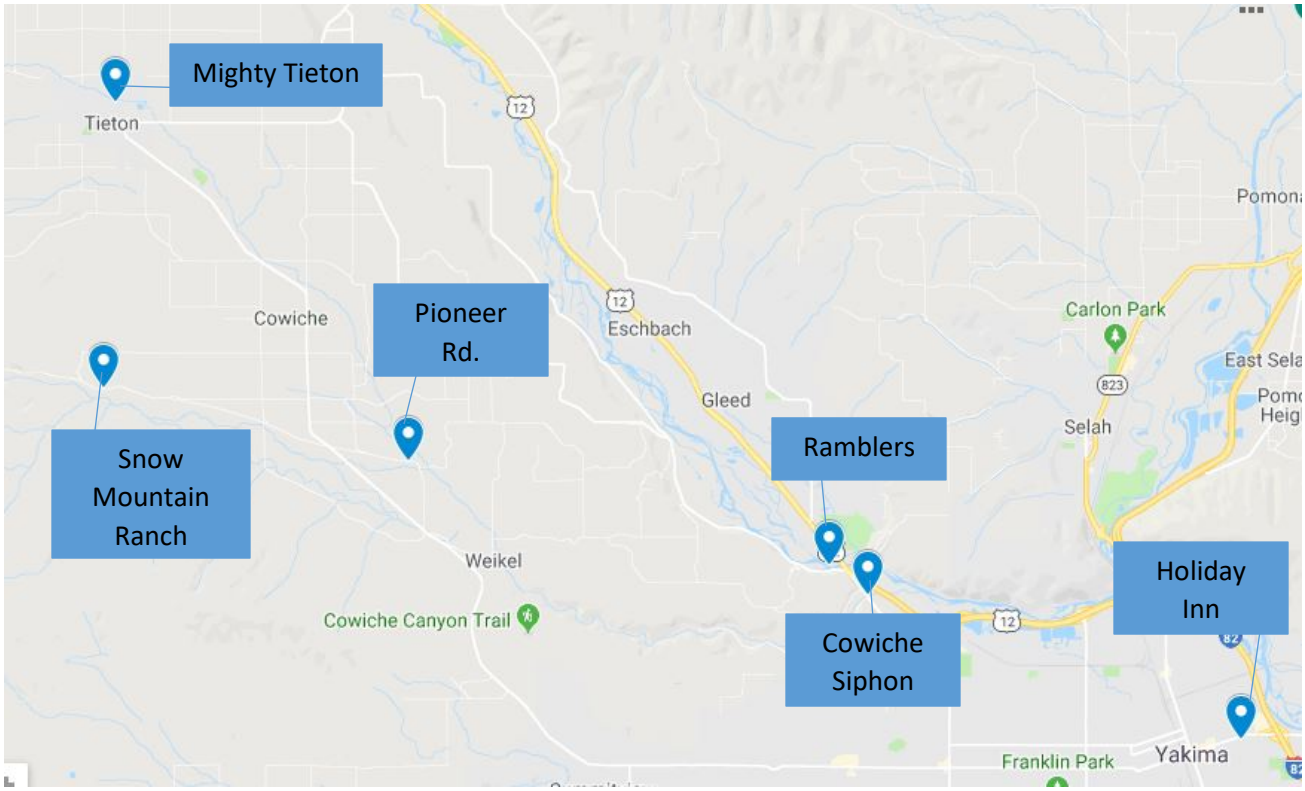
July 11, 2019

YAKIMA BASIN
FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY BOARD

List of Relevant SRFB Projects and Funding Amounts

PRISM #	**Project Sponsor**	**Project Name**	**SRFB Funding**	**Total with Match**
16-1753	North Yakima Conservation District	Restoring Fish Passage on Cowiche Creek	$222,341	$261,578
11-1320	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Lower Cowiche Restoration, Ph. 1 &2	$181,086	$213,548
06-2193	Yakima County	Naches River Floodplain Acquisition	$141,175	$166,175
10-1909	Yakima County	Lower Cowiche Creek Conservation Easement	$143,160	$214,604
11-1600	Yakima County	Lower Cowiche Restoration Design	$105,000	$105,000
02-1614	Cowiche Canyon Conservancy	Snow Mountain Ranch Acquisition and Barrier Removal	$670,000	$790,000
12-1328	North Yakima Conservation District	CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water	$574,599	$924,606
01-1256	North Yakima Conservation District	Cowiche Creek Barrier Removal	$51,867	$72,912
06-2200	North Yakima Conservation District	Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek	$112,701	$173,000
12-1327	Yakima County	Naches River Ramblers Acquisition and Restoration	$93,895	$110,477

SRFB Project Site Locations



2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Site Tour

Yakima Basin Lead Entity

July 11, 2019

8:00am **Meet at Holiday Inn in Yakima**

802 E. Yakima Ave., Yakima, WA 98901

- Welcome and tour overview

8:25pm **Cowiche Siphon**

Mike Tobin – North Yakima Conservation District

Katrina Strathmann – Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Dale Meck – Yakima County

- Associated SRFB project(s): Restoring Fish Passage on Cowiche Creek; Short discussion of Lower Cowiche Creek Restoration Ph 1 &2; Naches River Floodplain Acquisition; Lower Cowiche Conservation Easement; Lower Cowiche Creek Restoration Design

9:25am **Snow Mountain Ranch**

Celisa Hopkins – Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

Richard Visser – Bureau of Reclamation

Mike Tobin – North Yakima Conservation District

- Associated SRFB project: Snow Mountain Ranch Acquisition and Barrier Removal

10:30am **Pioneer Rd.**

Mike Tobin – North Yakima Conservation District

- Associated SRFB projects: CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water; Cowiche Creek Barrier Removal; Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek

11:40am **Lunch**

Picnic at Mighty Tieton Warehouse

- 45 minutes for lunch

1:00pm **Ramblers**

Joel Freudenthal – Yakima County

Dave Brown – City of Yakima

- Associated SRFB project(s): Naches River Ramblers Acquisition and Restoration

2:05pm **Return to Holiday Inn (arrive at 2:15pm)**

Driving Directions

2019 July SRFB Site Visit

Project & Address	Driving Directions
Cowiche Siphon 5477 W. Powerhouse Rd., Yakima, WA 98908	Turn right onto E. Yakima Ave. and continue for ½ a mile. Turn left to merge onto I-82 W towards Ellensburg. Take exit 31 for US-12 W towards Naches/White Pass. Continue onto US-12 W for about 3 ½ miles. Turn left on W. Ackley Rd. and make an immediate left onto W. Powerhouse Rd. There is parking on the right hand on the street. Approximate driving time from hotel: 10 minutes.
Snow Mountain Ranch 2648 Cowiche Mill Rd., Yakima, WA 98923	Head northwest on W. Powerhouse Rd. towards Garretson Ln. Turn left onto Naches Heights Rd. and continue for about 3 ½ miles. Turn left to stay on Naches Height Rd. and continue onto Zimmerman Rd. for about a mile. Turn left on Weikel Rd. and continue for just under a mile. Turn right onto Summitview Rd. and continue for just over 1 ½ miles. Turn left onto Cowiche Mills Rd. and continue for about 2 ½ miles the parking lot will be on the left. Approximate driving time from last site: 20 minutes.
Pioneer Rd.	Head east on Cowiche Mills Rd. Turn right onto Summitview Rd. Make an immediate slight right onto Pioneer Way and continue for just under a mile. The site will be on the right. Approximate driving time from last site: 10 minutes.

Alex cell: 509/654-0394
Tricia cell: 575/636-0625

Mighty Tieton 608 Wisconsin Rd., Tieton, WA 98947	Head west on N. Pioneer Way. Turn right onto Summitview Rd. and continue for just over 4 miles. Make a slight right onto S. Tieton Rd. In about 1/3 of a mile, turn left onto Wisconsin Ave. Mighty Tieton will be on the right. Approximate driving time from last site: 15 minutes.
Ramblers	Turn right onto N. Tieton Rd. and continue for about 1/3 of a mile. Turn left onto Naches Tieton Rd. and continue for just over 3 ½ miles. Continue onto S. Naches Way. In just over ½ a mile, turn right onto US-12 E and continue for just over 8 miles. Turn right onto W. Powerhouse Rd. and continue for just over ½ a mile. Before crossing the bridge, turn right to the fish ladder access, go through the gate and park. Approximate driving time from last site: 20 minutes.
Holiday Inn 802 E. Yakima Ave. Yakima, WA 98901	Head east on S. Naches Rd. and turn right onto W. Powerhouse Rd. Continue for just under 1/3 of a mile. Turn left onto Ackley Rd. and merge US-12 E. Use the left lane to follow I-82 E towards Richland/Goldendale. Take exit 33B for Yakima Ave. Keep right at the fork and merge onto Yakima Ave. Turn left onto Union St. The hotel will be on the right.

Alex cell: 509/654-0394
Tricia cell: 575/636-0625

Restoring Fish Passage on Cowiche Creek

Project Details

North Yakima Conserv Dist; Restoring Fish Passage on Cowiche Creek (#16-1753) Attachment #257849, P7310029

Project Status: Active since 03/01/2017
Planned Completion: 04/30/2019
This project is in progress. Project scope, activities, and dollars may change.

Project Type: Restoration
Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$222,340	
Salmon State Projects:	$1	
Total RCO Grant:	$222,341	(85%)
Sponsor Match:	$39,237	(15%)
Total Agreement:	$261,578	(100%)

RCO Grant Status

Total RCO Grant:	$222,341.00	
Paid To Date:	$203,815.00	(92%)
Grant Balance:	$18,526.00	(8%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 4
Attachments: 40 files

Project Description

The North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) will use this grant to modify the Naches Cowiche Canal (NCC) Association siphon, which creates a passage barrier to fish during periods of low flow in Cowiche Creek. NYCD will replace the cement siphon with a large polyethylene pipe buried below the streambed. The City of Yakima water line, approximately 20 feet upstream of the siphon, will also be addressed using the same technique. The streambed will then be modified through the site to create a more natural slope which will allow for improved flood flows, sediment transport, and passage for steelhead, Coho, and juvenile Chinook salmon.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District

Project Contact: Justin Bader
justin-bader@conservewa.net
(509) 454-5743 Ext 8551

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Cowiche Cr near Naches. WA
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 09
Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.62707165
-120.58073207

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Proposed Restoration Cost
Naches-Cowiche Canal Siphon and COY Water LIne (#1)	Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1), Obtain permits	$249,813
	Total	**$249,813**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
Naches-Cowiche Canal Siphon and COY Water LIne (#1)	Property 1 - Naches-Cowiche Canal Company	Private
Naches-Cowiche Canal Siphon and COY Water LIne (#1)	Property 2 - Lloyd Garretson Company	Private
Naches-Cowiche Canal Siphon and COY Water LIne (#1)	Property 3 - Holtzinger Fruit	Private
Naches-Cowiche Canal Siphon and COY Water LIne (#1)	Property 4 - City of Yakima	Local Government
	Total	

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Proposed
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Fish Passage Improvement	
Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1)	
Number of Blockages/Impediments/Barriers Removed/Altered (C.2.c.2)	2
Permits	
Obtain permits	
Number of permits required for implementation of project	5
Fish Passage Improvement	
Number of blockages / impediments / barriers impeding passage (C.2.b.4)	2

Project Permits

Permit Type	Applied Date	Received Date	Expiration Date	Permit Number
None - No permits Required	03/06/2017			
Shoreline Permit	03/06/2017	06/06/2017	02/15/2018	
Hydraulics Project Approval [HPA]	03/06/2017	06/12/2017	02/15/2018	2017-3-29+01
Endangered Species Act Compliance [ESA]	12/22/2016	04/13/2017		2017049
Nationwide Permit	03/06/2017	06/15/2017	03/18/2022	NWS-2017-245
Cultural Assessment [Section 106]	05/02/2017	06/12/2017		2016-05-03518-BPA

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/08/2016	
Final Design to RCO	02/06/2017	Pre-construction design and bid documents attached in PRISM, as described in project proposal
Applied for Permits	03/30/2017	
Landowner Agreement to RCO	05/01/2017	
Progress Report Due	06/01/2017	
Bid Awarded/Contractor Hired	07/14/2017	
Cultural Resources Complete	07/28/2017	To be completed by BPA. Attach documentation to PRISM to confirm cult res consultation complete for ALL ground disturbing activities.
Permits Complete	10/15/2017	
Restoration Started	10/15/2017	
Progress Report Due	12/15/2017	
Restoration Complete	04/30/2018	
Progress Report Due	06/01/2018	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2018	
Final Design to RCO	08/30/2018	As-built drawings or project documentation attached in PRISM, if constructed project differs from final design

RCO Final Inspection	02/28/2019	
Restoration Complete	03/13/2019	Replace valve on outfall pipe
Final Report Due	04/30/2019	
Agreement End Date	04/30/2019	PROJECT CLOSING. All expenditures must be prior to this date.
Final Design to RCO	04/30/2019	Revised as-built drawing
Final Billing Due	06/30/2019	

NOTE: This data is subject to change.

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	Agreement 16-1753.pdf	03/01/2017
Amendment - State	16-1753 Amend #3 Special Conds.pdf	04/05/2019
Amendment - State	16-1753 Amend #4 Time Ext.pdf	04/02/2019
Amendment - State	16-1753 Amend #2 Time Ext.pdf	10/31/2018
Amendment - State	16-1753 Amend #1 Cost Change.pdf	08/15/2017
Amendment request	Requst for Cost Increase 7-11-17.docx	07/14/2017
Applicant Resolution/Authorizations	ApplicationAuthorizationForm.pdf	04/21/2016
Application Document	PROPOSED On-Farm Modifications.docx	09/20/2016
Application Review Report	Application Review Report, 16-1753R(compl 08/26/16 21:13:12).pdf	08/26/2016
Application Review Report	Application Review Report, 16-1753R(rtnd 08/17/16 20:43:57).pdf	08/17/2016
Correspondence	Explanation for Cost Increase between draft and final app.docx	06/30/2016
Cost Estimate	Cost Estimate SiphonFebruary2017.XLSX.xlsx	02/22/2017
Cost Estimate	Cost Estimate Siphon 6-30-16.xlsx	06/30/2016
Design document	Final Drawings.pdf.pdf	07/05/2017
Design document	Preliminary Design Report FINAL 040616.pdf	04/28/2016
Design document (as built)	CowicheSiphon-As-BuiltRedLineDrawing.pdf.pdf	09/19/2018
Map: Restoration Worksite	Siphon Project Map.jpg	04/21/2016
Permit	2017 NWP 33 Enclosure 3-27-17.pdf.pdf	12/11/2017
Permit	2017_245NWPVerFinalLtr_DJM.pdf.pdf	12/11/2017
Permit	2017 NWP 27 Enclosure 3-27-17.pdf.pdf	12/11/2017
Photo	DJI_0024.JPG.jpg	09/19/2018
Photo	DJI_0006.JPG.jpg	09/19/2018
Photo	DJI_0001.JPG.jpg	09/19/2018
Photo	DJI_0003.JPG.jpg	12/11/2017
Photo	DJI_0069.JPG.jpg	12/11/2017
Photo	DJI_0012.JPG.jpg	12/11/2017
Photo	P8120111.jpg	04/21/2016
Photo	P7310029.jpg	04/21/2016
Progress report	Progress Report, 16-1753 (accepted 09/20/18 07:30:54).pdf	09/20/2018
Progress report	Progress Report, 16-1753 (accepted 12/22/17 14:41:28).pdf	12/22/2017
Progress report	Progress Report, 16-1753 (accepted 07/26/17 15:35:29).pdf	07/26/2017
Project Application Report	Application Report, 16-1753R (submitted 08/23/16 16:56:35).pdf	08/23/2016
Project Application Report	Application Report, 16-1753R (submitted 08/10/16 16:41:17).pdf	08/10/2016
Salmon Project Proposal	Project Proposal_updated_6-22-16.docx	06/22/2016
Special Agreements	NYCD cash advance agreement 2017.pdf.pdf	12/05/2017
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	16-1753 Cowiche Creek Siphon Fish Passage.pdf	11/04/2016
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Cowiche Siphon Comment Matrix_6-20-16.docx	06/22/2016
Visuals	SRFB Presentation 2016.pptx	06/22/2016
WDFW barrier & screening forms	Barrier Eval- COY Waterline .pdf	04/28/2016
WDFW barrier & screening forms	Barrier Eval - Undershot Siphon .pdf	04/28/2016

Date of last change: 06/20/2019

Lower Cowiche Creek Restoration, Phase 2 & 3

Project Details

Mid-Columbia RFEG; Lower Cowiche Creek Restoration, Phase 2 & 3 (#11-1320) Attachment #350681, Ketchen DSCN3619.JPG

Project Status: Closed Completed since 06/11/2018

Project Type: Planning & Restoration
Project Sponsor: Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$78,216	
Salmon State Projects:	$102,870	
Total RCO Grant:	$181,086	(85%)
Sponsor Match:	$32,462	(15%)
Total Agreement:	$213,548	(100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 4
Attachments: 75 files

Project Description

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group proposes to implement Phase 2 and portion of Phase 3 of the Cowiche Creek Restoration Project near Yakima, Washington. The project will improve instream habitat, riparian condition and floodplain connectivity on Lower Cowiche Creek. Lower Cowiche Creek supports spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia steelhead. Cowiche Creek has been listed as an “Impaired Water” for temperature and nutrient loading and was included in the 2008 Upper Naches River Temperature TMDL. In many places in the project reach, lower Cowiche Cr is constrained by dikes. Concrete, rip rap, and other non-native materials have been placed on the banks and in the channel. Native, woody, riparian vegetation has been removed in many areas.

The project will accomplish the following:
· Improve habitat by removing concrete and non-native material from the channel and banks along 500 feet of Cowiche Cr. on one parcel, and along approximately 100 feet on another parcel. Reshape formerly armored banks and establish a native riparian plant community where there is now lawn and weeds.
· Increase floodplain complexity, stream shading and bank stability by revegetating 1.3 acres of riparian and floodplain;
· Complete final engineering and design for removal of 1,100 feet of berms and dikes that are constricting the stream
· Remove and dispose of surface debris and garbage on approximately 5.4 acres.
· Develop New Projects: Work with other landowners in the reach to garner support for similar restoration work, identify restoration opportunities on 2 more properties, and gain landowner support for these actions.

In the original application, the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group proposed to also remove 1,100 feet of an old railroad berm and a concrete embankment and bank armor associated with that berm. In conjuction with berm and armor removal, they proposed to construct a setback dike and instream structures, and revegetate the newly accessible floodplain with native plants. However, berm removal (and all associated work) was not feasible as future trail alignment concerns related to berm remvoal on the project site could not be addressed within the timeframe of the grant. This project benefits steelhead and coho in a priority location and supports actions called for in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. This project is funded with a combination of NOAA 2010 and 2012 grant funds. All 2012 federal NOAA funds will be used by June 30, 2017 and state funds will be used to complete remaing project tasks.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Project Contact: Margaret Neuman
fish@midcolumbiafisheries.org
(509) 281-1322

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Yakima
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 09

Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.62353174
-120.58549147

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Planning and Restoration Cost
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.1), Conducting habitat restoration scoping and feasibility studies (B.1.b.8), Cultural resources, Debris/structures removal (C.5.j.1), Final design and permitting, Obtain permits, Planting (C.5.c.1), Restoration fencing and gates, Riparian Plant removal / control (C.5.h.1)	$229,130
	Total	**$229,130**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 1 - Matthews	Private
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 2 - Crandall	Private
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 3 - City of Yakima	Local Government
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 4 - Dilley	Private
Lower Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 5 - Yakima Valley Canal Co.	Local Government
	Total	

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Area Encompassed (acres) (B.0.b.1)	49.0
Instream Habitat Project	
Channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.3)	0.21
Riparian Habitat Project	
Planting (C.5.c.1)	
Acres Planted in riparian (C.5.c.3)	1.3
Riparian Plant removal / control (C.5.h.1)	
Acres of riparian treated for plant removal/control (C.5.h.3)	5.4
Permits	
Obtain permits	
Number of permits required for implementation of project	6
Miles of Stream and/or Shoreline Affected (B.0.b.2)	10.00
Riparian Habitat Project	
Debris/structures removal (C.5.j.1)	
Acres of Riparian Area Treated. (C.5.j.2)	5.4

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/08/2011	
Bid Awarded/Contractor Hired	05/20/2012	Select contractor for design and flood analysis
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2012	and at least once per year, thereafter
Progress Report Due	07/31/2012	entered directly into PRISM
Progress Report Due	01/31/2013	entered directly into PRISM
Applied for Permits	02/01/2013	in cooperation with YTAHP
Preliminary Design to RCO	02/01/2013	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall) preliminary design, design report, quantities and cost attached in PRISM
Cultural Resources Complete	06/01/2013	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall site). Attach documents to PRISM confirming cult res consultation complete for ALL ground disturbing activities.
Landowner Agreement to RCO	07/31/2013	Crandall & Matthews
Permits Complete	07/31/2013	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall Property)

Progress Report Due	07/31/2013	entered directly into PRISM
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2013	
Restoration Started	08/15/2013	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall Property)
Restoration Complete	11/30/2013	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall Property)
Progress Report Due	01/31/2014	entered directly into PRISM
Preliminary Design to RCO	05/01/2014	Phase 3 & Phase 2 downstream work (Matthews and City of Yakima properties)
Applied for Permits	05/01/2014	Phase 3 & Phase 2 downstream work (Matthews and City of Yakima properties)
Final Design to RCO	06/30/2014	Phase 3 & Phase 2 downstream work (Matthews and City of Yakima properties)
Landowner Agreement to RCO	07/15/2014	Phase 3 & Phase 2 downstream work (City of Yakima properties)
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2014	
Bid Awarded/Contractor Hired	08/15/2014	Phase 3 & Phase 2 downstream work (Matthews and City of Yakima properties)
Progress Report Due	10/31/2014	entered directly into PRISM
Progress Report Due	03/31/2015	entered directly into PRISM
Final Design to RCO	03/31/2015	Phase 2 upstream work (Crandall Property)
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2015	
Progress Report Due	10/31/2015	entered directly into PRISM
Progress Report Due	03/31/2016	entered directly into PRISM
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2016	
Progress Report Due	01/31/2017	entered directly into PRISM
Special Conditions Met	03/01/2017	New Project Development Report
Cultural Resources Complete	06/01/2017	Planting at Jennerjohn Property--RCO completed consultation
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2017	
Progress Report Due	09/01/2017	
Permits Complete	10/10/2017	City of Yakima (formerly Ketchen and Jennerjohn) property.
Cultural Resources Complete	10/10/2017	City of Yakima (formerly Ketchen) property. Attached Army Corps permit.
Restoration Started	10/30/2017	City of Yakima (formerly Ketchen and Jennerjohn) property.
Progress Report Due	11/01/2017	
RCO Final Inspection	11/30/2017	
Funding Acknowl Sign Posted	11/30/2017	RCO has small metal signs available for use upon request
Restoration Complete	11/30/2017	instream work on City of Yakima (formerly Ketchen) property.
Agreement End Date	12/01/2017	Planting complete; PROJECT CLOSING. All expenditures must be prior to this date.
Final Design to RCO	12/01/2017	as-built drawings
Restoration Complete	12/01/2017	Plants installed Phase 2 & 3
Final Billing Due	02/15/2018	
Final Report Due	06/05/2018	

Project Attachments

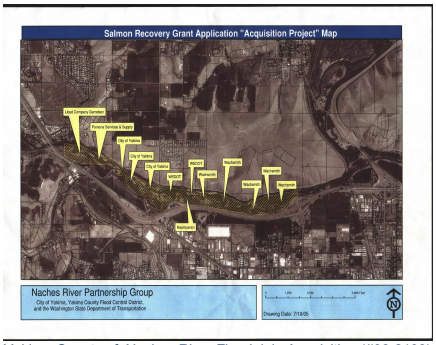
Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	11-1320 Project Agreement.pdf	04/17/2012
Amendment - State	11-1320 Amend #2 Cost Change.pdf	06/19/2018
Amendment - State	11-1320 Amend #1 Tme Ext.pdf	06/19/2018
Amendment - State	11-1320 Amend #4 Cost Change.pdf	04/17/2017
Amendment - State	11-1320 Amend #3 Time Ext.pdf	03/20/2017
Amendment - State	11-1320 Amend 4 (Internal).pdf	09/28/2016
Amendment request	clarification of what stays & goes in 3-7-17 scope amendment.docx	11/08/2017
Amendment request	Cowiche Scope Amendment & Time Extension Presentation.pptx	03/09/2017
Amendment request	scope and time amendment request 3-7-17.pdf	03/08/2017
Application Document	Ph3 sponsor presentation.pdf	03/18/2014
Application Document	Ph3 Considerations for Citizen Commitee.pdf	03/18/2014
Application Document	Ph2 Cowiche_Cr_TWG_Presentation 04022013.pptx	04/22/2013
Application Document	Ph2 7-18-11_Response_to_Review_Panel.docx	08/01/2011
Correspondence	Cash Advance 11-1320.pdf	01/11/2018
Correspondence	5/8/13 Cash Advance.pdf	05/20/2013
Correspondence	111320 90-day.pdf	05/01/2013
Correspondence	Cash Advance Notice 1/28/13.pdf	01/29/2013
Cost Estimate	Ph3 Cost Estimate.pdf	03/18/2014
Cost Estimate	Ph2 cost_estimate_rev_08262011.pdf	08/26/2011
Cultural Resources: Correspondence	map of work site & cult res rpts.pdf	08/06/2014
Cultural Resources: Correspondence	Phase 3 EO05-05 Exemption Letter.pdf	05/09/2014
Design document	Ph2 Flood mapping downstream from proposed berm removal.pdf	07/31/2013
Design document	Ph2 Cowiche berm removal 50% Design 2013-04-01.pdf	04/22/2013

Design document	Ph2 Cowiche_Inundation_Comparison_50ft (3).pdf	01/23/2013
Design document (as built)	summary map of completed work.pdf	04/22/2018
Design document (as built)	Ketchen bank stabilization design & tech memo 1-24-18.docx	01/24/2018
Design document (as built)	Design Drawings for Crandall property.pdf	04/14/2015
Final project report	Final Report, 11-1320 (accepted 06/06/18 07:33:20).pdf	06/06/2018
Inspection Report	Inspection Report, #1421 (Accepted 06/20/18 09:14:41).pdf	06/20/2018
Landowner acknowledgement form	Crandall landowner acknowledgement form.pdf	06/12/2011
Landowner acknowledgement form	Matthews_landowner_acknowledgement.pdf	05/06/2011
Map: Restoration Worksite	Ph3 Vicinity Map.pdf	03/18/2014
Map: Restoration Worksite	Ph 2 & 3 Overview Site Map.jpg	03/18/2014
Map: Restoration Worksite	Ph2 Location Map.pdf	06/07/2011
Permit	Corps Perrmit Ltr for 2017 work on Ketchen property.pdf	01/24/2018
Permit	Corps permit for Phase 2 work- Crandall Property.pdf	08/11/2014
Photo	Jennerjohn DSCN3628.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Jennerjohn DSCN3629.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Jennerjohn DSCN3627.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Ketchen DSCN3617.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Ketchen DSCN3619.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Ketchen DSCN3614.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	Ketchen DSCN3610.JPG.jpg	06/20/2018
Photo	20171018_083517.jpg	06/05/2018
Photo	20171017_145208.jpg	06/05/2018
Photo	20171017_074702.jpg	06/05/2018
Photo	20170322_R bank debris (8).jpg	06/05/2018
Photo	Ph3 Parcel 2 Cement in Channel Adjacent to Berm.jpg	03/18/2014
Photo	Ph3 Yakima Parcel 2 Railroad Berm.jpg	03/18/2014
Photo	Ph3 Yakima Parcel 1 Floodplain & Channel.jpg	03/18/2014
Photo	Ph2 Concrete_to_be_removed_on_Matthews_property.jpg	08/22/2011
Photo	Ph2 Matthews_property_dike_right_bank.jpg	08/22/2011
Progress report	Progress Report, 11-1320 (accepted 10/17/17 13:24:39).pdf	10/17/2017
Progress report	Progress Report, (accepted 02/14/17 08:08:22).pdf	02/14/2017
Progress report	Progress Report 04/14/2016.pdf	04/14/2016
Progress report	Progress Report 11/24/2015.pdf	11/24/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 06/23/2015.pdf	06/23/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 12/02/2014.pdf	12/02/2014
Progress report	Progress Report 03/17/2014.pdf	03/17/2014
Progress report	Progress Report 08/14/2013.pdf	08/14/2013
Progress report	Progress Report 01/29/2013.pdf	01/29/2013
Progress report	Progress Report 09/11/2012.pdf	09/11/2012
Project Application Report	Ph3 application report.pdf	03/18/2014
Project Deliverables	Description of project development activities.docx	02/27/2017
Project Deliverables	100% Design Plans City of Yakima Berm Removal.pdf	07/03/2014
Project partnership form	CCC partner form.pdf	06/06/2011
Salmon Project Proposal	Ph3 Project Proposal.docx	03/18/2014
Salmon Project Proposal	Ph2 Final Project Proposal .doc	11/08/2011
Site Plan: Restoration Site Plan	CONCEPTUAL Proposed Levee Removal and Weir Design.pdf	03/18/2014
Site Plan: Restoration Site Plan	Ph 3 Conceptual Plan Parcel 2.pdf	03/18/2014
Site Plan: Restoration Site Plan	Ph2 Conceptual design of increased downstream scope.jpg	07/31/2013
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Ph2 Final Comment Form.docx	12/21/2011
Visuals	Ph3 Photo Concrete Embankment.pdf	03/18/2014
Visuals	Ph2 Pre-Work site photos.pdf	06/07/2011

Date of last change: 05/24/2019

Naches River Floodplain Acquisition

Project Details



Yakima County of; Naches River Floodplain Acquisition (#06-2193) Attachment #37949, Aerial Photo Showing Naches River Partnership Group

Project Status: Closed Completed since 02/13/2013

Project Type: Acquisition
Project Sponsor: Yakima County
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$141,175	
Total RCO Grant:	$141,175	(85%)
Sponsor Match:	$25,000	(15%)
Total Agreement:	$166,175	(100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 1
Attachments: 25 files

Project Description

The SRFB Grant Application is for funding to acquire approximately 73.75 acres of Naches River floodplain and river channel. The specific properties in this application have been documented as "priority acquisition properties" in local watershed and salmon recovery plans. This reach is currently in a severely degraded state due to confinement, changes in sediment regime and irrigation diversions. The instability of the channel is not only bad for salmon, it presents serious management problems for the infrastructure located in this reach. This acquisition project will allow the subsequent implementation of a reach-level public infrastructure and restoration program (i.e. pull back of dikes, retirement of existing diversions, improvement fish passage, elimination of false attraction flows, and improvement of habitat and floodplain function) that the City of Yakima, Yakima County, and WSDOT will undertake in the project limits and on adjacent properties. These projects will either be direct habitat improvement projects, or have direct habitat benefits as most of the proposed projects are removal or reconfiguration of existing infrastructure (levees, diversion structures, roads, etc) to allow improved channel and floodplain function. These acquisitions will also link these lands to the Yakima Greenway, which also manages for these purposes.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Yakima County

Project Contact: Joel Freudenthal
Joel.Freudenthal@co.yakima.wa.us
(509) 574-2322

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Lower Naches, north of Yakima.
Waterbody: Naches River, Yakima River
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 15
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 09
Sections: 10
Sections: 11
Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.62536534
-120.53458517

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work
Lower Naches Properties (#1)	Administrative costs (Acq), Land, Standard Incidentals

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Actual Acquisition Acres	Actual Acquisition Cost
Lower Naches Properties (#1)	Property 1 - Private Landowner	0.00	$6,104
Lower Naches Properties (#1)	Property 2 - Private Landowner	21.69	$242,765
Lower Naches Properties (#1)	Property 3 - Private Landowner	46.65	$47,422
	Total	**68.34**	**$296,291**

Amounts may not be complete

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	02/15/2007	
Order Appraisal Review(s)	03/01/2007	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/15/2007	
Purchase Agreement Signed	05/01/2009	
Environmental Clearance Rec'd	05/01/2009	Rassmussen only
Baseline Docum. Complete	05/01/2009	
Survey Complete	05/01/2009	
Acquisition Closing	06/30/2009	
Recorded Documents to Mgmt Agy	06/30/2009	
Agreement End Date	06/30/2009	
Final Docs/Billing to Mgmt Agy	08/30/2009	

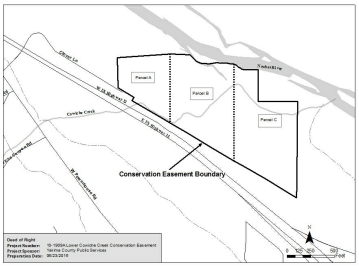
Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - Federal	06-2193 Rest of Agreement and GP.pdf	11/02/2011
Agreement - State	Salmon Project Agreement.pdf	03/20/2007
Application authorization	Naches authorization memo file.pdf	09/19/2006
Correspondence	Letter requesting use of property for rugby fields.pdf	09/12/2013
Deed of right	Rasmussen Deed of Right.pdf	09/16/2009
Deed of right	Garretson Deed of Right .pdf	09/16/2009
Deed or title	Rasmussen Warrenty Deed.pdf	09/16/2009
Deed or title	Garretson Warrenty Deed.pdf	09/16/2009
Environmental Benefits Statement	Naches Haz Sub Cert.pdf	09/16/2009
Evaluation proposal	Naches Evaluation.pdf	09/19/2006
Evaluation proposal	Stewardship Plan For Naches River Floodplain Acquisition Pro.jpg	08/28/2006
Final project report	Naches Final Report 7/24/09.pdf	09/16/2009
Landowner acknowledgement form	Landowner Willingness Forms_5_0001.jpg	12/01/2006
Landowner acknowledgement form	Garretson Landowner Willingness jpg.jpg	08/28/2006
Landowner acknowledgement form	Pomona Landowner Willingness.jpg	09/27/2005
Map	Naches Map 2.pdf	09/16/2009
Map	Naches Map.pdf	09/16/2009
Map	Naches Map of Acquired properties.pdf	09/16/2009
Map	three parcels revised.jpg	12/01/2006
News Article	06-2193_River restoration under way.pdf	05/10/2007
Photo	Aerial Photo Showing Naches River Partnership Group.jpg	09/27/2005
Progress report	Naches Progress report #2.pdf	06/24/2008
Progress report	Naches river Acq.pdf	02/14/2008
Project partnership form	Revised partner contrib.pdf	12/01/2006
Stewardship plan	Naches Stewardship Plan.pdf	09/16/2009

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

L Cowiche Creek Conservation Easement

Project Details



Yakima County Public Services; L Cowiche Creek Conservation Easement (#10-1909) Attachment #276675, Conserved property boundary

Project Status: Closed Completed since 03/23/2017

Project Type: Acquisition
Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

General Habitat State Project:	$40,000	
Salmon Federal Projects:	$103,160	
Total RCO Grant:	$143,160	(67%)
Sponsor Match:	$71,445	(33%)
Total Agreement:	$214,604	(100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 10
Final Report
Attachments: 55 files

Project Description

Yakima County will use this RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant to pursue a conservation/riparian easement near the mouth of Cowiche Creek at the confluence with the Naches River. This property has been identified in previous studies as critical for plans to return Cowiche Creek to a less confined floodplain with prime habitat for ESA listed steelhead and spring Chinook as well as bull trout and Coho habitat. The landowner prefers to keep the land in agriculture and is willing to negotiate a Conservation/riparian easement for the future restoration and relocation of lower Cowiche Creek. This land is under heavy pressure for development and annexation into the City of Yakima. This acquisition project is one of the few remaining privately owned parcels in the Lower Naches River riparian zone.

This grant will only fund easement acquisition, but it is part of a larger multi-phase acquisition and restoration project. Yakima County and the City of Yakima are currently working (outside of this grant) to relocate the Fruitvale Irrigation Diversion upstream to the Nelson Dam location. Relocating the diversion will reduce the need for the current levee system which was created to redirect Cowiche Creek onto an unnatural floodplain in order to minimize risk to landowners and the diversion structure. Once the property is acquired and the diversion relocated, the County and partners will work to remove levees and improve side channel habitat in an area previously inaccessible to fish. The riparian easement and future restoration will ensure that fluvial geomorphic and biologic processes are encouraged to maintain and restore ecological and floodplain connectivity in this reach.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services

Project Contact: Mary Rosen
mary.rosen@co.yakima.wa.us
(509) 574-2350

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: The mouth of Cowiche Creek at its confluence with the Naches River. The conservation easement includes a portion of Lower Cowiche Creek and a section of the Naches River.
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 15
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 09

Sections: 10
Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.62761212
-120.57101529

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work
L Cowiche Creek (#1)	Administrative costs (Acq), Appraisal, Appraisal Review, Baseline Documentation, Closing, Recording, Taxes, Title, Cultural resources (Acq), Demolition, Easement, Environmental Audits, Survey (Acq), Wetland Delineations

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Actual Acquisition Acres	Actual Acquisition Cost
L Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 1 - Private Landowner	35.22	$214,604
	Total	**35.22**	**$214,604**

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Real Property Acquisition	
Easement	
Acres zoned as agricultural land	25.22

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/10/2010	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/29/2011	Required by this date and at least once per year, thereafter.
Special Conditions Met	12/15/2011	Preliminary Title Report reviewed by sponsor & submitted to RCO.
Progress Report Due	01/31/2012	Submit via PRISM
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2012	
Progress Report Due	07/31/2012	
Progress Report Due	11/15/2012	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2013	
Order Appraisal(s)	08/01/2013	for Cowiche Cr corridor
Order Appraisal Review(s)	09/20/2013	for Cowiche Cr corridor
Progress Report Due	09/30/2013	
Cultural Resources Complete	10/15/2013	completed in conjunction with design grant
Special Conditions Met	10/21/2013	Unrecorded legal description to RCO for review-riparian area
Progress Report Due	02/28/2014	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2014	
Order Appraisal(s)	01/15/2015	updated to include all properties and proposed zoning and submitted to RCO
Progress Report Due	01/15/2015	
Environmental Clearance Rec'd	02/06/2015	Hazardous Assessment complete.
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2015	
Special Conditions Met	12/31/2015	Preliminary Title Report FOR EASEMENT AREA reviewed by sponsor & submitted to RCO along with title report checklist.
Progress Report Due	12/31/2015	
Special Conditions Met	01/30/2016	Draft Conservation Easement to RCO for comment.
Progress Report Due	03/31/2016	
Order Appraisal(s)	05/01/2016	appraisal update to verify affect of Naches River riparian zone and updated title report on the value of the easement
Order Appraisal Review(s)	06/15/2016	updated to include all properties and proposing easement zoning and submitted to RCO
Baseline Documentation to RCO	06/21/2016	and stewarddhsip plan. Draft
Special Conditions Met	06/24/2016	Assignment of rights map and Word version of easement legal descriptions to RCO
Special Conditions Met	07/04/2016	Notice of Just Compensation to Landowner & attached in PRISM
Purchase Agreement Signed	07/06/2016	Provided language acknowledges that final approval of easement language is required by all parties.
Acquisition Closing	07/20/2016	
Agreement End Date	07/31/2016	
Final Billing Due	08/05/2016	

Recorded Acq Documents to RCO	08/12/2016	and final title report, signed baseline inventory, and signed stewardship plan
Final Report Due	08/12/2016	Submit via PRISM

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	Agreement.pdf	04/05/2011
Agreement attachment	Ecology 2016 contract c1600183 yak co habitat prj.pdf	05/26/2016
Amendment - State	Amendments 1 2 3 and back up documents.pdf	11/01/2016
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #9 Cost Change.pdf	07/08/2016
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #8 Admin Limit Change.pdf	07/08/2016
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #10 Time Extension.pdf	06/28/2016
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #6 Cost Change.pdf	02/04/2016
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #7 Time Extension.pdf	12/14/2015
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #5 Time Extension.pdf	09/30/2015
Amendment - State	10-1909 Amend #4 Time Extension.pdf	10/02/2014
Amendment request	Administration Budget Amendment.docx	04/21/2016
Amendment request	Cost Change Amendment Request 11/2015.docx	12/08/2015
Amendment request	Time Extension Request Sept 2014.doc	09/30/2014
Assignment of rights	Recorded Assignment of Rights.pdf	08/12/2016
Correspondence	Just Compensation and Relocation Notice.pdf	06/30/2016
Correspondence	Tribal Formal Consultaion 2010.pdf	03/23/2011
Correspondence	Cultural Resources 2010 Exemption List.pdf	01/12/2011
Cost Estimate	Updated Easement Cost Estimate with Admin added.xlsx	07/08/2010
Cost Estimate	Estimated Construction Costs L Cowiche.xlsx	06/09/2010
Cost Estimate	Cowiche Creek Riparian Easement Calculations_Cost Estimate.xlsx	06/09/2010
Cultural Resources: Correspondence	Letter to DAHP 2010 Cultural Resources.pdf	01/12/2011
Easement	Recorded Easement.pdf	08/10/2016
Easement	Cowiche buffer map.pdf	02/20/2014
Easement	proposed cowiche cr buffert legal description.pdf	01/16/2014
Final project report	Final Report 10/24/2016.pdf	10/24/2016
Final project report	Final Report 08/31/2016.pdf	08/31/2016
Hazardous Substance Certification Form	Cowiche Hazardous Substances Certificate and Assessment Chec.pdf	05/24/2016
Landowner acknowledgement form	Appendix K Landowner agreement form.pdf	06/07/2010
Map	Plat Map (4).pdf	12/16/2011
Map	LowerNachesOwnership_Map1.pdf	08/25/2010
Map	Location Overview.jpg	06/10/2010
Map	Project Basics 1.jpg	06/10/2010
Map: Parcel map	Draft Easement Map--not Final.pdf	02/26/2015
Map: Parcel map	Ingham 3 Parcels .pdf	02/18/2015
Map: Parcel map	Map of property relative to public properties.pdf	02/18/2015
Map: Parcel map	Draft Easement Map.pdf	08/12/2010
News Article	10-1909 Yakima Herald Republic 3-21-2011 - Copy.pdf	04/12/2011
Photo	Detailed Easement Map.jpg	08/12/2016
Photo	Conserved property boundary.jpg	08/12/2016
Progress report	Progress Report 08/12/2016.pdf	08/12/2016
Progress report	Progress Report 06/29/2016.pdf	06/29/2016
Progress report	Progress Report 12/30/2015.pdf	12/30/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 02/14/2015.pdf	02/14/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 03/18/2014.pdf	03/18/2014
Progress report	Progress Report 10/02/2013.pdf	10/02/2013
Progress report	Progress Report 11/06/2012.pdf	11/06/2012
Progress report	Progress Report 07/23/2012.pdf	07/23/2012
Progress report	Progress Report 01/13/2012.pdf	01/13/2012
Project presentation	Evaluation Proposal 10-1909-7_ Phase 1.docx	08/11/2010
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Review Panel Comments.pdf	11/29/2010
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Salmon Review Panel Individual comment Form Questions and An.docx	08/25/2010
Stewardship plan	Signed Stewardship Plan.pdf	08/12/2016
Stewardship plan	Lower Cowiche Creek Stewardship_Baseline Data.docx	05/24/2016
Survey-Property Boundary	Legal Desc of Cowiche Cr Buffer.doc	06/17/2016
Title Insurance	Final Title Insurance.pdf	08/12/2016

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

L Cowiche Creek Restoration Design

Project Details

Project Status: Closed Completed since 08/11/2016

Project Type: Planning
Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$105,000
Total RCO Grant:	$105,000 (100%)
Total Agreement:	$105,000 (100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 1
Final Report
Attachments: 31 files

Project Description

Yakima County Public Services will use the RCO salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant to contract a final design of the stream restoration, levee removal, and stream relocation project on Lower Cowiche Creek at the Naches River confluence near Yakima, WA. This SRFB funding request is for Phase 2 of the L Cowiche Creek Riparian Easement and Stream Restoration Project. This property has been identified in previous studies as critical for plans to return lower Cowiche Creek to a less confined floodplain after current levees are removed and the stream is relocated back onto its historical floodplain. This reach has been identified as prime habitat for ESA listed steelhead and spring Chinook, bull trout, and Coho.

Yakima County and the City of Yakima are continuing plans to relocate the existing Naches River Fruitvale Diversion and related structures upstream to the Nelson Dam location. This action will reduce the need for the existing Cowiche Creek levee system, which was created to redirect Cowiche Creek onto an unnatural floodplain in order to minimize risk to landowners and irrigation diversion structures.

Yakima County is currently working with the landowner on Phase 1 of the project to create a conservation easement through the historical floodplain to accomodate this stream relocation project. Phase 1 was funded in 2010 (10-1909), Phase 3 will be Project Construction.

.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services

Project Contact: Karen Hodges
karen.hodges@co.kittitas.wa.us
(509) 962-7610

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Confluence of Cowiche Creek with Naches River
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 15
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 09
Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.62799036
-120.57708747

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Planning Cost
L Cowiche Creek Floodplain Worksite 1 (#1)	Final design and permitting	$108,682
	Total	**$108,682**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
L Cowiche Creek Floodplain Worksite 1 (#1)	Property 1 - Squire Ingham	Private
	Total	

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Area Encompassed (acres) (B.0.b.1)	35.5
Miles of Stream and/or Shoreline Affected (B.0.b.2)	1.10

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/08/2011	
Cultural Resources Complete	05/01/2012	RCO to complete cultural resources consultation for DESIGN project in accordance with EO 05-05
Progress Report Due	06/30/2012	entered directly into PRISM
Data Gathering Started	07/03/2012	Review existing data, determine additional data needs
RFP Complete/Consultant Hired	07/03/2012	Consultant hired will have PE on staff
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2012	and at least once per year thereafter
Draft Design to RCO	02/20/2013	Conceptual design--provided April 29
Progress Report Due	02/22/2013	entered directly into PRISM
Preliminary Design to RCO	06/07/2013	Preliminary Design will be used to finalize conservation easement location.
Agreement End Date	07/30/2013	
Final Design to RCO	07/30/2013	100% final design
Cultural Resources Complete	07/30/2013	For construction project
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2013	
Final Billing Due	08/30/2013	
Final Report Due	07/31/2014	

Project Attachments

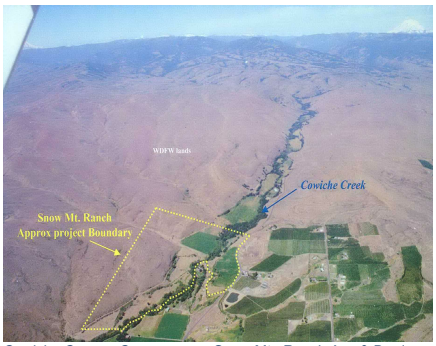
Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	11-1600 Project Agreement.pdf	04/04/2012
Amendment - State	11-1600 Amend #1 Time Extension.pdf	03/09/2016
Amendment - State	11-1600 Amend #1 Internal-Scope Change.pdf	08/08/2014
Correspondence	Response to Site Review Comments_August 2011.docx	08/22/2011
Cost Estimate	11-1600-Budget Request Update.xlsx	08/17/2011
Design document	Cost Estimate & Special Provisions Bid Docs.pdf	12/30/2013
Design document	Lower Cowiche Creek Final Design Report1.pdf	09/03/2013
Design document	Lower Cowiche Creek Draft Preliminary Design Report.pdf	07/18/2013
Design document	4th and final concept-Preliminary design in-progress.pdf	05/16/2013
Design document	Alternative-CONCEPT 01-22-13 Sheet 4 (3).pdf	05/13/2013
Design document	Alternative CONCEPT 11-06-12 (1).pdf	04/29/2013
Easement	3439 Cowiche Creek Easement Description.doc	02/20/2014
Easement	Easement Overview-Model.pdf	02/20/2014
Final project report	Final Report 08/11/2016.pdf	08/11/2016
Final project report	Revised Final Report 04/01/2016.pdf	04/01/2016
Final project report	Final Report 08/11/2014.pdf	08/11/2014
Map	Site Plan_TAG Comment Response_8-8-2011_Part 1.pdf	08/08/2011
Map	Proposed Site Plan.pdf	07/18/2011
Map	Floodplain and Floodway.pdf	07/18/2011
Map	Project Location-State View.docx	06/07/2011
Photo	Early Visit Photo 3.jpg	08/23/2011
Photo	Early Visit Photo 2.jpg	08/23/2011
Photo	Early Visit Photo.jpg	08/23/2011
Progress report	Progress Report 02/25/2013.pdf	02/25/2013
Progress report	Progress Report 07/23/2012.pdf	07/23/2012

Project presentation	App to move pt of diversion Fruitvale3_TAG Comment Response.pdf	08/08/2011
Project presentation	Water Right Change App Fruitvale 2_TAG Comment Response.pdf	08/08/2011
Project presentation	Water Right Change App fruitvale 1_TAG Comment Response .pdf	08/08/2011
Project presentation	Site History-TAG Comment Response 1.doc	07/28/2011
Salmon Project Proposal	Updated Project Proposal Aug 2012.docx	08/17/2011
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Final Comment Form.docx	12/21/2011

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

Snow Mtn Ranch Acq & Barrier Removal

Project Details



Cowiche Canyon Conservancy; Snow Mtn Ranch Acq & Barrier Removal (#02-1614) Attachment #12693, Snow Mtn Aerial Photo

Project Status: Closed Completed since 04/25/2012

Project Type: Acquisition & Restoration
Project Sponsor: Cowiche Canyon Conservancy
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$670,000
Total RCO Grant:	$670,000 (85%)
Sponsor Match:	$120,000 (15%)
Total Agreement:	$790,000 (100%)

Links

Amendments: 5
Attachments: 52 files

Project Description

The Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) is comprised of ~1,700 acres located approximately six miles west of Yakima. This project requests funds to acquire two parcels of the SMR (~282 acres) that encompass the South Fork Cowiche Creek (tributary to the Naches River), its floodplain, associated wetlands, and the ranch's irrigated ag lands. This project will implement riparian and floodplain restoration, fish barrier removal, instream flow improvements, and will provide long-term protection of fish and wildlife habitat on the acquired lands.

A component of this project, fish barrier removal, will open access to the entire Cowiche Basin (120 square miles) to juvenile and adult salmonids including steelhead, coho, and chinook. The Yakima River Basin Watershed Assessment states, "The Cowiche Creek system is considered to have good to excellent rearing habitat with adequate cover, especially in the South Fork." The Northwest Power Planning Council Salmon and Steelhead Production Plan (1990) discusses other habitat factors in Cowiche Creek noting, "Riparian vegetation is dense along most reaches; stream banks are stable and there are sufficient spawning gravels." Pools and riffles are also relatively abundant on the South Fork of Cowiche Creek. The Yakima Basin Limiting Habitat Factors Analysis reported, "Cowiche Creek as having major steelhead and coho production potential, minor spring chinook production potential, and having high restoration potential if fish passage problems were corrected."

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Cowiche Canyon Conservancy

Project Contact: John Aylmer

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: South of Naches River and Town of Tieton
Waterbody: Cowiche Creek, South Fork Cowiche Creek
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 31
Township: T14NR17E
Coordinates: 46.65831259
-120.75473275

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Restoration Cost

Snow Mtn. Ranch Acq. & Barrier Removal (#1)	Administrative costs (Acq), Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.1), Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1), Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1), Land, Noxious weed control, Standard Incidentals	$168,414
	Total	**$168,414**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Actual Acquisition Acres	Actual Acquisition Cost
Snow Mtn. Ranch Acq. & Barrier Removal (#1)	Property 1 - Private Landowner	280.00	$649,183
	Total	**280.00**	**$649,183**

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Fish Passage Improvement	
Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1)	
Number of Blockages/Impediments/Barriers Removed/Altered (C.2.c.2)	1
Instream Habitat Project	
Channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.3)	0.05
Miles of Off-Channel Stream Created or Connected (C.4.c.4)	0.05
Acres Of Channel/Off-Channel Connected Or Added (C.4.c.5)	1.0
Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.3)	0.05
Acres Of Streambed Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.4)	1.0
Number of structures placed in channel (C.4.d.7)	12
Fish Passage Improvement	
Number of blockages / impediments / barriers impeding passage (C.2.b.4)	1

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	09/11/2003	Meeting with WDFW
Order Appraisal Review(s)	10/15/2003	
Purchase Agreement Signed	02/15/2004	
Environmental Clearance Rec'd	03/15/2004	Completed 12/6/04, signed 12/24/04.
Acquisition Closing	01/30/2005	Closed 1/28/05.
Recorded Documents to Mgmt Agy	02/28/2005	
Construction Started	10/01/2005	Removal of fish barrier (diversion dam).
Noxious Weed Control Complete	11/01/2005	
Monitor/Steward Plan Submitted	09/30/2006	
Construction Complete	10/31/2006	Removal of fish barrier (diversion dam).
Agreement End Date	11/30/2006	
Final Docs/Billing to Mgmt Agy	12/31/2006	

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - Federal	SRFB Agreement.pdf	05/16/2007
Correspondence	5/11/09 Letter.pdf	06/16/2014
Correspondence	Thornton Access Easement Background.pdf	05/04/2011
Correspondence	Thornton Access Easement Letter 05-11-09.pdf	05/11/2009
Correspondence	Amendment Request 12-10-04.pdf	02/08/2005
Deed of right	Deed of Right.pdf	05/16/2007
Deed of right	BPA Deed of Right.pdf	05/16/2007
Deed or title	Statutory Warranty Deed.pdf	05/16/2007
Design document (as built)	Restoration Design Drawings.pdf	12/08/2005
Final project report	Development Final Report 12/16/06.pdf	05/16/2007
Final project report	Acquisition Final Report 12/16/06.pdf	05/16/2007
Lease	Water Right Conveyance.pdf	05/16/2007
Lease	Irrigation Easement.pdf	05/16/2007
Lease	Ingress Egress Easement.pdf	05/16/2007
Lease	Limited Access Easement.pdf	05/16/2007

Lease	Equestrian Easement.pdf	05/16/2007
Legal description	Legal Description.pdf	05/16/2007
Map	Access Easement Route to Thornton 05-11-09.pdf	05/11/2009
News Article	02-1614_Getting Back to Nature.pdf	01/04/2007
News Article	02-1614_New Opportunities.pdf	01/04/2007
Notice of Long-Term Obligations	Cowiche Canyon Conservancy - Sept 1, 2015.pdf	09/09/2015
Photo	Finished bridge with railings.jpg	11/14/2006
Photo	SMR bridge 10-27-06(00390).jpg	10/30/2006
Photo	SMR bridge 10-20-06(00340).jpg	10/30/2006
Photo	SMR Trail from Parking Area to Cowiche Creek.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Snow Mountain Ranch Parking Area.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Diversion Dam Removal 4.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Restoration Area from South Field.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Diversion Dam Removal 3.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Diversion Dam Removal.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Re-route Culverts from Coffer Dam.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Coffer Dam Upstream of Diversion Dam Removal.jpg	12/08/2005
Photo	Parcel Map.jpg	12/10/2004
Photo	Vicinity Map.jpg	12/10/2004
Photo	Cowiche Creek at Snow Mtn Ranch.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Cowiche Floodplain Wetland Complex.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Home at Snow Mtn to be Retained.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Home Foundation in Cowiche Creek.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Access road to bridge to south side of property.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Access bridge to south side of property.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	30 Acre Retainage Land.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Snow Mtn Ranch Sign.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Review Team at Wetland.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Mouth of "Deadhorse Gulch".jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Floodplain wetland complex.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Cowiche Creek from Rock Outcropping 2.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Cowiche Creek from Rock Outcropping.jpg	11/22/2004
Photo	Snow Mtn Aerial Photo.jpg	11/22/2004
Preliminary title report	Preliminary Title Report.pdf	05/16/2007
Project presentation	Snow Mountain Ranch Site Visit.ppt	10/10/2006
Project presentation	Snow Mountain Powerpoint Feb. 2003.ppt	04/25/2005
Stewardship plan	Snow Mountain Ranch Restoration Plan (3-7-06).pdf	09/25/2006

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water

Project Details

North Yakima Conserv Dist; CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water (#12-1328) , Progress Report: 07/30/2014 Attachment #200670, P3100153

Project Status: Closed Completed since 01/09/2018

Project Type: Restoration
Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$574,599
Total RCO Grant:	$574,599 (62%)
Sponsor Match:	$350,007 (38%)
Total Agreement:	$924,606 (100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Final Report
Attachments: 49 files

Project Description

The goal of the project is to provide fish passage and address screening needs related to two Cowiche Creek Water Users (CCWUA) gravity diversions on Cowiche Creek, as well as increase flows in Cowiche Creek. The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the town of Cowiche and 5 miles northwest of the city of Yakima, WA. In this project, the North Yakima Conservation District will eliminate the need to use the two Cowiche Creek diversions by creating a new 7.9 cfs water right on the Tieton River at the same point of diversion as the Yakima Tieton Irrigation District (YTID). An agreement between the CCWUA, YTID, and Reclamation will be entered into, in which YTID uses its current pipeline infrastructure to transport the CCWUA water right to their existing place of use where a new pressurized pipeline will tap into YTID's mainline to deliver water. The current CCWUA 7.9 cfs Cowiche Creek water right will be acquired by the Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited and placed into trust down to the Naches River to provide benefits to instream flow, juvenile and adult Mid-Columbia steelhead, as well as juvenile and adult coho and Chinook salmon.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District

Project Contact: Justin Bader
justin-bader@conservewa.net
(509) 454-5743 Ext 8551

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Cowiche Creek in Yakima County
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 02
Township: T13NR17E
Coordinates: 46.63683904
-120.66701780

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Restoration Cost
CCWUA Pipeline (#1)	Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Cultural resources, Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1), Irrigation practice improvement (C.3.e.1), Obtain permits, Water flow gauges (C.3.d.1), Water leased or purchased (C.3.f.1)	$1,833,253
	Total	**$1,833,253**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
CCWUA Pipeline (#1)	Property 1 - CCWUA	Private

Total

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Fish Passage Improvement	
Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1)	
Number of Blockages/Impediments/Barriers Removed/Altered (C.2.c.2)	1
Instream Flow Project	
Water flow gauges (C.3.d.1)	
Number of Water Flow Gauges (C.3.d.2)	17
Irrigation practice improvement (C.3.e.1)	
Acre Feet Of Water Conserved (C.3.e.2)	1583
Cfs (Cubic Feet Per Second) Of Water Conserved (C.3.e.3)	8
Water leased or purchased (C.3.f.1)	
Acre Feet Of Water Purchased/Leased (C.3.f.2)	1583
Cfs (Cubic Feet Per Second) Of Water Purchased/Leased (C.3.f.3)	8
Permits	
Obtain permits	
Number of permits required for implementation of project	7
Fish Passage Improvement	
Number of blockages / impediments / barriers impeding passage (C.2.b.4)	1

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/06/2012	
Special Conditions Met	02/01/2013	Report of Examination to move point of diversion for all CCWUA's water users complete
Special Conditions Met	06/30/2013	Water right valuation and approval documentation in PRISM
Special Conditions Met	06/30/2013	Landowner agreements to move point of diversion and trust water attached in PRISM.
Preliminary Design to RCO	07/01/2013	As described in RCO Manual 18 Appendix D-2
Applied for Permits	07/01/2013	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2013	and at least once per year, thereafter
Progress Report Due	07/31/2013	entered directly into PRISM
Cultural Resources Complete	10/01/2013	Completed by Bureau of Reclamation (see attachment #174222)
Permits Complete	10/01/2013	
Final Design to RCO	10/01/2013	As described in RCO Manual 18 Appendix D-3
Landowner Agreement to RCO	10/15/2013	for construction work
Bid Awarded/Contractor Hired	11/01/2013	
Special Conditions Met	12/31/2013	Trusting of water rights and title encumbrances complete
Progress Report Due	01/31/2014	entered directly into PRISM
Special Conditions Met	02/13/2014	Recorded water deed attached in PRISM
Restoration Started	03/01/2014	
Restoration Complete	06/01/2014	
Progress Report Due	07/31/2014	entered directly into PRISM
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2014	
Final Design to RCO	08/01/2014	As-built drawings, if different from final design
Progress Report Due	01/31/2015	entered directly into PRISM
RCO Final Inspection	02/28/2015	
Final Report Due	03/01/2015	
Agreement End Date	04/01/2015	PROJECT CLOSING: All expenditures must be prior to this date.
Final Billing Due	04/15/2015	

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	Agreement.pdf	03/21/2013

Billing forms	Advance Agreement.pdf	08/30/2013
Correspondence	MOU BOR_YTID_NYCD_CCWUA 2013.pdf	10/23/2013
Correspondence	CCWUA_YTID_NYCD contract 2013.pdf	10/23/2013
Correspondence	CCWUA_WWP TU trust water agreement 2013.pdf	10/23/2013
Correspondence	CCWUA water valuation march 7 2013.pdf	07/29/2013
Correspondence	12-1328 EO 05-05 exempt .pdf	03/19/2013
Correspondence	Response to Review Panel Comments 2012.docx	08/29/2012
Correspondence	2012 Pre application.docx	05/07/2012
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235827.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235826.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235825.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235823.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235822.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235821.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235812.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235811.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235810.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235809.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235808.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235806.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235804.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235802.pdf	02/12/2014
Deed of right	Quick Claim Deed 1235801.pdf	02/12/2014
Design document	Plans.pdf	07/30/2014
Design document	CCWUA Bid Sheet 121813.pdf	07/30/2014
Design document	Technical Specifications.pdf	07/30/2014
Design document	CCWUA Final Design.pdf	06/27/2013
Final project report	Final Report 04/20/2015.pdf	04/20/2015
Map	Project Location Map.jpg	05/07/2012
Map	CCWUA Pipeline Layout.jpg	05/07/2012
News Article	Yakima Herald article March 2014.pdf	04/10/2015
News Article	Yakima Herald article Feb 2014.pdf	04/10/2015
Photo	some of the ag land served by new system.jpg	04/10/2015
Photo	abandoned lower lust diversion.jpg	04/10/2015
Photo	P2250118.jpg	07/30/2014
Photo	P3100153.jpg	07/30/2014
Photo	P2120103.jpg	07/30/2014
Photo	P2120096.jpg	07/30/2014
Photo	Lower Lust Diversion/Barrier.jpg	05/07/2012
Photo	Project Site (CCWUA ag fields).jpg	05/07/2012
Progress report	Progress Report 01/07/2015.pdf	01/07/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 08/07/2014.pdf	08/07/2014
Progress report	Progress Report 01/31/2014.pdf	01/31/2014
Progress report	Progress Report 09/09/2013.pdf	09/09/2013
Project partnership form	2012 Project Partnership Contribution Form.pdf	05/07/2012
Salmon Project Proposal	2012_CCWUA-YTID_Proposal_Revised_8_23.docx	08/23/2012
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Final review panel comments.docx	04/16/2013
WDFW barrier & screening forms	Barrier Assessment Form.pdf	08/22/2012

Date of last change: 05/24/2019

Cowiche Creek Barrier Removal

Project Details

North Yakima Conserv Dist; Cowiche Creek Barrier Removal (#01-1256) Attachment #41589, upper lust post construction 2

Project Status: Closed Completed since 04/22/2016

Project Type: Restoration
Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$51,867
Total RCO Grant:	$51,867 (71%)
Sponsor Match:	$21,045 (29%)
Total Agreement:	$72,912 (100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 4
Attachments: 11 files

Project Description

The South Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development (RC &D), with the support from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), proposes to remove fish barriers associated with two irrigation diversions on Cowiche Creek. This proposal is part of a larger project that will reduce or eliminate the need to divert waters from th Cowiche Creek, which will allow the removal of these two barriers and one more upstream barrier (the upstream diversion is part of another grant proposal). Grade control structures will be engineered and installed in conjunction with the barrier removal to stabilize the streambed. No other unnatural barriers are known at this time. Therefore removing these two diversions, along with one upstream diversion, will allow anadromous access into the upper South Fork Cowiche watershed.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District

Project Contact: Michael Tobin
mike-tobin@conservewa.net
(509) 454-5743 Ext 8555

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Cowiche Creek northwest of Yakima
Waterbody: Cowiche Creek, South Fork Cowiche Creek
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 04
Township: T13NR17E
Coordinates: 46.64694268
-120.68086413

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Restoration Cost
Upper Lust (Evans) (#2)	Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1), Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1)	$72,912
	Total	**$72,912**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
Upper Lust (Evans) (#2)	Property 1 - Evans Fruit Co.	Private

Total

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Fish Passage Improvement	
Fish passage blockages removed or altered (C.2.c.1)	
Number of Blockages/Impediments/Barriers Removed/Altered (C.2.c.2)	1
Instream Habitat Project	
Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.3)	0.02
Acres Of Streambed Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.4)	0.1
Pools Created through channel structure placement (C.4.d.5)	4
Number of structures placed in channel (C.4.d.7)	5
Fish Passage Improvement	
Number of blockages / impediments / barriers impeding passage (C.2.b.4)	1

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	07/01/2002	Engineering alternatives
RFP Complete	08/01/2002	Montgomery, Watson & Harza on board
Monitor/Steward Plan Submitted	09/25/2002	
Applied for Permits	01/01/2005	
A&E Plans Submitted	06/15/2005	Upper Lust Only
Construction Started	09/15/2006	
Construction Complete	11/30/2006	Revegetate Project Site
Agreement End Date	04/01/2007	O&M on Plantings in Spring
Final Docs/Billing to Mgmt Agy	05/31/2007	

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	Salmon Project Agreement.pdf	01/13/2008
Design document (as built)	Upper Lust Design Site Plan 05-04.pdf	04/20/2007
Final project report	03-08-07 Final Report.pdf	04/20/2007
Map	09-25-02 Map & Site Photos.pdf	04/20/2007
News Article	News Clip Mar 08.pdf	05/01/2008
Photo	upper lust post construction 2.jpg	01/10/2007
Photo	upper lust post construction1.jpg	01/10/2007
Photo	upper lust post construction.jpg	01/10/2007
Photo	upper barrier.jpg	10/11/2006
Photo	upper barrier to be removed.jpg	10/11/2006
Photo	lower barrier to be removed.jpg	10/11/2006

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek

Project Details

North Yakima Conserv Dist; Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek (#06-2200) Attachment #91647, SchneiderAfter

Project Status: Closed Completed since 02/14/2012

Project Type: Restoration
Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$112,701
Total RCO Grant:	$112,701 (65%)
Sponsor Match:	$60,299 (35%)
Total Agreement:	$173,000 (100%)

Links

Attachments: 24 files

Project Description

Cowiche Creek is identified as high priority for habitat preservation and habitat restoration regarding steelhead, bull trout, and coho by the Lead Entity in Salmon, Steelhead, & Bull Trout in Water Resource Areas 37, 38, & 39: An Interim Strategy for Stock Recovery and Project Prioritization.

The project on Cowiche Creek encompasses three consecutive private landowners totalling 2,000 feet of stream. Rootwads and log vanes will be installed to address severely sloughing streambanks, reduce sedimentation, stabilize streambanks, form pools, and increase habitat diversity by adding instream structure. Native vegetation will be planted along both streambanks to improve riparian structure, minimize solar heating, increase root matrices, and provide a future source of large woody debris for retruitment. Fencing will be installed to improve livestock management, eliminate livestock as a fecal source into the stream, and protect the riparian area. in summary, this action is long term, ability to implement is high, and chance of success is high per Yakima Subbasin Recovery Plan.

Presently, Cowiche Creek is listed on the Dept. of Ecology 303(d) list for temperature and instream flow. There are numberous ongoing projects occuring at this time which compliment this project proposal.

Cowiche Creek is a tributary to the Naches River in the Mid-Columbia Regional Area in Water Resource Inventory Area 38 within Yakima County.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: North Yakima Conservation District

Project Contact: Michael Tobin
mike-tobin@conservewa.net
(509) 454-5743 Ext 8555

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Project is located on Cowiche Creek NW of Yakima.
Waterbody: Cowiche Creek, Naches River
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 02
Township: T13NR17E

Coordinates: 46.64094403
-120.67181814

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Restoration Cost
Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek (#1)	Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1), Fencing (C.5.d.1), Planting (C.5.c.1), Streambank stabilization (C.4.e.1), Upland livestock management (C.6.j.1), Water gap development (C.5.f.1)	$186,906
	Total	**$186,906**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Landowner Type
Schneider Habitat Project Cowiche Creek (#1)	Property 1 - Property - Worksite #1	Private
	Total	

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Instream Habitat Project	
Channel structure placement (C.4.d.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.3)	0.10
Acres Of Streambed Treated for channel structure placement (C.4.d.4)	0.1
Pools Created through channel structure placement (C.4.d.5)	10
Number of structures placed in channel (C.4.d.7)	30
Streambank stabilization (C.4.e.1)	
Miles of Streambank Stabilized (C.4.e.3)	0.52
Riparian Habitat Project	
Planting (C.5.c.1)	
Acres Planted in riparian (C.5.c.3)	0.1
Fencing (C.5.d.1)	
Miles of Fence Along Stream (C.5.d.2)	0.38
Acres of Riparian Area Protected by fencing (C.5.d.3)	0.1
Water gap development (C.5.f.1)	
Number of water gap installations (C.5.f.2)	2
Upland Habitat And Sediment Project	
Upland livestock management (C.6.j.1)	
Upland Acres Managed for Livestock (C.6.j.3)	32.0
Number of Livestock Water Installations/Developments (C.6.j.4)	3

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	01/01/2007	
Applied for Permits	02/15/2007	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/15/2007	
A&E Plans Submitted	07/31/2007	
Bid Awarded/Consultant Hired	08/01/2007	
Construction Started	08/01/2007	
Construction Complete	08/30/2007	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/15/2008	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/15/2009	
Proposed Completion Date	09/30/2009	
Monitoring Complete	09/30/2009	
Agreement End Date	10/31/2009	
Final Docs/Billing to Mgmt Agy	11/20/2009	

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - Federal	06-2200 Rest of Agreement and GP's.pdf	12/01/2011
Amendment - Federal	Salmon Project Agreement 1-23-07.pdf	02/14/2007
Application authorization	ApplicationAuthorization.jpg	09/19/2006
Certification of Applicant Match	YTHAPPartnerForm.jpg	09/19/2006
Design document	Conceptual_Design_partII.jpg	09/19/2006

Design document	Conceptual_Design_partI.jpg	09/19/2006
Design document (as built)	Design - Typ X-Sect Areas 1, 2 & 3, June 07.pdf	11/15/2007
Design document (as built)	Design - Plan View Areas 4 & 5 a, June 2007.pdf	11/15/2007
Design document (as built)	Design - Plan View Areas 4 & 5, June 2007.pdf	11/15/2007
Design document (as built)	Design - Plan View - Areas 1, 2 & 3, June 07.pdf	11/15/2007
Design document (as built)	Design Work Areas Ortho, June 2007.pdf	11/15/2007
Design document (as built)	Design Cover Sheet & Site Map, June 2007.pdf	11/15/2007
Evaluation proposal	Schneider Evaluation Proposal.pdf	08/10/2006
Final project report	Schneider Habitat Proj. Cowiche Final Report 7/10/09.pdf	07/23/2009
Landowner acknowledgement form	WilkinsonLandownerForm.jpg	09/19/2006
Landowner acknowledgement form	SchneiderLandownerForm.jpg	09/19/2006
Landowner acknowledgement form	GreenLandownerForm.jpg	09/19/2006
Lease	Schneider LOA.pdf	02/02/2010
Map	Schneider Site Map.pdf	08/10/2006
News Article	06-2200 Grange News Cowiche Creek.pdf	04/12/2011
Photo	SchneiderBefore.jpg	04/07/2010
Photo	SchneiderBank-During construction.jpg	04/07/2010
Photo	SchneiderAfter.jpg	04/07/2010
Visuals	Schneider Photos.pdf	08/10/2006

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

Naches River Ramblers Acquisition and Restoration

Project Details

Yakima County Public Services; Naches River Ramblers Acquisition and Restoration (#12-1327) Attachment #295313, North Channel

Project Status: Closed Completed since 04/11/2017

Project Type: Acquisition & Restoration
Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services
Funding Board: Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Funding

Salmon Federal Projects:	$93,895	
Total RCO Grant:	$93,895	(85%)
Sponsor Match:	$16,582	(15%)
Total Agreement:	$110,477	(100%)

Links

Original Project Agreement
Amendments: 2
Final Report
Attachments: 65 files

Project Description

The purpose of the Ramblers Property Acquisition and Restoration Project # 12-1327 is to allow the Naches River to reoccupy old side channels by removal of man-made constrictions and related sediment accumulations upstream of Nelson Dam in Yakima, WA. This action is a component of a larger floodplain restoration project planned for the Naches River. Purchase of the selected properties is an important first step toward continued habitat development and floodplain connectivity at this location. Yakima County will acquire 2 parcels that comprise the island upstream of Nelson Dam. In addition, the County will construct a new channel and excavate accumulated coarse sediment from existing channels on the island so they are activated during mean annual flood events. The County planned to acquire two additional parcels, and remove 950 feet of private levee, but agreement could not be reached with the landowner. This project is intended to benefit Chinook and Coho salmon, as well as ESA listed steelhead, and Bull Trout.

Project Contacts

Project Sponsor: Yakima County Public Services

Project Contact: Mary Rosen
mary.rosen@co.yakima.wa.us
(509) 574-2350

Lead Entity: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Funding Agency: Recreation and Conservation Office

Project Manager: Kay Caromile
kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov
(360) 902-2639

Project Location

General Area: Naches River upstream of Nelson Dam in Yakima, WA
County: Yakima
Legislative Districts 2012: 14
Congressional Districts 2012: 04
Salmon Recovery Regions: Mid Columbia
DNR Watershed Units (WAU): Agricultural Lands
4th Field Catalog Units (HUC): Naches
WRIA: Naches
Sections: 08
Sections: 09
Township: T13NR18E
Coordinates: 46.63184668
-120.58985776

Worksites

Worksite Name	Scope of Work	Actual Restoration Cost
Ramblers' Worksite-1 (#1)	Administrative costs (Acq), Appraisal, Appraisal Review, Architectural & Engineering (A&E), Baseline Documentation, Channel reconfiguration and connectivity	$61,265

(C.4.c.1), Closing, Recording, Taxes, Title, Cultural resources, Cultural resources (Acq), Demolition, Environmental Audits, Implementation monitoring, Land, Obtain permits, Standard Incidentals, Wetland Delineations	
Total	**$61,265**

Amounts may not be complete

Properties

Worksite Name	Property Name	Actual Acquisition Acres	Actual Acquisition Cost
Ramblers' Worksite-1 (#1)	Property 1 - Private Landowner	0.00	$11,906
Ramblers' Worksite-1 (#1)	Property 2 - Private Landowner	9.25	$17,948
Ramblers' Worksite-1 (#1)	Property 3 - Private Landowner	8.67	$19,357
	Total	**17.92**	**$49,211**

Amounts may not be complete

Project Metrics (Outcomes, Benefits)

Category / Work Type / Metric	Final
Restoration Metrics (rolled up from Worksite level)	
Instream Habitat Project	
Channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.1)	
Miles of Stream Treated for channel reconfiguration and connectivity (C.4.c.3)	0.30
Miles of Off-Channel Stream Created or Connected (C.4.c.4)	0.33
Acres Of Channel/Off-Channel Connected Or Added (C.4.c.5)	0.5
Permits	
Obtain permits	
Number of permits required for implementation of project	5

Project Milestones

Milestone Name	Target Date	Description
Project Start	12/06/2012	
Order Appraisal(s)	02/06/2013	
Order Appraisal Review(s)	05/01/2013	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2013	and at least once per year, thereafter
Progress Report Due	06/01/2014	entered directly into PRISM
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2014	
Acquisition Closing	09/30/2014	
Environmental Assess Complete	02/28/2015	
Recorded Acq Documents to RCO	06/30/2015	
Preliminary Design to RCO	07/31/2015	Preliminary Design as described in RCO Manual 18 Appendix D-2 (Preliminary Design Report, Drawings, and Engineering Cost Estimate attached in PRISM)
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2015	
Purchase Agreement Signed	08/31/2015	
Applied for Permits	09/15/2015	
Progress Report Due	11/15/2015	entered directly into PRISM
Final Design to RCO	01/04/2016	As described in RCO Manual 18 Appendix D-3 (Final design, design report, construction specs, quantities and costs, and bid documents attached in PRISM)
Cultural Resources Complete	06/30/2016	Attach Corps of Engineers permit to PRISM confirming cult res consultation complete for ALL ground disturbing activities
Permits Complete	06/30/2016	
Special Conditions Met	06/30/2016	DNR Authorization attached in PRISM
Restoration Started	07/01/2016	
Annual Project Billing Due	07/31/2016	
Demolition Complete	08/01/2016	
Restoration Complete	08/01/2016	
RCO Final Inspection	08/31/2016	
Progress Report Due	09/15/2016	
Agreement End Date	12/31/2016	PROJECT CLOSING. All expenditures must be prior to this date.
Stewardship Plan to RCO	01/31/2017	
Final Design to RCO	01/31/2017	As-built drawings attached in PRISM, if constructed project differs from final design
Final Report Due	02/28/2017	
Final Billing Due	02/28/2017	

Project Attachments

Attachment Type	Attachment Title	Attach Date
Agreement - State	Agreement.pdf	04/18/2013
Amendment - State	12-1327 Amend #1 Cost Change.pdf	12/10/2015
Amendment - State	12-1327 Amend #2 Time Extension.pdf	11/30/2015
Amendment - State	Rambler's 3 Project Change Request Form.doc	10/21/2015
Amendment - State	12-1327 Amend #2 Remove Worsite or Property.pdf	08/12/2014
Correspondence	Just Compensation.pdf	10/10/2017
Correspondence	Communication.pdf	10/10/2017
Correspondence	Correspondence DAHP Letter.pdf	10/10/2017
Correspondence	yakama concurrence ltr 2014.pdf	05/21/2014
Correspondence	dahp concurrence ltr 2014.pdf	05/21/2014
Correspondence	colville concurrence ltr 2014.pdf	05/21/2014
Correspondence	12-1327-naches house.jpg	03/19/2013
Correspondence	Ramblers Structure Photos.docx	09/05/2012
Cost Estimate	Revised Construction & Project Budget.xlsx	10/21/2015
Cost Estimate	Cost Estimate Ramblers.xlsx	09/10/2012
Deed	Macrae_quit_claim_deed.pdf	11/12/2015
Deed	Appleby_Quit_Claim_Deed.pdf	11/17/2014
Deed of right	Recorded DOR - Appleby.pdf	02/28/2017
Deed of right	Recorded DOR - MacRae.pdf	12/18/2015
Deed of right	Macrae Deed of Right Map .pdf	06/18/2015
Deed of right	Appleby Deed of Right Map .pdf	06/18/2015
Design document	Map.pdf	10/10/2017
Design document	3492 100% Design.pdf	07/14/2016
Design document	Cut/Fill Drawing.pdf	07/16/2015
Design document	Channel Change over time.pdf	07/16/2015
Design document	Amended project overview.doc	07/16/2015
Design document (as built)	As Built Drawing.pdf	01/19/2017
Final project report	Final Report 04/11/2017.pdf	04/11/2017
Final project report	Final Report, 12-1327 (accepted 04/10/17 11:50:17).pdf	04/10/2017
Hazardous Substance Certification Form	KH_signed_haz_cert_Appleby-Macrae.pdf	02/19/2015
Hazardous Substance Certification Form	Macrae_HazSub_ form.pdf	11/17/2014
Hazardous Substance Certification Form	Appleby_HazSub_ form.pdf	11/17/2014
Inspection Report	Inspection Report, #1015 (Submitted 04/10/17 13:12:29).pdf	04/10/2017
Map	site and parcel map.docx	07/05/2012
Map	Ramblers Project Vicinity Map.docx	07/05/2012
Map	Driving directions_Ramblers.docx	05/11/2012
Permit	Army Corps Permit.pdf	01/19/2017
Permit	Right of Entry No 23092761.pdf	06/30/2016
Permit	final mitigated determination of non-significance.pdf	06/29/2015
Permit	Shoreline Exemption.pdf	06/29/2015
Permit	HPA Permit_1004.pdf	06/29/2015
Photo	Standing Debris before construction.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	Debris which was removed.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	Part of debris that was removed.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	Lower channel view.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	Confluence view.JPG.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	North Channel view from confluence.JPG.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	South View at South entrance.JPG.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	South Channel During Construction.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	North Channel During Construction.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	North Channel.jpg	02/15/2017
Photo	Ramblers_Area.jpg	08/23/2012
Progress report	Progress Report 11/24/2015.pdf	11/24/2015
Progress report	Progress Report 05/12/2014.pdf	05/12/2014
Project plan document	Appleby Acknowledgment of fair voluntary offer.pdf	09/25/2015
Salmon Project Proposal	Revised proposal with answers to reviewer comments.docx	10/23/2012
Salmon Project Proposal	Draft Project Proposal.docx	05/15/2012
Special Agreements	Macrae_offer_letter.pdf	03/06/2015
Special Agreements	Macrae Notice of Voluntary_Transaction & Just Compensation.pdf	03/06/2015
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Review Panel Comment Form.docx	04/16/2013
SRFB Review Panel Comment Form	Revised Comment Form Response to Review Panel Comments 12_13.docx	10/23/2012
Stewardship plan	Stewardship Plan.docx	01/19/2017
Visuals	Rambler's III Recent Photo.jpg	07/16/2015
Visuals	public ownership map.doc	09/05/2012

Date of last change: 11/13/2018

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item 1

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: Director's Report

Summary
This memo describes key agency activities and happenings

Board Action Requested
This item will be a:
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Agency Update

RCO Gets Salmon Funding

RCO submitted its application to the federal government for a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant, which provides about half the funding for our salmon recovery work. The application, prepared on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, was a team effort by Sarah Gage, Tara Galuska, Brent Hedden, Keith Dublanica, Mark Jarasitis, Erik Neatherlin, and Susan Zemek along with partners from the other agencies. Washington State applied for $25 million, the maximum amount, and has received word that it will get $18.645 million. Washington's award was $18.8 million in 2018 and $18.5 million in 2017.

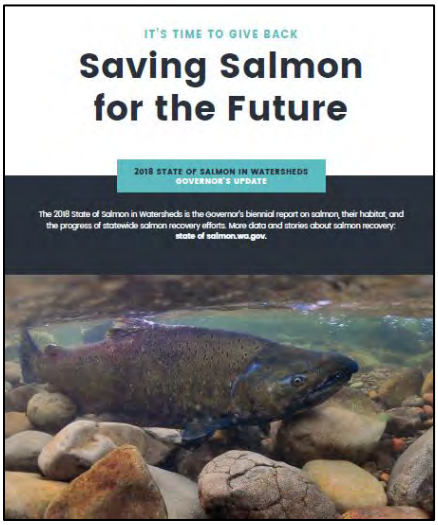
Salmon Conference Survey Results In

The Salmon Recovery Conference, held in April in Tacoma, was a great success, and we have the survey to prove it. Overall, 91 percent of the survey respondents said they were satisfied with the conference. They gave the highest marks to opening ceremony

presenters, Cecilia Gobin with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, who spoke about remembering why we all do salmon recovery work, and former Governor Gary Locke, who reflected on passage of the Salmon Recovery Act 20 years ago and the accomplishments since. Survey attendees also liked the registration and session selection process, the time given to networking during the meals (by not having speakers), and the Tacoma conference location. Not being shy, the conference attendees made suggestions for improvements, such as making sure the breakout sessions stuck to their schedules for presentations so people could jump between topics, publishing the program earlier, and keeping the exhibitors closer to the action. A look at social media showed that #salmonconf collectively reached more than 89,000 viewers from April 7-11. If you missed the conference, the presentations are on the conference's schedule page.

State of Salmon in Watersheds Report Nominated for Honor

The Washington State Library has nominated the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's *Saving Salmon for the Future* executive summary for the National Conference of State Legislatures' Notable Documents Awards. In the e-mail notifying us of the nomination, Mary Paynton Schaff, with the State Library, thanked us "for creating such a great state publication, and for representing the high quality of Washington State's government reports!" Reports will be judged by a number of factors, including whether it significantly contributes to knowledge of concern to legislators and is innovative in presentation of material. The winner will be announced at the National Conference of State Legislature's Legislative Summit in Nashville in August.



Spreading the Word about the State of Salmon in Watersheds Report

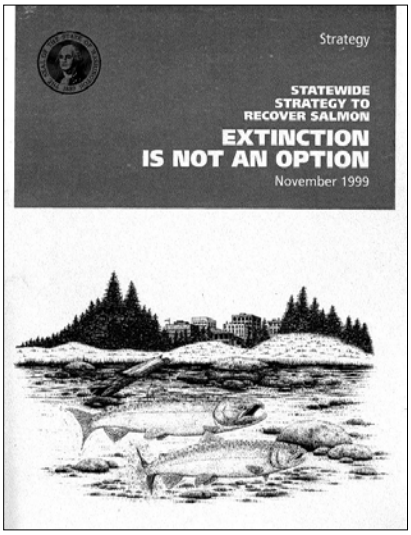
The State of Salmon in Watersheds Web site seems to be catching people's attention. In the first month since the Web site's release, the number of pages people viewed jumped 14 percent compared to the 2016 report and the number of people who left the site without looking at anything dropped 14 percent. Social media brought 10 percent more people to the site when compared to 2 years ago. RCO staff have received great feedback from viewers and many inquiries for information from reporters, teachers, and students. RCO was invited to share the Web site and information about salmon recovery at the Billy Frank Jr. Celebration at Nisqually Middle School on March 6. Kids, parents, and teachers enjoyed learning about salmon and salmon recovery at our booth. One of the teachers used the report to build a social studies lesson for kids to go along with the newest chapter of "Washington: The State We're in" from the League of Women Voters. We are looking forward to other opportunities to share salmon recovery information in curricula and other outlets.

Engineers Meet to Discuss the Family Forest Fish Passage Program

Engineers with the Family Forest Fish Passage Program gathered for their annual meeting in March in Olympia. All of the program's engineers attended, along with engineers from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources and other sponsoring agencies. New this year was an invitation to project sponsors, who shared their experiences implementing fish passage projects. After a brief discussion of the budget and changes to policies and business practices, the floor was turned over to invited speakers. Matt Curtis, a Department of Fish and Wildlife habitat biologist discussed the Hydraulic Project Approval permitting process and Sarah Thirtyacre, from RCO, discussed the impact of cultural resources consultation. Van Collins from the American Council of Engineering Companies discussed buying engineering services for salmon restoration projects. Laura Till, from

the Department of Fish and Wildlife, finished off the program by presenting projects completed in 2018.

Updating the Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy



Governor Gary Locke adopted the *Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy* 20 years ago and much has changed since. Recovery regions have developed plans and federal and state courts have ruled on culverts and other items affecting recovery efforts. The Pacific Salmon Treaty with Canada, which determines the amount of salmon caught, has been revised. The National Marine Fisheries Service recently clarified its expectations for de-listing a population under the Endangered Species Act. RCO will embark this biennium with an update to the statewide strategy. RCO is recruiting now for a consulting team to help review the strategy, identify gaps, connect with salmon recovery partners and the public, and recommend changes to the strategy. RCO will work with the Governor's Office and the Cabinet in making recommendations to the Governor for an updated strategy by December 2020.

Visiting the Other Washington to Support Salmon

More than 80 representatives from Puget Sound and representatives from the Pacific coastal states descended on Washington D.C. in May for Puget Sound Day on the Hill and Salmon Days. The Pacific Coast delegation traveled to D.C. to educate members of Congress and agency heads on the importance of salmon recovery and Puget Sound health. The delegation was represented by tribes, local governments, local elected officials, private sector, and state and federal agencies, all carrying the same message. A healthy Puget Sound and salmon are critical to Pacific Northwest culture, economy, and way of life supporting thousands of jobs, often in rural areas, and generating millions of dollars in economic activity through habitat restoration, fisheries, and outdoor recreation alone. This year was the first time these two delegations met simultaneously, and by all accounts it was a huge success. The delegation was focused on maintaining or increasing federal funding for the Puget

Sound Geographic Program, National Estuary Program, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Partners Work to Hook Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt

In May, tribal, state, and local governments joined forces at Lake Roosevelt to combat the downstream spread of northern pike, reported to be just two dams away from critical Columbia River salmon habitat. The lake's co-managers with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife worked alongside the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and public utility districts in Chelan and Grant Counties to catch northern pike in the largest coordinated suppression event of its kind. Read our news release.

Legislation to Save Orcas Passes

The Governor's three bills on orcas passed the Legislature and have been signed into law. The first bill created new requirements to protect against oil spills in Rosario Strait, between Canada and the United States, where large increases in tanker traffic are expected. The bill requires oil tankers to be escorted by tugs so they do not run aground and spill oil. A second bill allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to enforce the hydraulics code with civil penalties (instead of solely relying on criminal enforcement) when someone violates the code and damages fish habitat. The third bill expanded the buffer zone around orcas and reduced speed limits for boats within a half-mile of the whales. It is meant to reduce noise that interferes with the orcas' ability to find food. The bill also created licenses and fees for commercial whale watching.

RCO Presents at Results Washington

RCO was chosen to present to the Governor on how to become employers of choice and engage employees as part of the Results Washington review meeting in May. The meeting focused on the importance of creating psychologically safe, human-centered workplaces where employees feel respected, valued, and safe to take interpersonal risks. RCO was represented by Kaleen Cottingham, Marguerite Austin, DeAnn Beck, and Marc Duboiski. RCO shared examples of leader actions that create the conditions for employee engagement and staff shared stories about their experiences at the agency. Watch the Results Review on TVW.

Employee Changes

- **Jeannie Abbott** joined RCO in April 16 as the program coordinator in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, responsible for managing the lead entity program and a whole lot more. Early in her career, Jeannie was a Stream Team coordinator in Pierce County and the regional fisheries enhancement group coordinator for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. She worked for 14 years at the Department of Natural Resources, where she served as a fire specialist, training manager, and operations manager for fire operations, and held several other jobs dealing with emergency preparedness and training.

- **Erik Neatherlin** joined RCO in April as the executive coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Erik has been science director and policy lead for salmon recovery with the Department of Fish and Wildlife since 2011. In that role, he managed 200 employees and a $26 million biennial budget, and represented the agency on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. Erik started at the Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2003 as a biologist and worked his way up to a leadership position, working with many external partners, such as tribes, local and federal governments and the Legislature and Congress. Before joining the

Department of Fish and Wildlife, he worked as the conservation program director for the Sustainable Ecosystems Institute in Portland.

- **Sophie Love** has joined RCO as an intern, working on behalf of the Invasive Species Council. She is a student at Whitman College and is on track to graduate next spring with a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental studies biology.

- **Julia Marshburn**, who currently serves as the administrative assistant in the Grant Services Section will become RCO's agency records and contracts specialist, beginning June 17.

News from our Sister Boards

- The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** will have one of its most important meetings of the year in June. At that meeting, the board will award grants for all the recreation programs. The board also will hold a retreat to discuss its strategic plan for the previous and upcoming biennia.

- The Washington Invasive Species Council held its first meeting of the year in March in Bellingham. The meeting proved to be very productive with the introduction of a new local government panel discussion. The panelists -- the cities of Bellingham, Seattle, and Portland -- discussed their challenges managing invasive species. The Department of Fish and Wildlife asked the council about the department's proposed reclassification of northern pike. More information can be found at https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/meetings.shtml. The following day, the council held a workshop in Bellingham bringing together about 90 people to learn about issues relevant to British Columbia and northwestern Washington. At its June 6 meeting in Olympia, the council heard a report on lessons learned from mussel response in the lower Colorado River system.

- The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group held its second annual meeting in May in Olympia. At this meeting, the lands group discussed its revised charter, which will be approved in October.

Legislative Update

The Legislature passed final budgets on the last day of regular session. The operating budget for RCO contained funding to update the statewide salmon recovery strategy, as well as the carry-forward funding for lead entities. As mentioned above, all three of the Governor's orca recovery bills passed, however, the bill to extend the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program in the Columbia River did not.

In the capital budget, the final appropriations are shown in the table below, but there were a few other interesting outcomes:

- Lead entities and regional fisheries enhancement groups are funded at $2.4 m and $640,000, respectively, out of the SRFB capital appropriation, similar to the current biennium.

- The final PSAR appropriation was higher than in all three-budget proposals. The top three projects on the large capital list are funded in the final budget.

- The Upper Quinault project, which was the third alternate project on the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative (WRCI) list, is funded separately in its own section in the final budget.

Program	2019-21 Request	2019-21 Governor	2019-21 House	2019-21 Senate	Final 2019-21
Salmon Recovery (SRFB-State)	$88,904,000	$35,000,000	$25,000,000	$25,000,000	$25,000,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	$79,600,000	$42,500,000	$43,607,000	$45,900,000	$49,507,000
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	$20,000,000	$12,500,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000	$10,000,000
Family Forest and Fish Passage Program	$20,000,000	$6,000,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000
Fish Barrier Removal Board Grants	$50,000,000	$25,082,000	$25,082,000	$30,588,000	$26,491,000
WA Coastal Restoration Initiative	$12,438,000	$12,438,000	$12,438,000	$12,438,000	$12,086,000
Upper Quinault River program (from WCRI list)	-	-	-	-	$2,000,000
Salmon Recovery – Federal	$50,000,000	$50,000,000	$50,000,000	$50,000,000	$50,000,000

Orca Bills and Budget

The final legislative budgets provide $933 million for actions related to the implementation of the SRKW Taskforce recommendations - $137 million less than requested by the Governor. Here is how the funding fell out in terms of larger categories:

Funding by Threat	(Dollars in Millions)	
Budget	**Governor**	**Final**
Prey availability	$ 783.23	$ 635.79
Vessels	$ 121.30	$ 143.55
Contaminants	$ 160.82	$ 150.51
Science and Support	$ 4.68	$ 3.55
Total	**$ 1,070.04**	**$ 933.40**

Lean Study Implementation Tracking

Color Key

- 🟢 No major challenges are anticipated that would impact an on-time completion.
- 🟡 Some challenges were encountered and additional resources may be necessary for on-time completion.
- 🔴 This task is unlikely to be completed on time OR this task is overdue.
- ⚫ Task completed.

Implementation of Lean Study Recommendations				
Grant Round Redesign	**Lead Person for Implementation**	**Due Date**	**Status**	**Notes**
1.1 – Redesign Grant Round Process	Tara Galuska	12/2019	🟢	Draft timeline developed. Met with WSC in April. Revised draft timeline. Sent to COR and WSC in June. Presenting to the SRFB for approval of timeline in July. Once finalized, will be incorporated into Manual 18, which will go to SRFB in September.
1.2 – Formalize Biennial Grant Round Option	Tara Galuska	02/2019	⚫	Complete - Included in Manual 18.
Standardization and Role Clarification				
2.1 – Update Washington Administrative Code	Katie Pruit, Sarah Gage, Tara Galuska	12/2019	🟢	Assigned to Katie Pruit. She held a meeting with COR and WSC representatives. The draft WACS were sent out to COR and WSC for comment. Katie is analyzing comments and will brief the SRFB in September. The public hearing and final adoption will take place at the SRFB meeting in December 2019.

2.2 – Update Manual 19	Sarah Gage/Jeannie Abbott	02/2019	●	Complete – sent to Lead Entity Coordinators, Regional Directors, and placed on the website on 5/30/2019. May need to update following the adoption of new WACs and new grant round timelines.
2.3 – Document Evaluation Process and Identify Best Practices	WSC	12/2019	●	Kaleen, Jeannie, Brent and Tara met with Lead entities. Lead Entities working on best practices. Lead Entity coordinators will discuss this topic each time that they meet. They are setting up a "box" account for improved document sharing.
Funding Policy and Project Prioritization				
3.1 – Develop Targeted Investment Program	Kaleen Cottingham, Scott Robinson	12/2019	●	Board reviewed 7 options at March 2019 meeting. Asked for more concrete data on several topics. A survey was sent out based on board memo feedback; Survey results received from regions, lead entities and sponsors. Survey results have been reviewed by subcommittee and staff. Subcommittee met on the 29th of May and narrowed some options for board discussion. Memo drafted based on survey results and subcommittee feedback for July SRFB meeting.
3.2 – Evaluate Whether Regional Priorities are Being Achieved	Tara Galuska	06/2020	●	Added question to regional summaries requirement in Manual 18. Regions will submit to RCO in September for review. Survey (see 3.1) also gave us some additional information. Will evaluate after September.
3.3 – Improve Efficiency of Capacity Funding	Jeannie Abbott, Brent Hedden	12/2020	●	Brent, Jeannie working with Scott C. determined that the best way to collect this information is through PRISM. After meeting with WSC representatives, redesigned the Lead Entity scopes of work and will lump work into three "buckets" and link to PRISM worksites to track expenditures. These new contracts will be

				effective August 1, 2019. Will evaluate results in August 2020 or later to see if there are any issues to address.
3.4 – Improve Alignment of Capacity to Project Funding	Wendy Brown	12/2020	●	Will work with new GSRO program manager for lead entities (Jeannie) later in 2019.
3.5 – Initiate Inter-Agency Funding Coordination	Tara Galuska	Ongoing	●	Progressing. Tara continue to serve on the inter-agency workgroup.
System and Metrics				
4.1 – Enhance PRISM to Improve Efficiency of Process	Scott Chapman	12/2019	●	Process started; high-level design of PRISM changes will be complete in June. Date may change once we have a design and know costs in mid-2019. To move forward will need to allocate funding for PRISM. If development funded, expect to complete by the end of 2020. Progress shared with the SRFB in March.
4.2 – Establish Process Metrics (2 or 3)	Scott Robinson, Brent Hedden, Scott Chapman	12/2019	●	Re-thinking the early metrics suggested by MC2. Not certain these help with measuring lean improvements. Are considering new metrics such as # of new sponsors and leveraged and required match. Internal staff discussions taking place. Will need clear definitions before rolling out any new metrics.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of June 12, 2019

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance *reflects removal of potential audit questioned cost payment	$640,827
Current Federal Balance – Projects	$1,823,978
Current Federal Balance – Activities, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	$2,487,576
Lead Entities	$0
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Puget Sound Restoration	$816,091

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019, actuals through June 12, 2019 (FM 23). 95.8% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2017-2019	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2011-13	$1,041,597	$1,041,597	100%	$0	0%	$507,786	49%
2013-15	$6,733,668	$6,733,668	100%	$0	0%	$4,492,865	84%
2015-17	$11,226,506	$10,777,264	97%	$449,242	3%	$5,573,909	54%
2017-19	$15,694,911	$15,503,326	99%	$191,584	1%	$3,145,318	20%
Total	**34,696,682**	**34,055,855**	**98%**	**640,827**	**2%**	**13,719,878**	**43%**
Federal Funded							
2013	$3,525,731	$3,525,731	100%	$0	0%	$3,525,731	100%
2014	$5,676,646	$5,676,646	100%	$0	0%	$5,426,252	96%
2015	$8,046,906	$6,963,672	87%	$1,083,234	13%	$4,786,551	69%
2016	$15,544,946	$14,720,197	95%	$824,749	5%	$8,254,897	59%
2017	$18,236,000	$18,235,623	99%	$377	1%	$6,910,465	37%
2018	$18,236,000	$15,832,807	87%	2,403,193	13%	$1,404,287	6%
Total	**69,266,229**	**64,954,675**	**94%**	**4,311,554**	**6%**	**30,308,182**	**47%**
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	$7,689,199	$7,689,199	100%	$0	0%	$4,435,328	58%
PSAR	$75,653,126	$74,837,034	99%	$816,091	1%	$21,485,286	29%

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2017-2019	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
Subtotal	**187,305,235**	**179,599,763**	**97%**	**5,768,472**	**3%**	**69,948,674**	**39%**
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	6,327,796	6,327,796	100%	0	0%	5,706,974	90%
Subtotal	**6,327,796**	**6,327,796**	**100%**	**0**	**0%**	**5,706,974**	**90%**
GRAND TOTAL	**$193,633,031**	**$187,864,558**	**97%**	**$5,768,472**	**3%**	**$75,655,648**	**40%**

Note: Activities such as smolt monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and regional funding are combined with projects in the state and federal funding lines above.

Performance Update

The following data is for grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2019. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of June 11, 2019.

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 2019. 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. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program, Coastal Restoration Initiative Program, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program are not included in these totals.

Thirty-nine salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2018 to June 11, 2019), with thirty-one passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 54.91 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2019 Performance
Blockages Removed	39
Bridges Installed	22
Culverts Installed	9
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects in FY 2019

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
13-1337	Roaring Crk Flow Restoration & Diversion Removal	Trout Unlimited-WA Water Proj	10
14-1215	Naneum-Coleman Fish Passage Projects	Kittitas Co Conservation Dist	0.35
14-1506	Miller Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	1.1
14-1660	Haehule Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	1.2
14-1661	Squaw Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	3.5
14-1871	Indian Creek Fish Passage Implementation	Pend Oreille Co Public Works	5
14-2260	Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	5.11
15-1101	Bunker Road Barrier Removals	Lewis Conservation District	3.4
15-1192	Salmon Creek Bridge Construction, West Uncas Road	Jefferson County of	0.75
15-1227	Lake Lawrence Outlet Channel Restoration	South Puget Sound SEG	1.3
15-1247	Williams Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration	Kittitas Conservation Trust	1.8
15-1250	Colby Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	4.1
16-1231	Thunder Road Fish Passage Project	Quileute Tribe of the Quileute	1.6
16-2104	Ruby Creek Fish Passage Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	8
17-1187	WEYCO Little North River Tributary	Grays Harbor Conservation Dist	6.3
17-1221	Newaukum Trio	Lewis Conservation District	1.4
		Total Miles	**54.91**

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2019 operational performance measures as of June 11, 2019.

Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2019 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	**83%**	🟡	142 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mail agreements on average 45 days after a project is approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	**89%**	🟡	495 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 440 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded within 7 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	**100%**	🟢	During this fiscal year to date, 1,444 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	**80%**	🟡	144 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year, 115 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	**9**	🟢	Nine SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. This is less than the last board meeting.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	**95**	🟡	Staff have inspected 95 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2019 to reach the target.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

The following memo highlights the good work recently completed by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Section.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Staffing

We welcomed two new members to the GSRO team in April. Jeannie Abbott is the new Program Coordinator taking over for Sarah Gage, and Erik Neatherlin is the new Executive Coordinator, taking over for Steve Martin. Jeannie comes to us most recently from the Department of Labor and Industries but has a long history and experience with natural resources and salmon recovery. Erik Neatherlin comes to us most recently from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) where he served as the Fish Program Science Director and salmon recovery policy lead. Erik also represented WDFW on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board from 2015-2019. More information can be found at: https://rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/press/2019/194.shtml. These two new hires complete the GSRO team, which also includes Jennifer Johnson and Keith Dublanica (GSRO). The team also includes Eryn Couch and Chantell Krider (RCO), who provide half time support for communications and data reporting. In addition, the salmon team and policy team within RCO provide additional policy and program support for GSRO.

Jeannie and Erik have spent the majority of their time in the first few months learning from one another, from GSRO and RCO staff, and from partners around the state. The focus in the coming months will be to visit with as many tribes and partners as possible including regional recovery organizations and their boards, lead entities, and project sponsors, including Regional Fish Enhancement Groups (RFEGs), Conservation Districts (CDs), Local Governments, and others.

GSRO News and Activity

In addition to meeting with individuals and groups, GSRO has engaged in media interviews. Q13 Fox News interviewed Erik during his first week, which aired in May. Alison Morrow with King 5 interviewed GSRO and staff from the Tulalip Tribe in June highlighting restoration of the Qwuloolt Estuary restoration project. Some SRFB Members will recall visiting the Qwuloolt Estuary during a 2015 field visit. This interview focused on the importance of estuary restoration and partnerships and highlighted the need to increase funding and the speed of recovery.

The State of the Salmon Report Executive Summary has been nominated by the Washington State Library for the National Conference of State Legislatures' Notable Documents Award. Award winners will be announced at the national conference in Nashville in August 2019.

Orca Task Force

The Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force (Orca Task Force) met in March and June. More information on the Task Force meetings can be found here. Overall, the legislative session was positive for orcas and was very productive in general for the environment. Five major policy bills moved forward for orcas, and nearly $1 billion in funding was approved to support the Orca Task Force recommendations. Nonetheless, the Orca Task Force voiced major concern that orcas are still in crisis and on the brink of extinction. Continued urgency on this issue, immediate and bold actions, and a steep increase in funding for habitat protection and restoration were all things the Orca Task Force highlighted as important to focus on in the coming year. In the two remaining meetings, the Orca Task Force intends to work towards development of year two recommendations, which will address climate change and human population growth issues associated with the three main threats: prey, vessels, and contaminants.

Washington DC Visits

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Member Jeromy Sullivan and GSRO Executive Coordinator Erik Neatherlin joined more than 80 other representatives to descend on Washington DC during the week of May 13-17, 2019 for Puget Sound Day on the Hill and Salmon Days. This massive delegation traveled to DC to meet with and educate

members of Congress and agency heads on the importance of salmon recovery and Puget Sound health. The delegation was represented by tribes, local governments, local elected officials, private sector, and state and federal agencies, all carrying the same message. A healthy Puget Sound and salmon are critical to Pacific Northwest culture, economy, and way of life supporting thousands of jobs, often in rural areas, and generating millions of dollars in economic activity through habitat restoration, fisheries, and outdoor recreation alone. This year was the first time the west coast states involved in the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) joined forces with the Puget Sound delegation. These two delegations met simultaneously, and by all accounts, it was a huge success. The joint delegation was focused on maintaining or increasing federal funding for the Puget Sound Geographic Program, National Estuary Program, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding, and the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Salmon Recovery Network Update

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) continued its coordination during the legislative session, including participation in the salmon legislative calls that occurred weekly throughout the session. This coordination included development and support of statewide funding priorities captured and summarized in the Salmon Recovery Budget Buddy document.

SRNet met in person in June and discussed the year-ahead calendar and their work plan. In particular, SRNet discussed how to leverage the activity and the energy created during the legislative session to energize not just the SRNet members at the table but the broader salmon recovery community. The group decided to build its annual work plan around the legislative calendar beginning with legislative outreach and tours that can occur during the summer. This will lead into work with the agencies during late summer and fall budget development, and outreach leading up to the 2020 session. All of this can be a template for how to gear up the SRNet collaboration and coordination apparatus leading into the 2021-23 biennial budget cycle. There is more to come and more work to do, but SRNet agreed with this general approach, and also agreed to build upon the existing work and communication products that have already been developed for SRNet and salmon recovery by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Status of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Application

Each year, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submits a single Washington State application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding. The application is prepared by RCO on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

NOAA released the PCSRF Funding Opportunity on February 1, 2019. Pre-applications were due on March 2, 2019 with final applications due April 2, 2019. RCO met with NWIFC and WDFW staff to coordinate our grant request and work on our respective sections of the Washington State application. RCO applied for $25 million to NOAA for the 2019 PCSRF award. NOAA has awarded Washington State $18,645,000 for 2019.

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects (NOAA's Priority 1), monitoring (Priority 2), and administration and capacity (Priority 3). Capacity has historically been the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level. Starting in 2018, RCO removed lead entity capacity from the PCSRF application and moved that amount of money into Priority 1 habitat projects, enabling RCO to submit the strongest possible application. This year RCO included lead entity capacity funding in its state operating budget request. The final budget funded lead entity capacity from the state capital budget.

See Attachment C for a table of the PCSRF award for 2019

Recreation and Conservation Office - Salmon Recovery Section Report

2018 Grant Round

The SRFB approved 210 projects at its December 2018 board meeting. The SRFB projects on that list are funded with state 2017-2019 funds and the 2017 NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. Those projects are underway. Of the 210 projects, 80 were Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects approved in advance of the funding. Most of those have received funding from the recently approved 2019-21 state capital budget. Staff will be busy this summer putting those PSAR projects under agreement. The entire project lists and more information about the 2018 grant round can be found in Item 6 from December 2018 and the 2018 Funding Report.

2019 Grant Round

RCO staff, lead entities and sponsors are in the midst of the 2019 grant round. The timeline was approved by the SRFB in December 2018. Project site visits were completed in early June. The Review Panel will complete comment forms for each project and will meet as a full panel on July 23, 2019. To date, 137 applications have been submitted in PRISM. This is lower than the average number of projects submitted for an annual grant round, which is 172 (based on applications filed between 2004 and 2018), but within the range of number of projects submitted per year, which is between 115 and 219.

2020 Grant Round – implementing LEAN recommendations on timeline and process

The salmon section developed a revised timeline for the 2020 grant round, based on the LEAN study recommendations. This timeline was shared with the Washington Salmon

Coalition in April. A further revised draft timeline has been sent out to lead entities and regions in advance of the SRFB meeting. See Item 9 for additional information and a draft timeline.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of June 3, 2019. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (FBRB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative program (WCRI), or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). Although RCO staff support these programs through grant administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Table 1. Board-Funded Projects

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	26	408	2,456	2,890
Percentage of Total	0.9%	14.1%	85.0%	

Applicant Survey

A summary of the 2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Applicant Survey can be found in Attachment D. Brent Hedden, Performance and Data Analyst will brief the board at the July meeting.

Strategic Plan Connection

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

The Salmon Recovery Management Report supports *Goal 2* of the board's strategic plan, which focuses on the board's accountability for investments. By sharing information on staff activities and the grant round processes, the board can ensure accountability for the efficient use of resources.

Attachments

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between February 1, 2019 and June 2, 2019. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs,

photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out twenty-six projects or contracts during this time.

Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between February 5, 2019 and June 1, 2019. Staff processed 74 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Other attachments

Attachment C shows the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) request.

Attachment D provides an overview of the 2018 applicant survey.

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from February 1, 2019-June 2, 2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
11-1343	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Meadowbrook Creek and Dungeness River Reconnection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	5/24/2019
14-1180	Pierce County Planning	South Fork Floodplain Restoration PH 2B Const	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/20/2019
14-1193	Seattle Public Utilities	Cedar River Stewardship in Action	Salmon State Projects	5/2/2019
14-1238	Mid-Columbia RFEG	South Fork Oak Creek Habitat Enhancement	Salmon Federal Projects	5/3/2019
14-1242	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Skagit Basin Ongoing Project Maintenance	Salmon Federal Projects	3/26/2019
14-1255	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Preliminary Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	4/18/2019
14-1263	Skagit County Public Works	Martin Slough Riparian Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	5/2/2019
14-1292	Wahkiakum Conservation Dist	Grays River Satterlund Site	Salmon State Projects	4/10/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
14-1296	Cowlitz Conservation Dist	Abernathy Creek Davis Site	Salmon State Projects	3/28/2019
14-1299	Edmonds City of	Willow Creek Daylighting Conceptual Design	Salmon Federal Projects	5/8/2019
14-1356	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Stillaguamish Floodplain Protection & Restoration	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/14/2019
14-1871	Pend Oreille Co Public Works	Indian Creek Fish Passage Implementation	Salmon State Projects	3/25/2019
14-2246	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	Hatchery Reform 2014 - Genetics	Salmon Federal Activities	5/13/2019
14-2247	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	Hatchery Reform 2014 - Enhancements	Salmon Federal Activities	5/13/2019
14-2248	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	Hatchery Reform 2014 - Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities	5/13/2019
14-2260	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response	Salmon State Projects	2/20/2019
15-1045	Coastal Watershed Institute	Beach Lake Acquisition and Restoration	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/4/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
15-1058	King Co Water & Land Res	Lower Bear Creek Natural Area Additions	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/22/2019
15-1101	Lewis Conservation District	Bunker Road Barrier Removals	Salmon Federal Projects	4/18/2019
15-1134	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Grays River Reach 3 and 4 Mass Wasting Project	Salmon Federal Projects	4/16/2019
15-1144	Mid-Columbia RFEG	SF Cowiche Floodplain Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	5/28/2019
15-1192	Jefferson County of	Salmon Creek Bridge Construction, West Uncas Road	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/6/2019
15-1196	Mason Conservation Dist	Upper SF Skokomish Channel - Floodplain Assessment	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/19/2019
15-1202	Wild Fish Conservancy	HC Summer Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment	Salmon State Projects	5/20/2019
15-1210	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Upper White Pine Floodplain Reconnection	Salmon State Projects	2/8/2019
15-1227	South Puget Sound SEG	Lake Lawrence Outlet Channel Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	4/17/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
15-1250	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Colby Creek Culvert Replacement	Salmon Federal Projects	5/6/2019
15-1298	Underwood Conservation Dist	Rattlesnake Creek Riparian Vegetation Enhancement	Salmon State Projects	3/6/2019
15-1323	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Tucannon Large Wood & Floodplain Restoration PA6-9	Salmon Federal Projects	5/20/2019
15-1333	Snohomish County Public Works	Stillaguamish Side-Channel Monitoring	Salmon Federal Projects	2/19/2019
16-1322	Quinault Indian Nation	Halbert Creek Fish Passage and Instream Design	Salmon Federal Projects	4/4/2019
16-1378	10,000 Years Institute	Perfecting Riparian Restoration on the Hoh River	Salmon Federal Projects	4/4/2019
16-1409	Capitol Land Trust	Harmony Farms Riparian Restoration, Phase II	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/18/2019
16-1454	Nisqually Land Trust	Lower Ohop "Acquisition for Restoration" Planning	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/18/2019
16-1474	Hood Canal SEG	Hood Canal Nearshore Forage Fish Assessment	Salmon Federal Projects	5/15/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
16-1507	Puyallup Tribe of Indians	Puyallup River Juvenile Salmon Assessment Project	Salmon Federal Activities	2/19/2019
16-1515	Wahkiakum Conservation Dist	Elkinton Restoration Preliminary Design	Salmon Federal Projects	4/17/2019
16-1756	Grays Harbor Conservation Dist	M. Fork Hoquiam Tidal Habitat Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	2/26/2019
16-1803	Lewis County Public Works	Van Ornum Creek Barrier Removal Design	Salmon Federal Projects	4/23/2019
16-1998	Klickitat County of	Lower Spring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Design	Salmon Federal Projects	3/7/2019
16-2103	SBGH-Partners, LLC	SOS16 Content Coordination	Salmon Federal Activities	5/2/2019
16-2104	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Ruby Creek Fish Passage Restoration	Salmon State Projects	3/20/2019
17-1076	Capitol Land Trust	Holm Farm Phase 1 Acquisition Thurston County	Salmon Federal Projects	5/3/2019
17-1103	Clallam Conservation Dist	Sitkum FS Road 2900 Stream Crossing Designs	Salmon Federal Projects	5/28/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
17-1135	Great Peninsula Conservancy	McLane Cove Shoreline & Estuary Protection Project	Salmon Federal Projects	4/23/2019
17-1187	Grays Harbor Conservation Dist	WEYCO Little North River Tributary	Salmon State Projects	3/4/2019
17-1221	Lewis Conservation District	Newaukum Trio	Salmon State Projects	5/1/2019
17-1361	Ecology Dept of	WECY IMW support	Salmon Federal Activities	5/28/2019
18-2620	Sound Resolutions	Facilitation services for monitoring workshop	Salmon Federal Activities	5/14/2019

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
15-1067	Willowmoor – Prelim Design	King Co Water & Land Res	PSAR	Cost Change	4/24/2019	Increase funds by $18,007 for additional groundwater studies and lake-scale delineation of fringe wetlands for ESA analysis.
16-1559	Mid-Spencer Estuary Restoration	Snohomish County Public Works	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	4/11/2019	Increase funds by $80,000 for higher construction costs.
14-1226	Cherry Creek Restoration Ph 1	Sound Salmon Solutions	PSAR	Cost Change	2/25/2019	Increase funds by $101,560 returned PSAR funds to increase riparian plantings.
16-1549	SPC Stubbs Acquisition	Pierce Co Conservation Dist	PSAR	Cost Change	4/18/2019	Increase funds by $48,537 for higher appraised value than originally estimated.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
17-1231	Piscine Passage Design Big Meadow & Minnor Creeks	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	5/6/2019	Increase funds by $45,498 to accomplish construction.
16-1307	Maylor Pt Armoring Removal	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	PSAR	Cost Change	3/6/2019	Reduce funds by $80,000 due to sponsor receiving more match funds than originally anticipated.
16-1647	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	Seattle City Light	PSAR	Cost Change	3/25/2019	Increase funds by $175,000 returned PSAR funds in order to purchase additional high priority habitat properties.
16-1730	Pressentin Park Trails, Bike Camp, and Off Channel	Skagit County Parks & Rec	PSAR	Cost Change	3/18/2019	Increase funds by $350,000 returned PSAR funds to account for rising steel and construction costs.
16-2804	Middle Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	3/13/2019	Increase funds by $175,000 returned PSAR funds to purchase additional high priority habitat properties.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
14-1246	Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan Restoration Phase 2	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	PSAR	Cost Change	2/21/2019	Decrease funds by $1,050,000 due to project being completed under budget.
16-1651	Hansen Creek Reach 5 Restoration	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	PSAR	Cost Change	3/18/2019	Increase funds by $350,000 in order to move to closer to fully funding restoration on this large project.
15-1050	Kristoferson Creek Fish Passage Improvements	Snohomish Conservation Dist.	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	4/23/2019	Increase funds by $5,275 to account for increased construction costs.
17-1195	Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Restoration	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	2/25/2019	Decrease funds by $36,772.
17-1062	Dugualla Bay Tidelands Acquisition	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	5/8/2019	Increase funds by $16,578 for invasive weed control, fence installation, and interpretive signs.
17-1083	Little Wind River Phase IV Habitat Enhancement	Underwood Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	5/22/2019	Reduce match from 23% to 15% to account for loss of donated materials.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
14-1333	Squire's Landing Park Riparian Restoration	City of Kenmore	Salmon Federal Projects	Project Sponsor Change	2/6/2019	Change project sponsor(s) from Adopt A Stream Foundation and Sno King Watershed Council to City of Kenmore.
16-1608	Woods Creek Culvert Replacements Cooperative	Snohomish Conservation Dist	PSAR	Project Sponsor Change	5/28/2019	Add Wild Fish Conservancy to project as secondary sponsor.
00-1907	Schoolhouse Creek Restoration	Columbia Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	Project Sponsor Change	4/10/2019	Change project sponsor from Wild Fish Conservancy, to Columbia Land Trust.
17-1237	Ellsworth Cr Coastal Riparian Habitat Hydrology	The Nature Conservancy	Salmon State Projects	Scope Change	4/11/2019	Increase scope of project to add .4 additional decommissioned road miles and decommission 4 culverts within same budget.

Washington State Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Request

Program Priorities	Federal	State Match	Total
Priority One Projects/Activities			
High priority, site-specific habitat restoration and protection projects targeting factors limiting listed salmonids and/or treaty rights	$9,200,000	$6,152,850	$15,352,850
Tribal hatchery reform projects focused to support exercise of tribal treaty fishing rights (NWIFC)	$211,447	--	$211,447
Hatchery reform projects critical to salmon recovery efforts (WDFW)	$1,561,852	--	$1,561,852
Priority Two Projects/Activities			
SRFB monitoring program: to include oversight by monitoring panel, IMW, statewide effectiveness monitoring, and status and trend monitoring of Viable Salmon Population parameters.	$1,961,650	--	$1,961,650
Regional monitoring to fill data gaps identified in federally approved recovery plans.	$300,000		$300,000
Lower Columbia River monitoring	$750,000	--	$750,000
Salmonid population and habitat monitoring necessary to support exercise of tribal treaty rights	$676,701	--	$676,701
NWIFC Cooperative Genetics Program	$200,000	--	$200,000
Priority Three Projects/Activities			
Support to salmon recovery regions engaged in salmon recovery plan implementation	$2,874,000	--	$2,874,000
RCO administration and grant management	$559,350	--	$559,350
SRFB Review Panel	$200,000	--	$200,000
SRFB Communications and Salmon Recovery Network Coordination	$60,000	--	$60,000
Metrics Reporting	$50,000	--	$50,000
Database Updates and Data Synchronization	$40,000		$40,000
TOTAL	$18,645,000	$6,152,850	$24,797,850

Attachment D

2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Process, All Applicant Survey Results

Brent Hedden
Performance and Data Analyst
June 2019

Executive Summary

The following analysis is based on survey responses from 48 applicants who participated in the 2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round.

Summary of Comments and Survey Responses

Overall applicant satisfaction with the 2018 SRFB grant round was high.

When asked about the application process, most respondents understood the RCO/SRFB application process and what they needed to complete. Most respondents also did not participate in the application workshop/webinar.

A majority of respondents agreed that the application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool and the eligibility criteria were clear. Respondent comments suggested there are still some steps we could take to make it clearer.

A majority of respondents felt that completing the application in PRISM Online worked well. Respondents also identified a number of suggested improvements to the application process.

Although respondent comments suggest that the salmon project proposal contains some redundant or repetitive questions, a majority felt that it helped them to fully describe the goals and objectives of their project. Respondents also offered suggestions on how to improve the salmon project proposal.

Most respondents agreed that the Technical Review Panel's comment form from the site visit was helpful. Most respondents also agreed that they understood the Technical Review Panel process and its purpose and found the Panel's members to be knowledgeable. However, survey comments suggest that the Panel may lack familiarity with local processes/project elements.

A majority of respondents identified their RCO/SRFB grant manager as the resource they use most often when they have questions about their project or the grant round process. Another resource used frequently was the Lead Entity.

2019 Grant Round - Key Action Items

RCO plans to implement the following action items in order to address comments made in this survey. Some of these action items will take several months to implement such as enhancements to RCO's PRISM database.

Implement LEAN Study Recommendation 1.1: Redesign Grant Round Process to achieve

- Shorter timeline
- Simplified process

Implement LEAN Study Recommendation 1.2: Formalize Biennial Grant Round Option to achieve

- Efficiencies in process

Implement LEAN Study Recommendation 2.2: Update Manual 19 to achieve

- Potential standardization of lead entity practices and processes
- More transparent lead entity information

Implement LEAN Study Recommendation 2.3: Document Lead Entity Evaluation Processes and Identify Best Practices to achieve

- Sharing of Best Practices
- Potential to increase standardization between lead entities

Implement LEAN Study Recommendation 4.1: Enhance PRISM to Improve Efficiency of Process to achieve

- One application rather than a PRISM application and word document proposal
- Reduce redundancy in application and questions
- Efficiencies in Review Panel comment form process.

Review applicant survey results with SRFB Review Panel members.

Improve outreach for Application Workshops to

- Reach a broader audience
- Improve participation, therefore improve knowledge on process and changes or updates to previous grant rounds.
- Share knowledge on Grant Round changes for 2020 (LEAN Recommendation Implementation)

Table of Contents

Contents

Survey Approach

The selected recipients were listed in PRISM as the primary, secondary, or lead entity contact for a 2018 SRFB project with a status of "application complete." RCO staff distributed the survey to 182 applicants on January 8, 2019. The survey closed February 15, 2019.

Survey Response

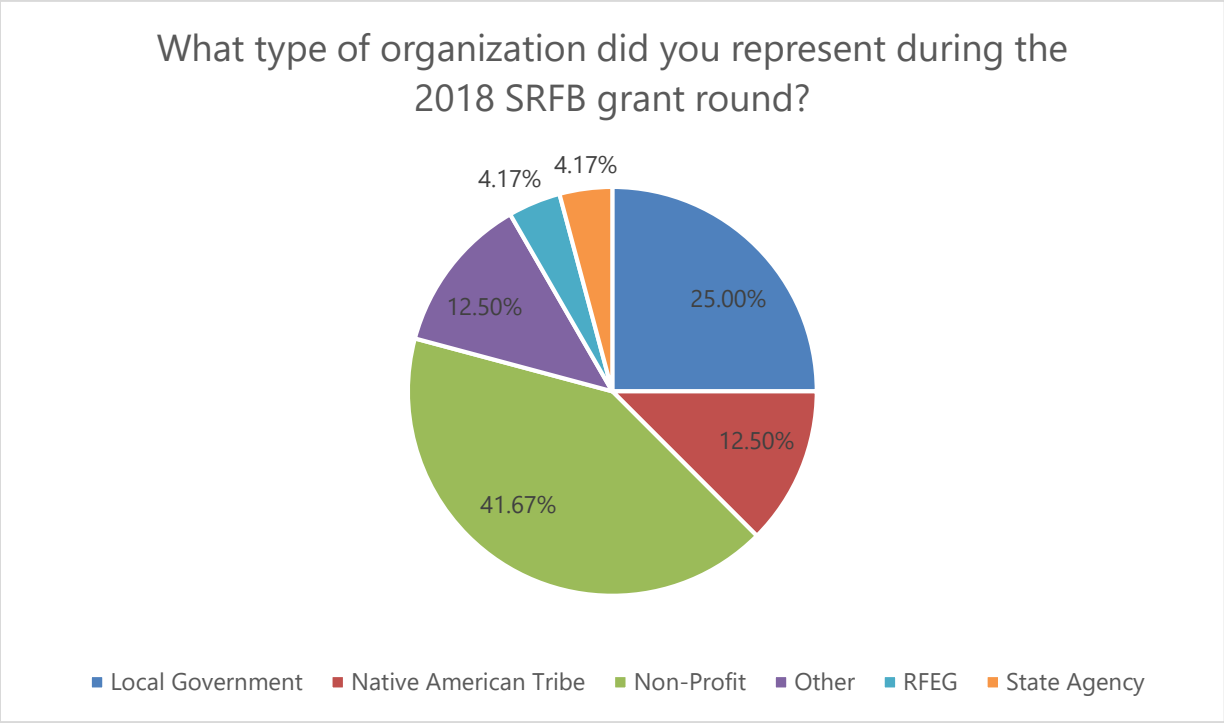
Forty-eight people responded – a 26 percent response rate based on the people contacted.[1] This is slightly lower than the response rate RCO achieves in its survey of Recreation and Conservation Funding Board applicants.

About the Respondents

Survey respondents represented both Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Salmon State Projects.

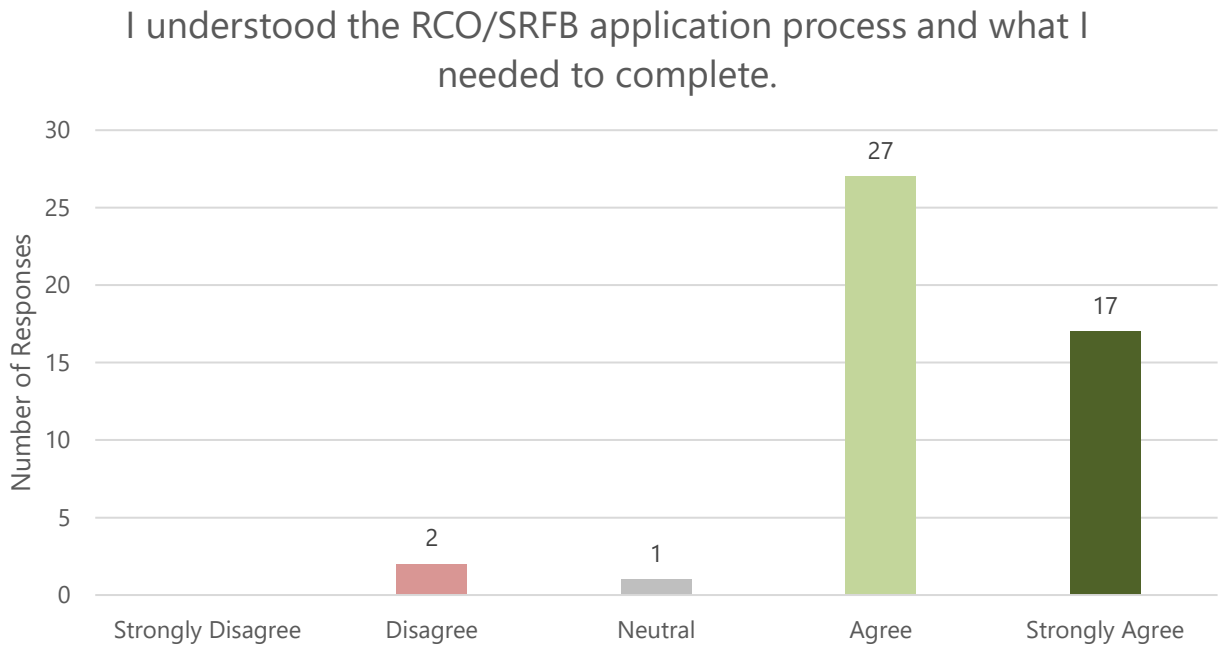
Approximately 17 percent of respondents reported that this was their first time applying for a SRFB grant, but all of the first-time applicants reported that their co-workers had applied in the past. These experienced colleagues presumably assisted the first-time applicants.

Representatives of many organization types responded to the survey. Nonprofits made up the largest group of respondents, with over 40 percent of the total.



[1] The number of responses to each question in the survey varies from this total because some participants skipped questions and/or did not complete the survey.

Survey Results: The Application Process



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the RCO/SRFB application process and what I needed to complete.	**4%**	**2%**	**92%**

Notes

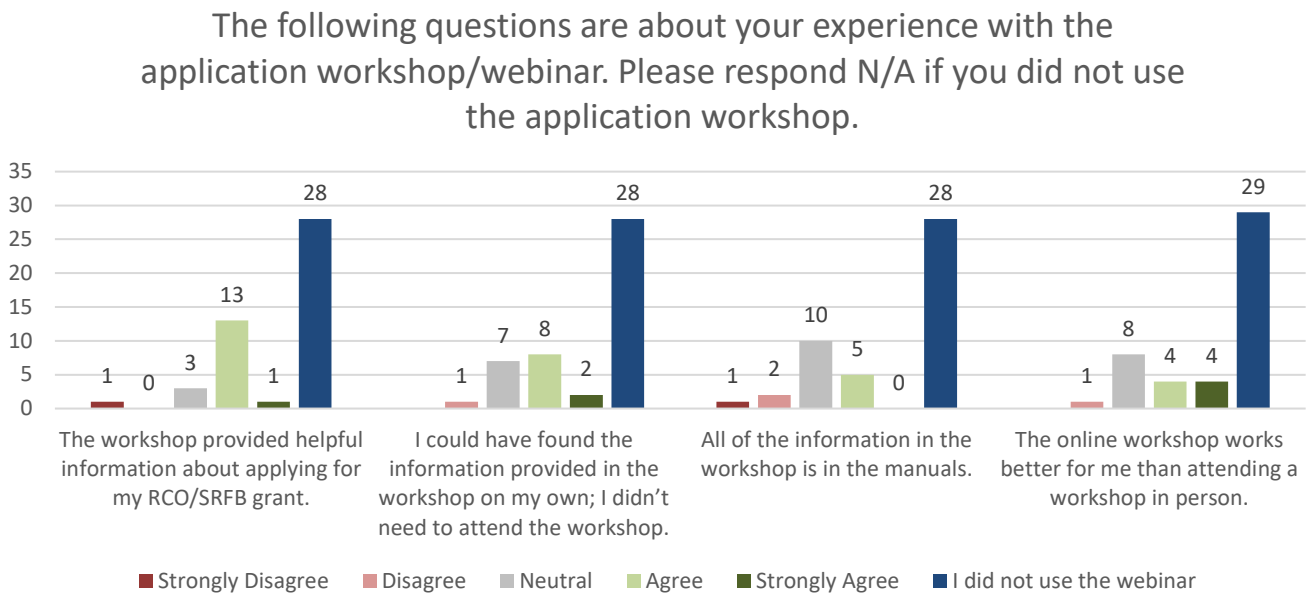
- Respondent comments suggest that there are too many application requirements and those requirements could be clearer.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

What can RCO/SRFB do to improve the application process?
Excess review at the WRIA level has become burdensome.
There's a lot of hidden steps in this process. It appears that applicants put their proposal together by August but in reality everything must be fully figured out by April.
It would help if the PRISM online requirements for attachments matched with the manual checklists
The RCO process/requirements are further complicated by additional forms, databases, and deadlines imposed by lead entities. For example, the LCFRB continues to insist on sponsors duplicating application information into their boondoggle-database, SalmonPORT. This does not add value to sponsors, projects, or RCO, and tends to drive prospective applicants away.
CLEAR and TRANSPARENT with efficiency. None of the By-laws are open to the public.
Every year RCO adds on a new requirement or changes something up, this makes it frustrating having to re-learn the process each year.
I'm responding to this as recipient of regional and lead entity organization grants, which are initiated directly with GSRO and RCO. We'll want to know what our path forward is this spring with Sara's departure....
It was helpful to reach out to RCO contacts along the way to get feedback of the nuances we may have missed.
Less questions

Survey Results: The Application Workshop/Webinar



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The workshop provided helpful information about applying for my RCO/SRFB grant.	**2%**	**7%**	**30%**
I could have found the information provided in the workshop on my own; I didn't need to attend the workshop.	**2%**	**15%**	**21%**
All of the information in the workshop is in the manuals.	**6%**	**22%**	**11%**
The online workshop works better for me than attending a workshop in person.	**2%**	**17%**	**18%**

Notes

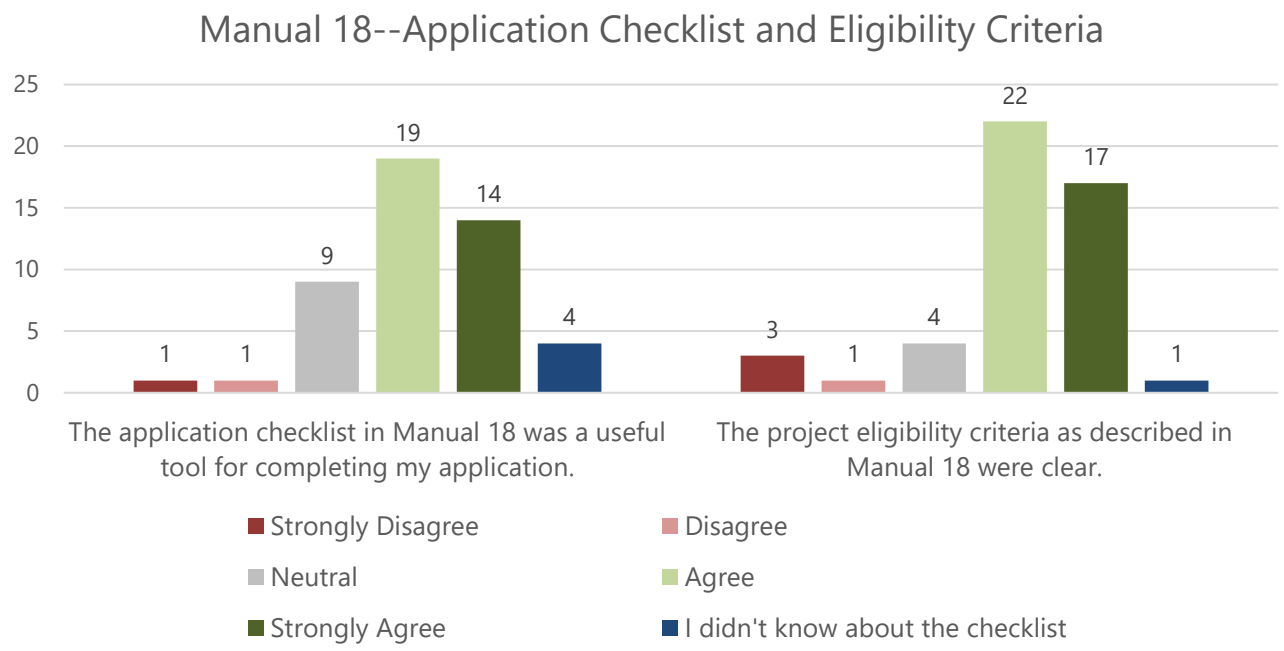
- The majority of respondents (61 percent) indicated they did not participate in the application workshop/webinar.
- Of those who did attend the application workshop/webinar, most preferred a webinar to attending in person.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Please use this space to provide any feedback you have about the application workshop.
I have never attended a workshop nor online training. The manual/talking with lead entity staff has been fine up to now.
I haven't watched one in a long time....
The Workshop would have been very helpful for first-time applicants.
We have used these in past and encouraged our sponsors to.

Survey Results: Manual 18



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool for completing my application.[2]	**4%**	**19%**	**69%**
The project eligibility criteria as described in Manual 18 were clear.	**8%**	**8%**	**81%**

Notes

- Sixty-nine percent of respondents reported that the application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool.
- Only four survey respondents indicated they did not know about the application checklist included in Manual 18. Two of the individuals agreed that the eligibility criteria in Manual 18 were clear.
- Over eighty percent of respondents reported that the project eligibility criteria as described in Manual 18 were clear.
- Respondent comments suggested that the checklist could be more comprehensive.

[2] Two respondents replied that they did not know about the checklist. As a result, this table row does not add up to 100 percent.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Comments on the Application Checklist
I banged out 3 applications with minimal checkin on whether helpful info was available to make them stronger. they were all great projects so I wasn't worried about whether they would get funded.
Please match the online attachment requirements to reflect the checklist
The checklist includes a very large number of references to additional documents, making it quite cumbersome.
Since the application checklist only includes RCO requirements, it is of limited value to applicants.
Nope. Sadly the Lead Entity checklist was more useful.
This checklist is a very key tool in the process
I thought it was a helpful tool, but the timing of when the pieces were due did not always seem to match up to the actual due date.

Comments on the Eligibility Criteria
The list of pre-agreement costs that can be covered could be more specific. Fir instance - it is not clear if on the ground restoration actions implemented prior to agreement could be covered (or used as match)
Year to year changes are hard to keep track off. Suggest placing a sheet at the beginning of Manual 18 stating New This Year or Changes This Year.
The eligibility criteria appear t be clear in Manual 18. The adherence to and interpretation of that criteria by the State Review Panel is inconsistent and not transparent.
The manual is too vague and the references to other manuals isn't clear on the objectives of why it's being referenced.
Chelan County submitted the Wenatchee EDT proposal during the last round, first as an assessment, then changed it to monitoring, then discussed with Review Panel and learned that it probably should have been an assessment from the beginning. The Manual 18 guidance on monitoring project eligibility is unclear if EDT can not be submitted for its data synthesis and analysis purpose. And the Monitoring Panel review process, and the lack of engagement with the Panel built in to the review process, should be addressed. As it stands now, Chelan County will re-submit the EDT proposal this coming round and run it through the SRFB process again.
The eligibility criteria are clear, but we had a situation this year where the monitoring panel raised eligibility questions in November - questions regarding eligibility need to be addressed early in the process.
This is now very clear in Manual 18

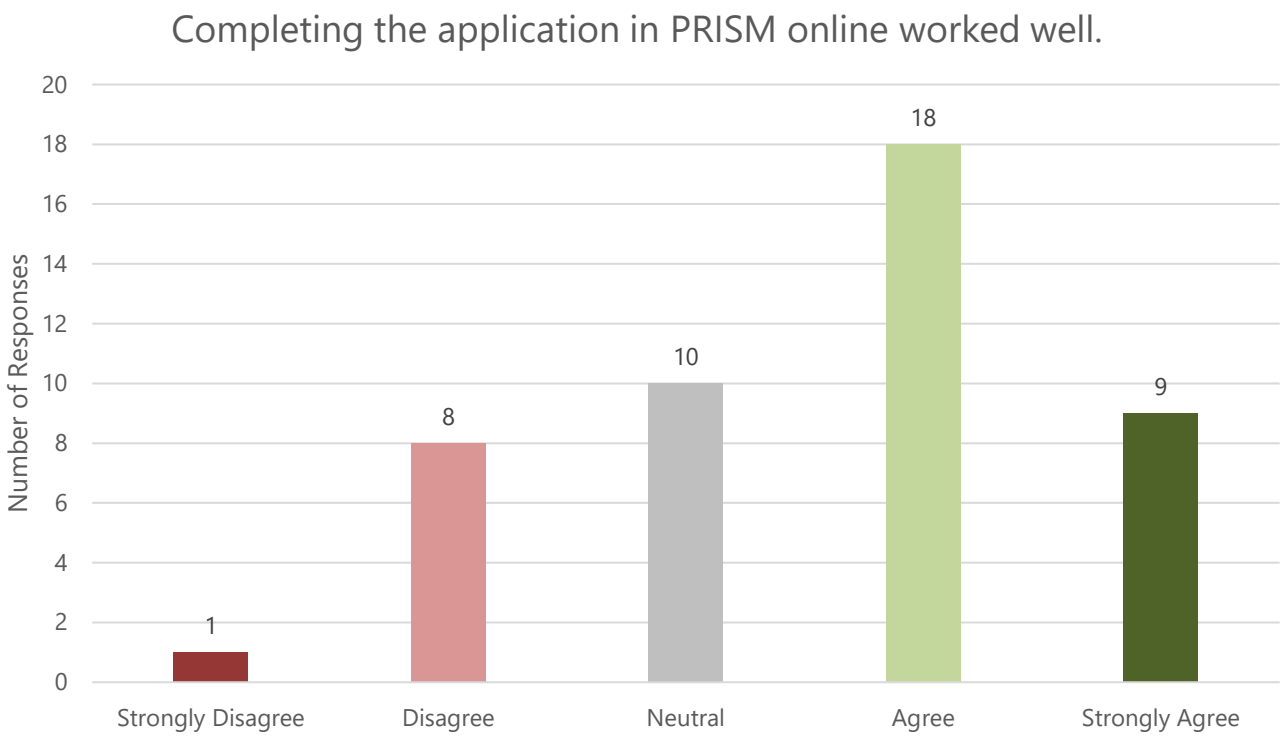
Survey Results: Additional Online Tools Requested

Survey respondents were asked if there were any additional tools RCO could provide.

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

In addition to the manual and application workshop/webinar, are there additional online tools RCO could provide?
I think what RCO has now is fine
Not that I can think of....
Reference manual direction for each part of the application
I think the tools provided for RCO are complete and serve a wide range of applicant experience, providing a wide range of information to sponsors new to process as well as sponsors familiar with the process but just looking to understand what is new to the application process from year to year.
None that I am aware of.
Lead Entity processes further complicate the process. RCO materials only cover the state-level process, but sponsors must abide by the lead entities' process. Ideally, RCO would exercise more top-down control over lead entity processes to keep timelines and requirements clear to sponsors, especially those who apply to multiple lead entities.
Links to current data status of the species (decline, healthy, etc.) for each basin.
I would love a document with all of the questions from the online application so that it is easy to work on them before going online to input the answers.
Online tutorial videos of common misunderstandings for new applicants might be helpful.
The existing checklists and videos are helpful and seem sufficient.

Survey Results: PRISM Online



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
Completing the application in PRISM Online worked well for me.	**19%**	**21%**	**58%**

Notes

- Fifty-eight percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that PRISM Online worked well for them.
- Respondents identified a number of suggested improvements to PRISM Online in their comments.

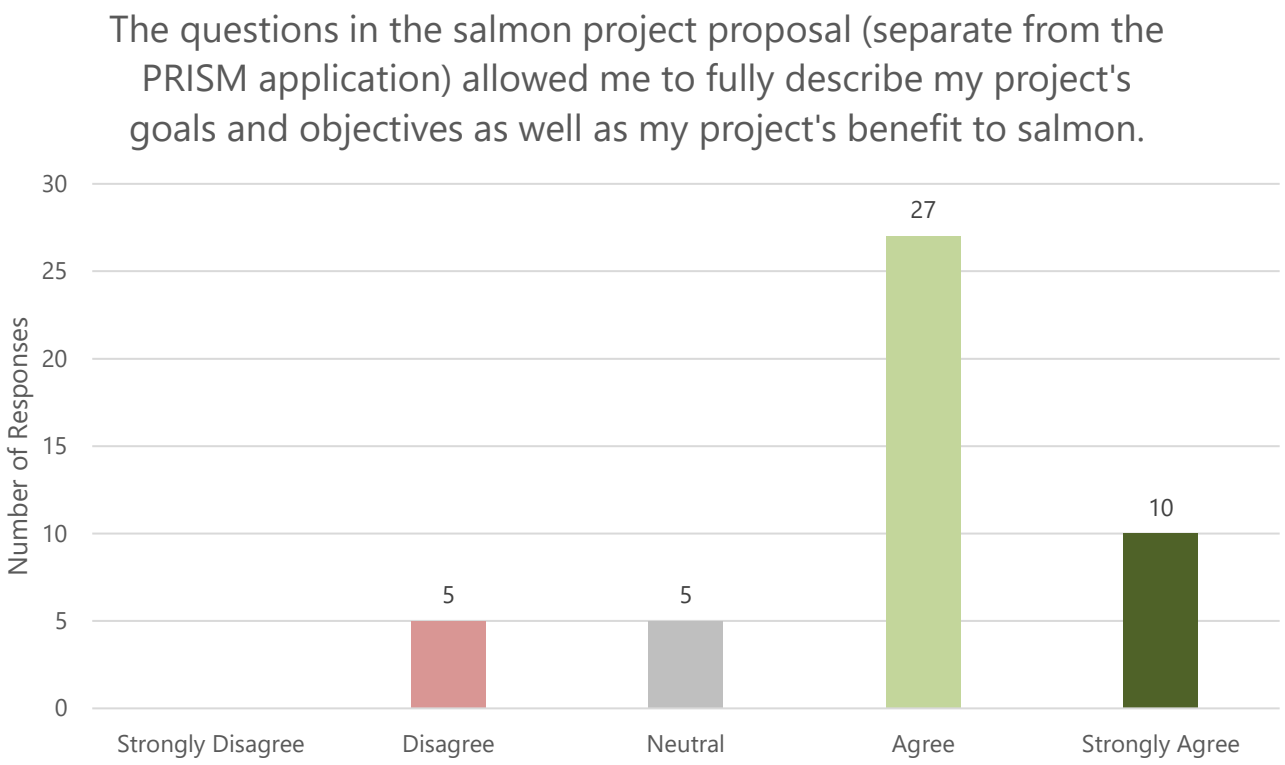
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

What are the top three fixes to PRISM Online we should consider if there is available funding next biennium?
I got a lot of spinning blue circles waiting fir document load up and got timed out of my application a number of times. I think it was more a connectivity issue than PRISM - was the server overloaded?
The process needs additional streamlining. There are too many questions and too much information needed. Salmon port and prism are duplicative.
1) Having the ability to download a spreadsheet of selected sections, and upload back to application screens. With complicated projects covering many worksites and multiple restoration site types (riparian, instream, wetland, etc.), the screens into which we input information end up being pages and pages long, and we have to scroll through all to make corrections to a single site type and metric (riparian, acres treated). 2) The Cost Estimate spreadsheets are linked directly to relevant PRISM sections, and as changes are made, they are reflected, sliced, diced into all the different boxes. OR, the costs in PRISM are able to be downloaded to a spreadsheet, corrected, and uploaded back. (DREAM ON, I know!) 3) Ability to organize the attachments so that we can group like attachments together - i.e. photos, maps, reports, etc.
Proper titles for attachments. Ability for sponsor to delete or exchange attachments, before finalized.
I couldn't remove attachments that were posted as part of the application or early progress work product that I later wanted to remove and replace.
We had an erroneous attachment upload that didn't match anything else in PRISM yet was used as our actual budget despite all evidence to the contrary. Less redundancy for submitting information would reduce the chance of this happening again.
reduce redundancy have a full checklist of required documents improve speed of pages and copy and paste functionality
The application "gets completed" outside of PRISM and then has to be converted into the manner required by PRISM, the region, and HWS, in addition to the reference friendly version required for use by the applicant.
PRISM is a very useful tool but many of the questions are redundant to the both application and to the questions within PRISM.
None for the application process. But as a sponsor of multiple projects, we really miss the ease with which we could simply call up a list of all of our current projects. Now, when I go into PRISM, if I can't remember the project number off the top of my head, I have a heck of a time finding it.
1. A mapping module that is capable of generating project area and DAHP-acceptable APE maps, please! 2. See #1 3. See #2
Make it where I only have to apply once, and then it automatically fills it in ALL the places where RCO and lead entities need it. I have to rewrite and fill in 3+ times and that's not including the paper application
See my commend for #7 below.

I have worked in PRISM many times, and I've been very frustrated by the fact that I can walk away for some time, come back and continue editing, writing, entering data for a good while, and then when I click SAVE, I'm kicked out to the log-in page. I understand the need to log back in after being away for a while, but PRISM shouldn't allow us to continue writing and editing if we're just going to get kicked out upon attempting to save it. A better way to handle this would be to give us a message upfront to log back in once we've been inactive for the time limit. I've lost some good work due to this.
1) Geo - reference. The technology exists to place a dot on a map and populate an application/report with waterbody name, WRIA, ESU's, recovery region, County, landownership, proximity to parks or boat launches, etc.. This would greatly streamline the application. In an ideal situation a GIS Application Tool (GAT) would also populate stream reach or assessment unit and limiting factors or ecological concern. Heck, with the right tool/data it could provide the applicant and reviewer with fish use i.e. spawning info. 2) The metrics should not have costs associated with them, we do not develop cost estimates by those elements and it makes reconciliation with the separate excel cost estimate challenging. 3) identify and eliminate ALL duplicate questions in PRISM and Salmon Project Proposals! Better yet, incorporate the Word portion of our application in an all new on-line application. Start over with the application process! Having the various steps in PRISM and the word document seems rudimentary for the technological age we live in!
Very convenient to have GSRO staff support in this.
Allow PRISM Online to take over all functions of PRISM PROD 2007 and go to a single online portal interface for all PRISM activities. Maintain PRISM Project Search for external partners.
More assistance on filling out the project budget. Without the help of my coworkers who have applied for SFRB in the past I would have had a great deal of trouble.
When entering the restoration metrics, sometimes the different categories and their descriptions can overlap. Further clarification of the descriptions can ovoid sponsors accidentally double dipping. Also, the budget categories and budget summary counts in-kind match (ex. materials inspection, or construction oversight) towards overall construction costs, but that is not always captured in an opinion of probable cost or construction estimate, which is what we base our grant ask and budget around because those will be the actual costs incurred.
Most of the application went smoothly, but I had a difficult time using the budgeting sheet that was supplied for the grant. It was difficult to use when splitting the funds between multiple organizations.

Survey Results: Salmon Project Proposal



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The questions in the salmon project proposal allowed me to fully describe my project's goals and objectives as well as my project's benefit to salmon.	**10%**	**10%**	**77%**

Notes

- Seventy-seven percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the questions in the salmon project proposal helped them to fully describe their project's goals and objectives.
- Many respondent comments indicate that the salmon project proposal includes redundant/repetitive questions.

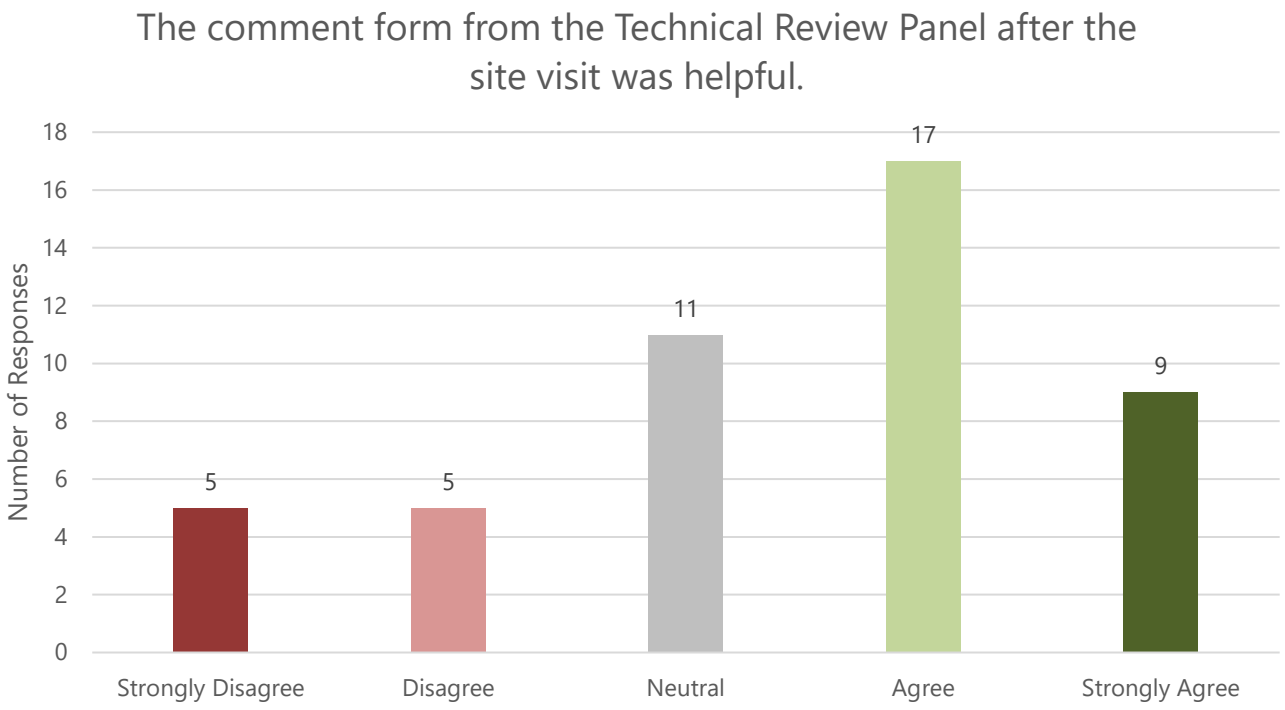
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

How would you improve the project proposal?
Too much replication. Recommend using either the PRISM questions or the uploaded Word format, but not both. Puget Sound ESA-listed species face extinction by bureaucracy.
I'd still love to find a way for forage fish habitat benefits to be specifically identified as a focus fir projects. Along the nearshore and tidelands, protection of the places for salmon food source is a high priority but not easily reflected in the application. Adding a " Other Community Benefits" check box could also be valuable - for example indicating a partnership project, education/outreach, providing new/needed science , etc
The proposal has too many questions and is too long.
I wish the application process was shorter. I spent 40 hours on each application. this time could've been spent on other stewardship work. However I don't have suggestions on how to make it shorter. I have always felt like the RCO staff "get it"... i.e. they care a lot about resource conservation.
Eliminate redundancy.
populate the salmon proposal with data input into PRISM application
There are many overlapping questions; responses from the SRP imply that the same information should be presented in multiple locations to accurately answer each question, making the process redundant.
The application should be shorter both for the applicant and also the review panel. There are similar questions that are redundant and in past instances it was obvious that the review panel either didn't read the application or just missed the answers to their questions. A shorter applications without similar questions would streamline the process.
As with the statement above, some of the questions are redundant.
Remove the paper application
Disagree only for Wenatchee EDT proposal, otherwise process is great.
I feel there is a lot of redundancy between what we are asked to put into PRISM and what is in the project proposal. It feels like we are having to apply for the grant twice. All other grant programs either have an application that is submitted as a PDF, or have an on-line application. That is even true with-in other RCO grant programs such as WWRP. But for some reason on SRFB grants we are asked to do both - online and written application. You are asking too much of sponsors who are generally non-profits who don't have a lot of money/time to spend on an endless grant process that just gets longer each year as more requirements are added. It should be one or the other - written application or on-line - not both!!
Some of these questions seem repetitive to themselves and to what's asked for in PRISM.
Not used for our grants.
This should be something that is filled out online and then can be printed for site visits and sharing with other project sponsors, lead entity partners, etc.
The presentations to the TAG need to be redone. Members of the TAG continuously interrupt the presenters with comments which eat into presentation time. Because of this the project sponsor isn't able to provide enough information on the project. If the TAG would allow the sponsor to finish their presentation and then ask questions the TAG would gain a better understanding of the project, possibly have their questions answered, and not throw a wrench in the presentation.

Make it part of the online application instead of a separate document that needs attached. That is the worst part of the application process.

Survey Results: Technical Review Site Visit Comments



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The comment form from the Technical Review Panel after the site visit was helpful.	**21%**	**24%**	**55%**

Notes

- Fifty-five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the comment form from the Technical Review Panel was helpful. As expected, there was a strong correlation between the response to this statement and the response to "The Review Panel feedback was useful to my project development."
- Some respondents suggested that Review Panel comments did not include enough information.

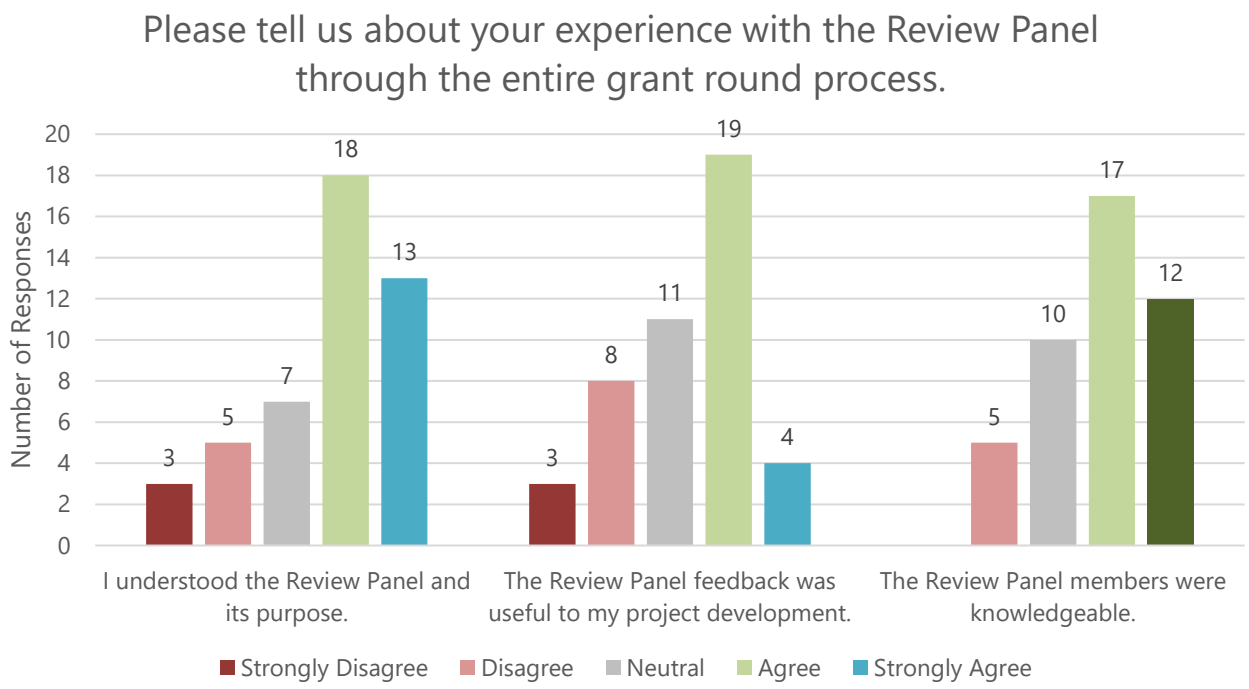
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

How was the comment form helpful? How could the comment form be improved?
Unfortunately I rarely get any substantive feedback from the state TRP - the local TAG is typically where the more robust discussions and adjustments take place.
I continue to believe that the state review panel is not really needed. We have the expertise at the local level to rank projects and to identify those that may not be a good fit for SRFB. That said, I can understand why you need to cover your bases with a secondary review panel. I just don't find their comments terribly helpful.
In one project the review panel disagreed with the local technical review. In another project, the review panel didn't seem to understand the project and asked questions that were already answered in the proposal.
They may be topic experts but they are not project experts. In some cases it seems they don't understand the project yet feel compelled to comment.
Our issue was more with the disparity in comments from one year/panel to the next. However, if the comments and expectations were adequately standardized this would be much less likely to happen.
Provides item specific needs to complete application for final submittal. Communication between panel and applicant could be beefed up within PRISM online
Major issues were raised in the second comment form from the review panel which were well known at the onset of the project but for whatever reason not included in the initial comment form leading to a lot of unnecessary time and expense put toward a project.
Integration of the comment form into the PRISM application would help greatly, so that everything can be tracked and is in one place.
Generally, the review panel comments are useful in confirming that projects are on the right track. If comments are highly critical, it is generally too late, costly, or infeasible to modify the project within the grant round (with the major exception of shifting from construction to design-only).
Too broad, and didn't get a full understanding of what the SRP wanted until after a phone conference
Again, this only concerns Wenatchee EDT, otherwise review panel process is great.
Review panel seems to always look for problems that did not exist.
The technical review panel needs to become better informed on recovery plans and habitat strategies within the LE areas they are assigned to. They are making judgment calls regarding fit to strategy, but frankly have little understanding of LE habitat strategies and their relationship to broader recovery plan priorities. Also, with regard to POC designations, it is absolutely imperative that the review panel provide clear and strong rationale demonstrating that a project would result in low benefits to fish, would have low certainty of success, or high cost relative to benefits, per Manual 18. These are the fundamental POC considerations, and simply checking one of the POC criteria boxes without providing clear and strong rationale as to how that criterion (in light of project specifics) would lead to "violation" of one or more of the three primary POC considerations is simply inadequate. Given that POCs are ultimately not funded, it is incumbent upon the review panel to do a much more transparent and defensible job at demonstrating POC principles are violated.
Not used for our grants.
The form is useful. It was especially useful to have SRFB Review Panel members document specific input from the Lead Entity Project Review Team so that sponsors see coordinated messaging related to their projects.

Some of the comments were useful but it seemed like some members of the TAG must not have paid attention... They asked questions that I specifically addressed, sometimes multiple times, during the site visit.
The comment form gives sponsors the opportunity to respond directly to the comments and also improve upon the proposal.

Survey Results: General Technical Review Panel Feedback



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the Review Panel process and its purpose.	**17%**	**15%**	**66%**
The Review Panel feedback was useful to my project development.	**23%**	**23%**	**49%**
The Review Panel members were knowledgeable.	**11%**	**21%**	**62%**

Notes

- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the Technical Review Panel process and its purpose (66 percent), found the Panel's feedback useful to their project development (49 percent), and found the Panel's members to be knowledgeable (62 percent).
- Respondent comments indicated that some felt the feedback provided by the Technical Review Panel could come earlier in the process to be more beneficial.

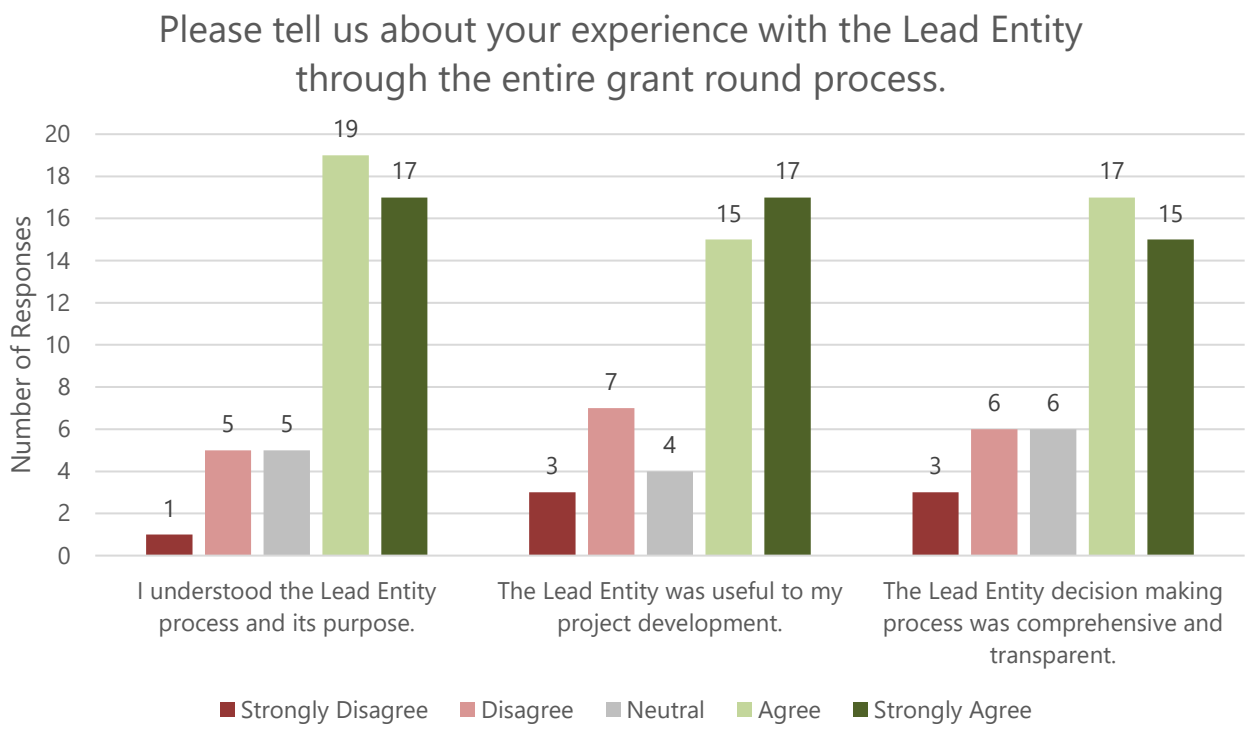
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Please provide feedback on your experience with the Review Panel.
They are never going to know as much as the local technical experts. Most rounds, we just waste time getting them up to speed on what we need to be doing in the Stillaguamish.
While the review panel members are incredibly knowledgeable (and impressive high level professionals), they don't understand local priorities. Local technical review is much more effective, helpful, productive and appropriate.
All our SRFB projects are about invasive species. Some review panel members have experience, but many do not, and some don't believe they are necessary to be included in salmon recovery proposals. We understand this is an ongoing process of evolution, but encourage the RCO to expect experts to know or at least actually read through background provided in applications and project reports. For instance, we regularly get told by 'experts' that it's not possible to control reed canarygrass, when we are doing it quite effectively.
Again, we received contradictory feedback from the review panel in two years and this severely impacted our proposal process. We felt disconnected from the reviewers and unsure how to get at the heart of criticism more than once so we could properly address it. Using the Lead Entity as mediator is ineffective.
As mentioned before, the SRP chose to wait until the last minute to bring up what they saw as fatal flaws even though these issues were present at the onset of the project proposal. This creates a massive waste of time and money and makes the SRP's role seem very unhelpful.
The review panel comment are useful and members are very knowledgeable. In some instances I have felt the review panel comments over-reach and try to dictate or change the scope of work, not just related to fatal flaws, but with what they think should be done putting sponsors in a difficult position with respect cost, budget, and realistic deliverable management.
By the time the Review Panel is involved, project development is largely complete. They provide a valuable backstop to keep "dogs" from moving forward through the POC designation. Review Panel POC designations should preclude funding consideration at the SRFB.
While the Review Panel Comments are useful on occasion this can set the project schedule back as it takes more than 30 days to receive comments. I think it might be helpful if reviewers set a 30 minute conference call with the sponsor to discuss the plans within 30 days after posting them so the sponsor can better understand the comments and has a date set to expect comments back.
The stubbornness and the lack of ideological, paradigm shift of the SRP really caused a conundrum on how to communicate a project more clearly for them to understand the importance and the viability of a project. The fact that they have been so removed from a region, where their expertise is only based on hear-say is not a valid argument. In this day in age where the extinction of a species is on the brink, to the point where creative exploration of sources of cold, fresh, untouched watersheds is not even a possibility is just preposterous.

I think that there is too much subjectivity creeping into the review panel. There may be conflicts of interests as well that are hard to guard for. For example, one panel member was recommending a "new method" for us to employ that was being developed by the firm they worked for. We did not employ this "method" but found it strange that they were recommending it. That said, most tech panel folks are great to work with.
Review Panel seems to forget from year to year which projects are important to the lead entity
Generally I find the technical review panel to be out of touch with what is happening on the ground in the WRIA, and feel they often over-reach their authority regarding their ideas and demands on how a project should be changed. RCO needs to give them better instructions on what their scope and purpose is (or should be.)
See comments above regarding POCs. While RP members are knowledgeable, they need to do a much more thorough job at providing rationale if they believe a project is a POC. This includes providing very clear rationale and narrative that conclusively demonstrates how a project violates the fundamental POC considerations relating to benefits to fish, certainty and cost. Simply checking a criterion box and providing generalized comments is insufficient, and undermines confidence in the review process. Also, the RP needs to engage at the early project review stage, as proposed in LEAN.
The review panel members need to be funded to have more dedicated time to understand each project within the context of local salmon recovery needs and challenges.
The review panel asks good questions and tends to target potential problems in the proposals. It would be more helpful to hear potential solutions, such as better alternative approaches to our proposals. This would convey more clear support for our efforts.
Although our final review forms came in too late and in order to meet conditions we had to modify the scope after the citizen presentations and ranking. ideally we're making all scope changes before final scoring and ranking takes place.
We do work with Review Panel as a Lead Entity, and look forward to working through the LEAN proposed changes with them.
Their feedback was critical in helping certain sponsors understand what makes a successful project.
The review panel has a wealth of knowledge and helped me develop a strong project. However, a few of the people on the review panel seem to not review the projects very thoroughly and interrupt presentations when it isn't appropriate. Often if they read the application more thoroughly or let the sponsor finish their presentation they would have their questions/concerns addressed.
The review panel is an extremely valuable tool in the grant review process. The feedback and questions help project sponsors build stronger projects both with current applications during review and future applications.
Didn't interact with Review Panel.

Survey Results: Lead Entity Experience



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the Lead Entity process and its purpose.	**13%**	**10%**	**75%**
The Lead Entity was useful to my project development.	**21%**	**8%**	**67%**
The Lead Entity decision making process was comprehensive and transparent.	**19%**	**13%**	**67%**

Notes

- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the Lead Entity process and its purpose (75 percent), found the Lead Entity useful to their project development (67 percent), and thought the Lead Entity's decision making process was comprehensive and transparent (67 percent).

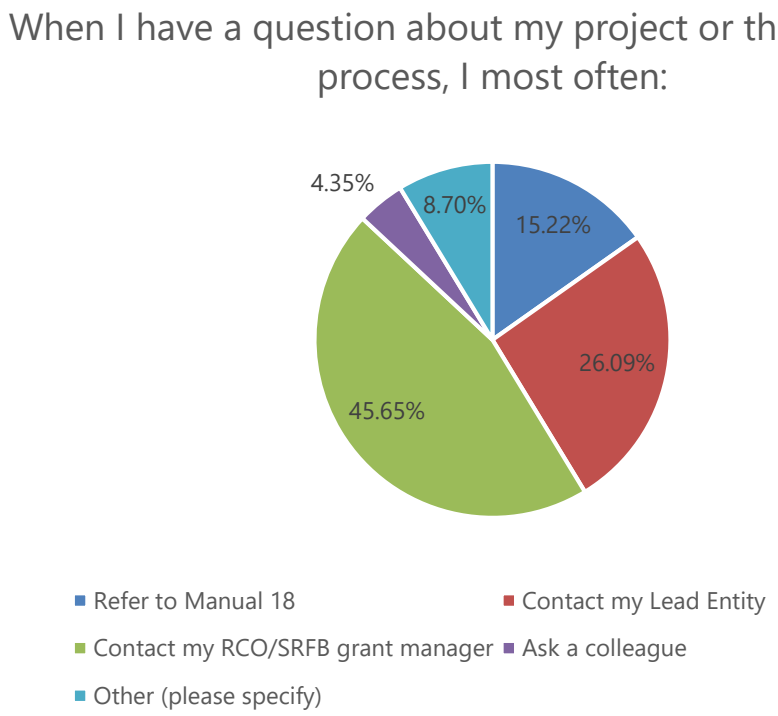
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Please provide feedback on your experience with the Lead Entity.
Layers upon layers of bureaucracy are stifling expedient restoration. Also, risk averse local government project sponsors focus grant funds on designing projects with no commitment to their construction. Way too much grant funding is being wasted in this way. Does RCO know what kind of on-the-ground restoration and protection return they are getting on the state's investment?
Our lead entity works well in the Stillaguamish. Kit and his team do great work.
I work with more than one lead entity. In general, lead entities and regional staff need to be sure to clearly and repeatedly state their role as facilitators and not express opinions about the merits of projects during the review phase. Meetings and site visits need good planning and stronger facilitation so that each project gets a fair review and certain voices don't carry more weight than they should in the process. Applicants invest a tremendous amount of $ in the application process. Applicant time needs to be treated respectfully. Also, a higher level of professional should be required so that applicants don't end up feeling mistreated in the process.
Too many per-application presentations.
We had an uneven experience with our Lead Entity that created uncertainty in how to frame our proposal and contributed to proposed budget issues with the local review panel and RCO review panel. While very positive and responsive to questions, there were also key areas where transparency and clarity were lacking. We were not given important updates on the status of the review process or what information we should expect to receive that informed the status of our proposal. We were also led to believe that our final proposal is what would be reviewed not interim versions. However, our draft materials were ultimately what was used for meeting with RCO and strongly influenced the experience with the local review panel as well. We were incredibly frustrated by this inconsistency in expectations.
The LE did not have the coordinating role that would be valuable. They tend to separate their role from the processes of the technical review team, state review panel, regional project identification and prioritization, and other funding sources. It would be much more valuable if they coordinated across these realms to assist sponsors with bringing forward quality projects, making funding more efficient, and making decision making and priorities aligned across review groups (or at least not in opposition).
The Lower Columbia process is needlessly complex, competitive, and adversarial (between sponsors and the lead entity). In general, the LCFRB does not add value to project identification, development, prioritization, or implementation.
Understandably it was a transition period, but the Lead Entity lacked the knowledge and skill to help Sponsors prepare, answer questions and guide people through the process. Also the fact that the Lead Entity was away during the last 10 days before applications are due. Highly unacceptable when you're trying to get things answered and completed.
The RTT in our region is not transparent and is clearer biased. The RTT takes an adversarial approach to sponsors, instead of the RTT being a group that helps sponsors produce better projects/applications.
Our lead entity coordinator is new and learning but very good with the process. In the upper columbia, the lead entity does not have a project development role.

The Klickitat Lead Entity is not always very transparent or comprehensive in communicating the process, the timeline, the various roles and authority of involved parties. The people involved provide great feedback to the process, and the project sponsors gain a lot of important information from the local lead entity committees, but the overall process is not very clear.
Often it seems to me that the stated goals of my Lead Entity's ranking process conflict with what I understand to be good science and the outcomes from project rankings
We love our lead entity and think they do an amazing job!
I am the Lead Entity Coordinator so I feel these statements are true for other sponsors. They have acknowledged this when asked but I am never completely sure. They do struggle with different neighboring Lead Entities having unique processes but I think that is somewhat unavoidable.
The lead entity did a fantastic job. However, they need more ground rules to keep the TAG from running over project sponsors.
Some lead entity members are also SRFB office board members and project sponsors. The lead entity scorecard has sliding scale point values. This can lead to a wide range of points possible based on personal bias on the sliding scale sections.
Sorry I don't know about the Lead Entity

Survey Results: How Applicants get Questions Answered

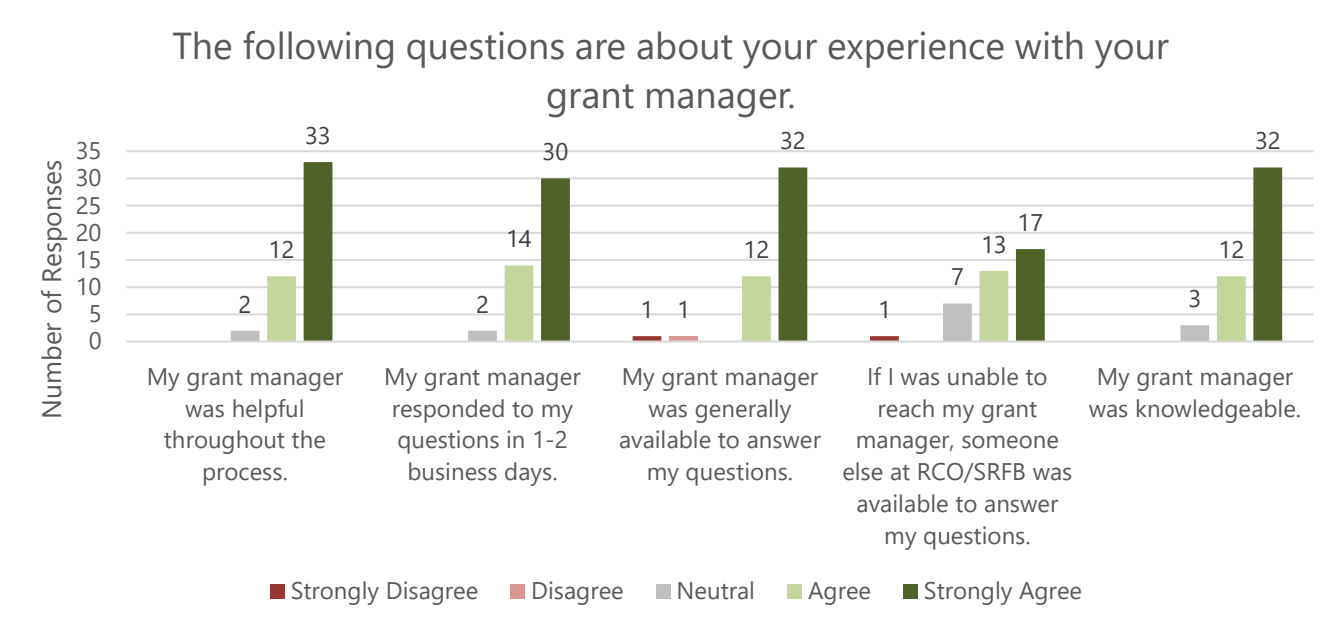


Other, if specified:
Any of the above depending on the question and context.
All of the above, depending on the question.
Start with Manual, move to Lead Entity and then RCO staff
Usually in this order: Manual first, then coworker, then lead entity finally RCO

Notes

- Nearly half of respondents identified their RCO/SRFB grant manager as the resource they use most often when they have questions about their project or the RCO/SRFB process.
- Of those respondents who indicated they most often use a resource other than their RCO/SRFB grant manager to answer questions, 96 percent responded in a separate section of the survey that they found their grant manager to be helpful throughout the grant round.

Survey Results: Grant Manger Feedback



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
My grant manager was helpful throughout the process.	**0%**	**4%**	**90%**
My grant manager responded to my questions in 1-2 business days.	**0%**	**4%**	**88%**
My grant manager was generally available to answer my questions.	**4%**	**0%**	**88%**
If I was unable to reach my grant manager, someone else at RCO/SRFB was available to answer my questions.[3]	**2%**	**14%**	**60%**
My grant manager was knowledgeable.	**0%**	**6%**	**88%**

Notes

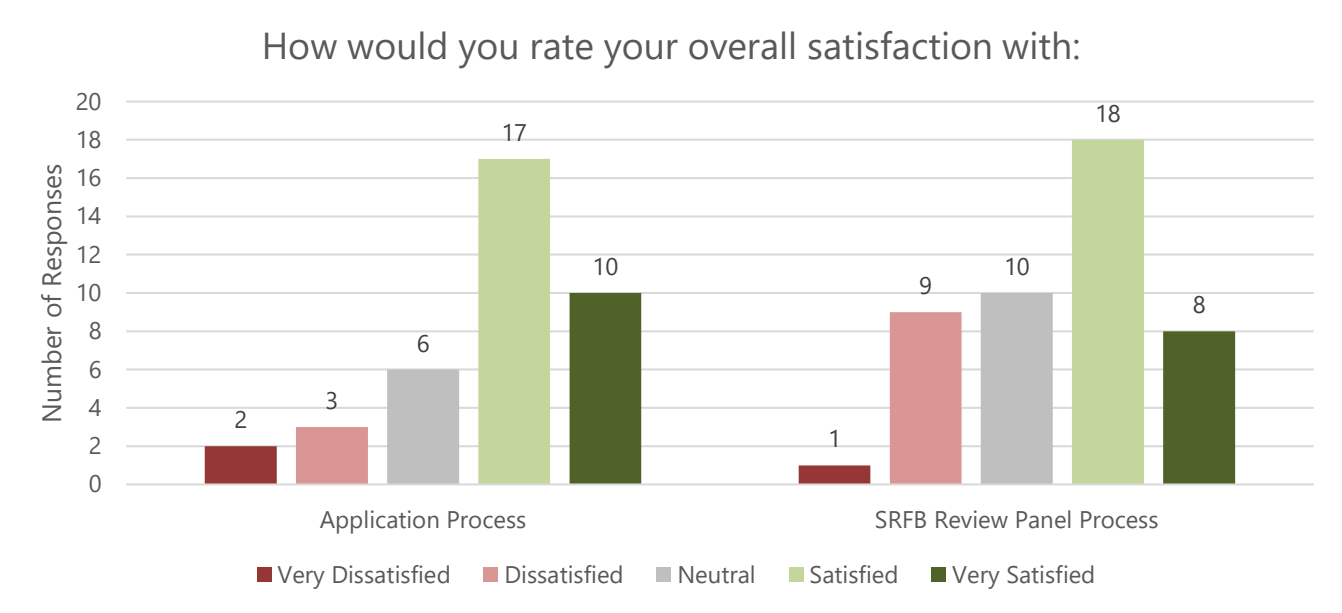
- Both the survey results and comments indicate that grant managers are an integral part of the grant process.
- Of the respondents who included comments, most were positive.

[3] Seventeen respondents (34 percent) responded N/A to this question. Presumably some of these respondents didn't need to contact other staff at RCO/SRFB because their grant manger was available to answer questions.

Customer Comments

Please use this space to provide any feedback you have about your experience with your grant manager or other RCO/SRFB staff.
RCO staff are the best! For new grant managers encourage them to vett sponsor questions a bit with other seasoned managers prior to responding. I had a few situations where the original information/guidance provided by newish grant manager changed over time.
Amee has been one of my favorite grant managers over the past 19 years of grant management. She's consistently fun to work with, while still getting things done.
For the most part, our grant managers are extremely helpful, responsive, and professional. There have been a few rare times where we would have appreciated the grant manager asking for clarification on a billing or report prior to assuming something.
third question above seems to conflict with question #2
Our grant manager is extremely supportive.
Our grant manager made every effort to handle the many hurdles, inconsistencies, questions and issues we experienced and advocate for our project and situation as much as was possible. The openess and thoroughness was absolutely appreciated.
RCO grant managers provide a high level of service to sponsors and are always available with prompt and valuable advice/help.
My grant manager was tied up with a health issue, so there wasn't much interaction.
Josh is available, friendly, and responsive. Alice, Kat, Dave, and Tara are available, friendly, responsive, extremely knowledgeable, proactive, creative, and adept at solving problems and suggesting solutions.
I have always had great interaction with grant managers.
Marc is outstanding across the board.
SRFB grant managers are the best out of all the grant programs (local, state and federal) that I have interacted with. The only caveat is a few of the grant managers can be real sticklers on minutia and it is frustrating to sponsors who are trying to complete projects. Let's not have a grant manager be the reason a project can't get completed over some totally minor issue that most of the other grant managers wouldn't be concerned about.
We did have a lot of transition with Mike Ramsey leaving and then a new staff person (who then went on maternity). Things went alright but it was a bit harder than usual jumping between staff.
Dave Caudill is a rock star grant manager! The SRFB application process and project implementation benefits enormously from Dave's work as a grant manager.
When we have come up against project challenges, such as private landowners that are difficult or change their mind, we have had reasonably good support from our grant manager, however I have felt very limited support from other RCO/SRFB staff (e.g. our grant manager's supervisors).
Very pleased with my grant manager
Both Sara (our grant manager) and Kay (grant manager for all the projects in our area) are awesome to work with.
RCO Grant Managers use a team approach so that others can help if they are unavailable. Kat Moore is also a very knowledgeable resource for more nuanced questions.
The grant manager was excellent
Cay is super helpful and approachable. She was able to bust through the complication and guide to simplicity.

Survey Results: Overall Satisfaction



	Percent Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied	Percent Neutral	Percent Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Application Process	**13%**	**16%**	**71%**
SRFB Review Panel Process	**22%**	**22%**	**57%**

Notes

- A majority of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the application process and the SRFB Review Panel process.
- Some respondent comments indicated that the application process is too lengthy.

Customer Comments

Comments
Just not getting much feedback or a sense of their knowledge about priority habitats. Functions, etc for our area of the state. I do think some have good construction/ design expertise which can helpful.
I wish the applications did not take so long to complete
It's cumbersome! Lots of time required. I understand why, though.
I answered neutral because the last couple years really seemed weak in terms of review panel feedback and interaction.
There are too many steps to the application process with the state process/ forms, the regional process/forms and the many layers of review and revision.

The RCO application process is needlessly long and complex, made much, much more so by the LCFRB process.
The application process for the Lower Columbia is more arduous than the process for other lead entities and seems a bit excessive..
I'm not sure what you mean by "review panel" process. As I said above, I am not satisfied with the technical review process, but the scoring process at the Lead Entity is transparent and fair, so I am satisfied with that.
The process is very long and drawn out.
The Monitoring Panel review process needs to provide for meaningful and timely discourse between sponsors, LE, Region and the panel, as well as a timely response. This year we received final POC decisions two working days before final project lists were due, which is simply unacceptable.
Review panel members need one on one time with grant applicants and local technical staff to better understand the individual projects so they can provide more detailed assistance to refine projects outside of the large group project tours.
Despite being satisfied, I am encouraged by the adopted recommendations from the Lean Study for 2020.
The local regional technical team (RTT) may review and offer suggestions. Then the state review panel offers suggestions. Sometimes these two groups offer differing opinions which can lead to back and forth revisions for project sponsors.

Survey Results: Other Program Suggestions

Survey respondents suggested the following grant programs work better than the RCO/SRFB process:

- Fisheries Restoration Program in California
- Department of Ecology Section 319
- FFFPP
- King County Flood CWM Grants

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Is there another grant program that you think works better than the RCO/SRFB process? Based on your experience with other grants, what could RCO/SRFB adopt from other grant programs?
RCO excels at managing multiple grant programs and multiple project contracts. Large, complex, costly urban restoration work often requires multiple funding sources. RCO would benefit from using the Ecology Combined Funding Program model, with one application qualifying for funding from multiple grant and loan sources. RCO would also benefit from embracing compensatory mitigation funding to accelerate restoration work.
No - you guys are the model
I think it is probably the best grant process, even with the minor flaws, that we deal with in Salmon Recovery
More streamlining. Eliminate the state level review panel. Clarify roles of fiscal agents, lead entities, regions. Try to reduce conflicts of interest in the review process. Shorten the application. Much of what is requested in the application could be collected later only for funded-projects; rather than asking for all this information up front.
what would happen if the Review Panel reviewed applicant preproposals, Green-lighted projects with merit, and then applicants filled out a much shorter application.
We rank our many grants on how much work it will take to apply in relation to chances of getting funding. SRFB had consistently been one of the our highest ranked grants. Over the last several years additional per-application requirements (meetings) have become burdensome making other grants a better use of our limited time.
King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grants. Simple, straightforward application, no manual, no match requirement, flexible.
I think the system could be streamlined. The review period is challenging due to our climate and access availability in May June can be limited
Ecology centennial / 319 grants.
No, the SRFB process is the most transparent and straight forward process I'm aware of.
NO- the RCO/SRFB process, while lengthy provide the best balance of opportunity for sponsors to explain the project is written and hands-on form with the application process and site visits. In my experience it is model for other programs, particularly in the way it values decision making at the local level, while providing regional guidance on good project design and execution.
I work with many granting agencies, and RCO still sets the gold standard.
No
No - I think the RCO/SRFB process is great. I appreciate learning about the other projects at presentations and site visits and hearing the comments. It's like a local Salmon Recovery conference.
Most other grant processes are faster, more streamlined, more efficient, and require far less up-front investment by prospective sponsors. One application, one deadline, one review, one funding decision, done. The most successful SRFB projects tend not to change over the course of the SRFB grant round.

I just wrote the Floodplains by Design Grant application and scored high. The RCO/SRFB process is much more user friendly than Ecology's.
I've never found an easier program to work with than FFFPP. Not sure how to transfer that to SRFB process. Because FFFPP provides engineers to the projects, we avoid the need to go through a professional bid process. That may shift the cost to RCO, but it could make the overall project cost lower.
As mentioned above, I think ANY grant program works better that SRFB in that they either have a written application or on-line application, not both. That is what you should adopt - one method or the other. Asking sponsors to spend hours in PRISM and then more hours on the written application is a total waste of sponsors' time.
can't think of any right now
It would be great if state agencies could coordinate on similar formats to reduce the overall governmental burden created by applicants having to learn a number of different formats. Please work with Ecology to replace EAGL with PRISM.
This is one of the best, aside from differences that I have with the Lead Entity's decision-making
SRFB and GSRO need to provide leadership in streamlining the permitting processes. Can we get some kind of HCP from the federal govt agencies where our grant review processes satisfy some/all of the various factions of regulation? Maybe this is a pipe dream, but if there was regulatory streamlining we could save a lot of money and work toward recovery at a much faster clip!
I would look over materials related to the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program from CA. I would not say this program works better but each program has their strengths and they are running the same program but without Lead Entities. It is an excellent model for answering the question, "What value do Lead Entities provide to a PCSRF based salmon grant program?"
The WA Dept. of Ecology application window are more concise. While it doesn't offer the intimate interaction with RTT or the local SRFB office, it provides application material needed to review a project. Perhaps, edit the grant application process to include a hybrid such as initial pre-application goes through review by RTT, once RTT gives ok, proceed with documentation (Ecology type). Be done within 2-4 months.
No

Survey Results: What is the worst part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?

Thirty-seven respondents chose to answer this open-ended question. Their comments were roughly categorized as follows:

What Causes Frustration	Number of Responses
The Application	12
Process Complexity/Duration	10
Review Panel (SRFB and Local)	9
Other	6

The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question.

The Application

Comments
The lengthy, multi-faceted application process consumes way too much of sponsor staff's limited capacity. Why, with the exhaustive Lead Entity vetting and ranking process is a second exhaustive SRFB review team vetting needed? Instead, fund LE ranked projects with funds available and have done. Also, low-performing project sponsors need to be called out with a summary performance report card delivered to TOP ORG MANAGEMENT, and sponsors sanctioned when grant projects are not successfully completed.
Trying to submit an application on the deadline day with PRISM thinking it's done for the day...
application processes - sometimes vague and/or buried within the manuals or incomplete instructions ... or maybe just difficult for new folks to wrap their heads around it all
Long application with redundant questions.
It's a lengthy application with a lot of technical detail that is challenging to complete for organizations with less biology experience.
The Powerpoint presentations if/when required.
Working through the application. It is mundane work, but I have no complaints.
Our lead entity requires a pre-application, draft applicaiton, and a final application, each with required meetings for sponsors. Though I assume that this is the lead entity's choice, and not directed by RCO.
The pdf application and the technical review panel.
The lengthy and redundant application process, and the fact that just about every grant cycle you have added additional materials or requirements that just add more burden for the sponsor.
The application process is long! Pre-application workshop is held late January early February and final applications due in July with post comments that can extend through October. This means lots of start/stop labor time vs. a grant application time window that is limited to one or two seasons.
PRISM can be challenging

Process Complexity and Duration

Comments

The grant application has too many questions and too much process. It is too time consuming / expensive for applicants to apply. Meetings and site visits are not always well planned or well facilitated, leading to poor results. Technical and citizen reviewers need materials (paper and digital) ahead of meetings so they can come prepared.
time consuming
It's long, with too many steps and hidden steps within was looks from the outside to be a reasonable and straightforward process. The actual point of real proposal review is not transparent or fair.
The many many layers of bureaucracy and review mean that lots of money goes to places other than project development and implementation.
It just keeps getting more complicated. But I appreciate that that's mainly due to legislative pressure.
The process...the time, the number of forms, the number of presentations/reviews/site visits, the multiple layers of review (1. lead entity staff, 2. lead entity technical committee, 3. SRFB Review Panel review, 4. lead entity staff (again) 5.lead entity technical committee (again) 6. lead entity community/board review, 7. SRFB Review Panel review (again), 8. SRFB review/approval).
The Application, review, review, presentation, review, presentation, review, rebuttal, review, possible award. All of which the sponsor has to be hand-in-hand with the RCO/SRFB for the entire process.
10 month from pre-proposal to securing funding is tough (and then some of the funds are not available for another 6 months).
The time required to apply. It's quite an iterative process that takes a lot of time that we usually can't afford.
The length of time it takes. This will be addressed in 2020 per the Lean Study recommendations.

Review Panel (SRFB and Local)

Comments
Playing the match game. Educating the review panel
The technical review panel. The are rushed to review projects and in some cases do not seem to understand the project yet somehow they seem to carry as much weight as the WRIA technical panel.
The state level process
The inability to communicate with the Review Panel.
As much as the review panel comments are a great part of the process, the two rounds of review comments are often redundant and sometimes result in either over-reach by the review panel or indicate an incomplete review of the project proposal they are providing comments on.
Both the RP and MP review processes need a major overhaul. There needs to be more accountability and transparency in decision-making at the RP and MP levels, and more deference should be given to the LEs and/or Regions as they fully understand the local habitat strategies and fit to broader recovery plan priorities.
The technical and citizen review committee's should require that board positions rotate amongst different stakeholder entities.
Complications of review process and overlapping review groups
The presentations and site visit to the TAG need to be redone. Members of the TAG continuously interrupt the presenters with comments which eat into presentation time. Because of this the project sponsor isn't able to provide enough information on the project. If the TAG would allow the sponsor to finish their presentation and then ask questions the TAG would gain a better understanding of the project, possibly have their questions answered, and not throw a wrench in the presentation. TAG members also owe it to the sponsor to thoroughly read each application before submitting comments.

Other

Comments
Poorly informed LE tech and citizen committees where members haven't been sufficiently exposed to new science, or have minds closed to new information. Members should have to meet a certain level of knowledge in the breadth of possible projects before them?
redundancy. Final Billing.
Match requirement. Hoop jumping.
Avoiding scheduling conflicts
Subjective nature of local lead entity group
I wish it were biennial. 2X more money would equal larger projects, free up limited sponsor capacity to implement and develop projects(instead of the time consuming annual grant rounds), lower SRFB process overhead freeing up even more money for projects! It's a win-win except for maybe the few that depend on the process.

Survey Results: What is the best part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?

Thirty-five respondents chose to answer this open-ended question. The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question. Due to the variety of responses, they were not split into categories.

Comments
PRISM is pretty user-friendly (expect the metric choices). WA Ecology should have tagged onto PRISM rather than investing in the nightmarish EAGL system.
The lead entity discussions and working together to identify priority projects and working with RCO grant managers.
The consistent funding, great staff, clear focus on salmon recovery.
Local input.
The people! Lots of GREAT people involved!
Success. Hitting SUBMIT.
Access to an experienced and knowledgeable local Citizens and Technical Committees. SRFB staff are top notch and highly knowledgeable.
The lead entity process
Getting the award. lol
Grant manager and review panel
Issues of the past have been resolved through experience over time.
Great staff to work with in both the LE and RCO/SRFB
The RCO grant managers and site visits with the Lead Entity review panels, RCO staff, and tech review panel members. This allows for a greater depth of understanding of projects and spurs useful discussions.
There's always a spirit of, we're here to help you succeed.
The ability to present projects, have them reviewed, and then tweaking them based on that review is incredibly helpful in delivering complete, well-thought-out products.
See above
Grant managers.
The interaction and useful feedback from the field visits.
Funding source
Ha! Getting the grant.
annual grant rounds. please do not go to a biennial cycle, it will make restoration project implementation very difficult.
It is still the best option for projects with budgets in the $100,000-$500,000 range for us, because of the funds available to our region, and to the 15% match required for construction.
The PRISM application is fairly straight forward.
Getting a project funded.
We do love the local review and use of local priorities.
The local review and prioritization.
Dave Caudill
Local experts on our technical committee help refine project proposals through the review process.
Promise of funding for good projects, lengthy enough process to flesh out projects and help identify areas for improvement

RCO is exemplary because of the supportive culture. It's exhausting working with state and federal agencies that are not supportive or collaborative of salmon recovery. RCO (and the grant managers) finds ways to say yes, where other agencies find reasons to say no!
Iterative chance to build the best proposal possible
The extensive technical review and site visits
Working with experts in the field to develop a quality project. Also the process is designed to fund the projects with that are most useful to fish. This is the most important aspect and if my project ranks lower than others that have a greater benefit to fish than I am happy with the outcome. In the end the process is all about the fish
The site visits, presentations, and review panel comments, questions, and feedback.
I really enjoyed seeing all of the sites that were proposed through the RCO/SRFB grant process. Site visits can be more descriptive than a written application, and I hope that they continue.

Survey Results: Additional Feedback

Eighteen respondents chose to answer this open-ended question, and provide additional suggestions or comments. The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question. Due to the variety of responses, they were not split into categories.

Comments
Simplify everything. We know what needs to be done to recover Puget Sound salmon stocks, so lets just get on with it or call it a day.
Remove match!
Require lead entity coordinators to have the appropriate technical, administrative, and facilitation skills to do the job. RCO should not pay for lead entity coordinators that don't have the skills to run the process. Remove the regional certification for monitoring projects. this prevents good projects from applying. Eliminate salmon port.
NOAA/NMFS fish-centric metrics don't allow accurate ranking or reporting of invasive plant impacts or project benefits to salmon recovery, nor to the need to repeat/repeat/repeat treatments each year. Need to incorporate weed-free materials and clean equipment in project requirements, and to identify invasive species on site, or that will be delivered to the restoration project site by wind, water, animals, roads, quads, etc. etc. Project sponsors shouldn't necessarily be responsible for including treatment... but they need to be called out, because they will impair recovery and reduce the value of the restoration investment. This will help build other programs to address them. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. And for the sincere attempt to improve based on user experience.
overall, once I had experience it is a good process with lots of accountability checks. Thanks for all the hard work RCO.
Go to every other year and try to incentivize alignment from other funding sources to allow for larger projects. Remove POCs at the earliest possible opportunity.
One hiccup was a discrepancy about when the applicant should specify if they have a preferred funding source. Because of project timelines and budget availability, it should be made clear that the applicant preference should be stated before the LE/Grant Manager allocates the funds.
It's a wonderful, thoughtful process and worthy of funding in its own right.
The SRFB Lean study correctly identified a major issue: the process is too long, too complicated, and too varied from LE to LE. The solution (tweaks to timelines) was inadequate. The obvious move is to solicit applications, review them, and make a funding decision. Three months, tops.
Keep up the great work, and thanks for doing what you do.
In general the technical review panel do not seem to base their recommendations on what is happening on the ground. Several times individuals have made recommendations based on incorrect understanding of the science around restoration and over-reached their authority by pushing their ideas as opposed to reviewing the proposed project as it is. In addition, the application process would be greatly improved if the written application was eliminated and the PRISM system was used fully with an appropriate number of attachments. Both an online application and written application is not needed - please pick one and stick with it.
Having different budget categories that are on PRISM and in the cost estimate worksheet is confusing and a time-suck.
Acquisition projects are untenable under the current guidance from SRFB. The restriction is that SRFB financial resources can only be used to purchase a 300 foot swath along a river corridor. Selling a strip of land in the middle of an ownership is an untenable proposal to landowners. The acquisition requirements should be changed to be more applicable without the added complexity of acquiring funds for upland portions from

other sources in order to make an acquisition proposal acceptable to landowners. Alternatively, acquisition efficacy should be evaluated across the state and the category should be considered to be modified or discontinued.
Continue/increase state oversight of Lead Entities, especially those who also sponsor projects. Perhaps Lead Entities shouldn't also be able to submit project proposals? Ranked lists sometimes seem skewed against others who compete against their Lead Entity's projects.
Excited to see the LEAN proposals to revise the grant round move forward.
Better coordination between RCO and Regional Recovery Organization staff
All sponsors should be held to the same standard when submitting a project proposal. It seemed that some sponsors turned in rather incomplete proposals and but were allowed to turn in documents late because their project was perceived as a likely high ranking project. All sponsors should have the right documents submitted on time or their application should be rejected.
Overall the RCO/SRFB grant process is a great opportunity, and a well thought out process.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4**

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 11, 2019

Title: 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference Debrief and Planning for 2021

Prepared By: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, RCO
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Summary
The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) hosted project conferences in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. This memo provides a debrief to the 2019 conference and asks the board whether it wants to continue sponsoring a salmon recovery conference in 2021, and if so, to approve moving forward with pursuing dates and location.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) has funded and hosted seven successful salmon recovery conferences since 2007. With over 2,997 projects funded at a public cost of $867 million,[1] these conferences are an important forum to share lessons learned, present emerging science, and discuss important issues to salmon recovery. Lead entities, regional organizations, and project sponsors support continuing this event every two years.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff would like to start the planning process for the eighth salmon recovery conference to be held in 2021. Staff need sufficient time

[1] Projects funded by state capital funds, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds, and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

to secure a facility and plan logistics, so are asking the board to approve the 2021 conference at the July 2019 board meeting.

2019 Conference Debrief

The 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference (SRC) held April 7-9, 2019 at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center in Tacoma, WA, celebrated the biennial gathering of its kind with the theme "Facing the Future Together." The conference marked the 20th anniversary of the Salmon Recovery Act and aimed to bring together people involved with salmon recovery for information sharing and networking about the 4 H's of salmon recovery: habitat, hydropower, hatcheries, and harvest. The conference was an opportunity to share best practices, improve recovery plan implementation and review, and learn how others are adapting project designs given new or emerging data and information.

Eight hundred (800) people registered for the conference. The conference program was comprised of 20 separate breakout sessions, programmed in 5 blocks with 4 concurrent sessions. Survey results were overwhelmingly positive on all aspects of the conference. Highlights included speakers Gary Locke and Cecilia Gobin, networking, and the diversity of presentations.

The 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference brought in a total of $97,500 in sponsorships from 31 separate sponsoring organizations. There were six tiers of sponsorship: Co-Host ($15,000), Platinum ($10,000), Gold ($5,000), Silver ($2,500), Bronze ($1,500) and Promoter ($1,000). Overall, there were 3 Co-Hosts, 0 Platinum sponsors, 4 Gold sponsors, 10 Silver sponsors, 4 Bronze sponsors, and 9 Promoter sponsors. The conference cost $392,959 and had revenue of $417,155. The net revenue was $24,196. As with previous years, this revenue will be dedicated to outreach and communications by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and SRNet support.

This year Western Washington University administered both the project management and logistical support for the conference.

Conference Planning Proposal

RCO staff will use the 2019 conference evaluations, debrief meetings and lessons learned to plan the 2021 event, if approved by the board. Staff propose that the 2021 conference be a two or three-day event that highlights salmon recovery in Washington State.

The proposal this year is to continue to contract with Western Washington University to help facilitate the review of abstracts, organize the registration, run the audio-visuals, and assist with the venue, including being on site. We will continue with a Steering Committee to help guide the agenda, content, format and theme of the conference. The Steering Committee will potentially include the following members:

- RCO staff
- Representative from the Washington Salmon Coalition
- Representative from the Council of Regions
- Representative from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Representative from Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Representative from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Representative from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Representative from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Representative from Long Live the Kings

There will also be a Program Committee to help review and select abstracts for presentations and poster sessions. In general, speakers will likely be asked to present in one of seven categories: habitat restoration, nearshore, acquisition, assessments, monitoring, hatchery reform, and recovery plan progress.

Conference Costs

RCO staff recommend the board again fund a portion of the salmon recovery conference. The cost of conference planning and registration services would be paid with registration fee revenue. Based on direction from the SRFB, RCO will also include a request for conference funds in the 2020 PCSRF application. The 2018 PCSRF application identified and RCO received $70,000 for the conference.

Conference Date and Location

Previous conferences were held in the Olympia area, the Shelton area, Vancouver, Wenatchee, and Tacoma. We recommend working with consultant to do an RFP for facilities.

Staff Recommendation

RCO staff recommend that the board fund a portion of the salmon recovery conference from the 2020 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. RCO staff suggest approval of up to $90,000. The board contribution will cover the cost of RCO conference planning staff, the facility rental and meals, materials and advertising, and a video recording of conference sessions.

The staff also recommend that the conference be held in the spring of 2021.

Next Steps

If approved, staff will start conference planning with the formation of the conference organizing committee.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

CELEBRATING 55 years 1964 2019

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item 5

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2018

Title: Salmon Delisting Discussion

Prepared By: Alex Conley Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board,
John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Board

Summary
This memo serves as an introduction for a briefing and update on the potential de-listing of Middle Columbia River Steelhead and the potential delisting of Hood Canal Summer Chum.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has invited Scott Brewer, Executive Director of the Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region to discuss the recovery and delisting of Hood Canal Summer Chum. The board also invited Alex Conley, Executive Director, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, and John Foltz, Executive Director, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, to discuss the recovery and delisting of Middle Columbia Steelhead. Below you will find attachments provided by Alex, John and Scott.

Strategic Plan Connection

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Attachments

Attachment A – Mid-Columbia briefing overview

Attachment B – Hood Canal Briefing Overview

June 17, 2019

Mr. Phil Rockefeller, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Post Office Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Subject: Overview of Middle Columbia River Steelhead for Agenda Item #5 at the July 10, 2019 SRFB Meeting – *Prepared by Alex Conley and John Foltz on behalf of the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board & the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board*

Dear Chairman Rockefeller and Members of the Board:

In previous discussions, the SRFB tasked us with reviewing the prospects for delisting for Middle Columbia Steelhead and identifying how the SRFB can invest in critical actions that will help achieve a delisting. At the July 10 meeting of the SRFB, we will be sharing the 45 minutes allocated to Agenda Item #5 with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. In our 12 to 15 minute presentation, we will:

a) Give an introduction to the geography of Middle Columbia Steelhead and show how it requires coordination between the states of Oregon and Washington, three tribes, two regional salmon recovery organizations and three lead entities (see map on the following page).

b) Briefly review the major threats that led to the listing of Middle Columbia Steelhead and overall progress to date in addressing those threats.

c) Review the progress made towards delisting since 1999, the use of NOAA 5 Year Status Reviews to evaluate viability, and the prospects for delisting in the next 5-10 years.

d) Identify specific ways the SRFB can help accelerate progress towards delisting, including:

    a. Funding key habitat improvement projects that make significant contributions toward achieving viable status for specific at-risk populations in Washington State;

    b. Supporting key monitoring efforts that directly provide information that NOAA identifies as needed to effectively assess listing status;

    c. Engaging in critical policy discussions that impact Mid-C steelhead, such as Columbia River management decisions with the potential to increase adult steelhead survival and/or reduce predation on smolts;

    d. Supporting regional and GSRO capacity to develop and advocate for a Strategic Investment Plan for Mid-Columbia Steelhead populations in Washington State and fully engage in the 2021 NOAA Status Review process.

We will specifically ask the SRFB to:

e) Provide guidance on how and when to provide capital project proposals to be considered for funding with either existing funds allocated by the SRFB or a supplemental or future biennial state budget request (*related to item #6 on today's agenda*);

f) Support our work with GSRO and the monitoring panel to identify and implement monitoring projects that will generate the specific information NOAA need to evaluate listing status (*related to item #7 on today's agenda*).

g) Let us know how best to work with RCO to provide briefings to the SRFB on key Mid-C policy issues, support SRFB efforts to draft input letters on specific state and regional management decisions, and engage with individual SRFB members interested in Mid-C policy issues.

We look forward to having time after our presentation to answer your questions about Mid-C steelhead and strategize together about how the SRFB can accelerate progress towards what we hope will be the first delisting in the Columbia Basin.

Sincerely,

Alex Conley
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

John Foltz
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

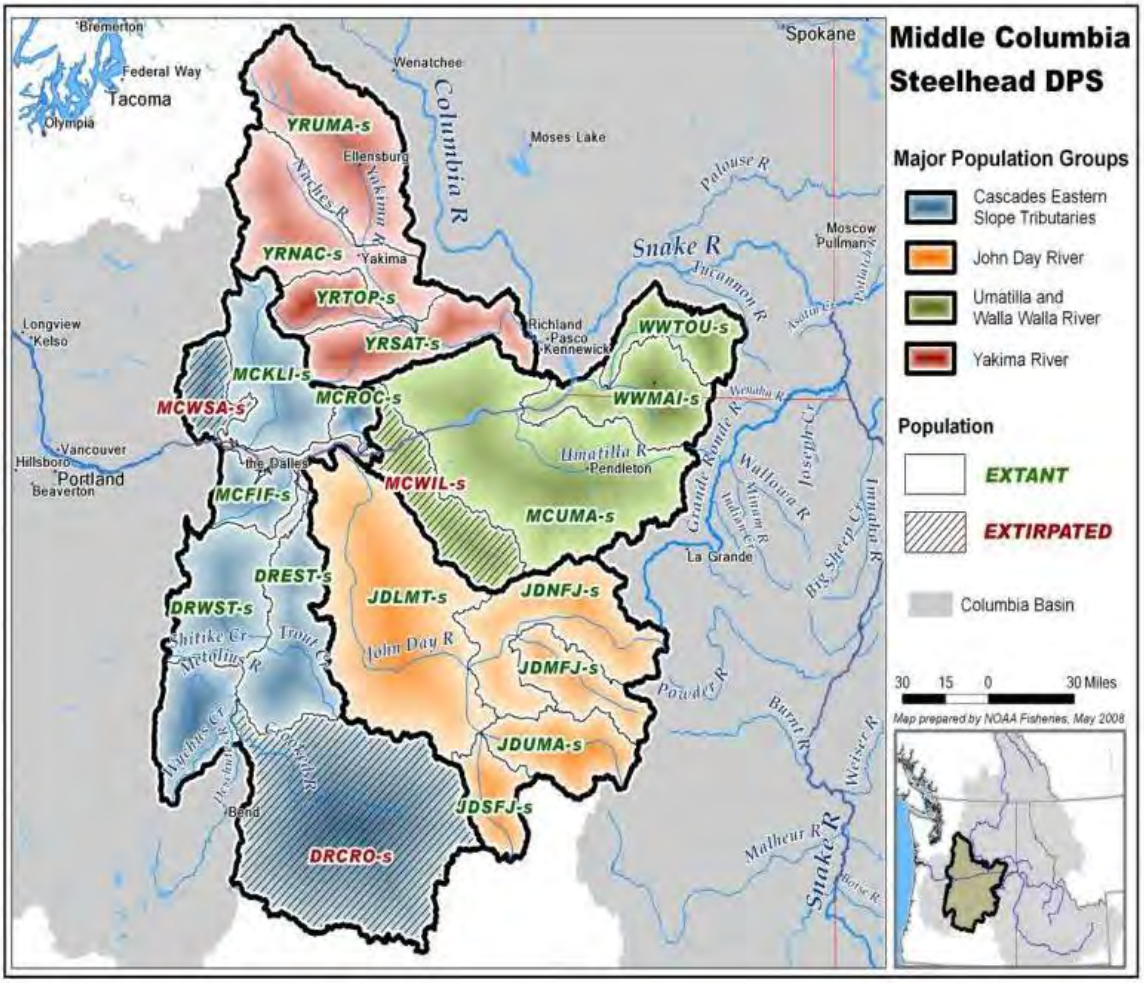


Figure 1. Map of the Middle Columbia Steelhead Distinct Population Segment.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties; Port Gamble S'Klallam & Skokomish Tribes

Memorandum

Date: June 17, 2019
To: Mr. Phil Rockefeller, Chair Salmon Recovery Funding Board
From: Scott Brewer, Executive Director, Hood Canal Coordinating Council
Subject: Consideration of a "Targeted Investment" Towards the Advancement of Recovery/Delisting of Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon-July 10, 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda Item #5.

Discussions that have occurred during previous deliberations of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), particularly during the March 6, 2019 meeting, suggests SRFB is considering targeted investments that focus on those regions getting close to recovery/delisting. Two regions currently can be considered, Middle Columbia Steelhead and Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon. At the July 10 meeting, during agenda item 5, SRFB will hear more from these two regions and their respective prospects for recovery/delisting.

During Agenda item 5, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC), the Regional Recovery Organization for summer chum salmon, will provide SRFB with the following:

1) A discussion of the prospects for the recovery/delisting of Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon including:

    a) How close we believe summer chum are in achieving recovery/delisting.
    b) The "wild card" factors that could impact recovery.
    c) Where we need to continue to focus efforts.
    d) Discussions with NOAA Fisheries regarding the "definition" of delisting.

2) SRFB role in summer chum recovery efforts, including consideration of a "targeted investment"

Thank you for the opportunity to continue the dialogue regarding Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum salmon recovery/delisting. I look forward to the July 10 meeting.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

CELEBRATING 55 Years 1964 2019

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item 6

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: Targeted Investments Survey

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Summary
This memo summarizes the survey results from our targeted investments survey.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

The 2017-19 Capital Budget included a proviso for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to execute a Lean study to bring efficiencies to the salmon recovery project development and prioritization process. The Lean Study aimed to identify and plan for impactful changes to the SRFB salmon recovery project development and prioritization process. During the various related stakeholder workshops, meetings and surveys, many participants pointed out that the current process of allocating funds by region and, in some cases, sub-allocating funds by watershed (lead entity) prevents the large, complex projects from successfully competing for funding through the SRFB. The Lean study recommended that the SRFB develop a large, complex project investment program.

At the March 6, 2019, board meeting staff presented seven options for the board to consider (See item 7). As a result of stakeholder comments at the board meeting (in person and in writing), the board asked staff to conduct a survey to ascertain more facts about the ability of the SRFB process to fund large, complex projects and other options.

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) sent out the surveys in early April 2019 to the Salmon Recovery Regions, Lead Entities and Project Sponsors. The objective of these surveys was to help identify gaps and avenues for funding large, complex projects or other means of targeting investments into priority efforts. RCO received responses from 6 regions, 15 lead entities and 60 sponsors. The results of the survey will be grouped by

region, lead entity and sponsor and presented to the board at the July 10, 2019 travel meeting in Yakima, WA. See *Attachment A* for a PowerPoint summarizing the survey results.

The board created a subcommittee made up of Erik Neatherlin, Jeff Breckel and Phil Rockefeller, working with RCO staff (Tara Galuska, Wyatt Lundquist and Kaleen Cottingham). The subcommittee met on May 29, 2019, to review the results of the surveys and to make recommendations to the board on issues to further discuss and analyze as it relates to targeted investments or other information resulting from the survey.

The survey results provided a wealth of information on the SRFB funding process, and whether high priority projects and large, complex projects are being funded.

In summary, there is not support for creating a new grant program aimed at large, complex projects (very little support from regions and lead entities; some support from sponsors). There were suggestions that could help incentivize or remove barriers for large, complex projects that the board should consider. There is, however, support for looking at how the board might target investments that will help in getting those regions close or to de-listing goals. Finally, there were some general suggestions on ways to improve the SRFB funding process. Some of those suggestions are already planned in the implementation of the LEAN study.

Staff will present the results of the survey at the board meeting.

Here are the areas recommended by the subcommittee for more board discussion and analysis:

Discussion Areas

Barriers to Large, Complex Projects

In general, survey respondents felt that there were large, complex projects in their areas that were not getting accomplished. Four items stood out as barriers to funding large, complex projects. First, in nearly all responses, funding was identified, as a high priority need. Large projects cannot move forward without substantial and sustained funding. The subcommittee recommends that the board continue to advocate for increasing SRFB funding.

Second, landowner willingness was identified as a topic area that needs more consideration, thought and evaluation. In particular, how to maintain landowner willingness for the extended period it usually takes to plan and implement large, complex projects. Is there something the board can do to help in the quest to get

landowners on-board for the larger, complex projects? A suggestion was made to explore a recent approach being undertaken by the Office of the Chehalis Basin to centralize efforts to get landowners committed to a large, complex project. Liability concerns also continue to affect landowner willingness.

Third, permitting complexity was a recurring theme identified as limiting or slowing implementation of large, complex projects. Is there something the board can do to facilitate changes to the permitting of large, complex projects? There have been efforts over the years to address permitting by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and there is a streamlined ESA consultation process[1] for certain species, actions, and funding. Is it time to convene a group to work on this? How else might the board or GSRO assist in this effort? Is there any work on permit streamlining that can occur? Is more information needed for sponsors on what currently exists to assist with permitting restoration projects?

Finally, sponsor capacity appeared to be an emerging theme and one that might increase as an impediment as larger, complex projects come online. Several responses queued up the question of "How best to address this growing need?

Phasing Large, Complex Projects

The survey shows that many sponsors currently phase projects to get the more expensive projects funded over a longer period. The subcommittee noted that some responders identified phasing (selecting and planning sequential periods of project activity) as an important way to undertake and manage large, complex projects. The subcommittee agrees with the value of making use of this pathway and generated some ideas for enhancing the practice of phasing larger scale project design and implementation over several years. The subcommittee discussed how the board might change our policies or practices to better incentivize project phasing for large, complex projects. Should the board consider reducing or waiving the 15% match requirement for all preliminary and final design projects costing more than $200,000 to encourage project phasing? Should there be a requirement that a project coming in for over a certain cost threshold have a final design requirement (not just a preliminary design)? Should subsequent phases of a project have some preferential treatment in a subsequent grant round or perhaps a reduced match? All of these concepts were of interest to the subcommittee, but need more analysis and discussion.

---

[1] The RCO Fact sheet on permit streamlining can be found at https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/fact_sheets/Permit_Streamlining_fact_sheet.pdf

Regions Nearing De-listing

There was substantial support in the survey results to look at targeting investments to assist a region nearing de-listing. Some commented that it should not come at the expense of the other regions. However, in general, there is support for being able to show that the Washington Way can work and that the promised path to recovery and de-listing is possible.

Still left to discuss and develop is the criteria to use to determine what (and where) to target for investment. Examples might include: How close is a region to de-listing? What projects and actions are still left to do? Has the region started conversations with NOAA about de-listing? What is the timeline for getting to a point of seeking de-listing? Has NOAA identified the steps necessary for the region to de-list?

The subcommittee also discussed how phasing of projects fits in with the focus on projects aimed to get to de-listing.

Suggested Improvements

Comments collected during the survey also raised other issues that should be considered as part of the efforts to streamline the grant process. Some suggested a less complicated application process by eliminating redundant questions in PRISM. These responses are consistent with the 2018 Grant Round Survey. RCO is currently looking at this. In addition, a new enhancement to PRISM is being developed (called the Review and Evaluation Module) that may provide an opportunity to put all application questions into PRISM (rather than having them be a separate word document). This would help to streamline the application and potentially reduce redundancies. This new module was also a LEAN study recommendation and is currently in development and expected to be ready to implement in 2020. The LEAN Recommendation 1.1: Redesign Grant Round is also being presented to the SRFB at this meeting as a new timeline. See Item 8.

Staff Recommendation

In order to give some time to more fully develop this approach, staff is recommending that a portion of the SRFB state bond appropriation be set aside for use later in the biennium once an approach is developed, and if no targeted investment strategy is approved, these funds could be added to the grant round in 2020. Any set aside would be above a status quo grant round of $18 million for the two grant cycles in the biennium (See item 9 for the allocation of funding). This decision will be made as part of item 9 on the agenda, as there are other options for the board to discuss for using the funding.

Next Steps:

- The subcommittee will work with staff to identify incentives for phasing of large, complex projects. Our goal is to present a proposal to the SRFB at the September or December 2019 board meeting.

- The subcommittee will meet with representatives of regional organizations and NOAA to discuss next steps to develop a targeted investment strategy aimed at regions nearing de-listing, including any parameters, criteria, or definitions. Our goal is to present a proposal to the SRFB at the September or December 2019 board meeting. There is$6,430,562of state bond funds available as part of funding decisions (see Item 9) should the board approve a targeted investment strategy. This number may increase once additional returned funds become available.

- Staff will continue to work on improvements to the application and PRISM updates.

Strategic Plan Connection

The targeted investments survey and discussion is supported by *Goal 1* of the board's strategic plan. By conducting a survey to gather on the ground input and evaluating how large, complex projects are funded, the board ensures they are funding the best possible salmon recovery projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

https://rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Attachments

A. Targeted Investment Presentation

Attachment A

Targeted Investment Survey; Region Responses (6 of 7 regions)

Recycled Spirits of Iron – Ashford, WA

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

CELEBRATING 55 Years 1964 | 2019

Presented By: Wyatt Lundquist

Item 2

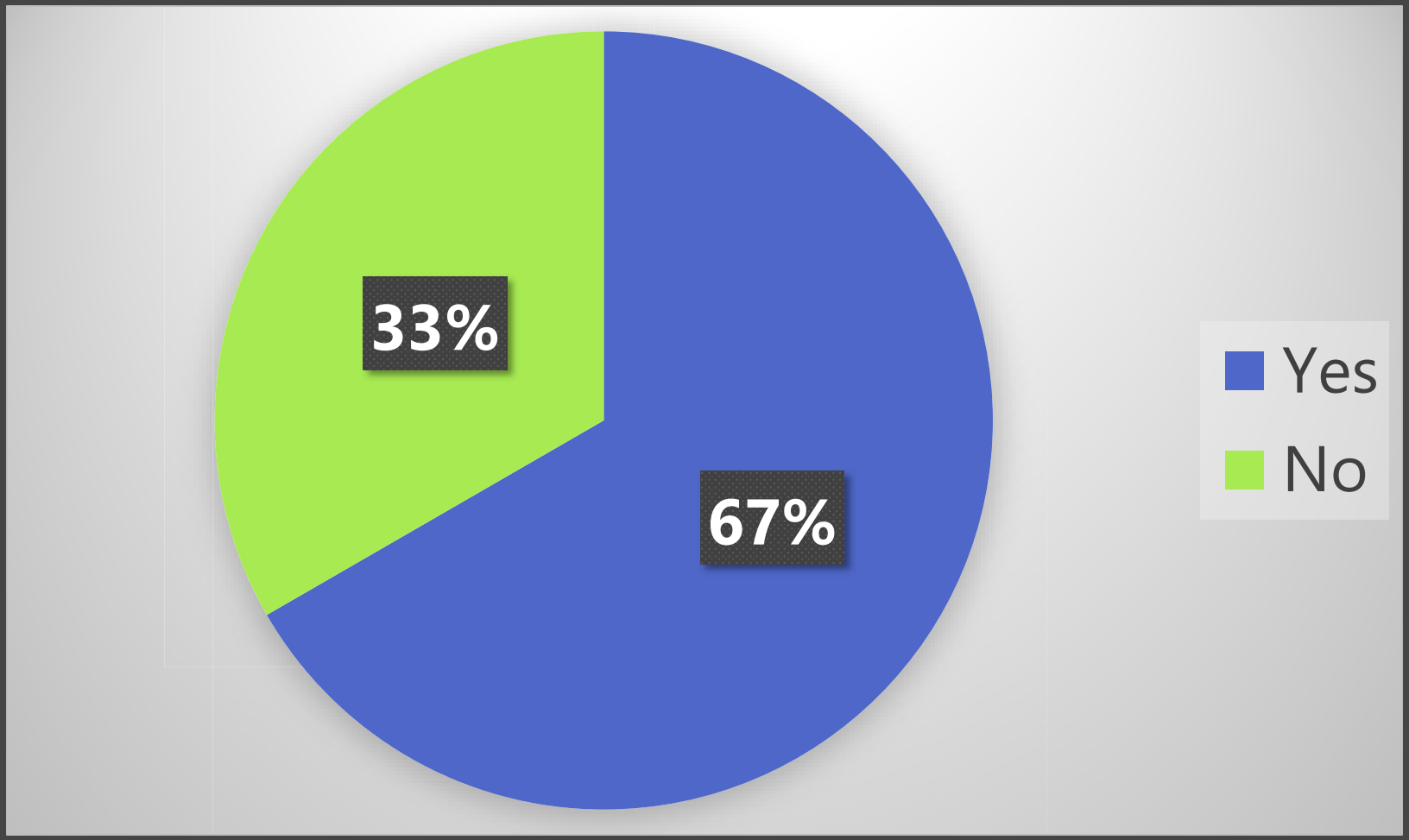
How would you define a “large, complex salmon habitat project”?

- Project Cost Above Allocation
- Multi-benefit Projects
- Big Project Size
- Project That Takes Multiple Biennia
- Politically Complicated
- Project With High Risks
- Project That Requires Intensive Coordination, Negotiation, Analysis Design And Funding

Criteria or threshold suggestions to define “large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

- Projects that Span Multiple Watersheds
- Projects that Span Multiple Jurisdictions or Permitting Authorities
- Diverse Habitat Projects
- Higher Cost Threshold
- Multiple Landowners
- Multiple Stakeholders
- Multiple Biennia to Complete
- Politically Complicated

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being implemented in your region?



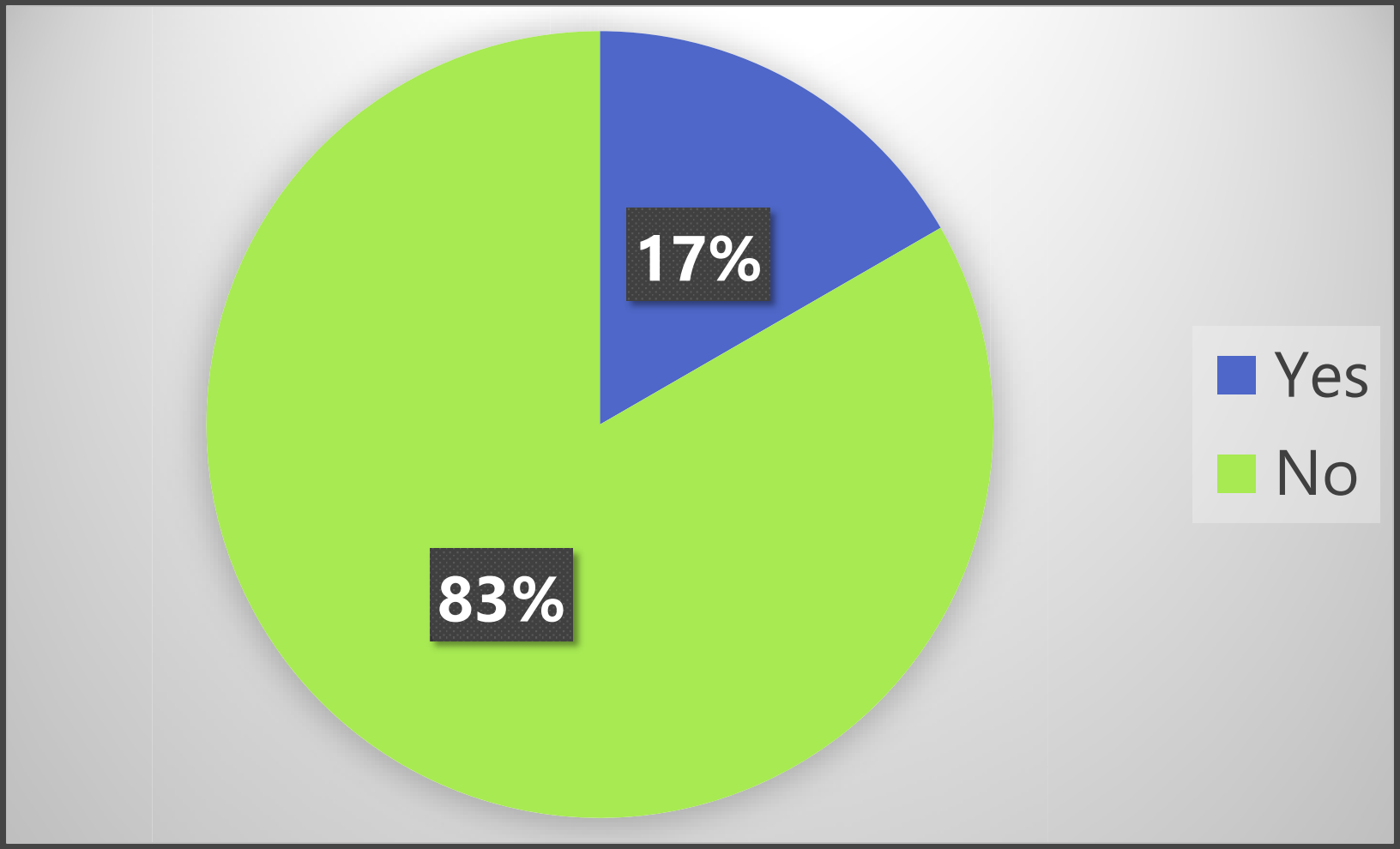
Reason for saying "no":

- Insufficient funding
- Lack of resources and direction for sponsors

What are the key barriers or constraints your region has in getting large, complex projects funded or implemented?

- 60% - Lack of funding
  - Delays in permitting
  - Not enough time
  - Long Term Planning/Focus
  - Not many constraints

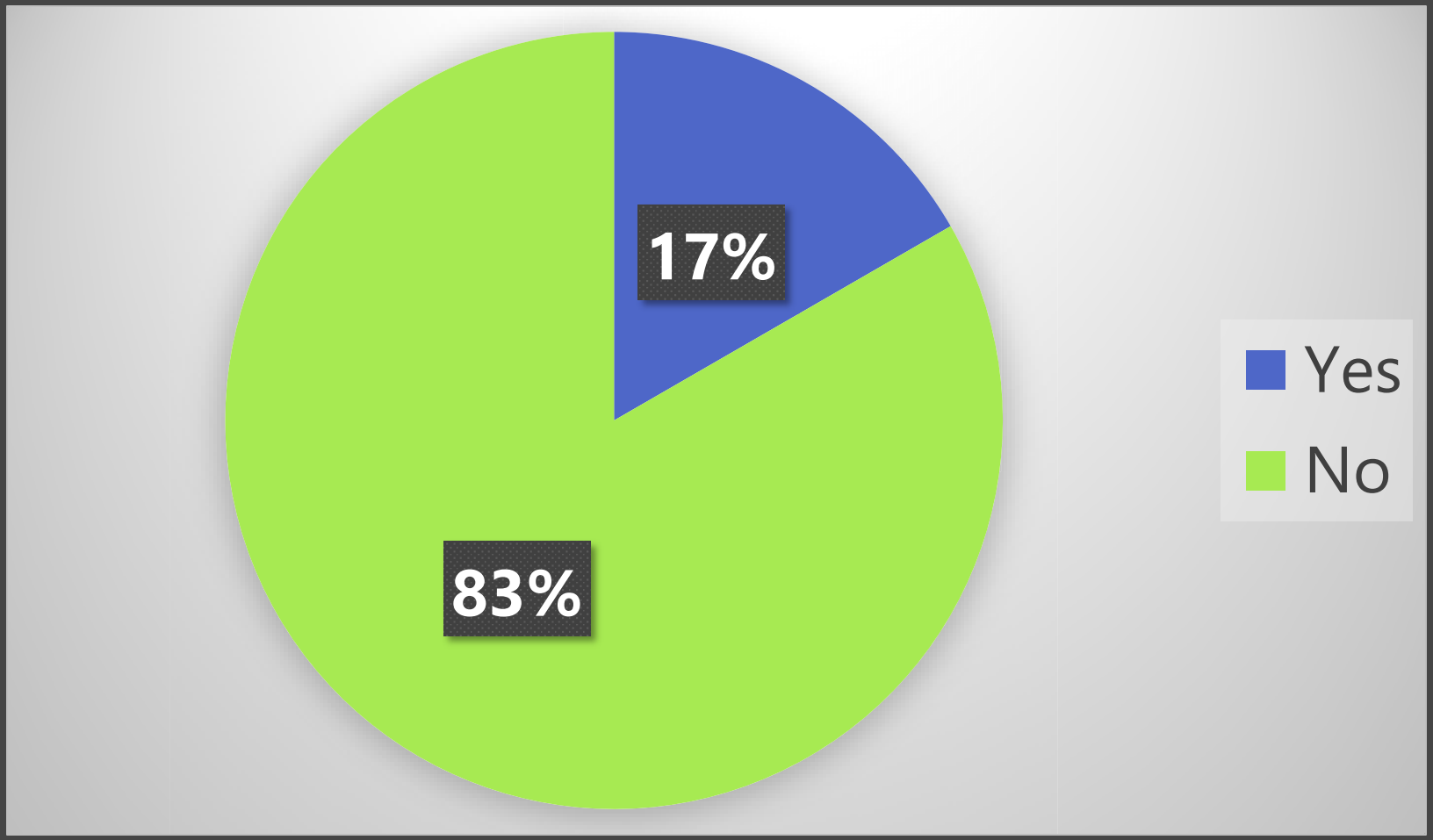
Are the larger, more complex projects being funded sufficiently through the current SRFB project selection process and the funding allocation process?



What are the main challenges that will need to be addressed to implement these future large, complex projects? CHOOSE TOP 3 CHALLENGES

- Landowner willingness - **34%**
- Funding - **25%**
- Securing other agreements to move forward - **9%**
- Securing community and political support - **8%**
- Staff capacity - **8%**
- Matching timelines with other funding entities - **8%**
- Bigger landscape projects not fitting narrower criteria - **8%**

Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



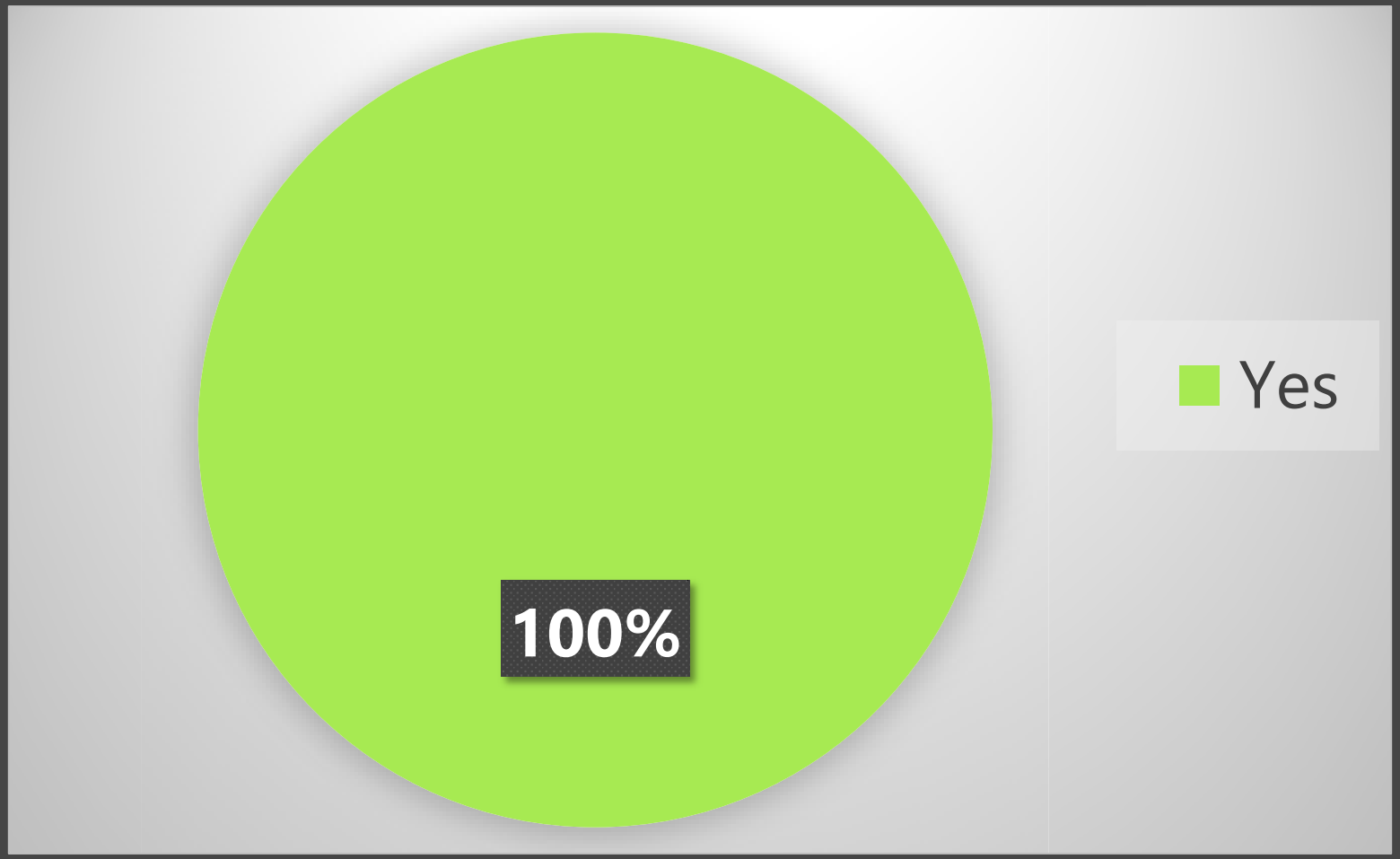
Reason for saying "no":

- Already too many funding sources
- Could slow momentum on regional recovery efforts
- Would only distract from current project developments
- Would just cost more money to run another program
- We would need new additional funding

Besides increasing funding, what changes might the SRFB make to get the larger, more complex projects funded?

- Help Streamline permitting
- Better liability protection laws for landowners
- Use political influence to limit bottlenecks
- Synchronization and coordination of monitoring efforts
- Ability to commit to future project phases
- Support regional prioritization of projects

Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



Responded "yes":

- Not at the expense of other regions
- Work with NOAA to identify these targets
- The region must be able to demonstrate that the targeted habitat impediments are the highest priority in the way of recovery.
- Land use programs should be in place to ensure protected long term investments

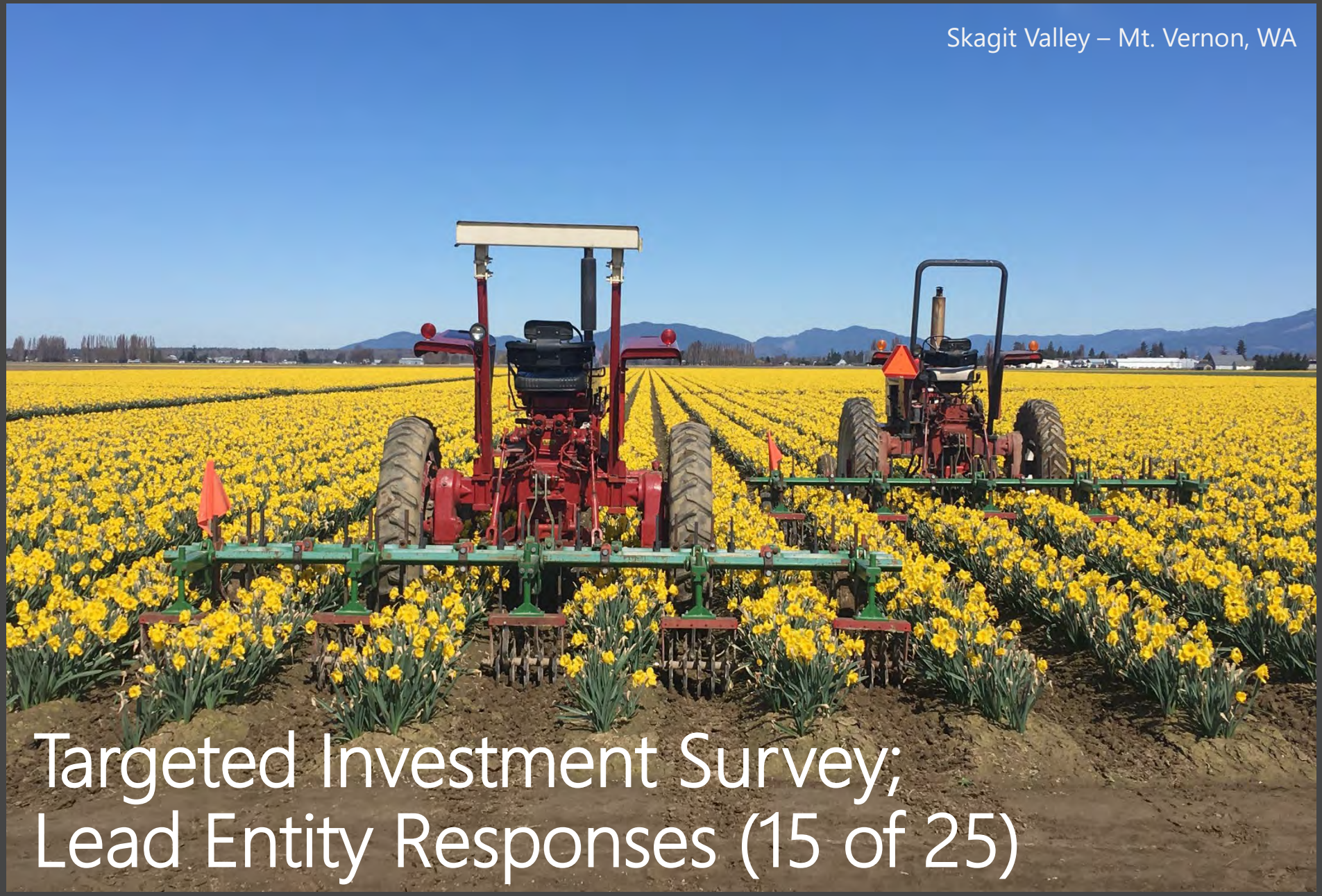
Besides targeting large, complex projects or regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

YES:

- Specific species/sub-species
- Pilot program for smolt and early marine survival
- Summary status and trends for all regions

NO:

- Not unless there is a significant increase in funding

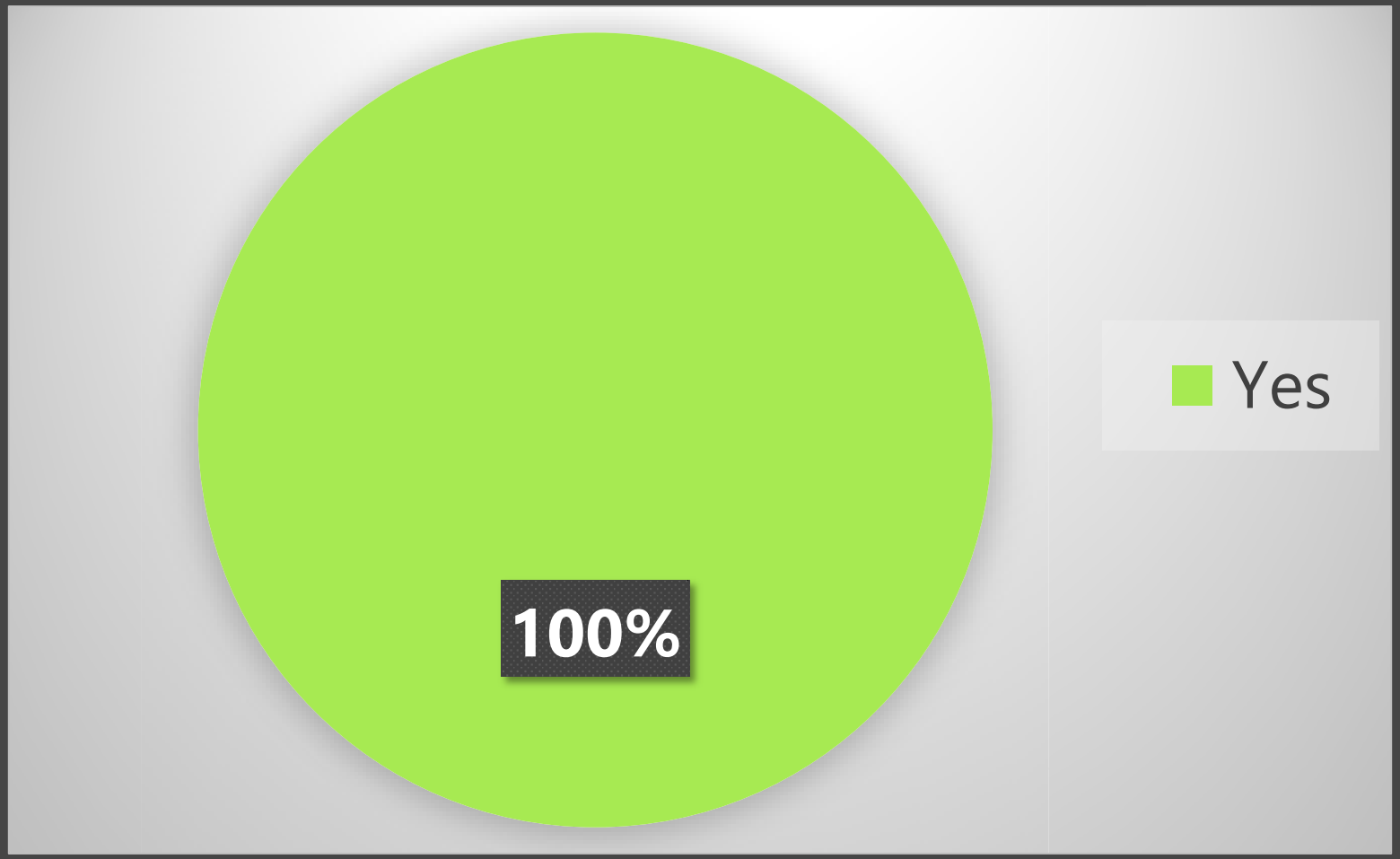


Targeted Investment Survey; Lead Entity Responses (15 of 25)

Presented By: Wyatt Lundquist

Item 2

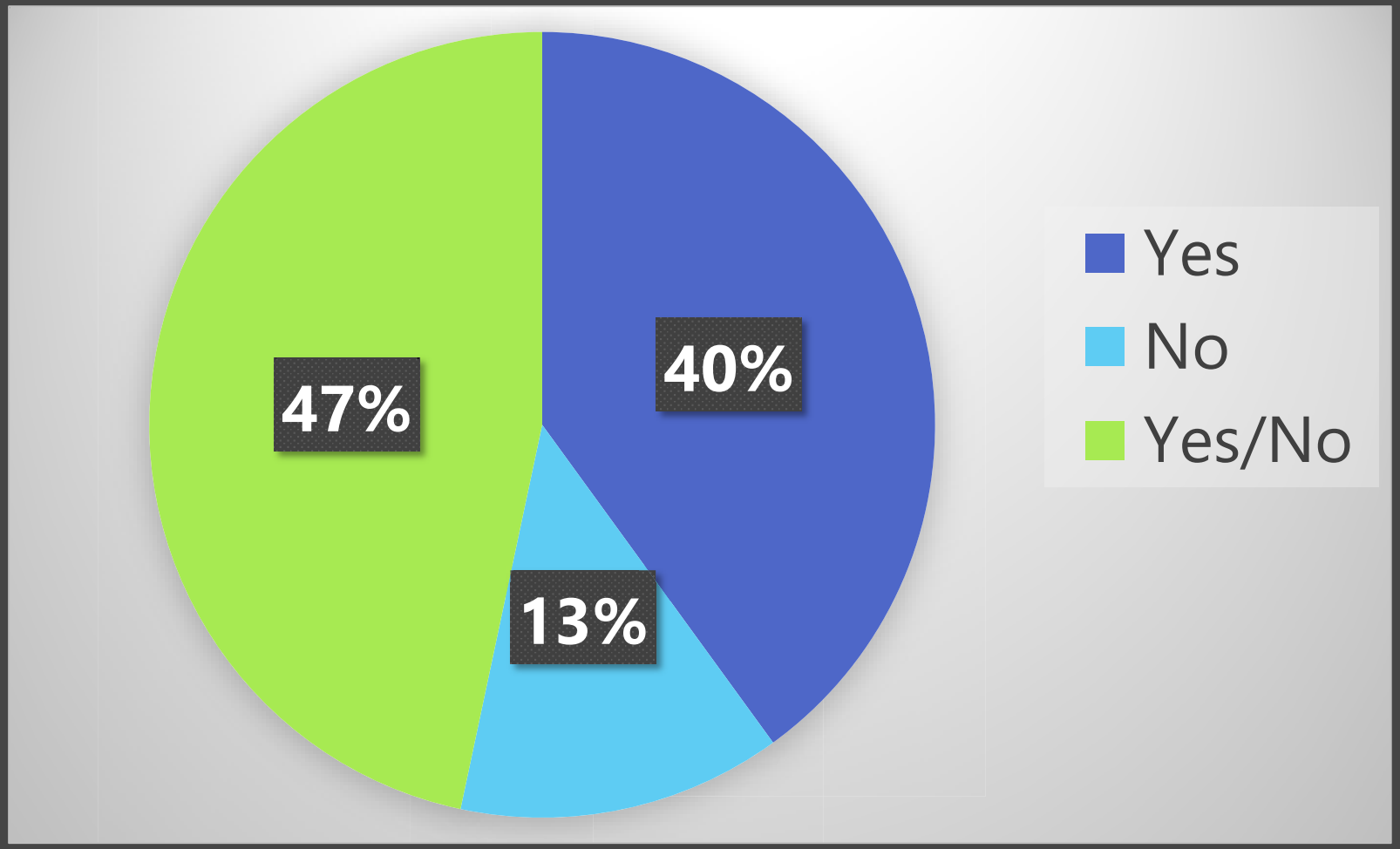
Are you familiar with the regional salmon recovery plan that covers the area you work in?



If yes, what are the goals and priorities of your regional recovery plan and what are the key types of habitat projects needed to be completed?

- Intertidal culverts and fish passage
- Shoreline restoration
- Education and outreach
- Flood Plains
- Estuaries
- Instream woody debris and sediment control
- Barriers
- Agriculture
- Water quality and quantity
- Habitat protection
- Fully functioning watersheds
- Timberlands and Community Forest efforts
- Riparian Function
- Side Channels
- Predation Management

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being implemented in your area?



Some responded both “yes” and “no”:

- My Lead Entity is not in a priority geographic area
- We are implementing many high priority projects, but struggle improving predation and smolt survival
- Yes, but funding pace and landowner willingness is slow
- Fish Passage, yes. However, there are other limiting factors in watersheds

How would you define a "large, complex salmon habitat project"?

- Multiple Stakeholders
- Multiple Partners
- Multiple jurisdictions
- High costs
- Large scale barrier removals
- Large scale acquisitions
- Projects with multiple phases
- Projects span multiple biennia
- Projects that cross watersheds and regions
- Multiple integrated project elements
- Projects that impact or integrate with existing infrastructure
- Large geographic area

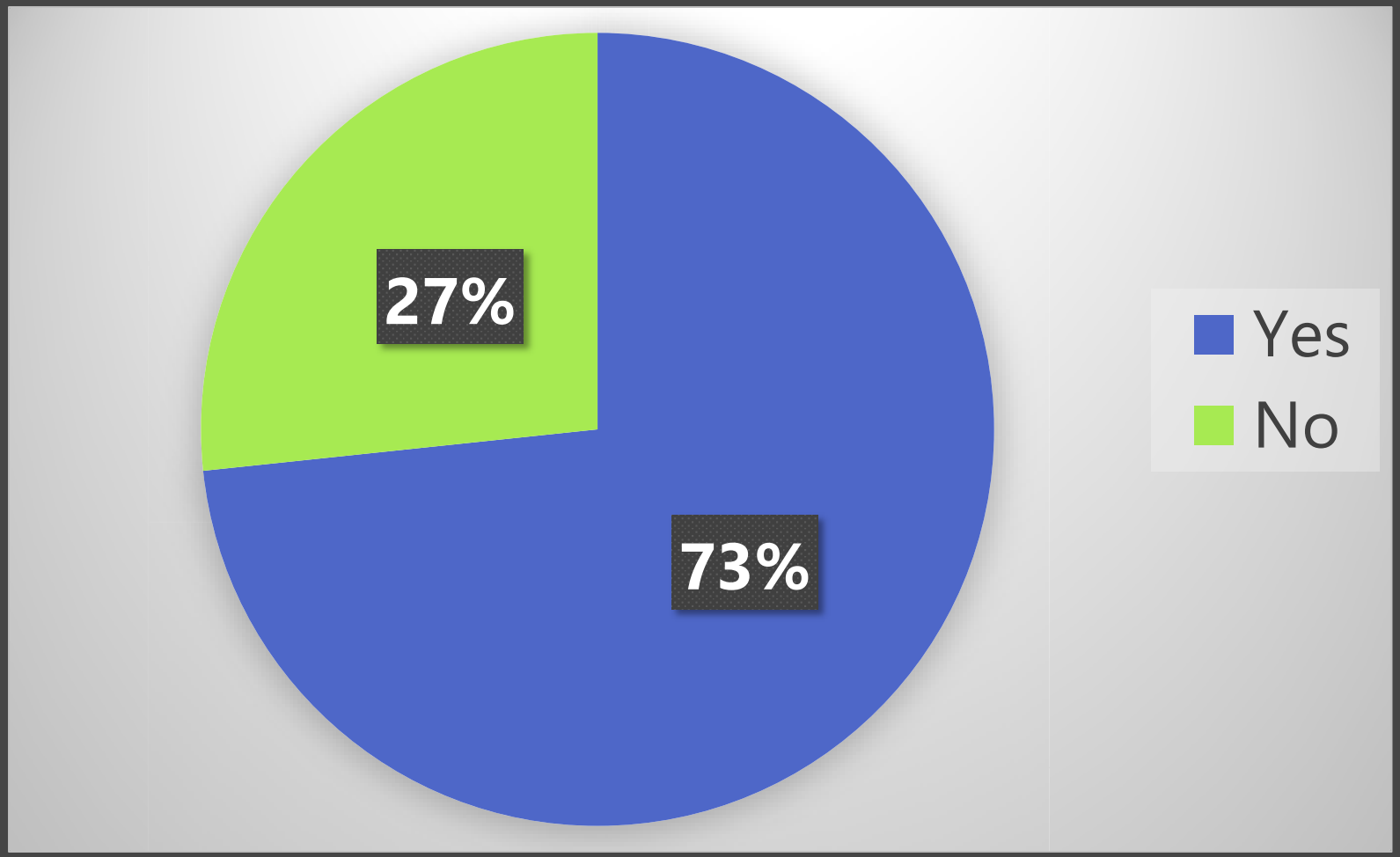
Are there criteria or thresholds you would suggest the SRFB use to categorize or define “large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

- Fish benefit
- Cost
- Not cost
- Cross jurisdictions
- Multiple stakeholders, partners and/or landowners
- VSP criteria
- Project costing more than allocation
- Can’t be defined, too subjective
- Number of regulatory authorities
- Size

What are the key barriers or constraints your Lead Entity has in getting large, complex projects submitted or funded by the SRFB?

- Cost
- Timing
- Low hanging fruit is almost gone
- Need more resources for acquisition, planning and design phases
- Local capacity issues
- We currently have large and complex projects funded by SRFB, don't cut the pie
- Hard to get long term commitments
- Stakeholder or landowner willingness
- Politics
- Getting clearance from review panel/Lack of review panel support
- Funding match

Has your Lead Entity ever had a proposed SRFB project too large to be funded within your annual SRFB or PSAR allocation?

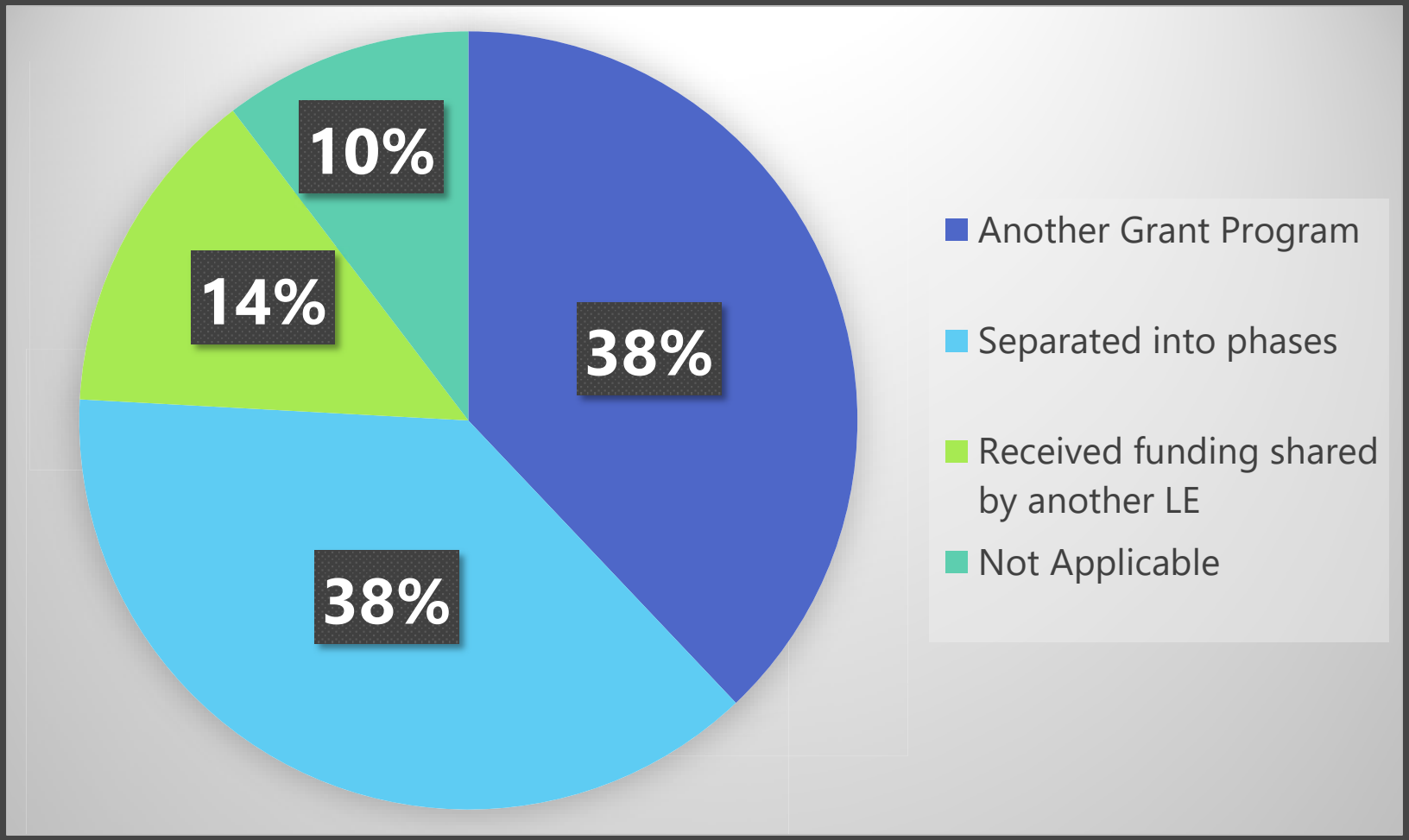


Please list all the projects too large or expensive by name/location:

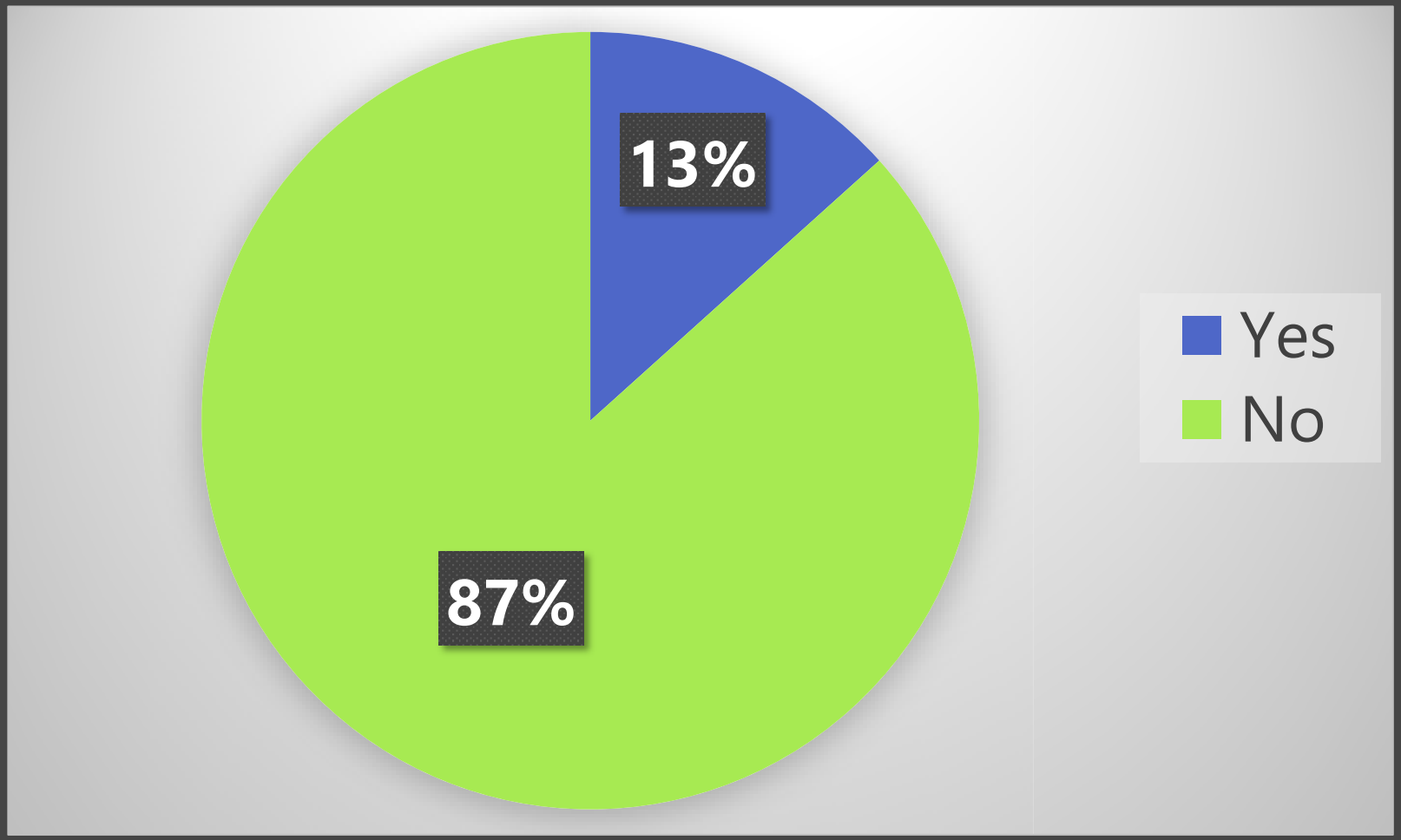
More than 50 projects were listed, here are some examples:

- Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration
- Kilisut Harbor Restoration
- Skokomish River Watershed Restoration
- Nisqually Estuary Restoration
- North Touchet River Mile 1.3-4.3
- Evergreen Park Nearshore Restoration
- Elwha Revegetation
- Walla Walla Bridge to Bridge
- Mill Creek (Walla Walla)
- Cornet Restoration
- Barnum Point Acquisition
- Camano Creek Restoration
- Sunlight Shores Restoration
- Maylor Point Restoration
- Stillaguamish Tidal Wetlands Acquisition

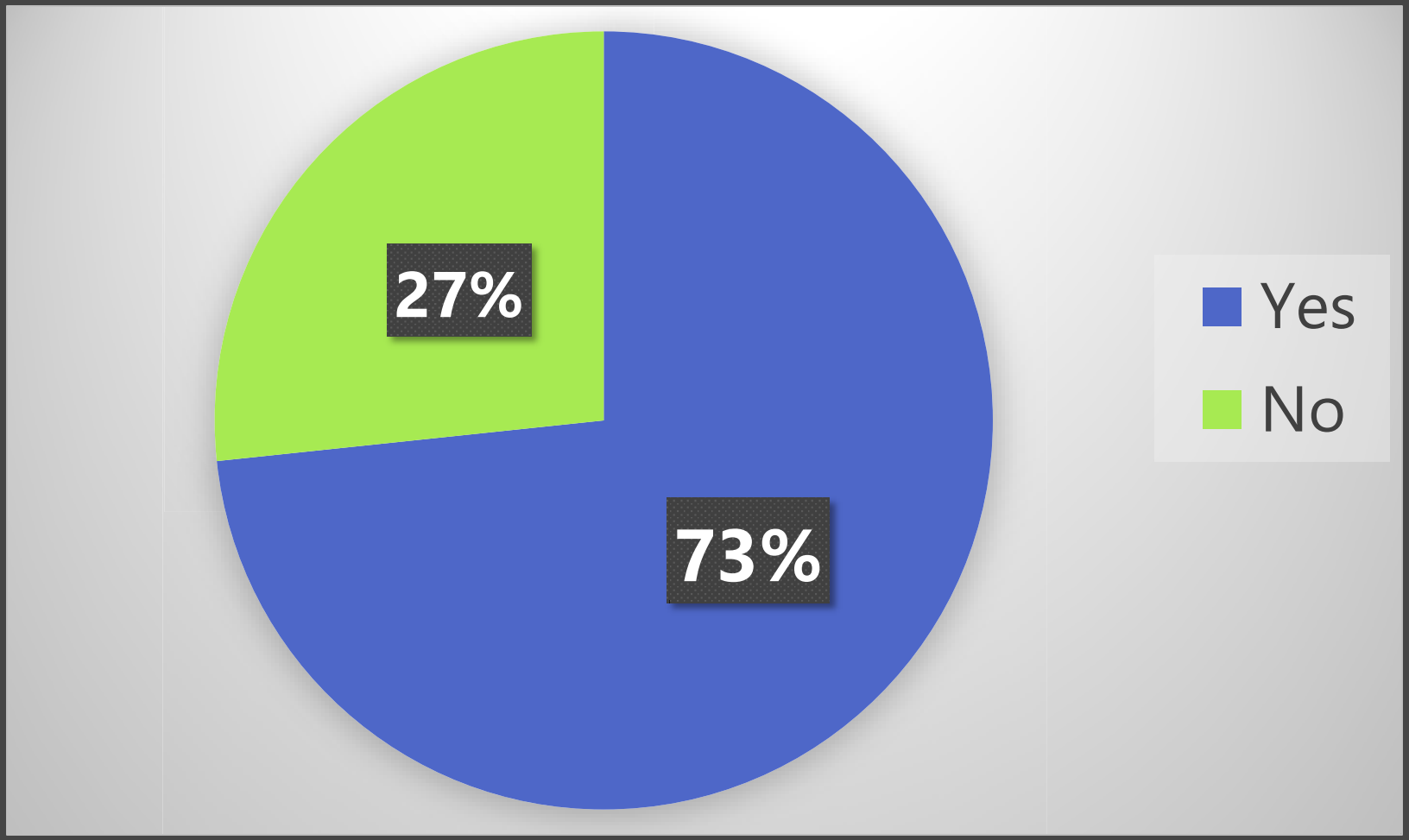
If any of the projects identified in question 8 were eventually completed or are currently in progress, please identify how they got approved or funded below:



Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist the region in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



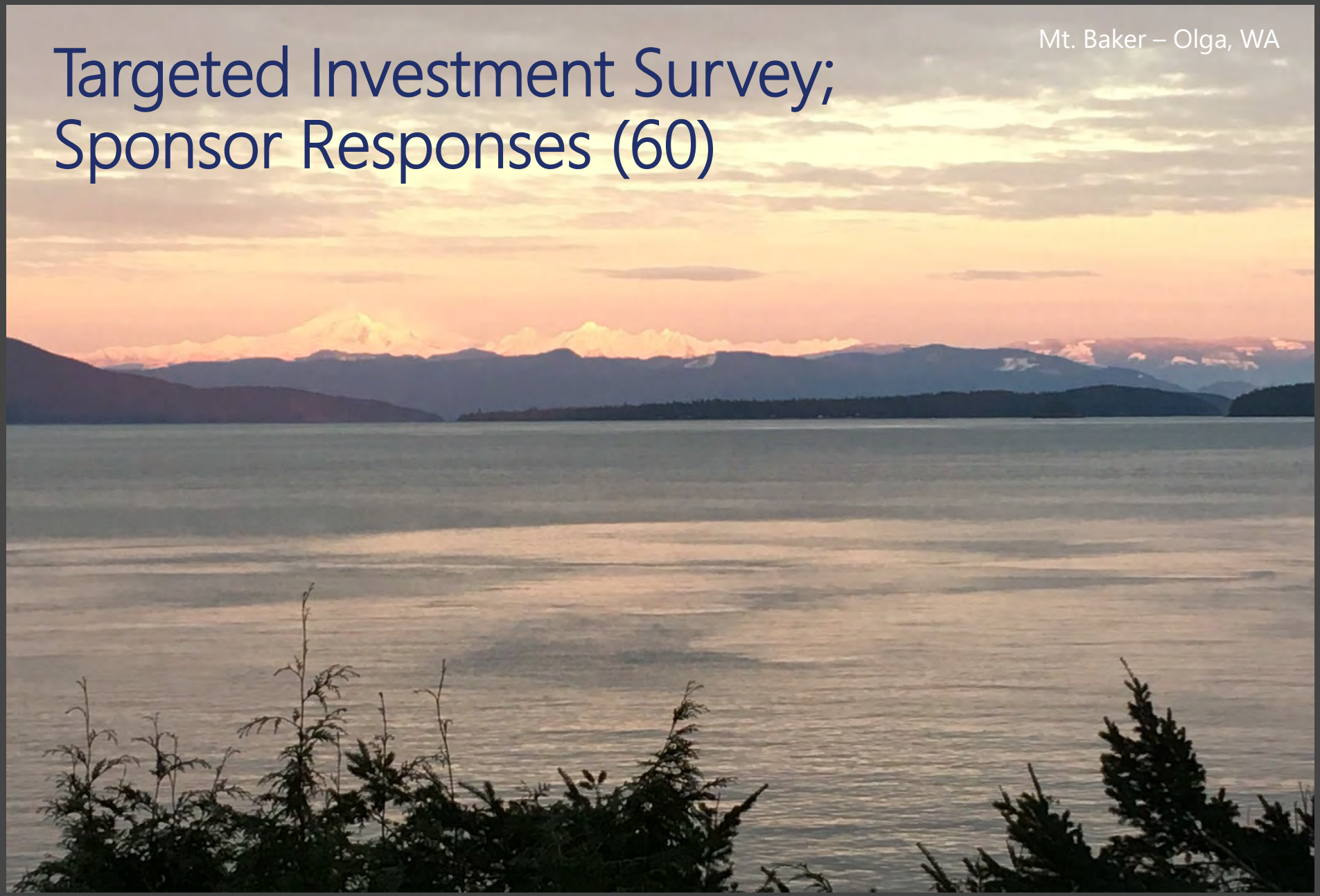
Besides targeting large, complex projects or project in regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

- Yes, recovery goals
- Yes, species important to Tribal treaty rights
- Yes, smolt survival/predation issues
- Yes, target investments that are more visible to state legislators
- Yes, viability
- No, not unless there are significant funding increases
- No

Is there anything else you would like the SRFB to know about the funding of salmon recovery projects?

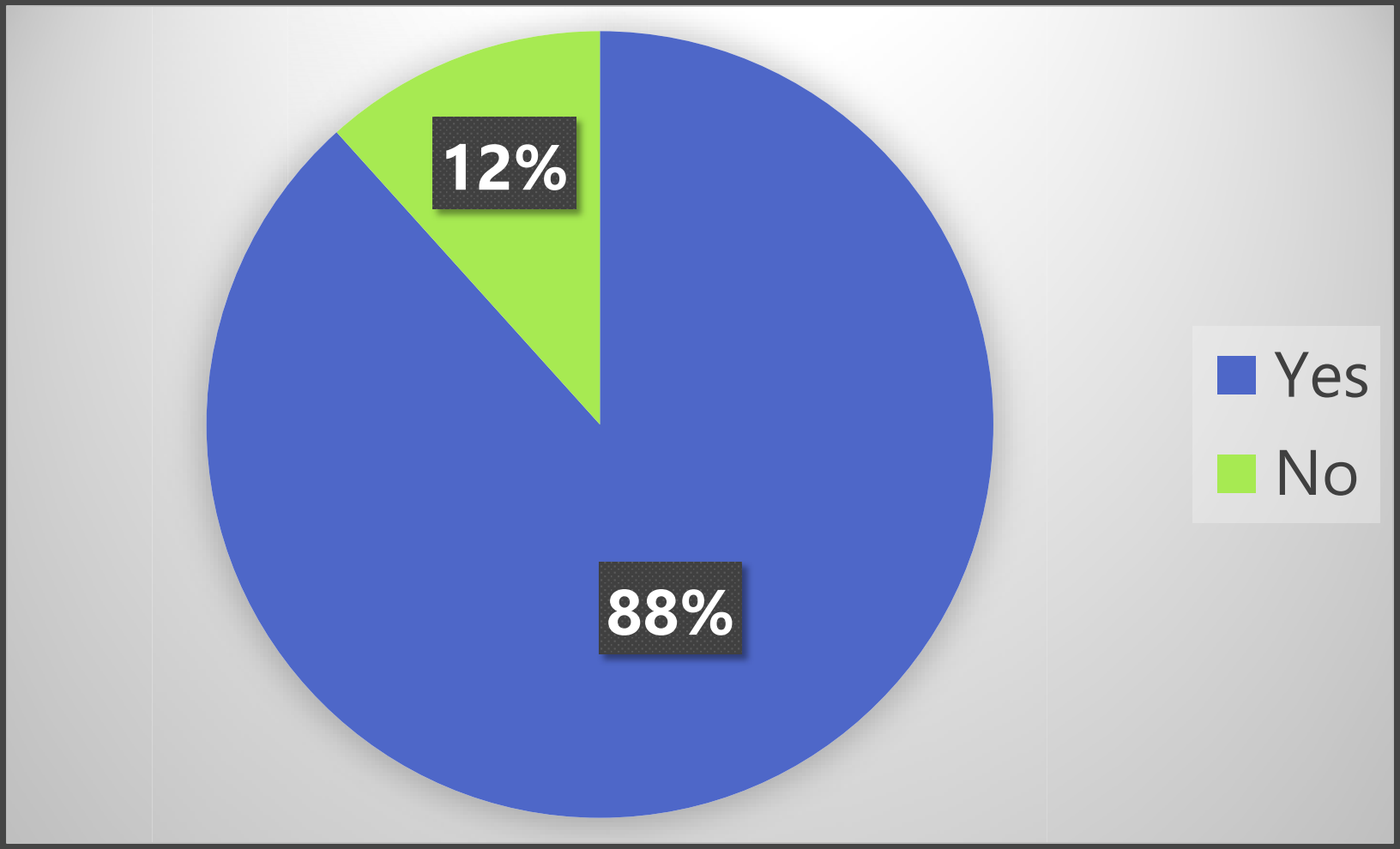
- Plan or prepare projects and allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding is helpful
- Cost does not equal priority or significance in all cases
- Rethink the relationship between allocations and regional recovery needs
- The SRFB would do well to evaluate why reach-scales are not more common in project types

Targeted Investment Survey; Sponsor Responses (60)



Mt. Baker – Olga, WA

Are you familiar with the regional salmon recovery plan that covers the area you work in?

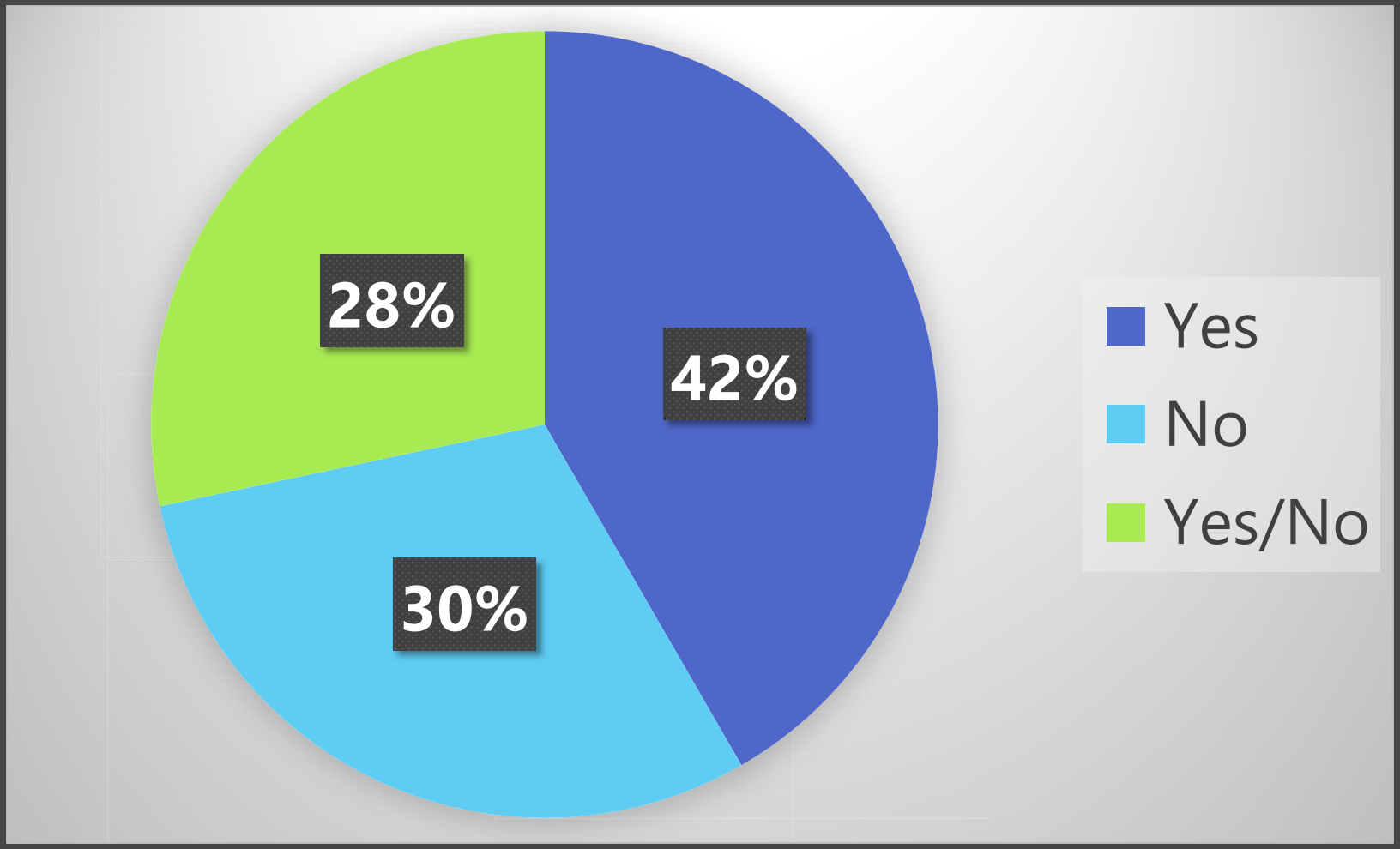


If yes, what are the goals and priorities of your regional recovery plan and what are the key types of habitat projects needed to be completed?

Some of the things we heard:

- Protection of functioning habitat
- Improved passage and flow
- Improvement of riparian and in-stream conditions in tributaries
- Restored floodplain connection and function
- Permanent protection of habitat for threatened salmonid species
- Restoration of degraded habitat for threatened salmonid species
- Restore woody debris
- Reopen floodplain and estuary habitat
- Remove armoring
- Restore riverine processes
- Forests and freshwater

Are the highest priority projects to implement the regional salmon recovery plan being funded or implemented in your area?



Some responded both “yes” and “no”:

- Some highest priority projects are being funded, but some are too large for the existing grant structure to support
- The highest priority projects are funded, but not at a pace that will allow us to achieve to recovery
- Projects with the greatest salmonid benefit receive funding. However, critical projects (e.g., floodplain restoration) languish for a decade or more waiting for funds to be cobbled together
- Yes, but not nearly at the rate and scale needed
- Some are, but it isn't clear that all are
- Yes and no, political will continues to be a limiting factor for implementing high-value projects

How would you define a "large, complex salmon habitat project"?

- Multiple landowners/stakeholders
- Multiple funding sources
- Competing resource priorities
- There are only large, complex projects left
- High cost
- Political, engineering, ecological, social, and funding aspects
- Large geographic area
- Projects that typically involve current infrastructure
- Take multiple years to design and implement
- Projects larger than 2-5 acres with levee breach/setback, multiple permits, rezoning and multiple stakeholders

Are there criteria or thresholds you would suggest the SRFB use to categorize or define “large, complex salmon habitat projects"?

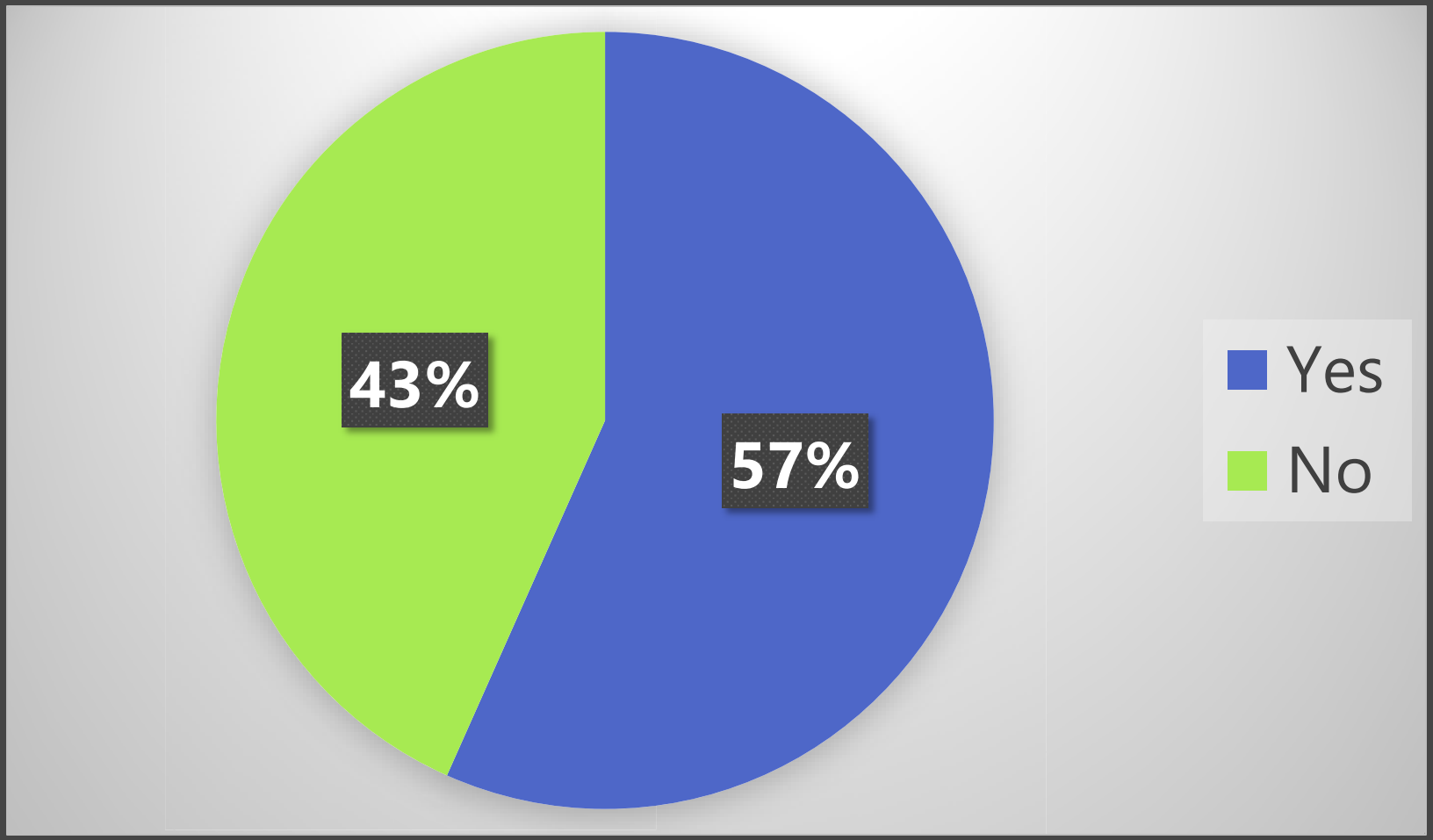
- Cost should be the primary criteria (18)
- Ecological processes across jurisdictions and parcels
- Geographic size
- Location
- Duration it takes to complete
- Number of entities involved
- Different thresholds for freshwater
- Allow the local regional groups to make this call
- VSP parameters combined with NOAA delisting criteria
- Number of ownerships

- No (11)

What are the key barriers or constraints your organization has in implementing large, complex projects?

- Funding (37)
- Permitting
- Landowner willingness
- Determining project benefit only by # of fish increase
- Capacity/Staffing
- Stakeholders
- Cooperation of other agencies
- Lack of human resources and political leverage
- Infrastructure/development constraints
- Conflicting interests

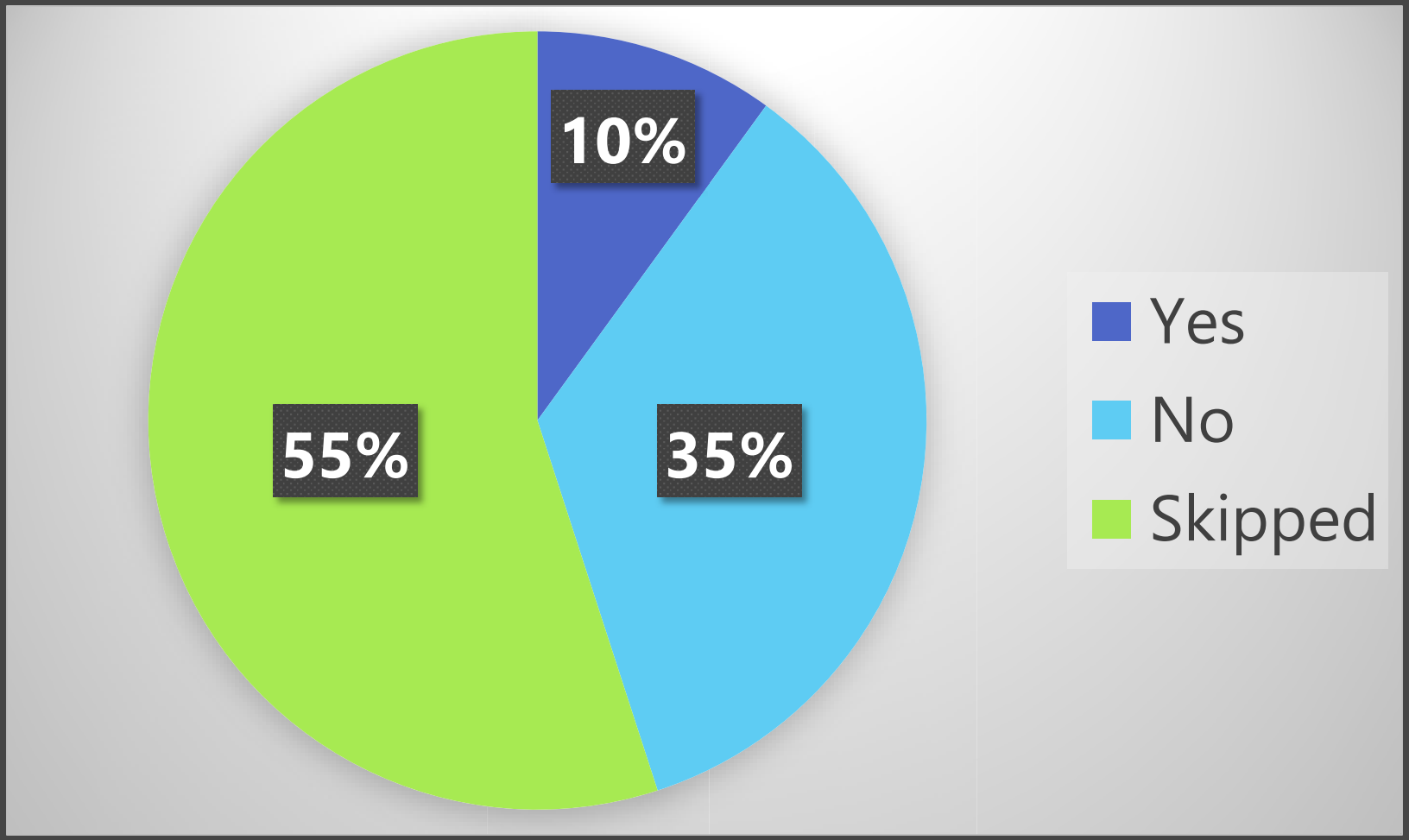
Has your organization had one or more large, complex project(s) that could not be funded by the SRFB?



Starting with the comment box for question 8 below, please list your projects over the last 10 years that could not be funded, by name/location for questions 8-12

- **22** respondents had at least 1 project that could not be funded
- **12** respondents had at least 2 projects that could not be funded
- **8** respondents had at least 3 projects that could not be funded
- **3** respondents had at least 4 projects that could not be funded
- **1** respondent had at least 5 projects that could not be funded

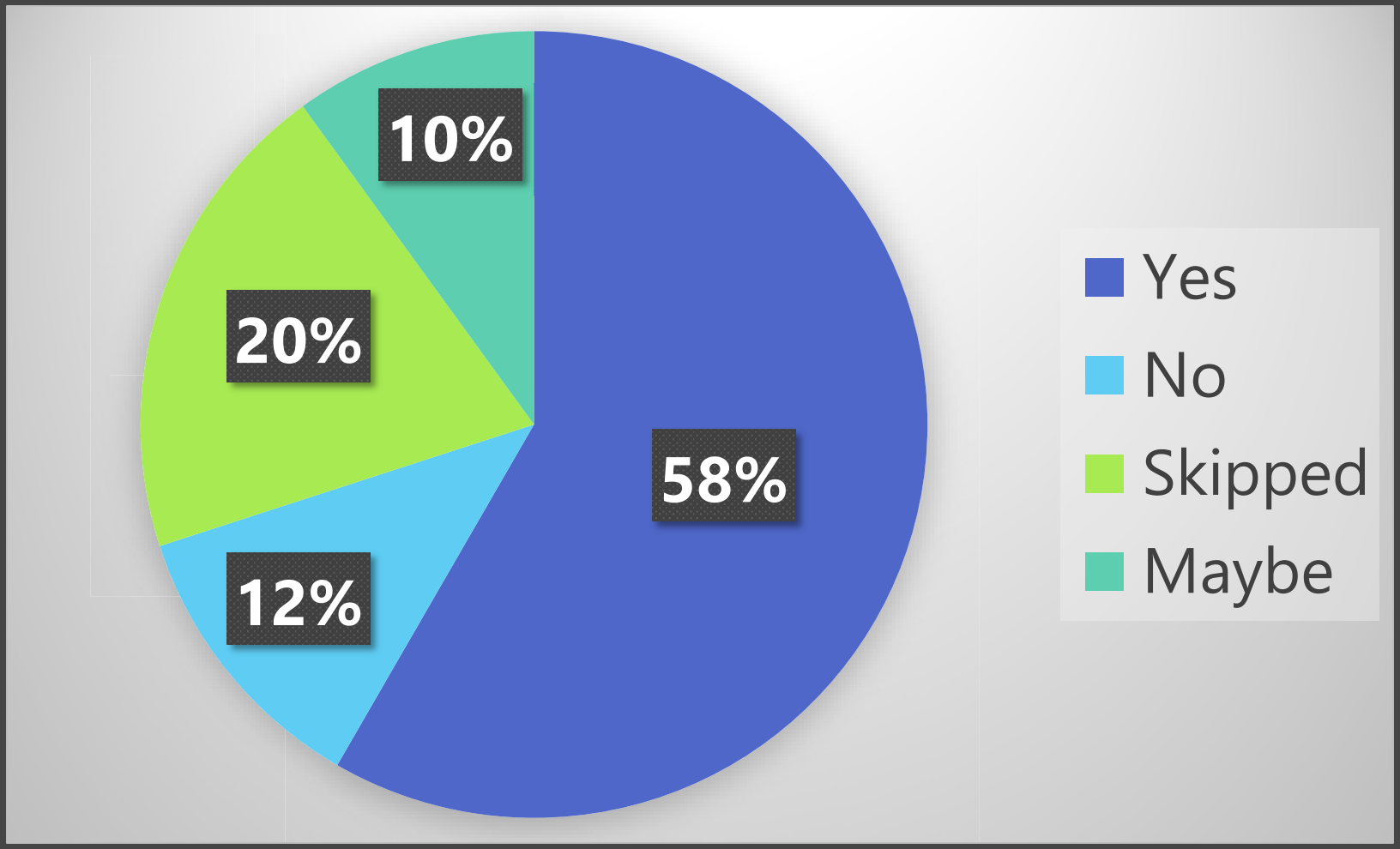
Are there any additional large, complex projects you did not have room to list?



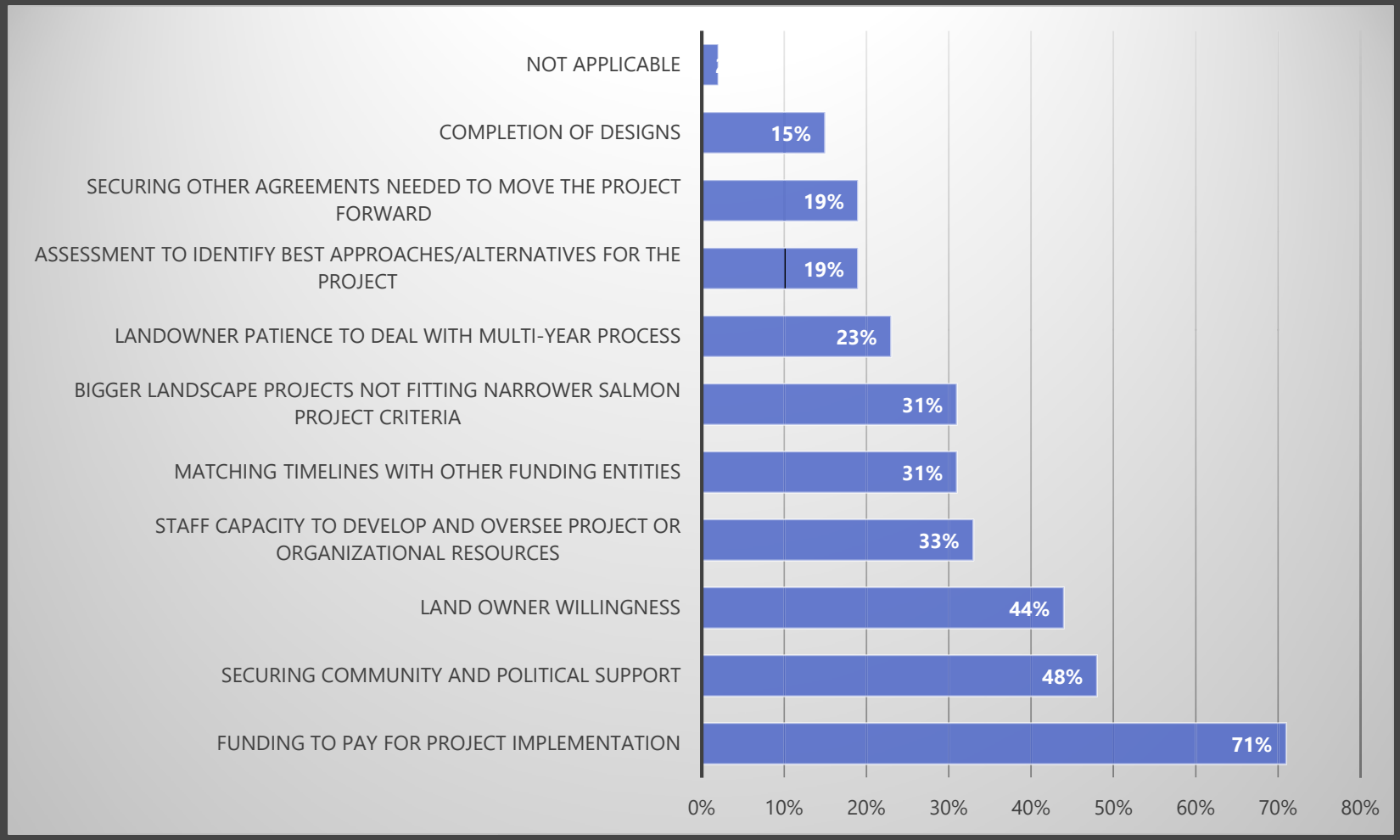
Responded "yes":

- There are ecosystem based projects identified that have not been pursued due the organizations understanding of the funding landscape.
- The Master planning effort for each watershed would intentionally lead to a number of specific projects, some of which are very likely to be large and complex
- Have several projects, but not worth my time to list
- County's Fish Passage Enhancement Program completed five last year and intends to complete 5-6 in the next two years.
- I'm positive there are many more. It would help to know how this information will be used.
- Projects are forthcoming, but will exceed availability of funds. There are likely half a dozen key projects in this category.

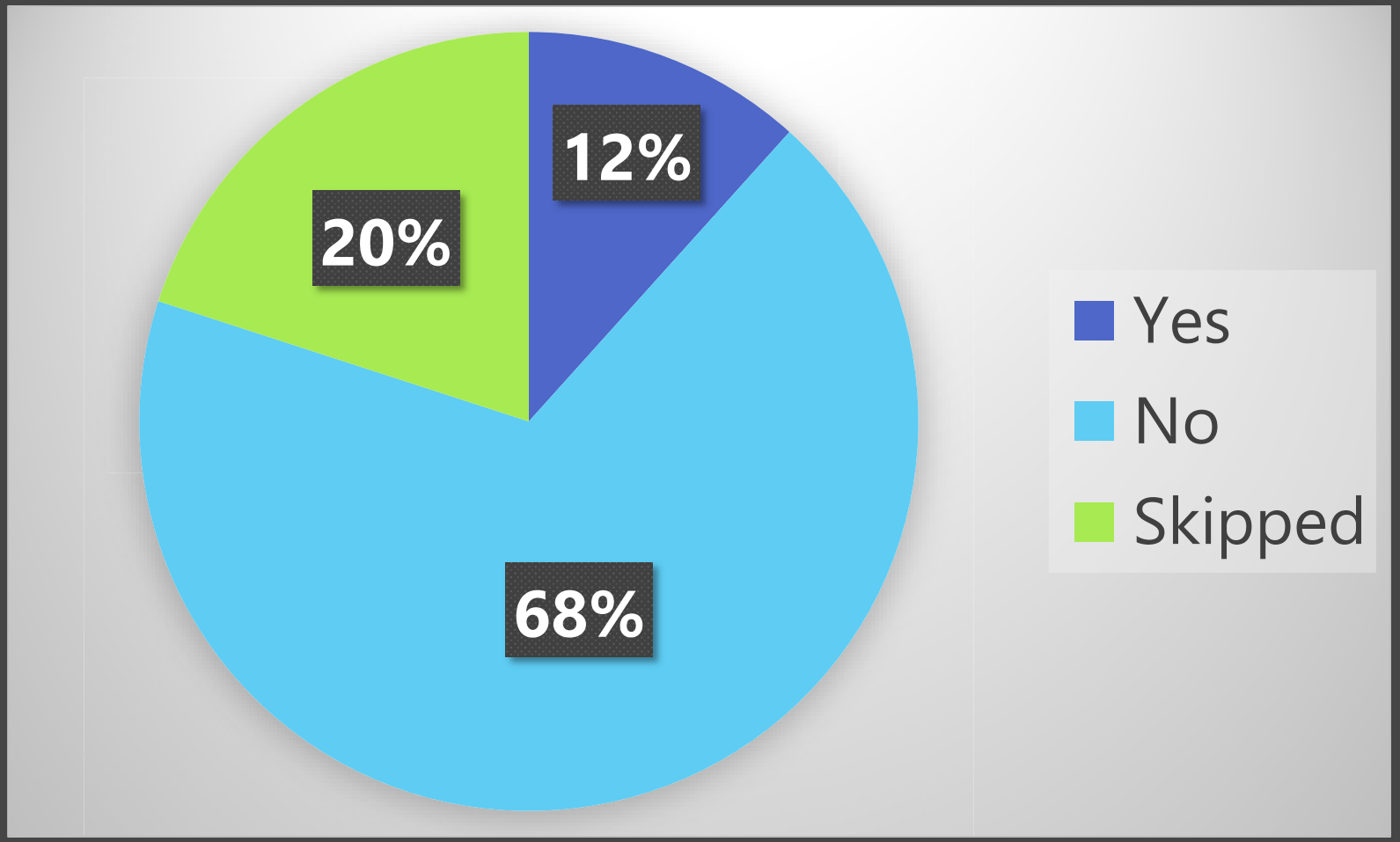
Does your organization have any large, complex projects planned for the next 3 years?



What are the main challenges that will need to be addressed to implement these future large, complex projects? CHOOSE TOP 3 CHALLENGES



Do you believe these future large, complex projects will be able to be funded within your lead entity's annual allocation?



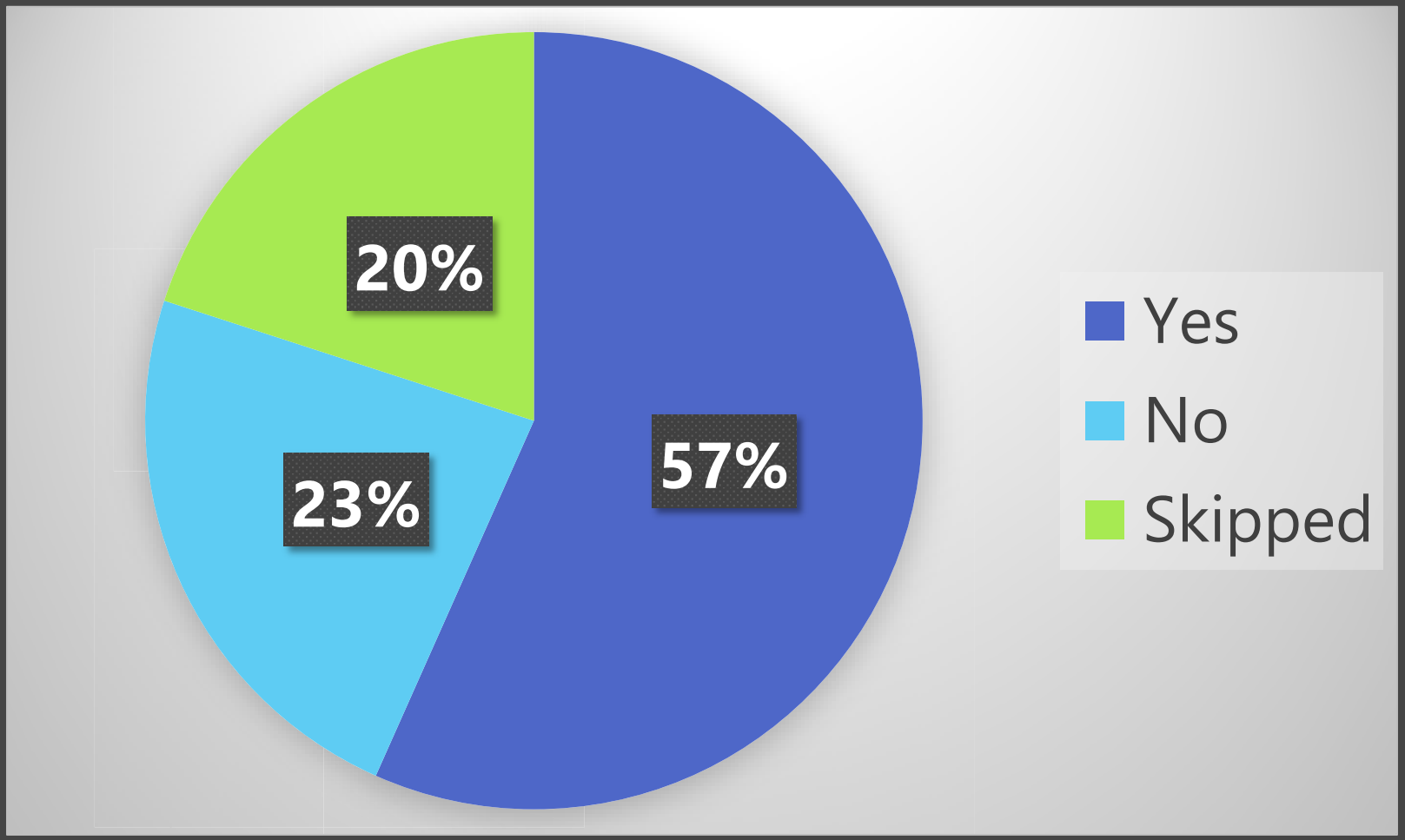
If you answered "no" in the question above, how do you plan to proceed with these projects?

- Phase the project - **23%**
- Apply for other funding - **38%**
- Seek direct appropriation from legislature - **9%**
- Delay the project **8%**
- Reduce the size or scope of project - **9%**
- Other - **13%**

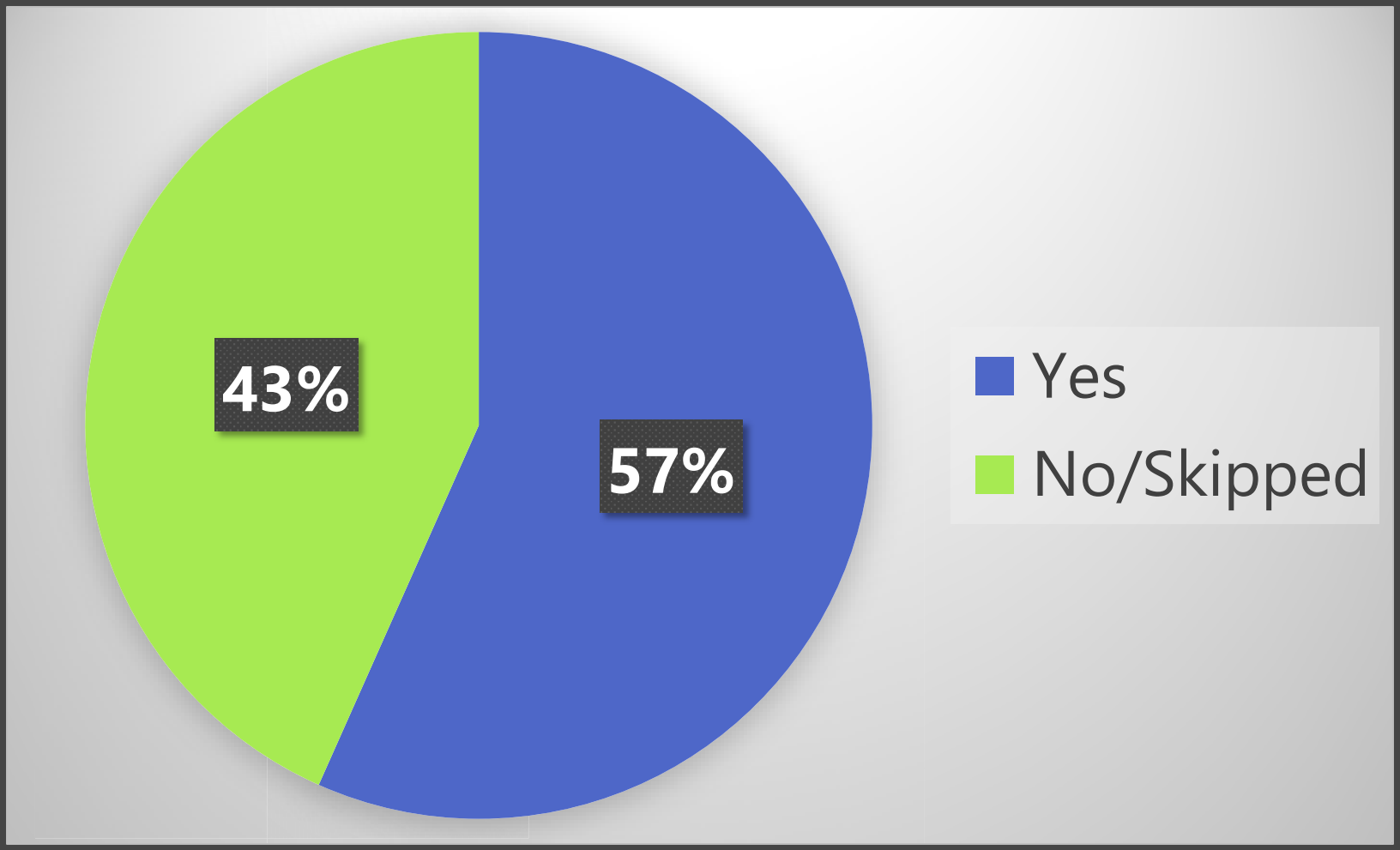
Responded "other":

- Seeking mitigation funds to purchase properties
- Congressional Appropriation
- Continue to try to build additional partnerships
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funds
- PSAR Large Cap funding
- Fish Barrier Removal Board
- San Juan Preservation Trust private funding
- Funding is in-hand
- Work with other partners to demonstrate what is possible
- Need a new funding mechanism for the protection of forestland. So important for salmon recovery.

Would you like to see the SRFB create a statewide competitive grant program to address the larger, more complex projects?



Would you like to see the SRFB target some funding in those regions nearing their recovery goals to assist the region in getting to de-listing under the Endangered Species Act?



Besides targeting large, complex projects or regions nearing delisting, should the SRFB target investments towards any other goal?

Some of what we heard:

- Protection of functioning habitat
- Remove the requirement for regional certifications: Klickitat
- Legislative communication
- Fish passage barriers as a focus for small entities
- General increase in funding
- Streamline permitting requirements
- Stream temperatures
- Keep some of the traditional allocations for smallish projects
- Recovery/preservation of natural processes, and connectivity
- Not beyond what we've already stated here
- Speeding up distribution of funds in order to enable projects to get on the ground faster!

Is there anything else you would like the SRFB to know about the funding of salmon recovery projects?

Some of what we heard:

- If SRFB chooses to develop a "large cap SRFB" it needs to maintain independence from the regular SRFB.
- Sponsors need to have the flexibility of applying to both funding sources
- I would encourage the SRFB to think as big as possible when it comes to developing the necessary funding.
- Education and Outreach projects
- Additional funding
- Lean the process
- streamline funding process
- Please don't create another large capital program through the state capital budget
- Grant application has redundant questions
- Thank you! (7)

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item 7

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: SRFB Monitoring Panel Recommendations

Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)
Pete Bisson and Leska Fore, Co-chairs, Monitoring Panel

Summary

This memo provides the background information for the monitoring recommendations being brought forth to the board by the monitoring panel. Funding decisions relating to these monitoring recommendations are covered under Item 8, which consolidates all funding decisions for the board to make at the July meeting.

As part of this Item 7, the monitoring panel will present its annual report with conditions for project sponsors related to the status and trends monitoring and the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) program. A more comprehensive discussion is expected with the board regarding the recommendations for the allocation of monitoring funds previously directed to "reach-scale project effectiveness" efforts. Those recommendations are included along with appendices that cite the panel's rationale in considering different alternatives, and the subsequent panel recommendations to the board.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award from NOAA requires a minimum of 10% of the annual award be designated for monitoring. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) relies on the following key documents and expertise to guide its overall monitoring program and funding priorities: the Comprehensive Strategy for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery (Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy), developed in 2004; studies, reports, and assessments typically obtained through board contracted work; and the monitoring panel, an independent scientific body the board established in 2013 to provide guidance and recommendations for the board's monitoring program.

Monitoring Framework that Guides the Salmon Recovery Funding Board[1]

The following three monitoring approaches are outlined in the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and form the foundation of the board's monitoring program:

1) Status and Trends for Fish Populations (Fish in/Fish out)
2) Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW's)
3) Reach-scale Project Effectiveness Monitoring

At a high level these three monitoring programs help the board address key questions such as:

- What is the status and health of fish populations?
- What is the status and health of the habitat?
- What are the key factors limiting recovery?
- Are we making progress towards recovery?
- Is the Board's monitoring program effective and efficient?

Because the board has a relatively limited budget compared to the overall cost of monitoring for salmon recovery, the board has focused on the above three monitoring programs to achieve its goals. The board also works to maximize its limited monitoring dollars by leveraging partner and tribal monitoring programs to address the broader questions around salmon recovery progress.

In addition to the types of monitoring, the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy provides the following guidance to the board:

> *"Monitoring Strategy: Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board-funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate with other entities in supporting and coordinating state-wide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies."*

This goal invokes four themes:

1) Promoting the *effectiveness* of Board-funded activities;
2) Demonstrating *accountability* for the expenditure of public funds in pursuit of salmon recovery;
3) Working *collaboratively* with other entities to support monitoring; and
4) Embracing the principles of *adaptive management*.

[1] Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board – Stillwater Sciences December 2013 PRISM Project #14-1992

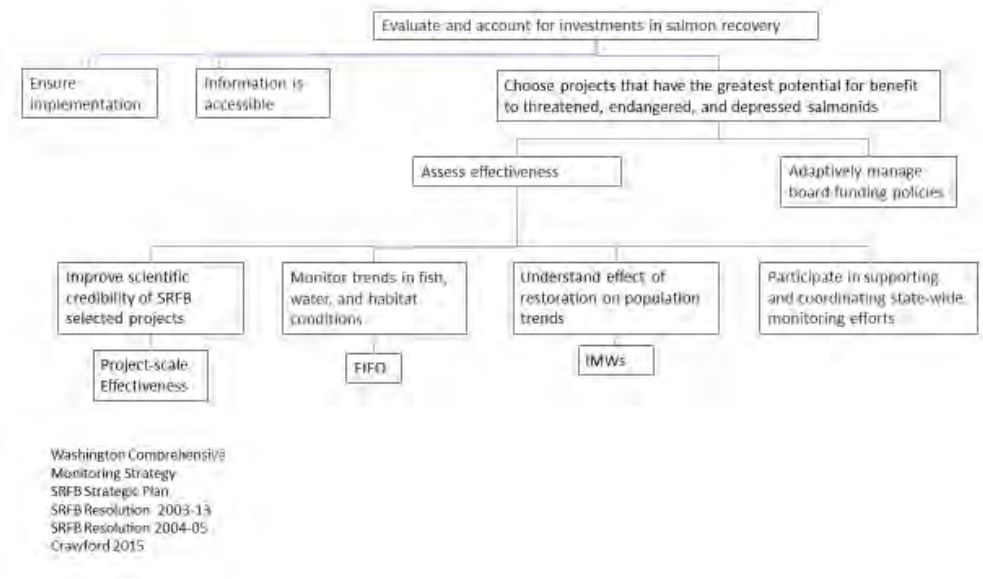


Figure 1. Diagram illustrating SRFB goals for monitoring, and their connections to current monitoring programs. Sources are listed at lower left.

Project Effectiveness Monitoring

From 2004 through early 2017, the board funded a contractor (Tetra Tech,LLC) to conduct a project effectiveness monitoring program. In late 2016, a new procurement to complete this program was required. The RCO contracted with Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) to complete the last two years of reach-scale sampling, and perform an independent review and synthesis of this 14-year reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring program. The CFS contract also included livestock monitoring conducted in collaboration with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Following a review of annual final reports and key findings provided by Tetra Tech, Cramer Fish Sciences issued their final report in 2018 (Roni et al. 2018) with recommendations for future monitoring[2]. The report identified only a few restoration project categories, from the original ten categories, that warranted future project effectiveness monitoring. Those categories included: riparian planting, floodplain enhancement and nearshore conditions. (See excerpt from Table 39 from final report below for complete list of categories reviewed).

[2] Roni, P., M. Krall, C. Clark, and K. Ross. 2019. Salmon Recovery Funding Board reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring program: 2018 Final Report. Report to the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia.

Table 39. Different categories of project types and whether they should be included in a future phase of the Project Effectiveness Monitoring Program (PE) and why or why not.

Category	Name	Additional PE monitoring	Reason
MC-1	Fish Passage	No	Well studied
MC-2	Instream Habitat	No	Well studied with exception of winter data and specific design considerations
MC-3	Riparian Planting	Yes	Common technique with limited monitoring and variable success
MC-4	Livestock Exclusion	No	Well studied; success dependent on maintaining fencing; conduct compliance monitoring
MC-5/6*	Floodplain Enhancement	Yes	Increasingly common approach, previous PE monitoring inconclusive due to implementation issues
MC-8	Diversion Screening	No	Compliance monitoring
MC-10	Habitat Protection	No	This should be part of a status and trend monitoring program.
NA	Nearshore	Yes	Increasing common technique that has not been evaluated and could be easily done
NA	Estuarine	No	It would be difficult to evaluate as part of PE, but case studies evaluating this category should be initiated as part of comprehensive monitoring program (IMW or other)

Based on several reports, including those from Tetra Tech and Cramer Fish Sciences, the board directed the monitoring panel to evaluate the project effectiveness monitoring program and develop recommendations for the board to consider as the next phase of its monitoring program.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Direction to the Monitoring Panel - September 2018

At their September 2018 meeting, the board provided direction to the monitoring panel to convene a project effectiveness workshop (later clarified to be a more generalized monitoring workshop) in the autumn of 2018 to assess the potential to modify monitoring categories and/or develop any recommendations for future monitoring or complementary efforts. Further direction was provided to the monitoring panel verbally to prepare recommendations for the board with a possible "pivot" away from reach-scale effectiveness monitoring.

Monitoring Panel Review Process

To address the board's directive, the monitoring panel and GSRO staff hosted two workshops in 2019 (February and March), and held several web-based meetings and conference calls with interested stakeholders from the recovery regions, lead entities, and tribes. SRFB members Phil Rockefeller and Jeff Breckel participated on behalf of the board.

The purpose of the workshops and the conference calls was to generate and review a range of monitoring alternatives that could be evaluated by the monitoring panel, leading ultimately to monitoring panel recommendations for the board to consider.

At the February and March workshops, eight monitoring alternatives were proposed and discussed (see Attachment A, and summarized below for convenience). The monitoring alternatives were provided by the monitoring panel based on discussion during the first workshop, but also included one alternative proposed by the Council of Regions that outlined the need for a data gap analysis (see alternative G below and in Attachment A).

Below are the proposed monitoring alternatives considered during the monitoring panel review process (not in any priority order):

A. Restoration-Scale Effectiveness: Evaluate floodplain and riparian restoration effectiveness at a scale larger than reach-scale, but less than an IMW scale (please note nearshore effectiveness was considered, but the panel recommends that other programs that focus on nearshore monitoring be contacted first to understand monitoring needs that are not currently being met by those programs);

B. Limiting Factors: Use existing data and analysis to update information on limiting factors and limiting life stages in each region;

C. One-Time Regional Data Need: Provide one-time funds for analytical support of existing data for one or more regions, e.g., to focus on de-listing information needed;

D. One-Time Status and Trends summary: Provide one-time funds to support summary status and trends for Fish in/Fish out for all regions;

E. Fish in/Fish out: Increase funds for data collection in selected watersheds;

F. New Methods: Support proof-of-concept trials for novel monitoring methods;

G. Regional Summary: Provide coordination to identify the available data and key data gaps to describe status and trends for all regions with a specific focus on fish (fish-in, fish-out) and habitat metrics, and develop a plan to address those data gaps;

H. Improve Fish Barrier Database: Provide funding for GSRO, WDFW, Fish Barrier Removal Board, and regions to work together to evaluate and improve the status of the statewide barrier database and prioritize future barrier assessment surveys.

The monitoring panel considered the feedback and suggestions solicited from the workshops, separate communication with stakeholders, the board's Reach-Scale Project Effectiveness final report, and monitoring panel discussions. To organize and structure the monitoring panel's recommendations to the board, the monitoring panel developed the following criteria to evaluate each of the alternatives laid out in Attachment A (and summarized above). The pros and cons for each alternative are also presented in Attachment A.

Monitoring Panel's criteria for evaluating alternative approaches:

(1) Does the proposed approach fall within the scope of the SRFB Monitoring program?
    a. If yes, the approach was considered for further discussion.
    b. If no, the approach was not considered for further discussion.
(2) Does the approach provide useful information to restoration practitioners in a timely fashion?
(3) Scientific Credibility and Timing Criteria:
    a. What is the likelihood of finding a scientifically credible result within a reasonable time frame?
    b. Is the approach within the appropriate time sequence?
(4) Cost Criteria:
    a. Is the approach the best use of limited SRFB monitoring funds?
    b. Is the approach achievable within an expected annual budget of $200-300K?
    c. Will it or does it have the possibility to leverage other funding opportunities?
(5) Will the approach inform Endangered Species Act (ESA) viable salmonid parameters (VSP)[3] criteria (population abundance, productivity, spatial structure, and diversity estimates) or addresses habitat and/or limiting life stages related to de-listing?
(6) Scale Issues:
    a. Statewide applicability?
    b. Regional applicability only?
    c. Watershed/sub-watershed applicability only?

[3] Crawford, Bruce editor, NMFS 2012 Methods and Quality of VSP Monitoring Of ESA Listed Puget Sound Salmon and Steelhead With Identified Critical Gaps (Produced by the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program's Salmonid Work Group)

Monitoring Panel Recommendations and Rationale

After applying the criteria above, the monitoring panel developed recommendations for the alternatives identified to be within the scope of the board's monitoring program, and most directly met the goals of the board's monitoring strategy.

Recommendation #1 – Fund Elements of Restoration-Scale Effectiveness (Alternative A) and New Monitoring Methodologies (Alternative F)

1a. Restoration-Scale Effectiveness (Alternative A) – Evaluate the effectiveness of broad-scale floodplain and riparian restoration efforts (~1-2 km scale) (and explore options for nearshore restoration projects) using "Green" LiDAR.

This recommendation combines elements of Alternatives A and F, which are provided in Attachment A. This recommendation addresses two of the monitoring recommendations from the board's Reach-Scale Project Effectiveness Program final report (Roni et al. 2018). The combined A/F approach is intended to collect data at floodplain and riparian restoration sites in order to better understand restoration project effectiveness for these project types.

The board funding of complex floodplain restoration projects has increased in recent years. These are often the most expensive proposals in a given watershed, and yet we often don't know if these types of projects are meeting their salmon recovery objectives. This alternative would collect Green LiDAR data across a series of sites representing western and eastern Washington habitats (Green LiDAR allows for bathymetry or underwater channel measurements from remote sensing). The effort would be coordinated with Regions to measure in-channel response to habitat treatments, riparian forest development, and habitat composition at broad spatial scales. Results would inform and direct implementation of the most effective restoration projects. Data collected would be analyzed every 3-5 years (i.e., 3-5 year project window), and could be made available for project sponsors and other stakeholders to use as needed.

The monitoring panel proposes developing an initial request for a proposal (RFP) this year (2019) for a study design for the collection of geospatial data (Green LiDAR), including analytical approaches and proposed metrics for measuring habitat complexity, and would seek input on any additional data needed to evaluation floodplain project performance.

The monitoring panel also suggested providing an additional option in the request for proposals to scope a one-time restoration effectiveness synthesis

study outlining what is known about the effectiveness of types of restoration projects consistent with what has been implemented by the board. This concept is outlined in more detail in Attachment A, and was suggested, in part, by the monitoring panel to partially address the gap analysis request by the Council of Regions, as well as from our advisory member representing the BPA.

1b. New or Emerging Monitoring Methods (Alternative F) – Explore New or Emerging Monitoring Methods or Tools through a Proof-of-Concept Approach. This recommendation supports Alternative F in Attachment A. This recommendation would reserve some funding to test the value of new methods to validate existing projects. It is likely that novel monitoring methods would initially take place as pilot-scale demonstration or "proof of concept" tests, and would not be applied to larger areas until properly evaluated.

This alternative received favorable comments from participants at the second workshop held in March 2019. It has been difficult to demonstrate significant improvements in either habitat quality or fish populations at the watershed scale using reach-scale effectiveness monitoring approaches. However, over the last few years a number of new technologies, or novel applications of existing technologies or methods of analysis, show promise in demonstrating improving trends in aquatic habitat target species at larger spatial scales. New methods are developing quickly and this seed funding could be applied to explore alone, or with other partners, new and emerging tools and technologies to improve the quality or quantity of monitoring information.

The amount of funding available would fluctuate. For example, during years when projects are not monitored under **Recommendation #1a**, more funding would be available for testing new methods. Examples might include environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling to provide fish distribution and population information across a small watershed or large floodplain ecosystem, Green LiDAR to document fine-scale aquatic habitat complexity and riparian condition without the difficult task (time-consuming and cost) of field surveys, and forward-looking infrared (FLiR) for locating patches of unusually warm or cool water along a drainage network.

Recommendation #2 – Explore Funding Options to Provide a Regional Summary of Key Data Gaps (Alternative G)

During the workshops and subsequent meetings, it became clear that identifying key data gaps was important work, and was especially supported by the Council of Regions. The regional recovery organizations added Alternative G to the list of monitoring alternatives to be considered. The monitoring panel identified this option as important work but considered this more of a planning activity[4] than on-the-ground monitoring. In addition, RCO and GSRO considered use of monitoring funds for a gap analysis, but ultimately determined that it did not meet the requirements of the PCSRF grant, and would decrease the competitiveness of the Washington application (see below under "Council of Regions' Letter to the Board for details). Therefore, the monitoring panel is not recommending that effectiveness monitoring funding be redirected to this activity.

However, because this work is important, the monitoring panel is requesting that the board encourage a dialogue between the board, monitoring panel and the COR to determine pathways and funding opportunities to initiate data gap analyses. The monitoring panel further suggests working region by region may be an efficient and a cost-effective way to approach this topic, and would align with the upcoming NOAA 5-year status reviews for salmon ESUs. The monitoring panel members have increased their collective efforts to more formally and collaboratively engage with the COR, and look forward to continuing this dialogue in order to explore options for developing a state-wide data gap analysis.

General Guidance

Improve Communication of Monitoring Results and Continue to Leverage Other Monitoring Programs with an Emphasis on Outreach to Varied Audiences.

1. **Improve communication of monitoring results.**
   The monitoring panel recognized the increasing need for wider distribution of key findings from all of the board's monitoring programs, as well as those funded from other sources but administered by RCO and GSRO. Project leads and researchers should be encouraged to build in additional project costs that explicitly allow for researchers to summarize, synthesize, and more broadly distribute monitoring information, data, and key findings. (Please note: panel members are not suggesting the utilization of monitoring funds for these tasks).

[4] PCSRF 2019 application's budget narrative table referencing tiers and priorities, page 2

2. **Continue to maximize coordination/leveraging of other monitoring programs.**

   The monitoring panel recognized the importance of coordinating and leveraging other monitoring resources given the board's limited funding for monitoring relative to other resources and other programs statewide. The monitoring panel also recognized that the board has historically done a good job of leveraging other monitoring programs and resources, and encourages the board to maintain this approach as it considers additional monitoring efforts or programs. For example, Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife both have statewide status and trend programs (fish and habitat) that support statewide programs. Continuing to leverage these programs and explore others that are statewide or regional in nature (i.e. EPA's National Estuary Program, EPA Exchange Network, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Oregon Enhancement Watershed Board, et al.) will be efficient and effective.

Council of Regions' Letter to the Board – dated June 14th, 2019

The COR recommended a number of tasks in their letter of June 14th, including hiring a consultant through an RFP to facilitate the region-wide gap analysis

(COR letter pdf is attached in Attachment B).

GSRO and RCO considered this recommendation by COR but ultimately determined that this type of data gap analysis or assessment does not meet the requirements of the PSCRF award to dedicate 10% of its annual funds to monitoring activities and, should funding be added in future applications, it would be in the lowest priority thus negatively impacting the competitiveness of the Washington PCSRF application. Monitoring is generally understood to be data collection and analysis activities, whereas a "gap analysis" is generally considered an assessment or a planning activity by PCSRF standards. The PCSRF grant application is structured by priority tiers, where on-the-ground projects and actions are considered priority one, monitoring activities are priority two, and administrative and planning activities are priority three. The more funding allocated to tier three activities, the less competitive the grant application.

First, it is not possible to shift funds from priority tier one or two (on the group project allocation or monitoring) into tier three (gap analysis in this case) for current PCSRF awards. Second, in the future, to include additional tier three activities in the PCSRF application would negatively impact the competitive nature of the Washington application. The only option that would not decrease the competitiveness of the application would be to utilize existing tier three funding that is currently dedicated to

Regional capacity funding for this gap analysis. GSRO and RCO suggest that the Regions work together to determine how much of their regional administrative dollars (including carry-forward funds) could be used for this purpose, and what gap, if any, exists in fully funding this activity. If there is a gap, then the Regions could develop a proposal that could be circulated to other potential funding sources. The COR could work with the monitoring panel members as appropriate to incorporate the panel's expertise in developing the proposal for funding.

Summary of Recommendations:

Implement recommendation #1a:
Contingent on funding, issue a "request for proposals" in the summer of 2019, for a contractor to develop a study design using geospatial data (Green LiDAR) to implement a restoration-scale effectiveness monitoring project. The RFP would also include options for a one-time synthesis study or compendium to summarize what is known about effectiveness of the types of restoration projects that have been implemented, with an emphasis on floodplains and riparian corridors. Once funded, the Director would have the ability to finalize a contract, after review by the monitoring panel.

Implement recommendation #1b:

Contingent on funding, issue a "request for proposals" in the summer of 2019, utilizing other monitoring techniques, such as environmental DNA. The approach would provide an opportunity for groups interested in demonstrating novel monitoring technology with potential for broad application. Any novel approach should have application to salmon recovery clearly defined. Once funded, the Director would have the ability to finalize a contract, after review by the monitoring panel.

Further explore the COR recommendation for a gap analysis:

Contingent on finding funding, convene an ad hoc workgroup to include, at a minimum, the GSRO science coordinator, representatives from each of the Regions, and volunteer members of the monitoring panel, to scope a gap analysis as outlined in the COR June 14 letter. The purpose of the workgroup would be to identify the specific costs and scope(s) of work for this gap analysis. The ad hoc workgroup should also identify how much of the funding need could be addressed through the use of regional administrative or other funds, how much other new funding is needed, and the appropriate timeline(s).

Monitoring funding decisions, and final motion language are found in Item 8.

Attachments

Attachment A – Alternatives proposed and considered for SRFB Monitoring during SRFB Monitoring Retrospective Workshops.

Attachment B – Council of Regions Letter

Attachment C – Monitoring Panel Report

Alternatives proposed and considered for SRFB Monitoring during SRFB Monitoring Retrospective Workshops.

A. **<u>Restoration Effectiveness:</u> Evaluate floodplain and riparian restoration effectiveness at a larger scale.**
Evaluate the effectiveness of restoration at larger spatial scales than the site and small reaches evaluated as part of the PE project. The approach would evaluate the cumulative effects of multiple actions that are typical of contemporary restoration projects. Project types representative of the east and west side would be selected to monitor and evaluate.

Pros	Cons
Provides information about what types of recovery actions are working to restore salmon populations Pre-project data collected for monitoring would also be valuable for project design and would save implementation costs. Data Analysis occurs at ~5-year intervals so that more projects are evaluated with less cost Recommended by Cramer Fish Sciences based on review of published literature and PRISM projects Evaluation done at the reach scale includes more actions in a 1-2 km reach that are typical of current restoration projects	Does not answer questions about status and de-listing Some regions are more interested in habitat and population status and trends

One-time funding for a project effectiveness synthesis report.

This work supports Alternative A. It would provide one-time funding for a synthesis study of what we know about the effectiveness of the types of restoration projects that have been implemented. We have many years of individual studies, regional multi-year programs (i.e., SRFB, BPA), and prior synthesis efforts (e.g., Hillman, Roni, and O'Neal) to draw from. Communication of results and conclusions is a big limitation and the SRFB could make a big difference with this focused effort. The results and recommendations from this synthesis report would expand beyond the PE Final report and ultimately inform future needs and priorities of project or reach-scale effectiveness monitoring efforts.

This evaluation might include a review (or meta-analysis) of projects for both the east and the west side of the state because lessons learned sometimes differ due to geography. This work could potentially inform what types of studies are needed to fill gaps in our knowledge about specific types of recovery actions or habitat types. This could also inform what types of project effectiveness studies to *stop* doing because there is a high degree of certainty associated with specific project types.

Retrospective analysis of completed riparian planting projects.

A retrospective analysis is another element associated with Alternative A that would focus on analyzing existing information to evaluate the effectiveness of completed riparian restoration projects. SRFB has been funding riparian planting projects for the last 20 years, yet these projects have not been evaluated to see if they are still there and functioning on the landscape. This work would evaluate riparian planting projects to determine if they are achieving their intended outcomes.

The goal of this effort would be to produce adaptive management recommendations for planting project implementation and plant establishment. This retrospective evaluation may be stratified by the east and west sides of the state. This approach could be a two- or three-year effort, depending on the final project scope, and would build upon previous retrospective evaluations of other monitoring programs such as the EPA, ESRP, OWEB, counties and conservation districts. This approach would utilize both GIS analysis using imagery and LiDAR data and field survey methods for verification.

B. <u>Limiting Factors:</u> Use existing data and analysis to update information on limiting factors and life stages in each region.

New data has accumulated from multiple sources and could be evaluated to determine which life stages are bottlenecks for population recovery in various watersheds.

Pros	Cons
Knowledge of limiting factors and life stages would inform recovery efforts	Limiting factors have been identified for many watersheds Questions are broader and more complex than funds available Existing data likely unable to answer questions, new data would be needed

The Monitoring Panel did not generate a recommendation for this alternative because it ranked low in the scoring criteria for cost, best use of limited monitoring funds, and likely to produce results in a timely manner. Updating limiting factors analyses is a large task that would need a longer-term funding source than what is currently being discussed. The Monitoring Panel acknowledged the importance of this alternative, but concluded it

was more of an assessment and strategic analysis rather than monitoring. A different funding source would be a better option to accomplish this task.

C. <u>One-Time Analysis:</u> Provide ONE-TIME funds for analytical support of existing data for one or more regions, e.g., to focus on de-listing information needed.
This could be a mix of data collection and evaluation of existing data. Funding could rotate through each of the regions once to provide funds to analyze existing data, hire a consulting statistician, or collect new data.

Pros	Cons
Existing data could be analyzed and interpreted Statistical support could improve data interpretation Support regions that are close to de-listing as well as other regions for NOAA 5-year status reviews	Open-ended questions could be hard to manage, or too expensive If focus is on de-listing, this would start with convening NOAA advisors which is not a monitoring activity

The Monitoring Panel did not generate a recommendation for this alternative because it ranked low in the scoring criteria for cost, best use of limited monitoring funds, scale issues, and likely to produce results in a timely manner. The Monitoring Panel acknowledged the importance of this alternative but suggest a different funding source would be a better option to accomplish this task. For example, regions could utilize the regional monitoring allocation if this is a priority task. For future SRFB-funded monitoring projects, the Monitoring Panel would like to see more data analysis and reporting requirements included in the scopes of work.

D. <u>One-Time Status and Trends summary</u>: Provide ONE-TIME funds to support summary status and trends, for all regions.
Option D is similar to C, but instead of looking at bottlenecks, it would focus on summarizing current population assessments of habitat status and trends.

Pros	Cons
Similar to C above	Similar to C above

The Monitoring Panel did not generate a recommendation for this alternative because it ranked low in the scoring criteria for cost, best use of limited monitoring funds, scale issues, and likely to produce results in a timely manner. The Monitoring Panel

acknowledged the importance of this alternative but suggest a different funding source would be a better option to accomplish this task. For example, regions could utilize the regional monitoring allocation if this is a priority task. For future SRFB-funded monitoring projects, the Monitoring Panel would like to see more data analysis and reporting requirements included in the scopes of work.

E. <u>Fish in/Fish out</u>: Increase funds for fish in / fish out data collection in selected watersheds.

Pros	Cons
Addresses a significant need for watersheds to evaluate VSP Monitoring Panel strongly supports this need for monitoring Addresses specific gaps in watersheds for equipment or data collection for specific species	A larger funding source is needed to support this monitoring SRFB funding at $300K per year cannot cover this Cost is ~ $180K per watershed

This alternative would establish a funding reserve to expand SRFB Fish in/Fish out monitoring and analysis that would leverage the current patchwork of funding for this type of data. Funding could apply to specific watersheds that need funding or one-time gaps in data collection (e.g., Klickitat spawner surveys), or support current monitoring with budget shortfalls. Specific species with very little information, such as Puget Sound steelhead could also be emphasized.

F. <u>New Methods:</u> Support proof-of-concept trials for novel monitoring methods.
Monitoring technology has improved over the past 10-15 years (e.g., remote sensing techniques such as LiDAR and environmental DNA). This alternative would provide an opportunity for groups interested in demonstrating novel monitoring technology with potential for broad application, and as well as monitoring efficiencies and economies of scale. *This approach is incorporated in Recommendation #1.*

Pros	Cons
New remote-sensing methods provide data across larger landscapes at lower cost Results could be applied across regions	Any novel approach should have application to salmon recovery clearly defined

G: Council of Recovery Region (COR) Recommendations on High Priority Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Investments: Provide coordination to identify the available data and key data gaps to describe status and trends for all regions with a specific focus on fish and habitat metrics and develop a plan to address those data gaps. (COR request is attached in Attachment B).

(1) Statewide collaboration to develop a shared outline;
(2) Regional work to fill out shared data in conjunction with local partners (possible contractor/GSRO staff support);
(3) Summarize results of gaps analysis together at state level;
(4) Propose actions to address key gaps;
(5) Bring prioritized next steps to SRFB and other partners for use in agency funding decisions/proposals.

Pros	Cons
Collaboration and learning is supported across regions Existing data could be analyzed and interpreted to inform strategic investments for monitoring Needs for monitoring and assessment are prioritized	High cost may be prohibitive Does not necessarily result in monitoring data or outcomes to inform recovery projects May be more closely related to strategic planning Could potentially be funded through Regional Monitoring Allocation

The Monitoring Panel believes this alternative has value and therefore recommends that this work be funded. However, the Monitoring Panel does not believe this effort, which is more of an assessment and strategic planning exercise, should be supported with monitoring funds. Rather, they believe this effort should be funded using other funding sources. An "all regions" data gap analysis and strategic planning effort with proposed actions is a large task that would need a longer-term funding source than what is currently being discussed.

***H. Improve Fish Barrier Database*: Provide funding for GSRO, WDFW, Fish Barrier Removal Board, and regions to work together to evaluate and improve the status of the statewide barrier database and prioritize future barrier assessment surveys.**

(1) Help people understand what is/is not in the FBRB
(2) Help support regions with resources to conduct the local review and quality control of the data that WDFW needs
(3) Use the data to identify priority areas for the barrier discussions as well as areas where better data are needed for future on-the-ground assessments.

Pros	Cons
New funding for barrier removal has increased the need to locate and prioritize which barriers should be removed Database would improve collaboration and coordination across watersheds	Other agencies leading this work This is not monitoring Could potentially be funded through regular SRFB project funding

The Monitoring Panel did not generate a recommendation for this alternative because it was considered outside of the scope of the monitoring program and it ranked low in the scoring criteria for cost and best use of limited monitoring funds. The Monitoring Panel acknowledged the value of this alternative but concluded culvert assessments and database improvements are not monitoring activities. A different funding source would be a better option to accomplish this task.

Proponents of this alternative are encouraged to work closely with the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Passage Program on the prioritization of barrier assessments and improvements to the statewide Fish Passage and Diversion Screening Inventory (FPDSI) database.

WASHINGTON STATE REGIONAL SALMON RECOVERY ORGANIZATIONS

June 14, 2019

Mr. Phil Rockefeller, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Post Office Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Subject: Council of Recovery Region (COR) Recommendations on High Priority Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Investments

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

The Council of Regions (COR) is pleased to submit comments and a proposal for your consideration on the next phase of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) monitoring effort. Coordinating monitoring programs is a primary function of the regional recovery organizations. Effective monitoring programs enable us to work with our partners to plan, implement, assess, validate, and adaptively manage recovery efforts while tracking progress toward delisting, or in other cases, inform any future listing decisions. Salmon recovery or enhancement efforts are conducted on an Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and not a statewide basis, meaning each region has developed or will develop a research, monitoring and evaluation plan. These plans identify the region's key management questions and associated monitoring needs, approaches and priorities. While useful as an overall framework within each region, there is a pressing need to update and coordinate these plans into a true integrated strategy for monitoring funding and implementation at the statewide level.

To date, the SRFB's monitoring funding and work of the Monitoring Panel, which was convened by the Board with strong support from COR, have focused on evaluating the effectiveness of habitat restoration projects at a project or watershed scale, with the intent of informing SRFB decisions about how to manage its habitat restoration and protection grant program. At the same time, the state's seven salmon recovery regions are tasked with developing monitoring plans that identify the monitoring needed to implement, assess and adaptively manage recovery and sustainability efforts, track progress toward delisting, and inform any future listing decisions. Priorities typically include monitoring of population viability, life stage specific survival, habitat status and trends, and threats to species. Guidance on the types of monitoring needed to effectively implement recovery plans and evaluate species status has been developed by Governors Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and NOAA Fisheries.[1] *This regional task is generally unfunded, but is nonetheless essential to the mission of each recovery region.*

[11] The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed and Salmon Recovery, Volumes 1 through 3, Monitoring Oversight Committee, 2002; 2004-2014 Monitoring Program, Washington Salmon Recovery Board, Bruce Crawford, Fish Friendly, Inc., 2015; Guidance for Monitoring Recovery of Pacific Northwest Salmon & Steelhead listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act, Bruce A. Crawford and Scott M. Rumsey, National Marine Fisheries Service NW Region, 2011.

The 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (CMS) detailed how state agencies and regions could work together to implement this broad array of monitoring. Until 2012, implementation of the CMS was overseen by the Governor's Monitoring Forum, which worked with multiple state agencies to develop biennial budget requests for shared monitoring priorities. Since the sunset of the Monitoring Forum, there has been little statewide coordination regarding how to meet priority recovery implementation monitoring needs, though individual state agencies, Tribes, and partners have continued to implement some but not all of the recommended monitoring.

Two proposals arose from the sunset of the Monitoring Forum. The first emerged in 2014 when the Regions worked with the SRFB and GSRO to draft a list of unmet regional monitoring priorities to be included in the RCO state budget request. However, after feedback on limited funding prospects from the Governor's Office of Financial Management, we did not finalize the list as part of the final request to the Governor. The second effort was the 2015 policy developed by GSRO and SRFB that allowed regional organizations to allocate up to 10% of their annual SRFB project allocations to priority regional monitoring needs. While this policy has been used to fund several regional monitoring priorities and is a step in the right direction, it falls short of meeting the existing monitoring needs and is only able to provide short-term and piecemeal funding generally for ongoing region-specific monitoring. As the SRFB is again considering monitoring priorities, the COR encourages revisiting the CMS as a starting point to consider how to best maximize regional monitoring priorities and statewide efficiencies through coordination among regional organizations and state agencies.

In September of 2018, we heard the SRFB encourage the Monitoring Panel to work with GSRO and the Regions to identify high priority regional monitoring needs. In response, the regions set aside time to identify and discuss key management questions that need to be answered in their respective areas and the information needed to answer those questions. Further, the regions participated in workshops with the Monitoring Panel this winter and spring, and we encouraged the Monitoring Panel to work with us and GSRO to develop a proposal for a broader review and assessment of current regional monitoring needs.[2] The assessment would review monitoring plan priorities and existing monitoring programs in order to identify specific regional and statewide monitoring needs, and start the process of working with state agencies to develop funding proposals for priority monitoring actions. We anticipated working together with the Monitoring Panel and GSRO staff and/or contractors to identify a shared outline and set of questions that could then be filled out by each region's technical teams. Answers could then be compiled at a state level to identify regional priorities and opportunities to coordinate across regions and state agencies to effectively and efficiently meet these needs. This is modeled after the successful "Skamania Process" used by NOAA and BPA in 2014 to identify and fund monitoring priorities in the Columbia Basin. We anticipated that a solid assessment could be completed in 1 year with a budget of $250,000 to $400,000.

Today, there remains a need for broader coordination between regions and state agencies, Tribes, and other monitoring partners to identify critical monitoring needs and develop and fund stable long-term monitoring programs that address those needs. *The SRFB and the SRFB Monitoring Panel are in the perfect position to provide both the statewide coordination and expertise to lead this effort.*

[2] This was identified as "Alternative G" during the April 18, 2019 Monitoring Retrorespective Workshop, and called for providing coordination to identify the availability of data and key data gaps needed to describe status and trends for all regions, with a specific focus on fish and habitat metrics, and development of a plan to address gaps.

We understand that the monitoring panel has chosen to focus its recommendations to the Board on next steps for project effectiveness monitoring, though as we write, we have not had the opportunity to review their written recommendations. We remain committed to finding ways to move forward with the broader review of regional monitoring priorities we have proposed, and offer the following proposal for your consideration.

To ensure that the SRFB monitoring investments achieve their full potential and serve the needs of the state and regions, we propose the following:

1. Be clear on what a statewide monitoring program is aiming to achieve, and the management questions that are being addressed. Our understanding is we are aiming to understand and support salmon recovery and sustainability needs across the state. This is why the regional organizations support moving beyond the need for project effectiveness and instead investing monitoring funds to assess progress being made in salmon recovery efforts across the state. In combination with regional priorities, the CMS and NOAA guidance[3] should be used as a starting point for determining statewide monitoring program needs.
2. Utilize the Salmon Recovery Regions' expertise and coordination efforts. Each region has identified the key management questions that need to be answered in their respective areas, and know what information is needed to answer those questions.
3. Develop a statewide, regionally-specific strategy for monitoring that links a statewide program to recovery efforts.

Monitoring Strategy Development (Option G) Proposal and Budget:

Task 1	SRFB to provide funds to hire a contractor to facilitate a process to identify specific monitoring efforts and needs in each region. This will include identification of what the top priority needs are to inform NOAA 5-year status reviews, Washington State of the Salmon reports, and adaptive management of our recovery plans. Evaluation of monitoring needs across regions should include identification of approaches and opportunities for leveraging resources across regions and recovery partners.
Task 2	Review what the rest of the SRFB Monitoring Panel portfolio is accomplishing (FIFO, IMW's) and how these efforts relate to identified salmon recovery monitoring gaps, particularly the IMW's.
Task 3	Review statewide monitoring strategy (CMS): what is being done, what isn't, what is still important – in relation to identified regional monitoring needs and the statewide strategy.
Task 4	Conduct a statewide "Skamania light" process: create a successful monitoring coordination effort with multiple monitoring partners (NOAA, BPA, DOE, WDFW, Tribes, etc.). This coordination would emphasize integrating to the greatest extent possible existing resources for successful utilization of limited SRFB funding.

[3] See Guidance for Monitoring Recovery of Pacific Northwest Salmon & Steelhead listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act by Crawford and Rumsey, 2011

Deliverables for Tasks 1 through 4: Report summarizing results at regional and state-scales with key monitoring leads identified and recommended implementation steps for high priority monitoring actions.	
Task 5	Consider matching some regional funds or other sources to a PCSRF monitoring request.
Deliverable for Task 5: Updated PCSRF application	
Task 6	Host a facilitated workshop with recovery regions, the monitoring panel, and SRFB member participants. Workshop goal is to identify any revisions to the 10% SRFB monitoring allocation criteria and review process to provide greater flexibility in accessing funds to meet established regional monitoring needs.
Deliverables for Task 6: Revised criteria for 10% monitoring fund allocation proposals.	
Estimated budget total: $250,000 to $400,000 (to be refined based on discussions with the SRFB and Monitoring Panel)	

If the SRFB believes this proposal warrants further consideration, we recommend that the COR meet with Monitoring Panel and SRFB representatives to refine the above draft scope of work and budget. COR greatly appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Amber Moore
Amber Moore
Puget Sound Partnership

Scott Brewer
Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Mara Zimmerman
Mara Zimmerman
WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership

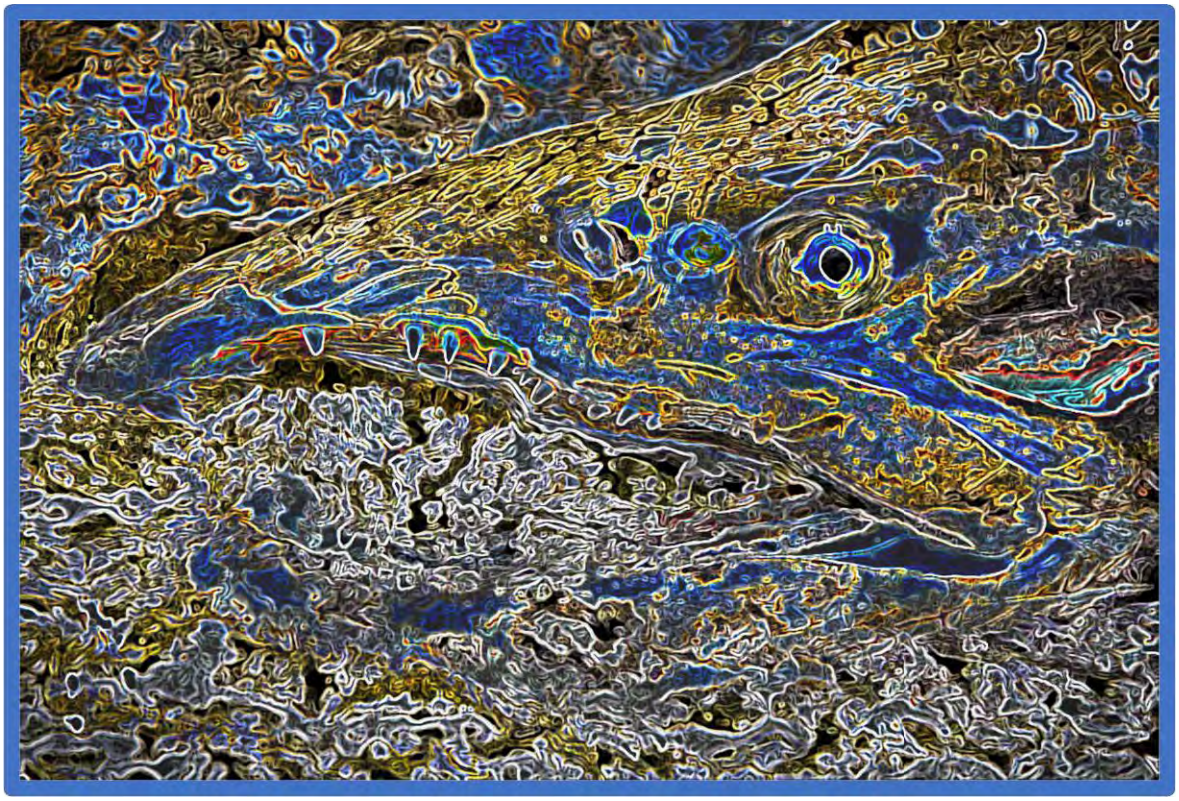
John Foltz
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Melody Kreimes
Melody Kreimes
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Steve Manlow
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Alex Conley
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Attachment C



2018-2019 Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) and Status and Trend Fish Monitoring (FIFO) Project Recommendations

RCO Monitoring Panel

July 10, 2019

Cover art: From a photograph of a spawned Chinook Salmon
Lower Elwha River
Len Kannapell
NOAA Fisheries

Monitoring Panel members

Pete Bisson, Co-Chair, Bisson Aquatic Consulting LLC

Leska Fore, Co-Chair, Puget Sound Partnership

Ken Currens, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Inc.

Stacy Polkowske, Washington Department of Ecology

Jeanette Smith, J E Smith Consulting

Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy

Advisory:

Marnie Tyler, Ecolution LLC

Jody Lando, Bonneville Power Administration

Contents

Executive Summary

At the request of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), the SRFB Monitoring Panel conducted a review of the SRFB monitoring program for activities that took place in 2018. The performance evaluation was completed for two of the components of the monitoring program: Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) and Status and Trends Fish Monitoring (Fish In/Fish Out – FIFO). The reach-scale Project Effectiveness Monitoring Study was completed in 2018; a final report was submitted in December and project conclusions were summarized for the SRFB at its March 2019 meeting. The Board has requested that the monitoring panel refocus the approach to evaluating restoration effectiveness that was employed in the original Effectiveness Monitoring Study and bring its recommendations to the SRFB at the July 2019 meeting. Those recommendations will be submitted as a separate report. Implementation or compliance monitoring is the fourth component and is conducted by grants managers for SRFB funds.

The monitoring panel saw the departure of several members in 2018 and the arrival of three new members in 2019. Departing members include Dennis Dauble, Marnie Tyler, and Jody Lando, although both Marnie and Jody will continue in an advisory capacity. The new members are Tracy Hillman (BioAnalysts Inc.), Stacy Polkowske (Washington Department of Ecology), and Jeanette Smith (J E Smith Consulting). They possess broad expertise and practical experience in salmon restoration and we welcome them to the panel.

Some annual reports describing progress on the IMW projects were tardy in 2018. Reports were due on December 31 but late reports were submitted from a few days to more than two months after the deadline. This tardiness gave the monitoring panel limited time to review them thoroughly and provide recommendations to the SRFB. One IMW report was late due to the 2018-19 federal government shutdown, a factor over which we had no control. To ensure that annual reports are submitted on time in 2019, and as we did last year, the panel suggests the following steps be taken:

1. A late summer teleconference will be held between the panel and principal investigators of the IMW projects to discuss overall progress, revisions in field and analytical methods, funding for restoration implementation, and reporting deadlines.

2. A reminder message coupled with the suggested reporting template should be sent to project leads in late October, reminding them that annual reports are due 12/31/2019 and that any delays should be justified beforehand.

The panel members possess a diversity of background and experience and we did not have unanimous opinions on each monitoring project. Members individually evaluated each component and deliberated potential modifications to the projects. Divergent opinions are noted within the program discussions; however, the panel collectively agreed to the recommendations included in this report. We incorporated the same terminology for assigning status as that used by the SRFB Technical Review Panel, i.e., *clear*, *conditioned*, or *project of concern*. *Clear* projects are considered technically sound with no recommended changes in program implementation during the coming year. *Conditioned* projects are recommended as clear to proceed if the principal investigators agree to specific conditions included within the 2019-20 contract. *Projects of concern* have technical weaknesses or concerns specifically identified by the monitoring panel that cannot be rectified without extensively re-designing the project. In this year's review, no projects met the criteria for projects of concern. Three projects were identified as *Clear* (Status and Trends Fish Monitoring, Lower Columbia IMW, and Skagit IMW) and three were *Conditioned* (Asotin IMW, Hood Canal IMW, and Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW).

Table 1. Summary of Monitoring Panel Recommendations

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS
1. The monitoring panel strongly suggests that project leads follow the recommended reporting template outlined in Appendix A. Only one project (Skagit IMW) used this template in their 2018 annual report and we feel that employing it will streamline the reporting process and help reduce tardiness.
2. Restoration treatments for the IMW studies should be completed or under construction within the next two grant rounds unless there are extenuating circumstances for prolonging the treatment period. The monitoring panel believes it is counterproductive for restoration treatments in IMWs to continue with no clear concluding date because prolonged treatment periods confound study designs and post-treatment monitoring periods become even longer and possibly unrealistic. Continued funding for monitoring without completing treatments in a timely manner will not yield answers to the questions IMWs were designed to answer unless treatments are implemented on a

schedule that facilitates proper scientific evaluation within a reasonable time period. We do, however, acknowledge that IMWs receiving funding from multiple sources may continue implementing treatments as per their other contracts but for most SRFB-funded IMWs, treatments should be concluded soon.

3. We generally oppose efforts to improve or fix restoration actions that have been altered by natural events such as high flows. Because the purpose of IMW treatments is to examine population-scale effects of habitat improvements typical of those currently being practiced, continued maintenance of restoration structures constitutes an activity that would not likely be carried out in most habitat improvement scenarios. Rather, we feel that post-restoration monitoring should evaluate the effectiveness of improvements as originally planned and built. However, we do not oppose certain post-treatment interventions that are designed to maintain conditions (e.g., in-stream wood levels, repairing damaged riparian fencing) that are important to a proper scientific evaluation of restoration effects for a particular study.

4. A mid-year or early fall teleconference with the monitoring panel should occur with IMW project leads. The teleconference should cover recent progress, restoration implementation scheduling, staffing needs, and annual reporting.

5. Occasional field trips to selected IMW or FIFO sites should be continued. Visits to restoration sites give the monitoring panel an opportunity to better understand the progress and challenges specific to each location and to interact in person with project leaders. In 2019 we are planning to visit the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW.

Project Specific Recommendations

PROJECT NAME	STATUS
Asotin IMW	**Conditioned**

Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement:

a. In the 2019 annual report, include a summary of the approximate amounts and costs of post-treatment wood supplementation at treatment sites. Include, if possible, a graph or table of wood added over time to replace wood lost from the post-assisted log structures. Address the question of whether maintaining desired wood loading in

the streams exceeds the initial cost of installing the structures, and whether maintenance costs are likely to increase or decrease over time.

b. Provide an update on the status of Asotin Creek riparian restoration, including the types of vegetation re-introduced to riparian areas and the rate of desired plant community development.

Hood Canal IMW	**Conditioned**

Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement:

a. Project staff should focus restoration monitoring efforts on Big Beef and Little Anderson Creeks. Seabeck Creek should remain a largely unrestored watershed, or restored with an alternative funding source, and should be included as a treatment watershed only if sufficient restoration actions are applied to this stream by 2020 for there to be a high likelihood of detecting population responses in target species within the same monitoring period applied to other Hood Canal IMW watersheds.

Lower Columbia IMW	**Clear**

Monitoring Panel Recommendation:

Continue support for the Lower Columbia IMW.

Comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

a. Project leads should work with the LCFRB to develop a schedule for the remaining restoration actions in Abernathy Creek, including a funding end date. We strongly encourage the completion of all restoration actions in Abernathy Creek by the end of 2020, as shown in Fig. 12 of the annual report, so that the post-treatment monitoring can occur from 2021 to 2033.

b. Project leads should develop an implementation schedule for restoration projects in Germany Creek, identifying the project sponsor where known. The remaining restoration treatments in Germany Creek should be under contract no later than 2021.

Skagit IMW	**Clear**

Monitoring Panel Recommendation:

Continue support for the Skagit IMW.

Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW	**Conditioned**

Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement:

a. Submit an annual report by 12/31/2019 focused on recent accomplishments and progress made in meeting any conditions applied during the current evaluation period. The annual report should provide an update on changes in habitat conditions in the two treatment watersheds and a discussion of how these changes have affected target fish populations.

b. Initiate a large wood budget in 2019 that will better assess the quantity, location, and movement of large wood that has occurred in the treatment and reference watersheds.

Status and Trends Fish Monitoring	**Clear**

Monitoring Panel Recommendation:

The Status and Trends Fish Monitoring conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife should be continued. If additional monitoring funds are available, the panel supports expansion of Status and Trends Fish Monitoring.

Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

a. We encourage continued attempts to publish results of the FIFO studies in peer-reviewed journals. The monitoring panel was pleased to see that FIFO program data figured in several scientific publications in 2018.

b. We realize that most studies have only one or two target species but continuing to monitor the abundance of additional anadromous species, e.g., in smolt traps, is worthwhile and will continue to provide insights into the current status and trends of non-target species.

c. It would be useful if summary figures on juvenile/adult population size included notes on where significant changes in sampling methodology, hatchery practices, and harvest rates have occurred. Information on the relative status of fish populations in neighboring watersheds would also be helpful if such information is available.

INTRODUCTION

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Monitoring Panel was created in 2014 to advise the SRFB on key elements of its monitoring program. This report addresses one of the core tasks assigned to the panel: To evaluate the performance of each component of the monitoring program and provide guidance and funding recommendations to the SRFB. The following sections describe the annual review process and summarize the recommendations arising from our evaluation of 2018 project results. The evaluation process is a central element of the SRFB's adaptive management framework.

The SRFB Monitoring Program consists of four components: 1) Implementation (compliance) Monitoring, 2) Project Effectiveness Monitoring, 3) Intensively Monitored Watersheds, and 4) Status and Trends Fish Monitoring (also referred to as Fish In/Fish Out). The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) commissioned a report in 2014 that summarizes the current SRFB Monitoring Program[1]. The report describes the evolution of each component of the monitoring program and provides greater detail on the operation of each component. Implementation monitoring is conducted by RCO grants managers and was not evaluated by the monitoring panel.

The focus of the monitoring panel's work and thus the recommendations within this report relate to Intensively Monitored Watersheds and Status and Trends Fish Monitoring. Five IMWs were included in the review: four are in western Washington (Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit, and Strait of Juan de Fuca complexes) and one in eastern Washington, the Asotin IMW in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region. Status and Trends Fish Monitoring is a statewide program conducted by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, of which SRFB funds support less than 10% of the overall program. SRFB funds are used directly to support the following specific elements

[1] Crawford, B. 2015. The 2004-2014 Monitoring Program. Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Fish Friendly, Inc., Olympia, WA. http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/WSRFB-MonitoringProgram_2004-2014_Dec%202015.pdf

of the overall fish in/fish out monitoring effort: Touchet River juvenile summer steelhead; Grays River juvenile coho salmon and steelhead; Wind River adult coho salmon; Salmon Creek adult and juvenile summer chum salmon; Snow Creek adult summer chum salmon, and Snow Creek adult and juvenile steelhead; and Duckabush River juvenile summer chum salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. It is important to note that some of these projects include both adult and juvenile fish estimates; others focus on either adults or juvenile emigrants.

EVALUATION PROCESS

GSRO asked the monitoring panel to evaluate the technical soundness of each monitoring component and provide recommendations to the SRFB that can be used to help inform monitoring program direction and funding. Specifically, GSRO has asked the panel to provide recommendations to the board on the following:

- Is the SRFB's monitoring program asking the right questions?
- How well are the contractors performing the work – and are there recommended improvements needed?
- Should the SRFB continue to fund the current monitoring components or modify how they are funded or implemented?

In initiating the evaluation, the following questions framed the review:

- Is the monitoring component functioning at a satisfactory level overall?
- Does the composition and administrative structure of the project team facilitate the project's success?
- Are study objectives clearly identified and adhered to?
- Will the experimental design meet the study objectives?
- Are adequate quality control measures in place?
- Will the data and results be useful for salmon recovery?
- Is there a plan and venue for sharing the results of the findings?

The monitoring panel developed the suite of criteria for evaluating each monitoring component in September of 2014, such that the panel's expectations could be clearly articulated to monitoring practitioners in advance of new contracts being initiated. The panel updated reporting requirements in the fall of 2015 and provided project leads with a description of what should be included in their 2018 annual reports.

In 2019 we found that some project leads did not complete their annual reports on time. Although there were mitigating circumstances for the tardiness of the reports (e.g., the shutdown of the federal government in early 2019). Principal investigators of each project had an opportunity to respond in writing to monitoring panel questions regarding their annual reports, after which the panel completed consensus evaluation forms for each project. Monitoring panel members completed an independent review of each project. The panel then conferred to identify a status rating and develop recommendations for the SRFB on May 16, 2019. Not all panel members initially recommended the same status rating for each project, but where opinions diverged the panel discussed the issues and arrived at a consensus rating.

Project status was documented in a comment form for each monitoring project (each IMW had its own comment form; there was a single form for the Status and Trends Fish Monitoring). The comment forms include any condition language recommended for inclusion by GSRO in the project agreement. Conditioning language for each project has also been included in full in the body of this report, along with general observations and comments about the research study. The assessment forms follow the same terminology for assigning status as that used by the SRFB Technical Review Panel, i.e., clear, conditioned, or project of concern.

Clear projects are those that are technically sound and the monitoring panel does not recommend any changes in how the program is being implemented in the coming year. Comments pertinent to successful completion of the project may be included in the recommendation but do not need to be added as contract conditions.

Conditioned projects are those projects which are cleared to proceed with specific conditions to be included within the 2019-2020 contract.

Projects of concern have technical weaknesses or concerns specifically identified by the monitoring panel that the panel believes cannot be rectified without substantially re-designing the project or improving the quality and/or timeliness of outputs.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Several projects conditioned this year were also conditioned in the 2017 review process; however, the panel felt that sufficient progress was made to warrant assigning a status of conditioned again, rather than project of concern. Progress made in addressing panel concerns is noted in the body of the assessment form for each project. The panel divided its findings into general recommendations applicable to two components of the SRFB Monitoring Program (Intensively Monitored Watersheds and Status and Trends Fish Monitoring), and recommendations specific to each project.

General Recommendations

1. *The monitoring panel strongly suggests that project leads follow the recommended reporting template outlined in Appendix A.*

Only one project (Skagit IMW) used this template in their 2018 annual report and we feel that employing it will streamline the reporting process and help reduce tardiness.

2. *Specific to the intensively monitored watersheds that have employed a BACI design, restoration treatments should be completed or under construction within the next two grant rounds for all IMWs unless there are extenuating circumstances for prolonging the treatment period.*

The monitoring panel believes it is counterproductive for restoration treatments in IMWs to continue with no clear concluding date because prolonged treatment periods confound study designs and post-treatment monitoring periods become even longer and possibly unrealistic. Continued funding for monitoring without completing treatments in a timely manner is an inefficient use of monitoring dollars. While monitoring data are informative, they will not yield answers to the questions IMWs were designed to answer unless treatments are implemented on a schedule that facilitates proper scientific evaluation within a reasonable time period.

2. *We generally oppose efforts to improve or fix restoration actions that have been altered by natural events such as high flows. Because the purpose of IMW treatments is to examine population-scale effects of habitat improvements typical of those currently being practiced, continued maintenance of restoration structures constitutes an activity that would not likely be carried out in most habitat improvement scenarios. However, we do acknowledge that maintenance*

does take place at some restoration sites where re-establishment of natural processes requires periodic intervention.

Rather, we feel that post-restoration monitoring should evaluate the effectiveness of improvements as originally planned and built. However, we do not oppose certain post-treatment interventions that are designed to maintain conditions (e.g., in-stream wood levels, repairing damaged riparian fencing) that are important to proper scientific evaluation of restoration effects for a particular study.

3. *A fall teleconference with the monitoring panel should occur with IMW project leads. The teleconference should cover recent progress, restoration implementation scheduling, staffing needs, and annual reporting.*

We implemented this recommendation in 2018 with good results. Both monitoring panel members and project leaders agreed that the fall check-in was a useful means of obtaining feedback on progress and unanticipated challenges.

4. *Occasional field trips to selected IMW or FIFO sites should be continued. Visits to restoration sites give the panel an opportunity to better understand the progress and monitoring issues specific to each location and to interact in person with project leaders. In 2019 we are planning to visit the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW.*

Site visits are rare for the monitoring panel but often give us new insights into how IMW restoration projects are being carried out and also into difficulties in monitoring habitat improvements and fish population recovery.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

The monitoring panel believes that the SRFB's Intensively Monitored Watershed monitoring component is a critical element in understanding the causal relationships and mechanisms affecting salmonid population trends and that IMWs will help inform pathways to recovery for fish populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. Five IMWs in the SRFB IMW program were reviewed by the panel this year: Asotin, Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

We continue to have concerns about the extended restoration treatment application period being experienced by some IMW studies. Assumptions underpinning the Before-After, Control-Impact (BACI) experimental design are compromised when treatments are spread over many years. This can be especially problematic when different types of habitat improvement actions occur in the same watershed over a long period of time, as it becomes difficult to associate changes in fish populations with a particular type of

restoration action such as wood addition, riparian revegetation, or culvert replacement when multiple treatments are implemented simultaneously. However, we do acknowledge that funding for restoration actions has often not been available within the time window originally envisioned when the projects began. In such cases, we support continued restoration only where it can be shown that it is consistent with the original study plan (e.g., the restoration treatment will be large enough to expect a detectable response within a defined time period) so that it will not result in the need to monitor post-treatment recovery for many more years.

Restoration treatment implementation should be drawing to a close as it has in the Asotin and Strait of Juan de Fuca IMWs. Where additional treatments are needed to satisfy the original study design, those treatments should be entering a contracting phase within the next two grant rounds. Initiating construction for restoration treatments should only extend beyond two grant rounds if there are extenuating circumstances that demonstrably add to the scientific value of a study. We also encourage project leads to work with local sponsors to aggressively pursue alternative funding sources as appropriate.

Asotin IMW

The Asotin Intensively Monitored Watershed project provides an interesting contrast and an alternative approach to the four IMWs in Western Washington. Whereas the western Washington IMWs are found near major estuaries or drain directly into marine waters in the Coast Range and Puget Lowland ecoregions, the Asotin IMW is located in the arid Columbia River Plateau a long way from any major estuary. It uses a hierarchical staircase statistical design with treatments focused almost exclusively on post-assisted log structures (PALs) to trap large woody debris in the streams. The investigators have also developed and applied innovative analyses and modeling that go well beyond the usual status-and-trend analyses. Monitoring is beginning to show both habitat responses and fish population responses.

The primary habitat improvements have been the installation of post-assisted log structures whose role is to trap wood and other roughness elements, resulting in an increase in pool habitat and a greater diversity of fluvial conditions within enhanced reaches. Secondarily, the project has taken steps to protect riparian areas by means of fencing and riparian tree plantings. Restoration actions were completed in 2016 as

planned and post-treatment monitoring is well underway. Continuing with an effort begun in 2016, additional large wood has been introduced into treatment reaches to supplement existing PALs and to maintain desired levels of wood at treatment sites. Project staff has made extensive use of PIT-tagging to monitor steelhead movement in Asotin Creek tributaries and provide estimates of survival that can be attributed to habitat restoration activities.

The study uses hierarchical staircase experimental treatment, which is a modified BACI-type design, and incorporates complex models including geomorphic (GUT), bioenergetic (NREI), and mark-recapture/re-sight (Barker) models to assess treatment effects. Importantly, this study uses "active" adaptive management to test the effects of riparian and large wood treatments on habitat complexity and steelhead abundance, growth, survival, movement, and production. The study is one of a few IMWs where implementation of enhancement actions is largely under the control of the researchers and only two types of enhancements are used (riparian restoration and large wood addition). Thus, this IMW project is less likely to suffer from confounding issues such as restoration in "control" watersheds, choice of restoration projects that do not address major limiting factors, or failure to implement the restoration adequately and consistently.

With the sampling design in place and the treatments essentially completed, the project is in a good position to track changes over time. The authors have done extensive testing and evaluation of their measurement approaches. The observed increase in pools was expected as a result of adding wood, and it is useful to see that the habitat evaluation methods can detect the change. A similar increase in pool habitat in the control reaches is confusing, but both are a result of increased wood, although the wood in the control reaches was not added intentionally. The authors do not mention the source of the wood in the control reaches, but if wood has increased, and pools have increased as a result, this would seem to indicate a positive, and consistent, response to large wood increases. GUT sampling did not show a consistent response with the rapid habitat methods and it might be worth hearing more from them about the values and challenges of the GUT approach if the SRFB decides to pursue new types of habitat monitoring.

A major concern of the monitoring panel in 2018 was that the discontinuation of support for the habitat survey protocols (CHaMP method) by the Bonneville Power Administration would result in a major loss of continuity of stream habitat data and information on the effects of habitat improvements on food resources for rearing fish.

We are pleased that the CHaMP survey protocols continue to be followed, as these survey methods are a cornerstone of tracking restoration success in the Asotin IMW.

The monitoring panel also continues to be pleased to see evidence of a positive response of steelhead to the post-assisted log treatments. So far, this study appears to be one of the few IMWs in which target species are responding favorably to restoration actions at the population level. We encourage the continuation of Net Rate of Energy Intake (NREI) and Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) modeling as described in the annual report. This appears to be one of the few studies where it might be possible to sort out the habitat vs trophic benefits of wood additions.

The quality control methods are performed at a high level of rigor. The increase in juvenile abundance in treatment streams may be earlier than expected, but the explanation that the North Fork is larger with more floodplain area supports the observed recovery pattern. The observation there is strong evidence for density dependence, i.e., productivity (migrants/female) decreasing with increasing spawning escapement, is perhaps surprising and may have larger implications for the role of freshwater habitat relative to ocean conditions in limiting adult returns and rebuilding populations. A density dependent relationship suggests that the existing freshwater habitat is approaching capacity in terms of steelhead rearing, therefore setting up the Asotin IWM to demonstrate that if the restoration efforts improve habitat quantity and quality, then steelhead productivity should increase.

In their 2017 annual report, Asotin IMW project leads commented that more time for data analysis was needed. Their 2018 annual report indicates that they have made progress along those lines. In particular we appreciate their efforts involving (1) geomorphic unit delineation tool (GUT), (2) the Barker model for calculating true survival, site fidelity, and probability of captures, (3) a Bayesian-based model for aging fish, and (4) the net rate of energy intake model (NREI) for all CHaMP site visits from 2011-2017 to estimate the fish capacity changes by year.

Like some of the other intensively monitored watersheds, the Asotin IMW is in the middle phase of the project's lifespan. All restoration treatments have been implemented and the annual tasks are now mostly related to gathering fish and habitat response data. Also, like some of the other IMW's, the early years are not showing a markedly strong improvement in habitat metrics as the practitioners had hypothesized, although this could change as post-restoration monitoring progresses. One of the strengths of this experiment is the strong connection between the researchers and the

implementation of restoration treatments. The Asotin IMW practitioners worked closely with the restoration treatment implementation team, and this shows in the strength of their experimental design.

Responsiveness to 2018 Monitoring Panel Comments

Researchers provided thoughtful responses to the comments from the monitoring panel. The panel questioned the preliminary results from the geomorphic analysis and potential biases in the results. Respondents indicated that comparisons in channel complexity between treatment and control reaches did not necessarily fit their expectations and therefore they need to do addition QAQC work. The panel also questioned the effects of a decreasing trend in female steelhead escapements in the study area since 2010 and the apparent lack of an effect on steelhead productivity. We wonder if this odd result will reduce the ability to detect a treatment effect or if the enhancement work is actually resulting in more steelhead adopting a resident life history. IMW staff noted that the reduction in female escapement is real and there is strong evidence for density dependence in the basin. That is, productivity (migrants/female) decreases with increasing spawning escapement. Although it is not clear which life stage is most affected, it does suggest that food and/or space (rearing habitat) are limiting within the basin. IMW staff also noted that factors outside the basin are likely affecting the returns of spawners to the Asotin; however, the monitoring design should account for variable spawning densities within the basin (i.e., spawning escapements affect treatment and control sites equally). Finally, the researchers will be evaluating movements of tagged fish to better understand the effects of treatments on resident versus anadromous life histories.

Study Limitations and Concerns

To date, the researchers have focused most of their efforts on determining treatment effects at the reach scale with somewhat less effort at the population scale. The geographical scale of the effort is as large or larger than other IMWs focused at the population scale, which makes this project a useful complement to other IMWs in the IMW portfolio. By design, an IMW measures responses at the population (or watershed) scale and identifies the factors to which the population responds. The Asotin IMW researchers are doing an excellent job of trying to identify reach-scale responses and mechanisms but appear to have less information on responses at the population scale, although the PIT-tagging efforts have made progress in establishing population-scale

responses. This may allow us to examine how reach-scale efforts can be rolled up into population scale outcomes.

The project has suffered somewhat because of "techniques syndrome," which is a preoccupation with resolving how to collect and compile reliable field data at the expense of understanding how to analyze and report on the massive amounts of data collected. This is common in all fields of ecology and is not necessarily a criticism. It does, however, lead to issues with data processing/analysis, budgets, and reporting. More effort needs to be placed on data analysis and reporting in a timely manner.

Because the installation of post-assisted log structures form the majority of in-stream restoration actions, it is important that these structures remain in place throughout the post-treatment monitoring period. If for some unanticipated reason the PALs suffer heavy damage from an exceptional hydrological event, comparing pre- and post-treatment steelhead occupancy of enhanced reaches will become problematic. The monitoring panel previously opposed ongoing wood maintenance at treatment sites. However, discussion with project leads has convinced us that maintaining desired wood loads is essential to execution of the experimental design, and therefore we support adding wood to treatment sites to maintain appropriate wood loading. We wonder if the overall approach of using PALs would likely necessitate a need for periodic wood introductions until the riparian forest matures to the point where it supplies sufficient wood recruitment to meet wood target levels. If so, this may constrain the use of PALs in areas where wood periodic supplementation is needed but may be cost-prohibitive due to site access or wood availability. The panel's main concern is related to the ongoing maintenance of structures. While it is understood that the IMW practitioners do not want the project to fail due to a loss of wood in treatment sections, it is beginning to appear that PALs require frequent wood supplementation to achieve their desired effect. In the end, even if these structures achieve the desired habitats and population responses, it is unlikely that the restoration method would be repeated in other watersheds if it requires periodic supplementation.

We would like to see a more complete summary of the results of riparian re-planting efforts. These efforts are entirely appropriate for ensuring long-term wood recruitment sources to the study streams, and there is regional interest in learning how active riparian restoration projects are working.

Given the considerable investment in time in conducting CHaMP habitat surveys, we are concerned that some habitat metrics that should be showing a stronger response to

wood additions are providing only weak evidence of doing so. Project leaders, however, are aware of this issue and will attempt to address it using GUT analysis.

Other Comments

We support continuing to model and track steelhead smolt-to-adult return rates (SARs) even though survival outside the Asotin subbasin is not part of this IMW investigation. We continue to support estimates of smolts-per-spawner, as this is one of the best indicators the efficacy of habitat improvement actions.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED.

The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Asotin IMW project agreement:

a. In the 2019 annual report, include a summary of the approximate amounts and costs of post-treatment wood supplementation at treatment sites. Include, if possible, a graph or table of wood added over time to replace wood lost from the post-assisted log structures. Address the question of whether maintaining desired wood loading in the streams exceeds the initial cost of installing the structures, and whether maintenance costs are likely to increase or decrease over time.

b. Provide an update on the status of Asotin Creek riparian restoration, including the types of vegetation re-introduced to riparian areas and the rate of desired plant community development.

Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

Although the primary focus of the IMW has been to assess the physical habitat improvements resulting from the PAL additions, the evaluation of food web benefits of increased coarse sediment storage channel complexity is quite important and should be continued. However, the project team should keep track of the amount of wood added subsequently to the PALs so that periodic maintenance becomes part of the reporting process and can enable practitioners to weigh the costs and benefits of this approach.

We strongly encourage the continuation of modeling efforts that support a more complete evaluation of the effects of habitat improvements on steelhead productivity in

the Asotin Creek system. Some of the newer modeling methods being employed may help shed light on the primary objectives of this IMW.

As noted above, the researchers have implemented a valid and robust monitoring design, which is in the post-treatment phase of the study. There is no reason to end the project prematurely; it should continue as planned. Possible suggestions for improvement include focusing on data analyses and reporting, evaluating treatment effects at the population scale, and evaluating the effectiveness of riparian enhancement work.

Hood Canal IMW

The Hood Canal IMW provides an excellent example of the challenges of recovering and monitoring small watersheds faced with expanding urban development in the Puget Sound. The development of the design and analysis of the Hood Canal IMW is progressing well, but the implementation of restoration projects is a challenge. Prior to dedicated funding, advancement of restoration projects was sporadic, and how projects were chosen and implemented served to confound the BACI experimental design. Relatively little restoration activity occurred during calendar year 2018, although additional treatments are planned as indicated in Table 2 of the annual report. The history of restoration in these watersheds, especially how projects were chosen and implemented in ways that confounded the BACI experimental design, reminds us that IMWs are not just tests of how well scientists can assess watersheds, evaluate treatments, and document change. Rather, they are tests of how well a salmon restoration system built on public participation in choosing restoration actions and meeting multiple, conflicting objectives works in practice.

The study has three major strengths: 1) the small geographic scale makes restoration treatments and monitoring somewhat easier; 2) there is a long history of research, collaboration, and data collection at the Big Beef Creek laboratory; and 3) the investigators have developed credible hypotheses for the habitat dynamics (e.g., high and low flows) that are driving salmonid life histories and population dynamics. This understanding has informed the selection of effective projects, such as reconnecting floodplain habitats.

The annual report did a good job of explaining habitat changes that took place in 2018 in Big Beef Creek and Little Anderson Creek – the two watersheds in this IMW study in which the majority of restoration actions have occurred. Treatments in Big Beef Creek were focused on improving floodplain connections and increasing channel complexity through large wood additions from 2015-2017. Treatments in Little Anderson Creek, which were mostly large wood additions, took place in 2009 and 2016. In both streams, the introduction of large wood has improved the habitat complexity of the streams and created conditions that would seem suitable for juvenile coho salmon rearing. It is noteworthy that in 2018, beaver activity in both Little Anderson and Big Beef Creek has resulted in larger and deeper pools within the anadromous zone and presumably increased the carrying capacity of coho in both systems.

The Hood Canal IMW team continues to do the best it can in the face of some daunting challenges, two of which include a prolonged restoration application schedule and chronic under-escapement of the primary target species – coho salmon. Problems associated with extended restoration treatment include lack of funding, coordination difficulties with partner organizations, reluctance by landowners to grant access or to enter into conservation agreements, and implementation of some habitat restoration actions by organizations not involved in the IMW. Increasing adult escapements of coho would require imposing additional limits on harvesting adult salmon before they enter the IMW watersheds coupled with reductions in releases of hatchery fish that are the target of those fisheries. These are problems that will be time-consuming to resolve and will increase the amount of time needed to determine whether restoration activities in the Hood Canal IMW streams are having the desired effect. Nevertheless, despite the formidable difficulties faced by this IMW, there is real value in continuing this research. As well, the presence of the Big Beef Creek research station with its long-term history of federal, state, and university involvement helps provide a focal point for long-term population-level investigations.

Adult salmon trapping at Big Beef Creek was successfully conducted during the 2017-2018 season. During a high-flow event in late 2017, the weir was partially compromised, and some fish may have escaped upstream. The trapping effort spanned the entire summer chum, fall chum and coho return period. Sampling coded wire tags from coho salmon in the Hood Canal fishery and Big Beef Creek weir proceeded as planned. Spawning ground surveys were conducted as planned, although heavy rain and high streamflow prevented them from conducting surveys the week of November 20. These types of events that hinder field studies are common.

Smolt traps were installed for the 2018 season in Big Beef, Stavis (control watershed) and Little Anderson creeks. Over the course of the last year, the streambed at the trapping location on Seabeck Creek changed, making installation of an effective trap difficult. Because of the high and dynamic sediment load in Seabeck Creek, the former trap site became buried in gravel, eliminating the hard streambank edge required to affix the fence weir. Because sampling in Seabeck Creek has remained problematic and because the restoration plans for this stream have been slow to be implemented, the monitoring panel continues to believe that the data gathered from Seabeck Creek will be of limited usefulness and we recommend that the site either be dropped from the study or that whatever sampling does take place can be demonstrated to have a high likelihood of producing data that support the objectives of this IMW.

The Hood Canal IMW team continues to work on installing the directional PIT-tag antenna array on Lower Big Beef Creek but has had difficult achieving reliable functionality. Once operational, this equipment will enable assessment of fall emigration of juvenile coho and steelhead. In recent years, the Big Beef Creek weir has shown signs of significant deterioration. The steel and concrete supports are showing signs of fatigue. As a consequence, the team has begun operating the weir more conservatively to prevent a serious structural failure.

Responsiveness to Monitoring Panel Comments in 2019

Project leads provided thoughtful responses to the monitoring panel's questions. One of their answers suggests that an improvement in habitat conditions in response to restoration should be apparent by 2022 in Little Anderson Creek and by 2023 in Big Beef Creek. In future reports, the monitoring panel will look forward to seeing how these predictions play out and what are the reasons why they did or did not do so.

Study Limitations and Concerns

Three major challenges exist for this project. First is getting enough restoration actions on the ground to change freshwater productivity. Table 3 in the annual report shows that many restoration actions have not been implemented yet. The second challenge is getting large enough numbers of returning adults that have survived the marine environment and intercepting fisheries back to the streams to monitor improvements. The third challenge is keeping the funding and monitoring program going long enough to be able to detect changes.

As we noted last year, measuring the responses of target species to restoration actions has been problematic in the Hood Canal IMW because the low and variable escapement of coho salmon – the primary focal species – has made it statistically difficult to detect significant effects of restoration without many years (perhaps decades) of post-treatment monitoring. The downward trend in marine survival of coho in the annual report (Figure 9B) suggests that this is a chronic problem. The problem of high annual variability also appears to be true of stream habitat parameters. We hope that the project leads will give some serious thought to developing metrics that help to separate the signal of restoration from natural variability.

While there has been significant progress in the last five years in implementing large restoration treatments in Big Beef Creek, there has been limited progress on restoration treatments in Little Anderson and Seabeck Creeks since the 2016 Little Anderson LWD project. More discouragingly, projects proposed in these basins have not been ranked high enough to secure regional funding. It is possible that without dedicated IMW funding for restoration treatment that the future projects planned in Seabeck and Little Anderson may never be funded.

As in the past two years, the panel asks project leads to consider that Seabeck Creek be dropped from the study. The likelihood of implementing a sufficient number of habitat improvement projects that would result in significant population-scale benefits within the time limitations of the IMW study in Seabeck Creek is low, barring extensive restoration funding by other sources. From Table 2, it appears that a number of restoration actions are planned but as of yet few have been implemented. We suggest that if significant restoration has not taken place in Seabeck Creek by 2020 that the stream be dropped from the Hood Canal IMW. Stavis Creek should remain an unrestored control watershed.

Other Comment

A fully functional directional PIT-tag antenna array in lower Big Beef Creek should be completed and made operational in 2019 so fall emigration of fish from this stream can be documented. Fall emigrants constitute an important component of the production of anadromous fishes in the Strait IMW streams, and it would be worthwhile knowing if similar life histories occur in Hood Canal streams as well, and if so, if they have been influenced by restoration. It is disappointing to learn that the PIT-tag antenna array is not working as expected. The Straits IMW has identified the Canadian Navy as a source

for interference in their PIT tag detection system. Is it possible that US Navy activity in the Hood Canal could be having a similar effect?

Recommendation: CONDITIONED.

The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Hood Canal IMW project agreement:

a. Project staff should focus restoration monitoring efforts on Big Beef and Little Anderson creeks. Seabeck Creek should remain a largely unrestored watershed, or restored with an alternative funding source, and should be included as a treatment watershed only if sufficient restoration actions are applied to this stream by 2020 for there to be a high likelihood of detecting population responses in target species within the same monitoring period applied to other Hood Canal IMW watersheds.

Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

The directional PIT-tag antenna array in lower Big Beef Creek should be repaired and made operational in 2019 so fall emigration of fish from this stream can be documented.

Lower Columbia IMW

The Lower Columbia IMW study focuses on watersheds that have been primarily altered by forest management practices – logging, road building, and related activities. The three Lower Columbia watersheds, including two treatment watersheds and an unrestored reference watershed, have been intensively managed for more than a century and at present late seral (old-growth) forest conditions are essentially absent, stream habitats have been simplified, pools and channel complexity have been lost, riparian canopy has been diminished, and sediment from roads and logging-related landslides has entered the streams. Extensive restoration treatment has occurred in the Abernathy Creek watershed over the last three years. The IMW team seems well positioned to continue implementing significant treatments in the next few years given that specific projects have been identified. Although the monitoring panel recommended that the final restoration projects in Abernathy Creek will be in progress and near completion by 2020, the latest estimation for completing the restoration

actions is 2022. Although this is later than the panel would prefer, implementation of restoration and monitoring in Lower Columbia IMW has improved significantly over the last 5 years. Increased communication and collaboration between the IMW practitioners have led to some very obvious improvements in overall project implementation, and it is likely that this IMW will be producing meaningful answers to questions regarding the watershed response to restoration in the coming years.

The project has a sound experimental design and pre-treatment data. The study focuses on multiple anadromous species instead of targeting only one as several other IMWs are doing. Fish demographic information has been provided by long-term adult and smolt estimates in the three watersheds, as well as to a federal fisheries research facility on lower Abernathy Creek. Because the time series of pre-treatment smolt data spans several fish generations, this study should be well positioned to estimate annual variability and to determine how much post-treatment monitoring will need to be carried out once restoration projects are completed. Physical habitat metrics have been chosen to match fish response and the addition of a life-cycle framework adds a useful dimension to the project. The Lower Columbia IMW links monitoring at the watershed scale with monitoring at the project scale. This linkage allows the researchers to identify possible mechanisms that may explain responses at the watershed scale. The researchers are also adaptively managing the study without compromising the experimental design. This “fine tuning” of sampling methods will help them more effectively identify possible treatment effects. Importantly, they incorporate existing monitoring data, which increases the length of the pre-treatment time series and hopefully statistical power. In addition, the pairing and synchronicity of Mill Creek (reference watershed) with Germany and Abernathy Creeks (treatment watersheds) adds precision to the analyses.

According to the 2018 annual report, completed instream habitat treatments in Abernathy Creek included 8.9 kilometers of instream habitat, 1.3 kilometers of off-channel and side-channel habitat, and 0.11 km^2 of riparian area. Three additional projects are currently funded but not yet constructed. Funding needed to complete the one unfunded remaining project (Erick Creek Culvert Replacement) is estimated to be $1.1 million. In the other treatment watershed, Germany Creek, completed instream habitat treatments included 2.3 kilometers of instream habitat, 0.2 kilometers of off-channel and side-channel habitat, and 0.15 km^2 of riparian area. Three additional projects are currently funded but not yet constructed. Concepts for remaining projects in Germany Creek were described in the 2009 Treatment Plan, which estimated that approximately $1.4 million dollars would be needed to complete construction of

projects in Tier 1 reaches of Germany Creek after design is completed. The annual report did not state explicitly when all of the Germany Creek restoration projects would be completed.

An extended and still ongoing habitat restoration period has made it difficult to estimate how long the study will last until the population level effects of different restoration activities can be statistically evaluated. Recovery actions in Lower Columbia watersheds, however, have not been implemented with the same intensity as in other IMWs, and the overall potential treatment effects appear to be swamped by larger scale, regional environmental variation as well as within-stream variation. The investigators have tried to adapt to these challenges by building smaller-scale project effectiveness monitoring into the project and by investigating different metrics that might be more responsive. It is encouraging to see the collaboration between the science team, the LCFRB, and project sponsors to address issues with the previous project effectiveness monitoring protocols. Hopefully the new protocols will make it more likely to detect a signal from the restoration treatments if there is one, but even if the new techniques are not fully successful the increased collaboration and communication between these groups is an improvement over the past, and should improve some of the inefficiencies that hampered this IMW early on.

Prolonged monitoring implementation is an issue for most IMWs, especially large IMWs that are not funded by the SRFB. It does, however, delay responses especially at the watershed scale and increase the duration of post-treatment monitoring. The implementation of multiple treatment types (large wood, riparian enhancement, floodplain/side channel reconnection, and reconnection of tributaries) may make it difficult to identify which treatment types or combination of types resulted in watershed responses. The researchers appear prepared to handle this issue by conducting robust project-scale monitoring. They also include covariates to help identify treatment effects at the watershed scale. Lastly, it is not clear if the level of treatments (and proposed treatments) will be large enough to elicit a response at the watershed scale. To that end, it would be useful if the researchers identify the percentage of habitat enhanced within each treatment watershed. In addition, they could conduct a power analysis to identify minimum detectable effect sizes. This will help the researchers understand how large treatments and their effects need to be in order to detect responses at the watershed scale.

This IMW has provided valuable data regarding the use of salmon carcass analogs (frozen cylinders of processed adult salmon tissue) as a nutrient boost to stream

productivity. The finding that a signal from nutrient uptake was evident but not persistent or ecologically impactful is relevant to future implementation of this type of restoration project. Results are worth publishing so others might benefit from the research.

Over the monitoring period from the early 2000s to 2018, coho salmon smolt production from Mill Creek, the unrestored reference watershed, has been the highest among the three watersheds. However, the 2018 coho smolt production from Abernathy Creek, the treatment watershed receiving the majority of the habitat restoration projects, was higher than either Mill or Germany creeks for the first time in the 18-year time series. In 2018, Coho Salmon smolt abundance in each basin showed an upturn from 2017, with each of the 2018 estimates at or above the long-term monitoring average. This was the first time in multiple years that all three basins produced more smolts than the long-term average. According to the 2018 annual report, future evaluation of coho salmon population-level response to habitat treatments will be analyzed in a before-after analysis framework. This analysis will benefit from identifying environmental covariates that help to explain a portion of the inter-annual variation in the number of smolts. In the response to monitoring panel questions, project leads state "We intend to use both existing and alternative metrics, likely a channel complexity metric, and use a multi-model comparison process to identify covariates. We intend to avoid multi-testing problems (i.e., invasion of alpha) by carefully selecting habitat attributes that we think might have an important effect on a specific life stage and for which we have detected substantial temporal variation a priori. The metrics that we currently report have been carefully selected to allow for detection of temporal variation, which is necessary for use as a covariate." Coho salmon redd counts have been consistently higher in Mill and Abernathy creeks than in Germany Creek and the numbers are highly synchronized among years.

The abundance of adult steelhead trout has been consistently higher in Abernathy and Germany creeks than in Mill Creek, the reference watershed. 2018 returns of steelhead retained these relative differences among watersheds, but spawner abundances in all three watersheds were among the lowest observed since adult monitoring began. Steelhead smolt abundance has been consistency highest in Germany Creek and lowest in Mill Creek. The 2018 outmigration of steelhead smolts retained the typical among-watershed pattern and was at or below the long-term average in all three basins. The Lower Columbia IMW streams have had extremely high proportions of hatchery-origin Chinook salmon spawners (pHOS) since monitoring began in 2005. Years 2016 and 2017 experienced declines in Chinook salmon pHOS, presumably in response to changes in

hatchery production levels (i.e., hatchery reform) in the Columbia River. According to the annual report, 2018 pHOS estimates for coho and Chinook were below long-term averages. For coho, the 2018 pHOS was estimated to be 8% (long-term average = 16%). For Chinook, the 2018 pHOS was estimated to be 50% in Germany, 67% in Abernathy, to 68% in Mill (long-term average ranges from 82% to 90%). This indicates an increased percentage of natural-origin adults (but not necessarily numbers) to the IMW streams.

Responsiveness to Monitoring Panel Comments in 2019

Principal Investigators (PIs) have been extremely responsive and timely in providing reports and responding to information requests. The panel appreciates the high level of professionalism shown by the team and the detailed information provided.

Study Limitations and Concerns

Implementing enough recovery actions in the treatment streams and keeping the monitoring funded long enough to detect a statistically significant change remain major concerns for this project. The restoration activity in Germany Creek continues to lag behind the work in Abernathy Creek. The restoration in Germany Creek is not merely a replicate stream evaluating the same research questions as those posed in Abernathy Creek; it is tailored to different conditions and habitat recovery needs. The Abernathy treatments are generally targeting coho rearing needs, while the restoration in Germany Creek is focused on winter steelhead rearing requirements. This is not a major concern, but rather indicates a somewhat different restoration focus for the two treatment watersheds, and therefore the measurement of restoration efficacy may likewise differ. This is the only IMW in which different target species have been prioritized among treatment sites.

The discussion of limiting factors deserves additional thought. It appears the authors are still considering limiting factors as a laundry list of general watershed issues, rather than an identified bottleneck in productivity produced by inadequate habitat availability for a specific life-stage of a target species at a specific location. This is similar to the responses provided by the Hood Canal IMW and should be more completely explored in the Lower Columbia IMW. As post-treatment monitoring proceeds, what is the direct evidence that habitat improvement actions are addressing presumed limiting factors at each restoration site?

The monitoring panel has previously questioned whether the extended period of restoration treatments in the Lower Columbia IMW will confound the BACI approach

used to test effectiveness and will result in an unreasonably long requirement for post-restoration monitoring. In response to this question in 2018, project leads state "Most WA IMW analyses do not rely on clear delineation of before-after periods. Instead, they compare trends through study duration in the treatment and reference watersheds. This is our preferred approach because most treatment effects are not temporally discrete. For example, depending on the frequency and duration of water flow events, a LWD treatment should be expected to take several years before a new equilibrium channel form is attained. Thus, analyses that are designed to detect changes in the underlying trend in conditions are most likely to be successful. Importantly, the larger, sooner, and more frequently treatments are implemented the sooner and more certainly effects can be detected." We understand that completion of restoration has been somewhat out of the team's control, but we also note that restoration has been completed in both the Asotin IMW and Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW, and these IMWs are now providing answers to restoration effectiveness questions more rapidly than IMWs where restoration implementation is continuing. Therefore, we urge the Lower Columbia team to complete its restoration activities in Abernathy and Germany creeks as soon as possible.

Other Comments

It is important to continue the study as planned. We offer the following suggestions.

- The researchers indicate they are looking into the use of mixed-model ANOVA to evaluate BACI data. We encourage the use of a mixed-model ANOVA. Downes et al. (2002) provide linear, mixed models and identify components of variation for BACI designs. These models not only evaluate BACI effects, they can identify gradual or abrupt changes in responses over time during the post-treatment period.

- Consider adding vertical lines on time series plots to show changes from pre-treatment to post-treatment periods.

- Include productivity data (smolts per spawner or migrants per spawner) in the analyses.

- Conduct power analyses to determine minimum detectable effect sizes.

As a final comment, it is not clear if Mill Creek is a "reference" stream or a "control" stream. By definition, a "reference" stream represents the undisturbed conditions that

one wants to achieve in the treatment streams. In contrast, a "control" stream represents the degraded conditions that were also present in the treatment streams before the treatment streams were treated. In the former case, one treats the streams with the hope fish and habitat conditions move toward those in the reference stream (i.e., conditions become more similar over time). In the latter, one treats the streams with the hope fish and habitat conditions move away from those in the control stream (i.e., conditions become less similar over time). Ideally, it would be nice to have both reference and control streams but, in most cases, both are not available. The use of reference or control streams will determine what statistical analyses are used and how those analyses are interpreted.

It was exciting to see progress on the fish life cycle model; this work should yield interesting results moving forward. The effort outlined in Appendix E was appreciated and very useful for understanding how the mark-recapture data are used to estimate populations. The inclusion of habitat photos taken in 2018 post-treatment sites were a great addition to the report. The habitat created in these photos looks good and was consistent with what the panel saw on our trip to the watershed in fall of 2017. Table 8 was presented as a table of project effectiveness tasks but there were no tasks listed in the table, rather it was a table of project sites.

Recommendation: CLEAR.

Continue support for the Lower Columbia IMW.

Comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

Project leads should work with the LCFRB to develop a schedule for the remaining restoration actions in Abernathy Creek, including a funding end date. We strongly encourage the completion of all restoration actions in Abernathy Creek by the end of 2020, as shown in Fig. 12 of the annual report, so that the post-treatment monitoring can occur from 2021 to 2033.

Project leads should develop an implementation schedule for restoration projects in Germany Creek, identifying the project sponsor where known. The remaining restoration treatments in Germany Creek should be implemented by the end of 2022.

Skagit IMW

The Skagit IMW remains a valuable member of the SRFB IMW portfolio. It includes a long time-series of monitoring prior to implementation of large-scale restoration projects, implements restoration projects based on a comprehensive set of data-driven restoration hypotheses, and relies on strong collaborative effort with federal agencies, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Puget Sound Tribes. The sampling approach is sound and results have been encouraging. It is currently the only SRFB-funded Washington IMW that examines restoration effectiveness in a large estuary and is one of the few IMWs that is showing a statistically positive response to restoration by a target species – juvenile Chinook Salmon. Collaborators in the study have made some genuine contributions to expanding estuarine habitats and reducing competition among juvenile Chinook. They appear to be on track to determining both local and system level responses to different types of tidal delta restoration actions. Skagit IMW results inform local (Skagit watershed) and regional (Puget Sound) Chinook salmon monitoring and adaptive management processes overseen by co-managers, lead entities, and the Puget Sound Partnership. Mainly, Skagit IMW results inform Puget Sound Chinook recovery efforts. A good example is a recent ESRP report (in review) that provides guidance on when large scale restoration of system carrying capacity is merited based on juvenile Chinook salmon population dynamics, and standardized for any Puget Sound watershed having natal Chinook salmon rearing in its estuary.

No changes were made to the field sampling methods in 2018. In 2018, a change in the statistical approach to obtain annual summaries of seasonal juvenile Chinook salmon abundance from surface trawl data was implemented. The method employed a space-time model to account for spatial and temporal autocorrelation. This analytical method was applied to all survey years. The Skagit IMW team has not yet implemented a query system to rapidly calculate summary annual IMW metrics from accumulated data from the three PI organizations (SRSC's fyke net trap and beach seine monitoring, WDFW's outmigrant monitoring, and NWFSC surface trawling efforts), but plans to complete this system in 2019. The monitoring panel endorses this activity and has made it a condition in their previous contract.

The 2018 annual report includes an excellent synopsis of findings and cautions to date. It is shown below in hopes that other IMWs will consider providing similar summaries in their future annual reports. Overall, Skagit estuary restoration is working to the benefit

of juvenile Chinook salmon but there are some caveats. Investigators found all monitored projects in all years after restoration to have juvenile Chinook salmon using the restored habitat. The Skagit River produces ample numbers of out-migrating Chinook salmon fry (millions) but has limited estuarine habitat to support them. Thus, it stands to reason that fish would immediately take advantage of newly restored habitat.

Some restoration designs have worked better than others. Generally, restoration projects that have muted hydrology or have limited connectivity to adjacent river channels (and the source of fish that colonize restored habitat) performed poorer than projects with higher connectivity. This is an important message to convey to restoration project designers and funders because Chinook recovery actions need to maximize full efficiency from every restoration opportunity if society is to achieve salmon recovery goals.

The two well supported findings from BACI and full system analyses are: a) juvenile Chinook salmon become less crowded in the estuary as restoration increased habitat availability, and b) the length of fish residence time in the estuary increased as restoration increased. Less supported but encouraging results from full system analyses suggests c) reduced frequency of fry migrants in marine habitats and d) higher smolt-adult return (SAR) rates as restored area increased. Detecting future changes to the fry migrant and SAR metrics might be expected to require years of high abundance when the benefits of restoration are most fully realized and/or a larger restoration treatment effect. Alternately, scenario testing using various life cycle modeling techniques may be able to test the consequences of cumulative restoration when large outmigrations have occurred. These efforts are currently under development.

Responsiveness to Monitoring Panel Comments in 2019

The monitoring panel appreciated that the Skagit IMW team focused their annual report on the questions we had asked them, and they made good use of the suggested annual framework that has been provided. Their annual report was succinct and helpful.

Study Limitations and Concerns

A concern for the Skagit IMW is whether the pace of restoration treatments is sufficient and timely enough to expect the IMW to achieve its overall study goal. The monitoring panel has identified this issue as a fundamental source of uncertainty to the IMW's ultimate scientific success. In response to the monitoring panel concerns, Skagit IMW project leaders argue that the amount and pace of restoration necessary for IMW

purposes is different than for salmon recovery purposes. At the current pace of estuary restoration, the goals for Skagit Chinook salmon recovery may not be achieved until 80-90 years from now. This differs greatly from the restoration implementation schedule for other SRFB-funded IMWs, which are either concluded or will be wrapped up by 2023. According to the 2018 report, within the next five years, additional restoration projects are anticipated to be completed, totaling 398 acres. Table 5 in the annual report gives restoration projects completed or planned in the Skagit River estuary, dates, benefit to salmon, and their acreage. Five planned projects remain to be completed.

Another potential limitation to this IMW is funding security. The current SRFB IMW funds are only enough to pay for data collection and management. Other aspects of the IMW (data analysis, reporting, planning etc.) rely on outside funding. This puts the IMW at risk of not producing the required reporting documents if outside (non-SRFB) funding is not secured. Nevertheless, the project appears to have committed funding from several partners.

Historically, one of the main challenges faced by this project is landowner unwillingness to implement restoration actions. As in other IMWs, principal investigators also note that because restoration treatments for the IMW are part the overall salmon recovery actions for this watershed and not simply experiments, they are vulnerable to political decision making about which restoration projects are important, which can confound experimental designs and analyses.

Other Comments

No juvenile Chinook population level analyses were updated in 2018. Population response analyses will be updated in 2019 and 2020 but are contingent on additional funding being secured. However, the long-term commitment of the tribes and co-managers to monitoring and testing hypotheses about Chinook salmon responses to recovery actions, which began well before the IMW, suggest that this project is less vulnerable to changes in SRFB funding to IMWs than other projects.

The discussion of limiting factors for the Skagit IMW is one of the best treatments of the required limiting factors sections from any of the IMW practitioners. We appreciate that the report was developed in the format that the panel gave to monitoring practitioners, particularly the section on limiting factors.

Recommendation: CLEAR.

Continue support for the Skagit IMW.

Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW

The Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW is a long-term study that is assessing the effects of restoration actions on multiple species at the watershed scale. Decades of forestry (timber harvest, road building, etc.) have resulted in loss of instream wood, pool habitat, and increased delivery of fine and coarse sediment from forest roads. These land-use activities have increased the frequency of landslides and the potential for mass-wasting, which has simplified the stream channels. The goal of the restoration program is to increase in-stream wood, increase overwinter habitat, reduce the occurrence of landslides, and restore riparian habitat. This is accomplished by adding LWD to the channel, removing roads and culverts, creating off-channel habitat, and planting riparian vegetation. The program has treated about 30% of anadromous habitat in both East Twin River and Deep Creek. East Twin River was treated between 2000-2011, while Deep Creek was treated between 1996-2018. West Twin River remains the untreated reference watershed.

Investigators for the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW completed a synthesis report summarizing 14 years of monitoring early in 2018, which the panel has already reviewed. The 2018 annual report that the panel reviewed summarized the progress and challenges of the monitoring this last year with a focus on data for in-stream survival of juveniles until smolt migration. The 2018 annual report also outlined analyses that the investigators hope to complete for the 2019 report.

The Strait IMW study has provided useful insights into fish population dynamics in fresh water (especially for coho salmon), although the ability to detect habitat and fish responses to treatments has been somewhat slow to develop. One of the most interesting results of the project so far has been the documentation of multiple coho salmon and steelhead life history patterns within populations, including a pattern of fall emigration by some juveniles rather than the more common spring emigration behavior. This illustrates an ancillary benefit of the monitoring, because these kinds of discoveries often push biologists in other watersheds to look for the same things in fish populations in their watersheds, expanding the scope of our knowledge.

The Strait IMW annual report was two months late this year. This was due primarily to the federal government shutdown, which prevented the senior author from completing the report on time. Because of this extenuating circumstance the panel granted the Strait IMW team additional time to complete the report; however, its submission in late February resulted in the monitoring panel having less time to review it than the annual reports from other IMWs and we hope that next year's report will be submitted in a timely manner. This will give us sufficient time to complete a proper review. The monitoring panel has recommended that IMWs adopt a reporting template that includes the hypotheses, indicators, and outcomes. The reporting template has been adopted by Skagit IMW, for example, and makes it easy to track multiple reports over time, especially helpful for new monitoring panel members. The template is intended to reduce the burden on reporting because the template can be updated over time rather than creating a new report each year and we suggest that it be used for the Strait annual report in 2019.

The results were presented clearly in their annual report and new analyses indicate (for the first time) that habitat restoration treatments may be resulting in a trend toward increased freshwater survival rates for coho, but not yet for juvenile steelhead. This is perhaps the most significant contribution of the 2018 report as a statistical response of either coho or steelhead to restoration, chiefly LWD addition, has been difficult to detect in the past. We hope that the Strait IMW team continues to refine their analyses as more data are collected.

The addition of over 20 large-scale enhancement projects in the treatment watersheds has resulted in increased juvenile survival and life-history diversity. Juvenile coho survival in Deep Creek increased from less than 0.5 to over 1.25 times the survival of juvenile coho in the West Twin River (control). Data also suggest that coho productivity (smolts per spawner) increased in Deep Creek. In addition, researchers are documenting an increase in the proportion of yearling steelhead migrants in Deep Creek compared to West Twin River. There has also been an increase in the proportion of yearling coho migrants, but this increase occurred in both treatment and control watersheds. The report provided an update on observed values for 2018 that are put into the context of previous years. The interpretation of various statistics was a bit challenging in terms of whether the specific changes reported indicate improvement in population as a result of habitat restoration and, further, if the changes represent an overall sustained change. For example, page 3, paragraph 2 mentions the apparent survival of coho exhibited the largest response to restoration over the 12-year time span. On page 13, paragraph 3,

declines in apparent survival are reported for 2018. These and other percentages are challenging to put into an overall picture.

The PIT-tagging work continues to be hampered by damage to the detection antenna arrays at the lower ends of the streams. In 2017-18, flood events caused significant damage to two of the antennas and it will cost an estimated $7,500 to rebuild them. However, the PIT-tag studies are essential to documenting the survival and movements of marked fish and we urge the team to complete the repairs prior to the spring emigration period.

The 2018 report did not include any results of the long-term habitat monitoring that accompanied the LWD additions, and we are unsure what habitat-related monitoring activities took place in 2018. This was disappointing as documentation of habitat improvements are needed to establish a causal link between restored habitat and increased salmonid survival. One of the conditions of the 2018 comment form was that a wood budget study would be conducted if funding became available. According to the report some wood was tagged in the watersheds (few details were given) but apparently there was no tracking of wood movements nor was a wood budget attempted. It remains unclear to the panel if funding for a wood budget was obtained. If so, we would like to know when a budget estimate will be completed. If not, we would like to know if the goal of completing a wood budget will be dropped in favor of another monitoring metric for wood abundance. In their 2017 retrospective synthesis report, the Strait team stated that an analysis of restoration mediated habitat changes in East Twin Creek would be completed by December 2017, an analysis of restoration mediated habitat changes in Deep Creek would be completed by December 2019, and a final report would be completed by December 2021. The panel looks forward to seeing these analyses and the final report.

Responsiveness to Monitoring Panel Comments in 2019

Due to the delayed submission of the 2018 report there was no time for all panel members to ask questions of the Strait IMW team.

Study Limitations and Concerns

The project has always been challenged by the logistics of sampling where access is difficult and streams are flashy, causing equipment failures. The 2018 synthesis report was a major step in addressing the panel's earlier concerns that data were being collected but not analyzed. Because little pre-treatment data were collected before the

project began, a major challenge for this study going forward is likely to be continuing the funding and sampling for a long enough period to detect differences in trends based on the post-treatment analysis.

Overall, the 2018 report did a good job of describing fish survival attributes but as in previous years largely failed to elaborate on influence of physical habitat features on focal species abundance. As the panel stated last year, it would be useful to frame the discussion of habitat metrics on desired biological responses of coho and steelhead. Has an increase (or decrease) in gravel retention resulted in a spatial or numeric change in spawning? Does the number and size of pools or access to newly opened floodplain habitats influence coho and steelhead survival or growth? Based on the 2018 annual report, the Strait IMW has recently focused on population dynamics but establishing a causal linkage between restoration-related habitat change and benefits to rearing juveniles is essential to fulfilling the objectives of the study. We strongly encourage the team to balance next year's report with more information on habitat changes as well as population dynamics. This is particularly important because climate changes have resulted in increasingly extreme flow patterns.

Other Comments

This study highlights the need for collecting pre-project data and regular coordination of monitoring and enhancement activities, which have been challenging because of the variety of organizations involved in data collection. The study demonstrates the importance of having support and funding to manage large quantities of data. Because fish within these watersheds migrate throughout the year, researchers found that monitoring migrations with PIT-tag arrays provides a more complete picture of life-history diversity, migration timing, and out-migration productivity compared to traditional spring smolt trapping. Finally, because restoration of watershed processes (e.g., riparian and upland enhancement actions) can take years to decades to reach their intended goals, monitoring programs need to be long term in order to track both habitat and fish population responses at the watershed scale.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED.

The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW project agreement:

a. Submit an annual report by 12/31/2019 focused on recent accomplishments and progress made in meeting any conditions applied during the current evaluation

period. The annual report should provide an update on changes in habitat conditions in the two treatment watersheds and a discussion of how these changes have affected target fish populations.

b. Initiate a large wood budget in 2019 that will better assess the quantity, location, and movement of large wood that has occurred in the treatment and reference watersheds.

Status and Trends Fish Monitoring (Fish In/Fish Out)

As in the past, the monitoring panel considers this an essential and important project. Status and trend information on population abundance and productivity is used to inform other monitoring projects (IMW and project effectiveness), salmon recovery decisions, progress toward de-listing, and to manage commercial and sport fisheries. Where possible the fish-in/fish-out (FIFO) program monitoring associates counts of incoming adults with counts of outgoing smolts of the progeny generation to assess freshwater productivity, an important metric for determining the success of habitat restoration. Not all fish monitoring sites funded under the FIFO program include both smolt and adult monitoring, although the program leverages existing monitoring of one life history stage (often the adult phase) by providing funding for monitoring the complementary phase (often smolt emigration).

FIFO data allow WDFW scientists to segregate the effects of freshwater processes from marine processes and their effects on population dynamics. WDFW has prioritized measurement of FIFO data from at least one population from each Major Population Group within each Evolutionary Significant Unit within each salmon and steelhead species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The FIFO team is doing excellent work with limited resources. A few of the component studies are attempting to census both adults and smolts. These are especially valuable because they facilitate tracking smolt to adult return rates (SARs) as well as smolts produced per spawner – a very useful metric that can be sensitive to habitat gains or losses in a watershed.

In 2018, the FIFO program included monitoring studies of: (a) abundance of juvenile migrant summer chum salmon in Salmon Creek, (b) abundance of adult summer chum in Salmon and Snow creeks, (c) abundance of juvenile migrant summer chum, fall chum, Chinook and steelhead in the Duckabush River, (d) abundance of adult coho salmon in

the Wind River, (d) abundance of juvenile migrant coho and steelhead in the Grays River, and (e) abundance of juvenile migrant steelhead in the Touchet River. In addition to the summary data presented in the FIFO final report, individual reports were submitted to the panel on the Touchet River smolt trap, the mid-Hood Canal juvenile salmonid evaluation: Duckabush River (Wash. State Report), and a report on large river habitat complexity and productivity of Puget Sound Chinook salmon (peer-reviewed publication that included data contributed by FIFO studies).

Where possible, the panel encourages team members of monitoring studies that do not include both adults-in and smolts-out to seek funding opportunities to expand the scope of their studies to track both adult returns and smolt production. In addition, the finding from several IMW studies that fall migrants can contribute to adult escapement suggests that continuing migrant trapping through the fall period could yield new insights into population status and trends. This appears to have been done in the Touchet River. We realize that additional sampling requires additional funding but hope that teams can be opportunistic in securing more resources or cooperating with existing monitoring efforts that may be sponsored by other organizations.

Touchet R.

As in 2017, the Touchet River smolt trap was inoperable during high mid-winter flows. According to the annual report the trap was pulled from 12/23/17-3/4/18, and sampling was discontinued for a total of 116 days during the trapping season. The PIT-tagging operations in the Touchet River continue to provide useful information.

Duckabush River

The Duckabush FIFO monitoring study is yielding life-history specific survival estimates of both freshwater and marine phases for Chinook salmon as well as summer and fall chum salmon. In terms of understanding trend in population status and productivity, this monitoring study is the most completely developed of all FIFO-supported sites and the monitoring panel appreciates the work that has gone into this effort.

Habitat Complexity and Puget Sound Salmon

Authors used outputs from a habitat status and trends monitoring program for ten of Puget Sound's large river systems to examine whether juvenile Chinook salmon productivity relates to watershed-scale habitat complexity. They derived habitat complexity metrics that quantified wood jam densities, side and braid to main channel

ratios, and node densities from a remote sensing census of Puget Sound's large river systems. Total subyearling productivity (subyearlings per spawner) and parr productivity (subyearling parr per spawner) rates were best described by models that included a positive effect of habitat complexity and negative relationships with log transformed spawner density, suggestive of density-dependent limits within juvenile rearing habitat. Authors also found that coefficient of variation for log transformed subyearling productivity and subyearling fry productivity rates declined with increasing habitat complexity, supporting the idea that habitat complexity buffers populations from annual variation in environmental conditions.

Responsiveness to Monitoring Panel Comments in 2019

Thoughtful reporting and analyses were provided in 2018. FIFO data provide an important source of information to inform salmon recovery efforts as well as other monitoring efforts such as IMWs and Project Effectiveness.

Study Limitations and Concerns

As we stated last year, the program would benefit from a better understanding of migration that occurs during high water events when traps are inoperable. It is logistically difficult (or impossible) to physically sample juvenile fish in migrant traps, usually rotary screw traps, during floods but perhaps there is a way to estimate it based on the number of fish captured in shallow water with low to moderate current velocity where it is safe to sample before, during, and after a storm, or by using some other estimation technique. Considerable fish movements may be occurring during these events and if estimates assume constant movement rates based on captures before and after trap outages, the total estimated number of migrants might be significantly compromised.

The investigators explained concerns with the coho salmon estimates in the Wind River. It would be useful to find out when WDFW will be able to add the additional surveys that are needed to improve the estimates or adjust the model to only estimate upper gorge abundance in the Wind River as well as any challenges to making this happen that the panel can assist in overcoming.

Other Comment

The panel appreciates the investigators including the more detailed agency reports for different monitoring efforts that are part of this, such as the Touchet and Duckabush

rivers. Overall, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and collaborators do a good job of managing and reporting on this monitoring. The relatively small investment by the SRFB to support this kind of monitoring provides significant benefits to the region.

The study continues to be limited by funding for regular in-depth reporting, statistical analyses, QA/QC in some cases, and statewide data summaries. However, we believe the FIFO team is functioning well despite limited resources, but we hope that additional monitoring funds become available.

Recommendation: CLEAR.

The SRFB-funded Status and Trends Fish Monitoring conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife should be continued. If additional monitoring funds are available, the panel supports expansion of Status and Trends Fish Monitoring.

Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

We encourage continued attempts to publish results of the FIFO studies in peer-reviewed journals. The monitoring panel was pleased to see that FIFO program data figured in several scientific publications in 2018.

We realize that most studies have only one or two target species but continuing to monitor the abundance of additional anadromous species, e.g., in smolt traps, is worthwhile and will continue to provide insights into the current status and trends of non-target species.

It would be useful if summary figures on juvenile/adult population size included notes on where significant changes in sampling methodology, hatchery practices, and harvest rates have occurred. Information on the relative status of fish populations in neighboring watersheds would also be helpful if such information is available.

Appendix A

Annual Reporting Template

Some practitioners requested more specific guidance on what should be included in the annual report. Standardized reporting format for key information will also be helpful for the monitoring panel and the SRFB. The monitoring panel strongly encourages all project leads to follow the suggestions below when preparing annual reports.

This appendix provides guidelines for reporting by IMW project sponsors to the SRFB on project goals, actions, outcomes, and conclusions. This reporting structure allows the Board and monitoring panel to evaluate the value of projects more quickly, to identify outcomes that can be shared with other projects, and to draw regional conclusions based about the value and direction of funding for these projects. The suggestions in this appendix are considered a subset of the information included in the annual report; other aspects of the study will still need to be reported. Some information will stay the same from year to year (e.g., goals and responses to some of the questions below), while results and conclusions can simply be updated each year based on the work from the reporting period.

Sample templates are provided for three tables:

- Table 1: Project goals, actions, and indicators measured.
- Table 2: Year, actions, detailed description of what was done. An example figure is provided to illustrate timing of recovery actions.
- Table 3: Project goals, results/outcomes, and conclusions.

In addition, a series of questions are provided. Please respond in the same order as the questions are presented and include the questions as headings for your responses. Feel free to duplicate information from other documents and provide a citation or link to the specific pages.

Tables

Table 1. Project goals, objectives (or actions), and indicator to measure whether action was successful. Example information, tables, and document from Boise Creek, WA (Hartema et al., 2014 - http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/habitat-restoration/lower-boise-creek/boise-creek-monitoring-report-2013.pdf).

Goal	Objective/Action	Indicator
Provide channel roughness to provide habitat for salmon	1) Install 150 pieces of LWD 2) Riparian buffer 3) Provide fish passage	1a) Number juvenile salmon 1b) % pools 2a) Buffer width 2b) Tree survival 3a) Length of stream open

Table 1 variable description

a. What were the goals of the project restoration?
b. What were the specific objectives? E.g., install X pieces of wood, plant X acres of trees, open X acres of habitat.
c. Use numbering to connect specific indicators to specific objectives.

Table 2. Project actions, year completed, and detailed description of actions completed. Example information, tables, and document from Boise Creek, WA (Hartema et al., 2014; 2014 - http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/water-and-land/habitat-restoration/lower-boise-creek/boise-creek-monitoring-report-2013.pdf).

Objective/Action	Year completed	Detail
1) Install 150 pieces of LWD 2) Riparian buffer a) Removed invasives b) Native veg. plantings 3) Provide fish passage	1) 2011 2) 2012 3) 2012	1a) Secured 12 rootwads; 6 spanning logjams 2a) Treated and mowed 5 acres of blackberry 2b) 5,800 bare root plants, 1,050 native plants 3a) Excavated 600 ft channel 3b) Replaced 6 culverts, opened 10 miles of habitat

Table 2 variable description

a. Objective/Action (same numbering as in Table 1).
b. Year when the action was completed.
c. Detail on what was done.

Figure 1. Example of a timeline and description of projects from the Asotin IMW.

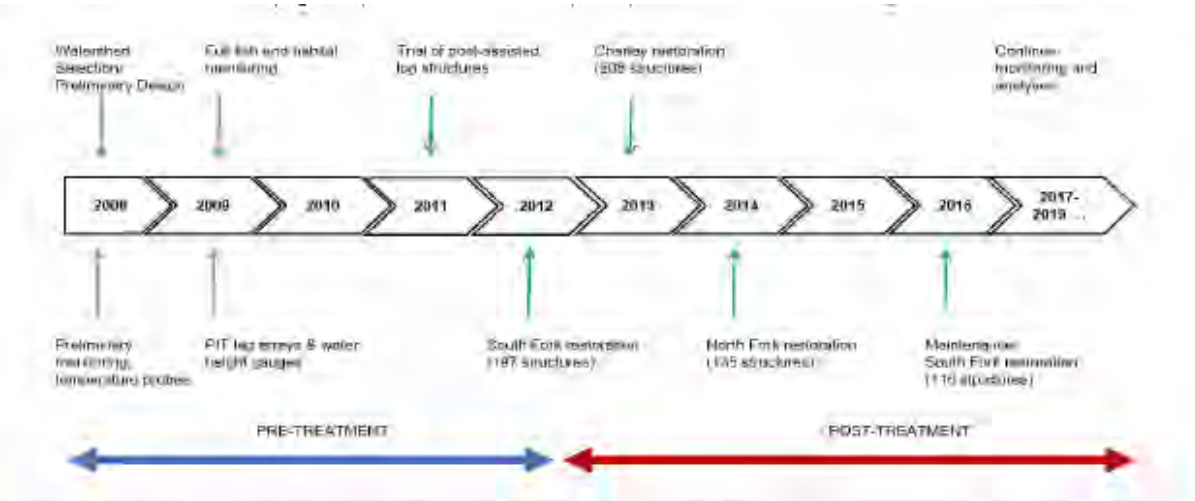


Figure 2. Timeline of Asotin Creek IMW design, monitoring, and restoration implementation. The initial restoration design of 12 km of wood treatments was completed from 2012-2014. Another restoration treatment to extend South Fork will be implemented in 2016 along with adding more wood to existing structures to enhance their function.

Table 3. Goals, Results (outcomes), which variables have measures before and after restoration actions, and conclusions.

Goal	Result/outcome	B/A data available	Conclusions
Provide channel roughness to provide habitat for salmon	Juvenile salmon more abundant in new channel Pool area increased Temperature declined	Juvenile abundance % Pool area Area covered Number of redds	Juvenile abundance increased, but only 10%. Redds in new habitat represented 10% of total in river.

Table 3 variable description.

a. Goals (from Table 1).
b. Brief summary of results, numbered (if possible) to align with actions from Table 1.
c. List the variables for which before and after data are available.
d. Conclusions are high level.

Questions to be Addressed in Annual Reports

1. **Implementation Schedule**
    a. What restoration actions remain to be implemented and when do you anticipate completing them?
    b. Do you anticipate having to perform maintenance on existing projects and what is the justification for doing so?

2. **Species of concern**
    a. What are your focal species and their associated listing status?

3. **Effectiveness**
    a. What are the limiting factors believed to be in your watershed?
    b. How were completed restoration actions tied to limiting factors?
    c. Are the findings of this IMW applicable to other watersheds? Be specific about what findings are transferable and where? Specify criteria by which the findings translate to other watersheds (e.g. geomorphic conditions, climate regimes, land cover, ESUs, etc.).

4. **Collaboration and Communication**
    a. Cite examples of how your program has collaborated with monitoring partners (including project sponsors, lead entities, and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies). The purpose of this is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of collaboration that is occurring; a comprehensive list of every communication with your partners is not necessary.
    b. List reports and other technical products (e.g. presentations, maps, graphics, videos, etc.) that have been produced and where they can be obtained by the public. The purpose of this is to document public access to the results of your work; a comprehensive list of all materials is not necessary.
    c. Provide examples of conferences/meetings in which your program presented or participated; a comprehensive list of every presentation is not necessary.

5. **Adaptive Management**
    a. Please identify any specific changes made in your methodology over the reporting period.

b. What challenges have you encountered in implementing your monitoring program?
c. How will the findings of this IMW inform future salmon recovery (broad answers are appropriate)?

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: Funding Projection for the 2019-2021 Biennium and Funding Decisions

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office
Jeannie Abbott, Program Manager, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

Item 8 provides information about the projected funding for the 2019-21 biennium and provides information about specific activities and funding decisions that will advance the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (board) biennial work plan.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decisions
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background:

Each year, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submits a single Washington State application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding. The application is prepared on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects, monitoring (required by NOAA), administration, and capacity. Capacity is described as the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level by maintaining a network of regional organizations and lead entities and, in past years, has included direct funding for both regional organizations and lead entities.

In 2017, RCO removed the request to fund lead entities in the federal application and instead included funding for lead entities as part of the RCO state capital budget request. By removing capacity funding from the PCSRF application, a larger percentage of funds shifted into Priority 1 habitat projects, in an attempt to improve the

competitiveness of our application. Additionally, the application identified some funding to implement the SRFB's continued support of SRNet.

Available Funds

Current Budget

Federal Funding: NOAA recently communicated to RCO that the 2019 PCSRF award to the State of Washington will be $18,645,000. This is a reduction of $155,000 from the 2018 award. The 2020 federal award won't be known until approximately June 2020 and therefore assumptions are used to project the funding likely available for the entire biennium.

State Funding: The Legislature's adopted the budgets for the 2019-21 biennium include:

- $974,000 in general state funds for lead entities, the same amount provided in the 2017-19 budget.
- $25 million in capital funds for salmon recovery, which includes:
    - $2,400,000 million in lead entity capacity funding;
    - $640,000 to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) for project development. (It is important to note that the funding provided to lead entities and RFEGs is only to develop projects – any other capacity costs are not eligible to be covered with these capital funds);
    - $20,930,000 for salmon recovery projects; and
    - $1,030,000 (4.12%) to RCO to administer these grants and contracts.

Returned Funds

"Returned funds" refers to money allocated to projects/activities in previous biennia that returns when projects/activities either close under budget or are not completed. These dollars return to the overall budget. These returned funds have been available for cost increases and to increase the funding available for projects in the upcoming grant round provided the Legislature re-appropriates the funds as part of either the regular capital budget or a stand-alone re-appropriation bill. The legislature did re-appropriate these unspent funds from earlier biennia.

In past years, the board made up the difference between the PCSRF award and the amount needed for regions and lead entities with returned PCSRF funds. Currently, due to reduced federal funding, specific federal grant requirements on "priorities", and the board's recent strategy to remove lead entities from the PCSRF award, utilizing returned funds for lead entity capacity funding is no longer a sustainable strategy.

Currently $2.4 million in returned funds are available for the 2019 grant round.

Funding Scenario

Table 1 displays the amount of funding available for board decisions in Year 1 of the biennium, and available and projected funding for Year 2 of the biennium. This scenario includes the state appropriation of $25 million and a 2019 NOAA award of $18,645,000 to Washington State.

Table 2 outlines the obligation of funding in the PCSRF award and what funding is available for board decisions. The project funding displayed depicts one of several options for allocating the project funding (an $18 million grant round in year 1 and 2, leaving $6,430,562 for targeted investments or other project funding strategy approved by the SRFB.)

Table 1: Projected Available Funding for the 2019-2021 Biennium

	State Fiscal Year 2020	State Fiscal Year 2021
Funding Available for the 2019-21 Biennium		
State General Funds (Lead Entities)	$487,000	$487,000
State Bond funds (includes Admin)	$8,052,316	$16,947,684
PCSRF* 2019-2020 (includes Admin)	$18,645,000	$18,645,000[1]
Return Funds Used/Available	$2,464,806	$0
Total Funds Available	**$29,724,122**	**$36,154,684**[2]

[1] Projected Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award for 2020

[2] Includes projected federal funds as part of 2020 award

Table 2: Fund Uses for the Biennium

	State Fiscal Year 2020	State Fiscal Year 2021
FUND USES		
Capacity (Lead Entities and Regional Organizations)		
State General funds (Lead Entities)	$487,000	$487,000
State Bonds (Lead Entities)	$1,202,500[3]	$1,202,500[4]
State Bonds (Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups)	$320,000	$320,000
PCSRF (Regional Organizations)	$2,874,000	$2,874,000[5]
Subtotal	**$4,883,500**	**$4,883,500**[6]
PCSRF Activities		
Monitoring and Monitoring Panel	$1,961,650[7]	$1,961,650[7]
Monitoring Carryover (2018 PCSRF)	$236,000	N/A
Communications Strategy SRNet facilitation	$60,000	$60,000
SRFB Review Panel	$200,000	$200,000
PCSRF Activities - Other	$3,490,000[8]	$3,490,000[8]
Subtotal	**$5,947,650**	**$5,711,650**
Projects		
State Bonds for grant round	$6,035,195	$8,500,000
State Bonds Potential Targeted Investment Funding		$6,430,562
PCSRF for grant round	$9,200,000	$9,200,000[9]

[3] $2,500 each fiscal year from returned funds for Snohomish Lead Entity due to error in initial legislative request

[4] $2,500 each fiscal year from returned funds for Snohomish Lead Entity due to error in initial legislative request

[5] Based on projection of federal award in 2020

[6] Includes projection of federal award in 2020

[7] This amount includes $750,000 for monitoring in the Lower Columbia called out in the 2019 federal award

[8] These funds are distributed to RCO for administration, database and metrics reporting, and to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for hatchery reform and monitoring.

[9] Based on projection of federal award in 2020

	State Fiscal Year 2020	State Fiscal Year 2021
Regional Monitoring Projects	$300,000	$300,000
Return Funds Used/Available	$2,464,805	$0
Subtotal	**$18,000,000**	**$24,430,562**
Statewide Salmon Strategy Update	**$75,000**	**$75,000**[10]
RCO Administration (State and Federal)	**$1,053,972**	**$1,053,972**
Total Uses for 2019-21 Biennium	**$29,724,122**	**$36,154,684**[11]

2019 Grant Round Target (FY 2019)

Salmon Projects

The board funds salmon projects with state and federal money. The vast majority of funds received are dedicated to projects, capacity and monitoring. Funding is determined annually based on Washington State's annual PCSRF grant award and the state dollars appropriated by the Washington State Legislature each biennium as shown in Table 1. Based on the budget outlined in Table 1, there are enough funds to hold at least an $18 million grant round in 2019.

Technical Review Panel

To ensure that every project funded by the board is technically sound, the board's technical review panel evaluates projects to assess whether they have a high benefit to salmon, a high likelihood of success, and that project costs don't outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project. There is $200,000 specified in the PCSRF application to support the technical review panel for 2019. In addition, $250,000 will be used from PSAR funds to support the review panel.

Cost Increases

Each year, the board reserves $500,000 in addition to the grant round target for cost increase amendments requested by project sponsors. These funds are available on a first come, first served basis to sponsors seeking additional funds for essential cost increases to accomplish their existing scopes of work. The RCO director has authority to approve cost increases or to request review and approval by the board. Amendments are reported to the board at each meeting.

[10] The Statewide Strategy update is funded in the RCO's budget out of state general funds.

[11] Includes projection of federal award in 2020

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the board set a target grant round of $18,000,000 for 2019, which includes $300,000 for funding for regional monitoring projects. Staff recommends not using the full amount shown as available to projects in Table 1. The excess funds could be applied to projects in the 2019 and/or 2020 grant round or to targeted investment options identified or approved by the board. Survey results and recommendations on this topic will be discussed at this board meeting in Item 6.

Staff recommends that the board approve $200,000 for the Technical Review Panel.

Staff recommends that the board reserve $500,000 for cost increases.

The interim project allocation formula approved by the board at the March 2, 2017 meeting will be utilized to allocate project funding to regions, as no revisions have been proposed following the board decision in 2017. The board will approve ranked project lists at its December 2019 board meeting.

Targeted Investments

Remaining Project Funds after 2019 and 2020 Grant Rounds at Status Quo $18 million

If the board maintains status quo funding of $18 million for grant rounds in 2019 and 2020, $6,430,562 will remain for additional project funding. This is based on a projection of federal funding that might be awarded in 2020. This amount could also increase with returned funds later in the biennium. There are several ways the board could procede with allocating this additional project funding. These funds could be directed towards targeted investments or this funding could be allocated in other ways. Below are the various alternatives (not in prioritized order) for board consideration in allocating this $6,430,562.

Alternative 1: Hold all or a portion of the $6,430,562 for two options outlined in the Targeted Investment memo (see item 6).

a) Targeted investments in actions that will directly contribute to de-listing species.
b) Targeted investements in capacity funding to address landowner willingness issues.

Alternative 2: Allocate all or a portion of the $6,430,562 to support the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force Recommendations.

a) Target investments in Chinook projects that will maximize prey availability for Orca whales.
b) Target investments in Forage Fish projects to improve Chinook populations and prey availablity for Orca whales.

Alternative 3: Allocate funding to a combination of alternatives 1 and 2 above.

Alternative 4: Allocate the entire amount using the existing regional allocation formula for project funding in the annual grant rounds for 2019 and 2020:

a) Front load the $6,430,562 into the 2019 grant round, for a total grant round in 2019 of $24,430,562 and $18 million in 2020.
b) Split the project funding available equally into the two grant rounds. Both the 2019 and the 2020 grant round would have $21,215,281 available for projects.

If the board decides to select one or more of the targeted investment options, staff will develop specific criteria and processes to guide project and funding selection. Depending on the option selected, the processes may involve other organizations or entities.

Table 3. Regional Allocations for Project Funding Using the New Interim Allocation Formula

Regional Salmon Recovery Area	Regional Allocation Percent of Total	2019 Allocation based on $18 million	2019 Allocation based on $24,430,563	2019 and 2020 Allocation Based $21,215,281[1]
Hood Canal Coordinating Council*	2.40%	$432,000	$1,533,643	$1,331,802
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00%	$3,600,000	$4,886,112	$4,243,056
Northeast Washington	1.90%	$342,000	$464,181	$403,090
Puget Sound Partnership	38.00%	$6,840,000	$8,336,304	$7,239,172
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44%	$1,519,200	$2,061,939	$1,790,570
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31%	$1,855,800	$2,518,791	$2,187,295
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57%	$1,722,600	$2,338,005	$2,030,302
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38%	$1,688,400	$2,291,587	$1,989,993

*Note that Puget Sound's allocation is 38% but they give 10% of their allocation to Hood Canal
1 Projected Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award for 2020

Regional Organization and Lead Entity Capacity Contracts

Existing Lead Entity capacity grants were originally scheduled to end on June 30, 2019. In light of the timing of the board meeting, RCO extended the time period for these grants until August 31, 2019. These contract amendments maintain the contractual relationships between RCO and the lead entities into the new fiscal year. Two months of fiscal year 2019 lead entity funding was also added to each contract to cover expenses for the extended time period. The regional organization capacity grants end August 31, 2019, and only one region required two months of additional funding. This funding will come from their allocation of 2019 PCSRF.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the board fund capacity for Lead Entities for the entire 2019-21 biennium at $3,379,000 and for Regional Organizations for fiscal year 2020 at $2,874,000 plus any return funds estimated to be $902,408. Table 4 summarizes the recommendation; Tables 5 and 6 detail the funding recommendations for Regions and Lead Entities, respectively.

Table 4. Proposed Lead Entity and Regional Organization Funding for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-21

Purpose	Current Funding FY 2018 (July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019)	Proposed Funding FY 2020	Estimated 2018 PCSRF Return Funds	Proposed Funding FY 2021
Lead Entities	$1,689,500	$1,689,500		$1,689,500
Regions	$2,878,685	$2,874,000	$ 902,408	$2,874,000*
Projects	$13,100,000	$18,000,000*		$18,000,000*

*Projected PCSRF funding

Table 5. Capacity Funding for Salmon Recovery Regions for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020

Regional Organization	Board Funding Adopted FY 2019	Proposed 2019 PCSRF Funding	Estimated 2018 PCSRF Return Funds	Proposed Funding FY 2020
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	$456,850	$ 456,107	$80,962	$ 537,069
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	$375,000	$ 374,390	$100,000	$ 474,390
Puget Sound Partnership	$689,162	$ 688,019	$177,000	$ 865,019
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	$333,588	$332,997	$220,000	$552,997
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	$435,000	$ 434,361	$0	$ 434,361
Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	$304,085	$ 303,591	$75,000	$ 378,591
Yakima Valley Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	$285,000	$ 284,536	$249,446	$ 533,982
Total	**$2,878,685**	**$2,874,000**	**$ 902,408**	**$ 3,776,408**

Table 6. Capacity Funding for Lead Entities for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-21

Lead Entity	Board Funding Adopted FY 2019	Proposed Funding FY 2020	Proposed Funding FY 2021
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	$65,000	$65,000	$65,000
San Juan County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity	$80,000	$80,000	$80,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Stillaguamish Tribe)	$25,000	$25,000	$25,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Snohomish County)	$37,000	$37,000	$37,000
Island County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	$62,500	$62,500	$62,500

Lead Entity	Board Funding Adopted FY 2019	Proposed Funding FY 2020	Proposed Funding FY 2021
Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Pierce County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$62,500	$62,500	$62,500
Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity	$80,000	$80,000	$80,000
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Grays Harbor County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Pacific County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Klickitat County Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	$60,000	$60,000	$60,000
Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	$135,000	$135,000	$135,000
Yakima Basin Regional Salmon Recovery	$65,000	$65,000	$65,000
Snake River Regional Salmon Recovery	$65,000	$65,000	$65,000
Lower Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	$80,000	$80,000	$80,000
Hood Canal Regional Salmon Recovery	$80,000	$80,000	$80,000
Lead Entity Chair	$4,500	$4,500	$4,500
Lead Entity Training	$8,000	$8,000	$8,000
Total	**$1,689,500**	**$1,689,500**	**$1,689,500**

Monitoring Contracts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2018

Board-Funded Monitoring Efforts

The following decisions are specific to the ongoing board-funded monitoring efforts included in the 2018 PCSRF application. These board-funded monitoring efforts have been reviewed and assessed by the monitoring panel and are addressed in its recommendations (see Item 7). The efforts include the intensively monitored watersheds program, status and trends monitoring, and the anticipated "pivot" from the reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring. If approved by the board, the new or renewed contracts will have an expected start date of October 1, 2019 (or sooner) and end December 31, 2020.

Additionally, continued support is requested for the monitoring panel, which is entering its fifth year of objectively assessing the board's monitoring program and providing recommendations to the board on its monitoring expenditures and other issues. The monitoring panel also provides review of regional monitoring project proposals and is addressing an appropriate structure for adaptive management. The current contracts for the monitoring panel terminate on August 31, 2019.

The total amount available for board-funded monitoring and related costs is $2,197,650.

Status and Trends monitoring (Fish In/Fish Out) - Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) $208,000

The new contract with WDFW will continue the annual support provided to the state-wide status and trends monitoring. This funding supports certain index stream monitoring (five streams), which is approximately 7% of the total WDFW Fish In/Fish Out monitoring.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) $1,457,323

The IMW program continues to provide comprehensive validation monitoring for the four IMWs in western WA, as well as support for one IMW in eastern WA. These IMWs include the Straits, Skagit, and Hood Canal IMWs in the Puget Sound region, the Abernathy IMW in the Lower Columbia, and the Asotin IMW in the Snake region. This is the second year in which the contracts have evolved where there are revised scopes of work specific to the tasks and deliverables for the project sponsors, including:

- WA Department of Ecology to be contracted to provide sub-contracting and project oversight for four worksites. $699,639
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to be contracted for habitat monitoring in three IMW worksites. $268,684

- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to be contracted for fish monitoring in two IMW worksites. $489,000

Note: The Snake and Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery regions have access to IMW monitoring funds from an annual Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) allocation to RCO, not captured in this total.

Project Effectiveness $211,327

At the September 2018 meeting, the board provided direction to the monitoring panel to convene a monitoring workshop and monitoring panel process to assess a possible "pivot" away from reach-scale effectiveness monitoring. The result of the workshop process and monitoring panel discussions with regional recovery organizations, partners, and members of the board were to explore broad scale restoration effectiveness in floodplain and riparian habitats, summarized in the below recommendations. The workshops also resulted in discussions about broader gap analyses efforts. However, other non-monitoring funding sources would be required for these gap analyses (see Item 7 for details on rationale).

Funds in this category may be allocated to the following efforts, depending upon discussions with between the board and monitoring panel during Item 7:

1a. Restoration-Scale Effectiveness (Alternative A) – Evaluate the effectiveness of broad scale floodplain and riparian restoration efforts (~1-2 km scale) (and explore options for nearshore restoration projects) using "Green" light detection and ranging (LiDAR).

This recommendation combines elements of Alternatives A and F, which are provided in Appendix A.

1b. New or Emerging Monitoring Methods (Alternative F) – Explore New or Emerging Monitoring Methods or Tools through a Proof-of-Concept Approach.

This recommendation supports Alternative F in Appendix A. This recommendation would reserve some funding to test the value of new methods to validate existing projects. It is likely that novel monitoring methods would initially take place as pilot-scale demonstration or "proof of concept" tests, and would not be applied to larger areas until properly evaluated.

The monitoring panel proposes developing an initial request for a proposal (RFP) this year (2019) for a study design for the collection of geospatial data (Green LiDAR), including analytical approaches and proposed metrics for measuring

habitat complexity, and would seek input on any additional data needed to evaluation floodplain project performance.

Recommendation #2 – Explore Funding Options to Provide a Regional Summary of Key Data Gaps (Alternative G)

During the workshops and subsequent meetings, it became clear that identifying key data gaps was important work, and was especially supported by the Council of Regions. The regional recovery organizations added Alternative G to the list of monitoring options to be considered. The monitoring panel identified this option as important work but considered this more of a planning activity than on-the-ground monitoring. In addition, GSRO and RCO outlined the constraints associated with the PCSRF grant, that further limit the use of monitoring funds for gap analyses (described in Item 7). Therefore, the monitoring panel is not recommending that effectiveness monitoring funding be redirected to this activity.

However, because this work is important, the monitoring panel is requesting that the board encourage a dialogue between the board, monitoring panel and the COR to determine pathways and funding opportunities to initiate data gap analyses.

Monitoring Panel $85,000

The monitoring panel is entering its fifth year of operation, implementing their objective review and assessment of all of the board-supported monitoring efforts: Status and Trends; Intensively Monitored Watersheds; and the anticipated "pivot" from reach-scale Project Effectiveness. In addition, the monitoring panel reviews regional monitoring projects, which are included in the regional funding allocation that the board will consider at the December 2019 meeting. Project sponsors must submit an application that meets the criteria established in Manual 18 and provide certification from the region.

The seven monitoring panel members provide subject matter expertise in a collegial and mutually supportive and respectful environment. The panel meetings include web-based meetings and conference calls, in-person reviews and interactions, as well as follow-up with monitoring principle investigators. The draft recommendations presented for board consideration (see Item 8) also include any conditions the monitoring panel deems appropriate to be included in the monitoring contracts with project sponsors

This funding request supports the monitoring panel through September 30, 2020 and comes from the 2019 PCSRF award.

Further Decisions from the board – $236,000

There are carry over monitoring funds from PCSRF 2018 award in the amount of $236,000 available for board monitoring priorities. The monitoring panel suggested that the board await the outcome of the request for proposals associated with their recommendations to determine how best to use these carry over dollars. In addition to the monitoring panel's recommendations, there may be emerging gaps or priorities within the existing monitoring programs (i.e., fish in/fish out, IMW) where these additional dollars could be applied. For example, the Puget Sound watersheds have highlighted fish in/fish out gaps, and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife has identified habitat monitoring needs within the IMW. Currently, there no motions to allot these carry over monitoring dollars but could be explored by the monitoring panel to come back with additional recommendations.

Staff Recommendations on Monitoring

Staff recommends that the board delegate authority to the RCO director to enter into contracts for these approved board-funded monitoring efforts:

RCO and monitoring panel will return to the board within calendar year 2019 with suggestions to spend the remaining $236,000 monitoring funds based on the response and results from request for proposals, as well as subsequent discussions about emerging gaps in existing monitoring programs (i.e., fish in/fish out, IMW).

Motions for all Funding Decisions:

Move to set a target grant round of $18,000,000 for 2019, which includes $300,000 for funding for regional monitoring projects.

Move to allocate the remaining $6,430,562 to one or more of the following alternatives:

☐ Alternative 1: Allocate all or a portion of the $6,430,562 to:

- Targeted investments in actions that will directly contribute to de-listing species.
- Targeted investements in capacity funding to address landowner willingness issues.

☐ Alternative 2: Allocate all or a portion of the $6,430,562 to support the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force Recommendations.

- Target investments in Chinook projects that will maximize prey availability for Orca whales.
- Target investments in Forage Fish projects to improve Chinook populations and prey availablity for Orca whales.

☐ Alternative 3: Allocate funding to a combination of alternatives 1 and 2 above.

☐ Alternative 4: Allocate the entire amount using the existing regional allocation formula for project funding in the annual grant rounds for 2019 and 2020:

- Front load the $6,430,562 into the 2019 grant round, for a total grant round in 2019 of $24,430,562 and $18 million in 2020.
- Split the project funding available equally into the two grant rounds. Both the 2019 and the 2020 grant round would have $21,215,281 available for projects.

Move to approve $200,000 for the Technical Review Panel.

Move to reserve $500,000 for cost increases.

Move to provide capacity funding for Lead Entities for the entire 2019-21 biennium of $3,379,000.

Move to approve capacity funding for Regional Organizations for fiscal year 2020 of $2,874,000 plus any return funds from last biennium's contracts, estimated to be approximately $902,408.

Move to delegate authority to the Director to enter into contracts for Lead Entities and Regions for these amounts, including final return fund amount.

Move to delegate authority to the RCO director to enter into contracts for the following monitoring efforts that total $1,961,650 in the following categories:

- $208,000 for status and trends monitoring through an agreement with WDFW;
- $1,457,323 for IMW monitoring contracts;
- $211,327 for the anticipated restoration scale effectiveness monitoring to implement recommendations #1a and #b.
- $85,000 for the monitoring panel contracts;

Move to further explore the COR recommendation for a gap analysis.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item 9

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: July 10, 2019

Title: Lean Recommendation 1.1, Redesign Grant Round, DRAFT 2020 Grant Round Timeline

Prepared By: Kat Moore and Tara Galuska

Summary
This memo presents the proposed timeline for the 2020 grant round. Staff took the recommendation from the 2018 Lean study and made minor modifications to best fit the needs of lead entities and applicants. Staff requests a decision in order to begin preparations for the 2020 grant round.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:
- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

The 2017-19 Capital Budget included a proviso for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to execute a Lean study to bring efficiencies to the salmon recovery project development and prioritization process. This Lean study focused on the point in the process from identification of a project through final approval for funding by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The intent was to review and analyze the efficiency, effectiveness and content of the process flow and implement recommendations from the study.

In December 2018, the board approved the Lean study's recommendations and requested staff return in 2019 with implementation actions. Lean recommendation 1.1 focused on the redesign of the grant round process, with the purpose to address issues raised during the Lean Study Current State Analysis. The process has been redesigned to achieve the following:

- Shift timing to reduce conflict with field season;
- Simplify the process;
- Reduce iterations of the application and review panel comments; and

- Provide project sponsors and lead entities with input from the full review panel earlier in the process.

Recommendation 1.1 was quite prescriptive and identified a draft timeline informed by feedback from surveys, workshops and the Lean subcommittee. Staff developed a timeline for the 2020 grant round based on recommendation 1.1 and additional feedback from lead entity coordinators and regional representatives. Staff presented the timeline to the lead entities (via the Washington Salmon Coalition) twice; first in February, and again at the Washington Salmon Coalition retreat in March. This draft timeline was sent to regions and lead entities in advance of this SRFB meeting.

Summary of Key Changes

Based on the Lean recommendation 1.1, and continued discussion with lead entity coordinators, the 2020 grant round will have the following changes:

- Site visits will occur earlier in the year and will be complete by May 15.
    - *Currently site visits extend until mid-June.*

- Complete applications will be required at the time of the site visit.
    - *Currently partial, draft applications are accepted.*

- Applicants will only receive two comment forms; both forms will be completed by the full review panel.
    - *Currently applicants have the potential to have three feedback loops, only two of which are completed by the full panel. Only two panel members complete the first comment form.*
    - *Projects have the opportunity to receive a 'Clear' status after the first comment form, and the process would end there for the sponsor.*

- Lead entities and applicants will have the opportunity to discuss their "projects of concerns" (POC), or projects that "need more information" (NMI) during a phone call with a panel member and staff prior to submitting final applications.
    - *Currently applicants' only opportunity to discuss projects with the review panel prior to submittal is at the site visit or at the end of the process during Regional Area meetings.*

- Final applications will be due June 29.
    - *Currently final applications are due the first week of August.*

- Applicants will receive final status and comment form on July 31.

  - *Currently applicants may not receive final status until the end of October.*
  - *If the project receives a Clear status on first comment form, that could be the final status, received in the spring.*

- Projects will be funded at the September board meeting.
  - *Currently projects are funded in December, while funding is usually available in July or August.*
  - *Gets funding on the ground to projects 3 months earlier than current.*

Change from Lean Recommendation 1.1

The proposed 2020 grant round timeline follows the Lean recommendation in all but one instance: the timing of the first comment form. Currently, applicants receive their first comment form two to three weeks after the site visit, and the two review panel members who attend the site visit complete the form. Because the full panel has not discussed the project before the comment form is provided to the applicant, occasionally new issues arise on subsequent comment forms as the full panel reviews the project. In order to reduce confusion, the Lean study recommended that RCO provide comment forms only after all review panel members have had an opportunity to review and comment on the project. However, the recommendation included only one early full review panel meeting, after all of the site visits were completed in May. Comment forms would be sent out from the full panel after that meeting. This meant that even if a lead entity held their site visits in February, they wouldn't receive feedback from the full panel until May.

At the lead entity meeting in March 2019, RCO staff heard that applicants would be waiting too long for comment forms, in some cases delaying the local process and local feedback loop. Staff was asked to modify the timeline to hold two, one-day meetings staggered, rather than one, two-day meeting at the end of site visits in May. The first group of site visits in February and March will receive comment forms in March after a full-panel meeting in March. The second group of site visits in April and May will receive comment forms in May after another full-panel meeting in May.

Staff recommendation

Staff is recommending the board approve the timeline as shown in Attachment A, which includes the staggered first comment form period described above. This new timeline will be in effect for the 2020 grant round.

Strategic Plan Connection

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

The update to the grant round timeline through the Lean process and ongoing communication with lead entities and regions is consistent with the first goal of the SRFB, which is to "Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts."

Attachments

A. Proposed 2020 Grant Timeline Calendar

B. Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Letter

Attachment A:

Proposed 2020 Salmon Grant Schedule

Please obtain the lead entity's schedule from the lead entity coordinator.

Date	Action	Description
October 25	**Due Date:** Requests for review panel site visits	Lead entities submit requests for site visits to RCO staff by this date.
January - April	Complete Project application materials submitted at least 2 weeks before site visit **(required)**	**At least 2 weeks before the site visit,** applicants submit application materials via PRISM Online (See Application Checklist). The lead entity provides applicants with a project number from the Habitat Work Schedule **before** work can begin in PRISM Online.
Feb 3 – March 20; or April 6 – May 15	Site visits **(required)**	RCO screens all applications for completeness and eligibility. The SRFB Review Panel evaluates projects using Manual 18, Appendix K criteria. RCO staff and SRFB Review Panel members attend lead entity-organized site visits. *Site visits in May will be limited to areas that have accessibility and weather issues earlier in the year.*
March 24	**Optional Due Date:** Lead Entity feedback	If lead entities intend to provide feedback to the applicant via the PRISM online module, they must enter comments by this date.
March 25	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in February and March.
April 3	**First comment form** For February and March site visits	Applicants receive a SRFB Review Panel comment form identifying projects as Clear, Conditioned, Needs More Information (NMI), or Project of Concern (POC). RCO staff returns Conditioned, NMI, or POC applications to allow applicants to update applications and respond to comments.
May 18	**Optional Due Date:** Lead Entity feedback	If lead entities intend to provide feedback to the applicant via the PRISM online module, they must enter comments by this date.
May 20	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in April and May.

Date	Action	Description
June 5	**First comment form** For April and May site visits	Applicants receive a SRFB Review Panel comment form identifying projects as Clear, Conditioned, Needs More Information (NMI), or Project of Concern (POC). RCO staff returns Conditioned, NMI, or POC applications to allow applicants to update applications and respond to comments.
Early June	Conference Call **(Optional)**	Lead entities can schedule a one-hour conference call with project applicants, RCO staff, and one SRFB Review Panel member to discuss NMI, POC, or conditioned projects in their lead entity.
June 29, noon	**Due Date:** Applications due	Applicants submit revised application materials via PRISM Online. See Application checklist.
June 29-July 14	RCO and SRFB Review Panel review	RCO staff and the SRFB Review Panel review revised applications. The SRFB Review Panel evaluates projects using Manual 18, Appendix K criteria.
July 15	SRFB Review Panel meeting	SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms.
July 29	Final comment form	Applicants receive the final SRFB Review Panel comment forms, which will identify their projects as Clear, Conditioned, or Project of Concern (POC).
August 14	**Due Date:** accept SRFB Review Panel condition	Applicants with "Conditioned" projects must indicate whether they accept the condition or are withdrawing their project.
August 14	**Due Date:** Lead Entity ranked list	Lead entities submit draft ranked lists via PRISM Online.
August TBD	**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.
End of August TBD	Final grant report available for public review	The final funding recommendation report is available online for SRFB and public review.
September TBD	Board funding meeting	Board awards grants. Public comment period available.

Attachment B

YAKIMA BASIN FISH AND WILDLIFE RECOVERY BOARD

Phil Rockefeller
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

June 17, 2019

Dear Chairman Rockefeller,

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board appreciates the early announcement of the draft 2020 grant timeline, and is excited to implement the schedule changes recommended by the LEAN study conducted in 2018. However we recommend a small change in the proposed schedule that would allow us to fully realize the efficiencies of the revised grant process.

Our recommendation is that the time between the release of the final State Review Panel comments and the submission of Lead Entity Ranked lists be lengthened by 1 to 2 weeks. With the current (2019 and prior) schedule, review panel comments are not available until after Lead Entities submit their ranked list to the SRFB. We have voiced concerns related to this in the past: it can create hardships for project sponsors to work on answering questions and changing project components on a tight turnaround, and makes it hard for local committees to review late-in-the-game changes and incorporate into the ranked list. The 2020 schedule moves up when review panel comments are available but only provides 2 weeks between that date and when ranked lists are due for submittal by Lead Entities. For the Yakima Lead Entity, the only way we could make this schedule work is by holding our Technical Advisory Group (TAG) evaluation meeting prior to the availability of final review panel comments. We feel this misses an excellent opportunity to create more efficiencies in our process. If the due date for submission of ranked lists were pushed back one to two weeks, we could hold our TAG meetings after the state review panel comments are available and the TAG could incorporate those comments into their final evaluation and ranking. This could remove a pinch point in the current draft of the 2020 schedule, as our lists would not need to be re-prioritized after our TAG review to accommodate changes requested by the State Review Panel. Moving the ranked list submission date would still allow for approval at a late September SRFB meeting and would eliminate the need for last minute changes to lead entity lists that can be challenging for sponsors, lead entities and SRFB staff.

We're excited about the opportunities for efficiency the changes in the 2020 schedule provide and appreciate your consideration of our recommendation. Please let us know if we can provide any more information or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Alex Conley
Executive Director

1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, Yakima, WA 98902
Phone (509) 453-4104 Email: info@ybfwrb.org Web: www.ybfwrb.org

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS
July 10-11, 2019

Wednesday, July 10th		
Item	**Formal Action**	**Follow-up Action**
Opening and Welcome	Decision Motions: Approved	No follow-up action requested. TVW
1. Director's Report • Directors Report • Performance Update (*written only*) • Fiscal Report (*written only*) Lt. DFW re N. Pike.	Briefing	Continue discussion on getting ranked lists in advance for legislative session.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners • Council of Regions • WA Salmon Coalition • Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Briefing	SRFB members Kanzler and Davis to form subcommittee to work with Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group's (RFEG's) on permitting issues.
4. Conference Debrief & Decision on 2021 Conference	Decision Motion: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
5. Salmon Delisting Discussion	Briefing	Erik Neatherlin to work with Regional Directors on developing project lists for the Mid C Steelhead and Hood canal Summer Chum.
6. Targeted Investments Survey Results and Next Steps	Request for direction	No follow-up action requested.
7. Monitoring Panel Recommendations Following Workshops	Decision Approved under Item 8	Follow up about deliverables on RFP scopes of work.
8. Allocating Funding for 2019 Grant Round	Decision Motions: Approved (as amended)	No follow-up action requested.
9. Implementing New Grant Round Timeline for 2020 (Lean Study)	Decision Motion: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
10. Tour Prologue	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: July 10, 2019
Place: Yakima Convention Center – 10 North 8th St. Yakima, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

Phil Rockefeller,	Bainbridge	**Annette**	Department of Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	**Jeff Davis**	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	**Stephen Bernath**	Department of Natural Resources
Chris Endresen Scott	Conconully	**Brian Cochrane**	Washington State Conservation Commission
Jeff Breckel	Longview	**Susan Kanzler**	Department of Transportation

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 Rockefeller called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m., welcomed the board, staff, and audience. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Chair Rockefeller introduced the two new board members representing WDFW and Ecology, respectively.

Motion:	Move to Approve the July 10-11, 2019, meeting agenda and tour.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Bugert
Decision:	Approved

Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included approval of the March 2019 meeting minutes.

Motion:	Move to Approve the March 6, 2019, meeting minutes.
Moved by:	Member Bugert
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Decision:	Approved

Honorary Resolutions

Motion: Move to Approve Honorary Resolution for former member Erik Neatherlin.
Moved by: Member Breckel
Seconded by: Member Hoffmann
Decision: Approved and signed by all

Motion: Move to Approve Honorary Resolution for former member Carol Smith.
Moved by: Member Cochrane
Seconded by: Member Hoffmann
Decision: Approved and signed by all

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Director's Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham briefly updated the board on several of the major events happening at the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Included were staff updates/changes, budget highlights, PCSRF award review, board and legislative meeting debriefs, and upcoming events.

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, reviewed the NOAA packet and audit findings for the board. He noted that RCO has refuted three of the audit findings, and simultaneously requested a payment plan with NOAA to repay funds, if necessary. He closed by noting that RCO may know more by the end of this month.

Legislative, Budget, and Policy Update: Wendy Brown, Policy Director, briefed the board on the final budgets passed by the legislature. The budget for RCO included funding to update the statewide salmon recovery strategy as well as carryforward funding for lead entities. Ms. Brown closed her presentation by reviewing some of the bills that passed this session with special focus on salmon and orcas.

Board and staff discussed successes and disappointments with the final budget funding levels after the close of the 2019 session.

Jeannie Abbott, Governors Salmon Recovery Office, reviewed the region and lead entity contract updates for the board—including an overview of funding requests and timelines.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Salmon Section Report: Erik Neatherlin, Governors Salmon Recovery Office, reviewed for the board some of the work that has been taking place in GSRO. His presentation included staff

updates, a debrief from his work in the prey working group on the Orca Task Force, as well as highlights from Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington D.C.

Tara Galuska, RCO Salmon Section Manager, provided updates on the work recently completed by the Salmon Recovery Section. She included reminders that next year, 2020, will be unusual due to the new grant timeline that is being implemented based on the Lean study recommendation. She closed her presentation by giving a brief overview of the grant timeline for the next few years.

Board discussed, and asked clarifying questions about the new timelines.

Brent Hedden, Policy Analyst, provided a high-level overview of the 2018 grant round survey results for the board, staff, and audience.

Break – 10:30am – 10:45am

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Alicia Olivas, provided an update on status of projects and priorities of WSC, as well as several of the topics that the members have been discussing since the last SRFB meeting.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG): Aaron Peterson and Margaret Neuman, came before the board on behalf of the RFEG's to talk about permitting issues and delays. The RFEG's are requesting that the SRFB allocate funds in the way of a staff member that can work with groups specifically to help navigate the permitting process.

Board discussed how this is a well-known and ongoing problem, and suggested several resources already in place to assist with navigating permits. The board will put together a subcommittee consisting of Member(s) Kanzler and Davis to further investigate the permitting issue. RCO Director reminded the RFEG that they need to bill out their 17-19 contract for funding through the RCO and that unspent funds would not carry over into the next biennium. Aaron thought the funds would be fully spent within the biennium.

Council of Regions (COR): Alex Conley briefed the board on COR updates; including highlights from their recent meetings with NOAA, and their appreciation for the work RCO staff and SRFB members are doing.

General Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, provided general public comment about project lists.

Margaret Neuman, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, provided general public comment about project lists.

Board Business: Decision

Item 4: 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference – Debrief

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, and Jeannie Abbott, GSRO, provided a briefing on the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference that was held this past winter at the Tacoma Convention Center. They are here today to ask the board whether they want to continue to sponsor the conference, which will be held next in 2021.

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, reviewed RCO's extended contract with Western Washington University, which will assist in facilitating the 2021 conference.

Board discussed options for next conference, voicing appreciation on behalf of staff that make the conference possible. Some board members expressed interest in having global salmon related topics at the next conference, such as ocean conditions.

Motion:	Move to approve holding the Salmon Recovery Conference in the spring of 2021 and fund a portion of the conference from the 2020 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award in an amount not to exceed $90,000.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Bugert
Decision:	Approved

LUNCH 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Board Business: Briefing

Item 5: Salmon Delisting Discussion

Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Board, provided an update to the board on the potential de-listing of Middle Columbia River Steelhead, and the potential de-listing of Hood Canal Summer Chum. He emphasized that delisting could happen as soon as three years from now.

Board discussed how inspiring this update is, and how it is important to realize how far salmon recovery has come, while acknowledging how far it has to go.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, provided an update of the Yakima Basin/Mid-Columbia Recovery Plan; including active partners, trends over time, and work that still needs to be completed.

John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, continued the update on the Yakima Basin/Mid-Columbia review from 2007 until now, specifically focusing on the future.

Board discussed challenges affecting the Mid-Columbia and asked clarifying questions of the presenters.

Board Business: Request for Direction

Item 6: Targeted Investments Survey

Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, and Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, summarized for the board the results from the targeted investments survey that was conducted after the March 6, 2019 board meeting.

Board asked clarifying questions about the survey and discussed findings at length.

Some Survey feedback discussed:

- Large, Complex projects are not being sufficiently funded
- A statewide completive grant program is not the answer
- SRFB should target funding in regions nearing their recovery goals
- Top two challenges are *Funding* and *Land-Owner Willingness*

General Public Comment:

Alicia Olivas, Washington Salmon Coalition, provided public comment on the targeted investment survey.

Board Business: Decision

Item 7: SRFB Monitoring Panel Recommendations

Keith Dublanica, GSRO, Pete Bisson and Leska Fore, Monitoring Panel, presented the Monitoring Panel's annual report, with conditions for project sponsors related to the status and trends monitoring and the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program. The discussion was guided by a brief review of what the monitoring panel has been doing up through this point, along with an overview of the recommendations put forth by the monitoring panel. Mr. Bisson and Ms. Fore dove in to a more comprehensive discussion regarding the recommendations for the allocation of monitoring funds previously directed to reach-scale project effectiveness efforts.

Board asked clarifying questions of the monitoring panel about their recommendations and guidelines.

General Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, provided public comment on targeted investments and monitoring.

John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, provided public comment on targeted investments and monitoring.

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, provided public comment on targeted investments and monitoring.

Item 8: Funding Projection for the 2019-2021 Biennium and Funding Decisions

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Jeannie Abbott, GSRO, and Keith Dublanica, GSRO, provided information about the projected funding for the 2019-2021 biennium. They reviewed information about specific activities and funding decisions that will advance the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's biennial work plan.

Motion:	Move to set a target grant round of $18,000,000 for 2019, which includes $300,000 for funding for regional monitoring projects.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Decision:	Approved

Motion:	Move to allocate the remaining $6,430,562 to Alternative 1 (as amended)
Moved by:	Member Endresen Scott
Seconded by:	Member Sullivan
Decision:	Approved

***Alternative 1:* Allocate all or a portion of the $6,430,562 to:**

- *Targeted investments in actions that will directly contribute to de-listing species and ask regions (Hood Canal and Mid-Columbia regions) nearing delisting to bring back specific lists of projects in September.*

Motion:	Move to approve $200,000 for the Technical Review Panel.
Moved by:	Member Bugert
Seconded by:	Member Breckel
Decision:	Approved

Motion:	Move to approve motions 10, 11, 12 together.
Moved by:	Member Bugert
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Decision:	Approved

Motion:	Move to delegate authority to the Director to enter into contracts for Lead Entities and Regions for these amounts, including final return fund amount both for regions for capacity and up to $50,000 for the biennium for Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) facilitation, if swapped for general funds.
Moved by:	Member Bugert
Seconded by:	Member Breckel
Decision:	Approved

Motion:	Move to delegate authority to the RCO director to enter into contracts for the following monitoring efforts that total $1,961,650 in the following categories (as amended): a) $208,000 for status and trends monitoring through an agreement with WDFW; b) $1,457,323 for IMW monitoring contracts; c) $211,327 for the anticipated restoration scale effectiveness monitoring to implement recommendations #1a and #b, but have scope of work come back to SRFB in September 2019 before issuing the RFP. d) $85,000 for the monitoring panel contracts;
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Bugert
Decision:	Approved

Motion:	Move to further explore the COR recommendation for a gap analysis.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Decision:	Approved

Public comment:

Alicia Olivas, Washington Salmon Coalition, provided public comment on the funding allocation.

Carrie Byron, Puget Sound Partnership, provided public comment on the funding allocation.

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, provided public comment on the funding allocation.

Aaron Peterson, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, provided public comment on the funding allocation.

Melody Kreimes, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, provided public comment on the funding allocation.

Item 9: Implementing New Grant Round Timeline for 2020 (Lean Study)

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, briefed the board on the proposed timeline for the 2020 grant round. Staff have taken the recommendation from the 2018 Lean Study and made minor modifications to best fit the needs of lead entities and applicants. In order to continue this work, staff request a decision of the board to prepare for the 2020 grant round.

Motion:	Move to approve the timeline as shown in Item 9 - Attachment A, which includes the staggered first comment form period described in the memo. This new timeline will be in effect for the 2020 grant round.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Sullivan
Decision:	Approved

Item 10: Tour Prologue

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, briefly reviewed the tour plans and itinerary for the field trip tomorrow.

Adjourn

Closing

Chair Rockefeller adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.

Approved by:

Phil Rockefeller 9-11-19

Phil Rockefeller, Chair Date