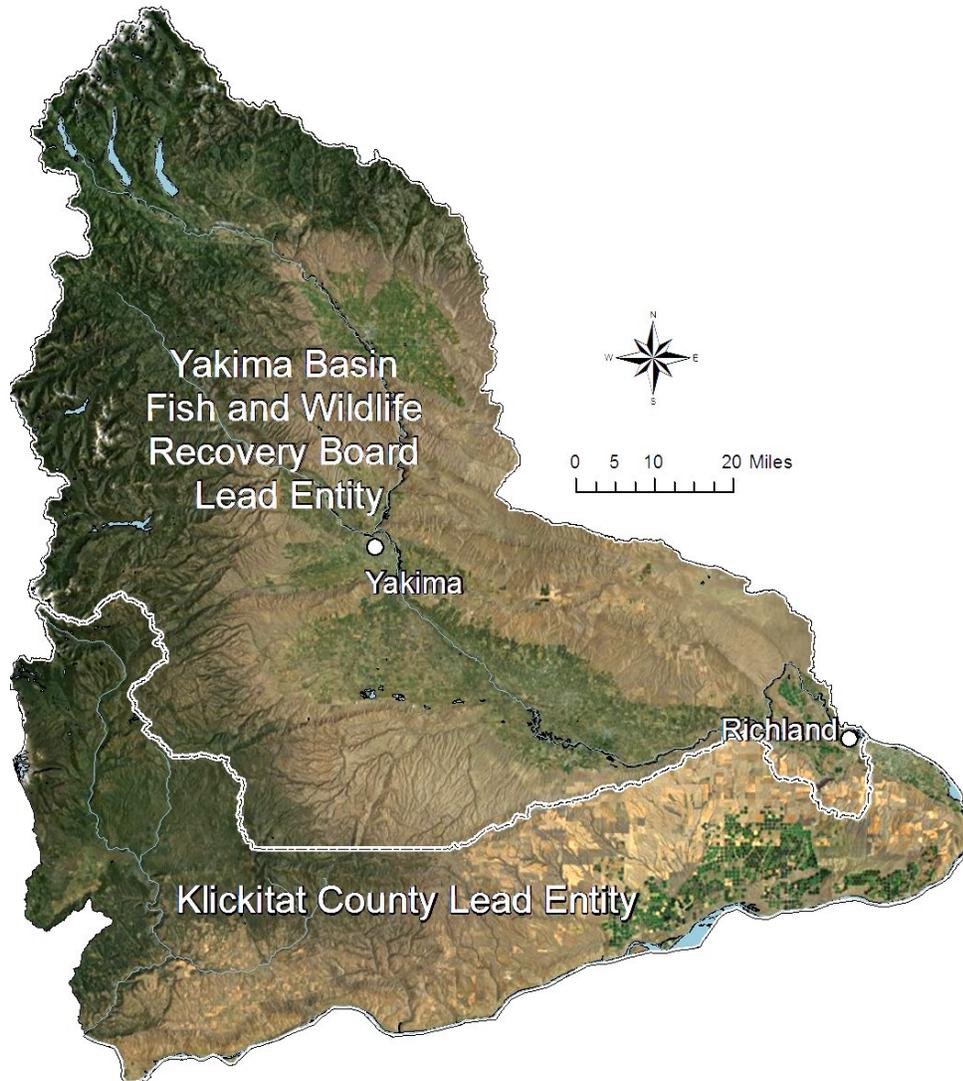


Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region



Yakima Basin Fish and
Wildlife Recovery Board
1200 Chesterly Drive
Yakima, WA 98902
www.ybfwrb.org

Lead Entity Coordinator
Tricia Snyder
(509) 453-4104
tsnyder@ybfwrb.org

Klickitat County Lead Entity
127 West Court Street, Mail Stop CH-27
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-2410

Region Overview

Geography

The Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region is comprised of salmon bearing streams in Benton, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat Counties.

Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

Klickitat (30), Rock-Glade (31), Lower Yakima (37), Naches (38), and Upper Yakima (39)

Federally Recognized Tribes

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Endangered Species Act Listings

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

Species	Listed As	Date Listed
Steelhead	Threatened	March 25, 1999
Bull Trout	Threatened	1998

Salmon Recovery Plan

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (for the Yakima basin; no recovery organization for Columbia Gorge populations in the middle Columbia region).
Plan Timeframe	15 years (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	94 (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Estimated Cost (This does not include estimated cost from the Klickitat and Rock Creek plans prepared by the NOAA.)	\$269 million (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Status	NOAA-Fisheries approved the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan in September 2009. This plan incorporates the Yakima board’s <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> and NOAA’s recovery plans for steelhead populations in the Gorge Management Unit of the middle Columbia River steelhead distinct population segment.

Recovery Plan	
	The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board released the <i>Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan</i> in September 2012, with an update in 2017, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its bull trout recovery plan in 2015.
Implementation Schedule Status	For the Yakima basin, basic elements of a 6-year implementation schedule are completed, providing details of planned actions, key partners, link of actions to limiting factors and plan strategies, time to implement and achieve benefits, and estimated costs. Additional information fields and a tracking and reporting system for the implementation schedule are being developed.
Web Information	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Web site Klickitat Lead Entity Web page Habitat Work Schedule

Region and Lead Entities

There are five WRIAs in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board is the regional salmon recovery organization and lead entity for three of these WRIAs (37, 38, and 39). The Klickitat County Lead Entity’s geographic area is composed of WRIAs 29b, 30, and 31. The Klickitat County Lead Entity’s geographic area is not within the purview of a regional organization established under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 or 77.85.200, but is contained within the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Regions. Therefore, a portion of the SRFB project funding allocated to the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions is allocated to the Klickitat County Lead Entity’s geographic area based on a combination of historical funding allocations and anadromous stream miles.

Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region?

The Mid-Columbia region was allocated \$1,688,400 for the 2020 SRFB grant round. Because there is not a single regional organization that includes both the areas served by the Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and that portion of the Klickitat County Lead Entity’s area that is within the Mid-Columbia region, the two organizations enter into discussions each year about how to divide the mid-Columbia allocation between them.

Beginning in 2015, the Klickitat Lead Entity may request use of Mid-Columbia Region funds for use on projects in the White Salmon. The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board is

genuinely excited to see important fisheries restoration projects occurring in the White Salmon Basin, and believe that they can help all of us meet delisting goals for Middle Columbia Steelhead. YBFWRB also wants to ensure that decisions about the use of the Middle Columbia allocation are considered in a transparent manner by the appropriate decision-making body.

In 2016, the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat County Lead Entity formalized the process for requesting the use of Mid-Columbia Region funds for use on projects in the White Salmon. The process involves the Klickitat County Lead Entity making a formal request to the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board for any proposed transfer of funding from the Mid-Columbia allocation to the Lower Columbia allocation. In 2020, the Klickitat Lead Entity did not propose using Mid-Columbia funds in the White Salmon watershed.

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat County Lead Entity submit separate lead entity lists and divide funding between the two lists based on an agreed upon allocation.

Table 1: Funding and Requests

Funding and Requests	Totals	Percent
Total Allocation	\$1,688,400	100%
Yakima Basin Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$1,187,275	70%
Klickitat Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$501,125	30%
Remaining Balance	(\$0)	100%

Explain if the projects list(s) submitted in your region funds the highest priority projects.

Our project list submitted for the 2020 SRFB grant round funds the highest priority projects and actions that are eligible for funding by the SRFB that have been proposed by sponsors in the lead entity area in the current grant year, and address the strategies in our Salmon Recovery Plan.

If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in your region.

The majority of high priority projects in the Yakima Basin are being funded. Some of our recovery plan priorities are not necessarily best addressed through the SRFB program. We have successfully advocated for many of our priorities through other funding sources and continue to fund high priority projects. Some priorities require challenging political commitments and/or are impacted by landowner willingness.

Do suballocations to lead entities limit your region from getting to the highest priority projects?

No, suballocations do not limit our region from getting to the highest priority projects.

Regional Technical Review Process**How was the regional technical review conducted?**

The existing Yakima lead entity technical review group was used as the regional technical review team. Given that 1) the area covered by the lead entity and the regional organization is identical, and 2) most potential candidates for serving on a regional technical review team already were serving on the lead entity review team, the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board saw no reason to convene a separate review team. If in the future, there is agreement among all parties that we should develop a regional review that involves multiple lead entities, we would work with other parties to develop a separate regional technical review process.

What criteria were used for the regional technical and citizens' review?

The Yakima Technical Advisory Group evaluated Yakima basin projects using three sets of criteria:

1. [Salmon Recovery Matrix](#) assesses:
 - Species benefited by project.
 - Project benefits to in-stream flow and the hydrograph.
 - Project benefits to water quality.
 - Project benefits to in-channel habitat.
 - Improvements to degraded large woody material densities.
 - Protection of functional rearing habitat.
 - Improvements to degraded rearing habitat.
 - Project benefits to habitat access.
 - Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to high quality habitat.
 - Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to functional habitat.
 - Project benefits to diversion screening.
 - Project benefits to floodplain connectivity and riparian condition.

Matrix scores are adjusted using weighting factors for:

- Quality and quantity.
- Certainty of success.

- Benefit to cost.
 - Longevity of benefit.
2. Yakima Basin Technical Advisory Group [Evaluation Form](#). This form is used to provide consistency in evaluating projects. It is used to generate discussion and provide additional guidance to Technical Advisory Group members for how to rank projects. These also are provided to the Citizen Committee so members are aware of how the Technical Advisory Group evaluated the proposals. This form evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in regard to:
- Biological Benefit
 - Landowner Commitment
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Sequencing
 - Budget
 - Design
 - Future Stewardship
 - Uncertainties and Constraints
3. Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's [Focus Project List](#): The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's Focus Project List is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group to help identify high priority SRFB projects and apply those funding resources to projects that represent the most immediate needs of priority species. The list is used to:
- Give the Technical Advisory Group a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions.
 - Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose.
 - Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and recovery plan priorities.

Projects that clearly implement priority actions identified in the list receive 10 bonus points in the matrix. If a proposal does not address a next step related to a priority action, zero bonus points are awarded. It is important to emphasize that the Technical Advisory Group uses this approach as a way to recognize and reward proposals that implement identified priorities, but not as a way to exclude other SRFB proposals. The matrices and evaluation forms from the 2020 technical advisory group evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

The Yakima Citizen Committee evaluated and ranked projects based on the following [criteria, which were last significantly updated in the winter of 2018:](#)

- Cultural and Social Considerations:
 - How does the project affect the Yakima Nation and its members?
 - How does the project affect agricultural interests?
 - How does the project affect recreational opportunities within the Basin?
 - How will the project change ESA liabilities for community members?
 - Does the project include a substantive benefit for wildlife, non-targeted fish species, or other habitat?
 - Does the project include substantive and compelling education and outreach components?
- Economic Considerations:
 - Are there economic effects associated with this project?
 - Is the project budget clearly defined and reasonable for the current stage of the proposed project?
 - At the current stage of the proposed project, how much benefit does the project create for the dollars invested?
- Project Context and Organization Considerations:
 - How is the project coordinated with other past, present and future salmon recovery actions?
 - Is the project timely?
 - Are we confident that all the pieces of the project can come together as anticipated or are there significant uncertainties?
- Partnerships and Community Support Considerations:
 - Are the right partners involved to make the project succeed?
 - Are the landowners who are directly affected by the proposed project in strong support of this proposal?
 - At the current stage of the proposed project, is the project sponsor using SRFB funding to leverage other funding sources?

The matrices and evaluation forms from the 2020 citizen committee evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

Who completed the regional review (name, affiliation and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

Participants in the 2020 Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group are listed below. Participants were chosen to assure 1) a broad range of knowledge about fisheries and habitat restoration in the Yakima basin, 2) inclusion of participants from all parts of the basin (upper, mid and lower), and 3) representation of the full range of organizations active in fisheries and watershed management in the basin. The Technical Advisory Group is a long-standing committee that the lead entity has used in past SRFB project reviews and other processes. All of the voting members are independent of the regional organization in that they work with the lead entity as representatives of their individual organizations and are not otherwise directly affiliated with the regional organization.

Table 2: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Dale Bambrick	NOAA-Fisheries	Supervisory fish biologist
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County	Fish and wildlife biologist
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries biologist
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District manager
Ashton Bunce	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Fisheries biologist
Shannon Archuleta	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries biologist
Danielle Squeochs	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Hydrologist
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist
Arden Thomas	Kittitas County	Water resources
Jason Romine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Rebecca Wassell	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Restoration biologist
Robert Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Darren Friedel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist

Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB for funding that were not specifically identified in the regional implementation plan or habitat work schedule? (If so please provide justification for including these projects to the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan but considered a low priority or is a low priority area, please provide justification.)

All but two of the projects submitted for this grant round are identified in the *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan*. The actions database included in the plan is recognized as our implementation schedule of actions as per correspondence dated October 20, 2008 from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Prelim Design, is addressing new information regarding the importance of Wenas Creek to steelhead recovery that is not yet reflected in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design also addresses new information, related to mortality rates of out-migrating juvenile steelhead. This information will be reflected in any update to the recovery plan but local reviewers feel the Wenas Creek project is relevant as an alternate in the 2020 grant round. Both committees have recommended the Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design for deferral of this project in the 2020 grant round.

Criteria the SRFB considers in funding regional project lists:

How did your regional review consider whether a project:

- A. Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability? In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP¹, what stock assessment work has been done to date to further characterize the status of salmonid species in the region?**

Steelhead and bull trout are the Endangered Species Act listed species in the Yakima basin, and all stocks are high priority for recovery actions. The [Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) (2009) contains the most current data and local knowledge of the status of steelhead populations. The plan incorporates the Internal Columbia Technical Review Team population designations and stock status reports, assesses limiting factors, sets specific recovery goals and identifies the actions needed to meet them. The draft [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#) was completed in 2012 in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an update to the board's *2005 Salmon Recovery Plan*. An update was started in 2016 and finalized in 2017. The Technical Advisory Group assesses the fit of

¹SaSI=Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

proposed projects to the priority actions identified in these plans, and uses a matrix that is designed to prioritize projects based on their specific contributions to recovery goals. The matrix also gives projects credit for parallel benefits to non-listed focal species.

B. Addresses cost effectiveness?

Both the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee evaluated project budgets as a part of the ranking process. The Technical Advisory Group assigned each project a high, medium, or low certainty of success score based on:

- The completeness and accuracy of project budgets.
- How reasonable the costs are relative to similar projects.
- The proposed return for the dollars invested.

The Technical Advisory Group also considers a benefit-to-cost weighting factor. This weighting factor asks TAG members to consider if the proposed cost of the project is reasonable with respect to the expected biological outcomes? This weighting factor is a qualitative evaluation of the biological benefit of the project compared to the cost to SRFB and is not intended to require quantification of biological benefits.

The Citizen Committee also scores a project based on its assessment of whether a budget is reasonable relative to other similar projects and the proposals expected benefits.

As both committees have evaluated projects over the past few years, they have been concerned about the increasing cost of implementing projects. As in previous years, the focus was proactive – asking sponsors to adjust their budgets and remove cost elements from projects that they felt weren't the best use of limited salmon recovery funds.

C. Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit listed fish. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit non-listed species.

All projects on our 2020 list provide primary benefit to listed fish species. Please see the 2020 ranked project list, attached to this report, for full details.

D. Preserves high quality habitat. Identify the projects on your list that will preserve high quality habitat.

Our second ranked project, Upper Yakima River Floodplain Acquisition, protects high quality riverfront habitat, as well as perennial and seasonal side channels. Since 2000, our

Lead Entity has received 24 acquisition proposals and funded 20, or 83% of those requests. However, SRFB funding represents a relatively small portion of overall acquisition spending in the Yakima Basin.

E. Implements a high priority project or action in a region- or watershed-based salmon recovery plan. Identify where and how the project is identified as a high priority in the referenced plan.

All but two projects implement priority recovery actions identified in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan and/or the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan. One project, Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Prelim Design, is addressing new information regarding the importance of Wenas Creek to steelhead recovery that is not yet reflected in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. The other, Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design also addresses new information related to mortality rates of out-migrating juvenile steelhead. This information will be reflected in any update to the recovery plan but local reviewers feel the Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Prelim Design project is relevant as an alternate in the 2020 grant round. Both committees have recommended the Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design for deferral in the 2020 grant round. The Technical Advisory Group identified five of our projects as “High Priority Fund.” Three projects were identified as “Priority Fund.” Three projects were listed as “Fund.” Two projects were listed as “Deferred”, meaning both committees agree the project should not be funded in the 2020 grant round. The projects have been retained on the Yakima Basin Lead Entity’s ranked list as alternates because they were cleared for funding by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board state review panel. This will allow for efficiencies for the lead entity, sponsor, and RCO staff should the project sponsor come back with new information for the local committees to consider. Four of the projects aligned with the [TAG Focus Project List](#) (as described in response to [question 2B](#)). Please see the following summary table of funded projects for additional detail:

Table 3: TAG Designations

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
1	Sunnyside Dam Smolt Passage Improvement Project	High Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Lower Mainstem Action #3: Reconfigure infrastructure to improve smolt survival rates.
2	Upper Yakima Floodplain Acquisition	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #21: Upper Yakima Floodplain & Side Channel Protection. Steelhead Recovery Plan

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
			Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
3	West/Middle Fork Teanaway Instream Wood Design	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #17: Teanaway, Swauk, & Taneum Floodplain and Side Channel Restoration. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum Rivers.
4	Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Habitat Design	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #2: Lower Yakima River Projects. Steelhead Recovery Plan Lower Mainstem Action #7: Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.
5	Tjossem Ditch Headworks Removal and Restoration	High Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.
6	2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship	High Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum Rivers. Upper Yakima Action #15: Restore Tributary Riparian Areas. Naches Action #8: Maintain, upgrade, or abandon forest roads. Naches Action #19: Restore lower Cowiche Creek floodplain. Naches Action #22: Improve riparian, floodplain, and temperature conditions in Cowiche Creek.

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
7	Nile Creek Restoration	Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment Steelhead Recovery Plan Naches Action #13: Reduce dispersed recreation impacts in key tributaries. Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of Cottonwoods. Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues.
8	Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Preliminary Design	Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.
9	Upper Yakima River Tributary Supplementation	Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #5: Provide passage and instream flows in lower Manastash Creek. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks. Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.
10	Swauk Creek Streamflow: Fund Supplementation Plan	Fund	TAG Focus Action #16: Teanaway, Swauk, and Tributaries Instream Flow. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks. Basinwide Action #4: Improve irrigation water delivery efficiency. Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.
11	Rock the Canyon	Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.
12	Kachess River Restoration Project—Phase 1	Defer	TAG Focus Action #22: Bull Trout Stranding and Passage. Bull Trout Action Plan: Kachess River Action #1: Upper Kachess River Habitat and Passage Projects.

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
13	Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim	Defer	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.

F. Provides for match above the minimum requirement percentage. Identify the project’s match percentage and the regional match total.

The majority of projects submitted for funding include, where required, match at or just above 15%. Due to the administrative tasks that are involved with reporting on additional match, most of our sponsors prefer to keep their official SRFB match at 15%, but demonstrate additional project support, separate from the SRFB total, on the project budget forms attached in PRISM.

Project Name (in order of rank)	SRFB Request	Match	% Match	Project Total
Sunnyside Dam Smolt Passage Improvement Project	\$249,000	\$44,000	15%	\$293,000
Upper Yakima River Floodplain Acquisition	\$292,629	\$51,641	15%	\$344,270
West/Middle Fork Teanaway Instream Wood Design II	\$118,900	\$21,500	15%	\$140,400
Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Habitat Design	\$305,964	\$54,000	15%	\$359,964
Tjossem Ditch Headworks Removal and Restoration	\$120,477	\$21,300	15%	\$141,777
2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship	\$283,161	\$50,094	15%	\$333,255
Nile Creek Restoration	\$86,000	\$16,160	16%	\$102,160
Wenas Creek Passage Screening and Prelim Design	\$80,000	\$15,000	16%	\$95,000
Upper Yakima Tributary Supplementation	\$249,9992	\$50,264	17%	\$300,256
Swauk Creek Streamflow: Supplementation Design	\$109,519	\$19,878	15%	\$129,397
Rock the Canyon	\$99,180	\$17,544	15%	\$116,724
Kachess River Restoration Project—Phase 1	\$484,897	\$86,480	15%	\$571,377
Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design	\$55,000	--	--	\$55,000

G. Is sponsored by an organization that has a successful record of project implementation. For example, identify the number of previous SRFB projects funded and completed.

Table 4: History of Projects

Rank	Project	Sponsor	Number of projects previously funded	Number of projects previously completed	Number of active projects
1	Sunnyside Dam Smolt Passage Improvement Project	Sunnyside Division Board of Control	0	0	0
2	Upper Yakima River Floodplain Acquisition	Kittitas Conservation Trust	14	8	1
3	West/Middle Fork Instream Wood Design	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	38	27	11
4	Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Habitat Design	Benton Conservation District	3	3	0
5	Tjossem Ditch Headworks Removal and Restoration	Trout Unlimited	9	8	1
6	2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	38	27	11
7	Nile Creek Restoration	Yakama Nation	7	4	3
8	Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Preliminary Design	North Yakima Conservation District	16	15	1
9	Upper Yakima Tributary Supplementation	Trout Unlimited	9	8	1
10	Swauk Creek Streamflow: Supplementation Plan	Trout Unlimited	9	8	1
11	Rock the Canyon	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	38	27	11
12	Kachess River Restoration—Phase 1	Kittitas Conservation Trust	14	8	1
13	Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design	North Yakima Conservation District	16	15	1

H. Involves members of the veterans conservation corps established in Revised Code of Washington 43.60A.150.

To our knowledge, none of our recommended projects involve members of the veteran's conservation corps.

Local Review Processes

Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation of your local Citizen's Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two groups' ratings.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

The Technical Advisory Group and the Citizen Committee each have distinctive roles in the evaluation of projects. The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for determining the technical validity of a project, and how valuable the project is to salmonid populations. The Citizen Committee is responsible for evaluating how the project might affect the community, and how much community support the project garnered. The final rank is determined by the Citizen Committee and approved by the board. The Technical Advisory Group develops a recommended ranking by considering the Salmon Recovery Model matrix score and ten different certainty of success criteria, which include items such as project sequencing, uncertainties and constraints, organizational capacity, and reasonable budget. The Technical Advisory Group then submits its recommended ranking to the Citizen Committee for review. The Citizen Committee evaluates the project based on its set of criteria, and adjusts the Technical Advisory Group's proposed ranking based on its evaluation. The Citizen Committee's proposed project ranking then is submitted to the board for review. The board can either approve the list as submitted or remand the list to the Citizen Committee for reconsideration but the board cannot re-rank projects. This process is set up to meet the requirements of the state statute creating the SRFB and the Lead Entity Program and is designed to ensure that projects proposed for SRFB funding are technically solid, address priority issues, and are broadly supported by diverse community interests.

For the regional and local technical review, we used two sets of criteria to rank projects. The Citizen Committee used its own established set of criteria. The Technical Advisory Group met to qualitatively evaluate on July 28 and again on July 30 to evaluate projects through the Salmon Recovery Model and rank projects. The group's proposed ranking and the notes of their meeting were then provided to the Citizen Committee, which met August 6 to rank the projects based on the Citizen Committee's criteria.

The Citizen Committee's final ranked list was presented to and approved by the board on August 13.

Technical Advisory Group Salmon Recovery Model

The Technical Advisory Group used this tool to award projects a score based on its possible and intended biological benefit. The score is listed at the bottom of the form – projects can receive partial points. This score is adjusted based on four weighting factors; habitat quantity and quality, biological certainty of success, benefit to cost, and longevity of benefit.

Technical Advisory Group Evaluation Form

This worksheet lists several "certainty of success" categories, and Technical Advisory Group members use it as a guide to discuss factors not addressed in the matrix. The main intent of these forms is to maintain consistency in the project evaluations, and to help Lead Entity staff document the discussion.

The Citizen Committee used its community evaluation and scoring criteria, which focuses on cultural, social, economic, efficient and effective resource use, educational value and community support.

A full description of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity process can be found in our [Lead Entity Manual](#).

Please see question 5B and attached ranking forms for project specific details.

Klickitat County Lead Entity

In the Klickitat County Lead Entity's portions of the Lower and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions, the Klickitat County Lead Entity process was followed, including reviews by the lead entity's Technical Committee. A regional recovery plan has not been developed under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 and 77.85.150 for any portion of the Klickitat County Lead Entity's area. Projects were evaluated for fit to the Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy (August, 2018), which is the adaptive management strategy developed pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 77.85.060(2)(e). The Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy references currently known stock assessment information and assessment work performed within the region, including the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan that was developed by NOAA-Fisheries. This recovery plan specifically addressed WRIA 30 in Appendix B: Recovery Plan for the Klickitat River Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment, and addresses WRIA 31 in Appendix C: Recovery Plan for the Rock Creek Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment. Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy also cites stock assessment information in the salmon and steelhead recovery plan

developed by NOAA-Fisheries for the White Salmon River (WRIA 29b) populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and salmon. These recovery plans include stock assessments by the NOAA-Fisheries' lower and middle Columbia regional technical teams. The technical review consisted of the following:

- A preliminary project review in which project sponsors met with the technical committee to discuss and refine project concepts and designs.
- A project site tour during which project sponsors presented their projects to the SRFB Review Panel representatives and to members of the Klickitat County Lead Entity's Technical Committee and Citizen's Review Committee.
- Project sponsors responded to comments received from the SRFB Review Panel throughout the grant round.
- A final technical committee evaluation in which project sponsors presented their updated proposals and the Technical Committee ranked projects and provided input and feedback to both project sponsors and the Citizen's Review Committee. The Technical Committee commented on and ranked each project and forwarded consensus comments to the Citizen's Review Committee.
- The Citizen's Review Committee meeting in which project sponsors presented their projects to the committee and the committee evaluated and ranked projects for the project list with technical input from the technical committee. The Klickitat Technical and Citizen's Review Committees evaluated ranking based on the following criteria:
 - Habitat features and process
 - Areas and actions
 - Scientific
 - Species
 - Life history
 - Costs
 - Scope and approach
 - Sequence
 - Stewardship
 - Landowner willingness
 - Meets SRFB eligibility criteria

- Implementation readiness
- Community Issues and Support (Citizens Committee only)

Community Support

The project priority rankings for the Mid-Columbia allocation were consistent between the two local committees. Comments from the local Technical Committee were provided to the Citizen’s Review Committee.

During the grant round review process, both the lead entity Technical and Citizen’s Review Committee’s evaluated cost effectiveness when evaluating and ranking potential habitat project applications. This item also was addressed by the SRFB Review Panel during the project tours.

In addition to discussing proposed project budgets, there is a specific line item on each project evaluation that relates to cost benefit and effectiveness. Specifically, the question asks the reviewer to score the project between 0 and 20 regarding costs, considering if the project:

- Has low cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.
- Has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.
- Has high cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.

During the review process, this specific topic is one of the most highly discussed issues when evaluating project proposals due to the limited funding allocation available and given the sentiment and responsibility that public funding should be spent in most beneficial and responsible fashion possible.

Identify your local technical review team

Table 5: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Dale Bambrick	NOAA-Fisheries	Supervisory fish biologist
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County	Fish and wildlife biologist
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries biologist
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District manager
Ashton Bunce	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Fisheries biologist
Shannon Archuleta	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries biologist
Danielle Squeochs	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Hydrologist
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist
Arden Thomas	Kittitas County	Water resources

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Jason Romine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Rebecca Wassell	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Restoration biologist
Robert Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Darren Friedel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist

Table 6: Klickitat County Lead Entity

Name	Affiliation
Brady Allen	Fisheries Biologist, Bonneville Power Authority
Diane Driscoll	Fishery Resource Specialist, NOAA Fisheries
Jill Hardiman	Fisheries Biologist, US Geological Survey
Loren Meagher	Engineer, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts
David Lindley	Habitat Restoration Specialist, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program
Margaret Neuman	Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement
Tova Tillinghast	District Manager, Underwood Conservation District
Dan Richardson (Alt.)	Field Technician, Underwood Conservation District
Joe Zendt, Chairman	Fisheries Biologist, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program
Diane Hopster	Hydrologist, US Forest Service
Amber Johnson	Habitat Biologist, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gardner Johnston	Hydrologist, Inter-Fluve
Jay McLaughlin	Timber, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

All voting members are independent of a regional organization as they work with the lead entity as representatives of their field of expertise.

Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in your regional/lead entity process, if applicable.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

SRFB Review Panel members Tom Slocum and Marnie Tyler attended project site tours spanning May 12-14, 2020. These project tours were held fully virtual for the first time due to the challenges of meeting in-person presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. Lead Entity staff provided a tour packet including project details, photos, cost estimates, and maps along with the Yakima Basin TAG Focus Project List. Review panel members provided feedback to staff and applicants on site, and followed up with their written comments.

Board staff invited all review committee members to attend the site visits. The panel members asked questions and addressed their concerns with project applicants and board staff. A summary of on-site discussion and potential concerns was sent to project sponsors immediately following the site visits. The board received review panel comments on May 27. These

comments were shared with applicants, the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee members, and applicants were asked to respond to questions and address these issues to strengthen their proposals as they entered them into PRISM.

On June 8 project sponsors whose projects were listed as “Needs More Information” or “Project of Concern” following site tours, had the opportunity to clarify feedback from the state review panel. Both representatives of the state review panel, RCO staff, Lead Entity staff, and project sponsors were present. Lead Entity staff worked with sponsors prior to the call to develop their clarifying questions and provided those to the state review panel June 5. The Board is pleased with how well review panel involvement enhances their review process.

Klickitat County Lead Entity

The SRFB Review Panel members Michelle Cramer and Marnie Tyler attended the Klickitat Lead Entity project tour on May 5, 2020. They received the pre-application packet for each proposed project three weeks prior to the site visits. The SRFB Review Panel provided feedback and questions to each of the project sponsors on May 28, at which point project sponsors submitted responses to their questions and concerns and updated their Projects in Prism. After the sponsors addressed questions and comments provided by the SRFB Review Panel and those from local committee members the committees convened to evaluate and rank the projects. The Klickitat Lead Entity Coordinator routinely communicated with the RCO Grant Manager regarding general process questions, and questions specific to each of the projects.

Local evaluation process and project lists.

A. Explain how multi-year implementation plans or habitat work schedules were used to develop project lists

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

The August 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan outlines a list of recommended recovery actions that will contribute to restoring steelhead to viable levels in the Yakima basin; the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan identified specific priority actions that will contribute to recovering bull trout populations in the Yakima Basin. Project applicants were asked to identify the actions that pertained to their projects in their applications, and during the Technical Advisory Group evaluation process, we determined if a project had a high, medium, or low fit to the recovery plan.

The YBFWRB Focus Project List was added to our Lead Entity process in 2013. In response to committee members request to improve the fit between SRFB proposals and the biological priorities that Technical Advisory Group participants feel need to be addressed, a Technical

Advisory Group working group convened to develop a process to identify and describe focus actions. The result of this process was the YBFWRB [Focus Project List](#). It helps identify the most timely/urgent of the high priority Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects and apply those funding resources to projects that represent the most immediate needs of priority species. The list was last reviewed and updated in late 2019.

The list is used to:

- Give the Technical Advisory Group a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions.
- Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose.
- Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and recovery plan priorities.

Klickitat County Lead Entity

The *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy* is the basis for project prioritization and work schedule development; project evaluation criteria incorporate strategy priorities. This strategy has a priority matrix containing priority sub-basins and reaches with associated rational, impacted species, life history significance, limiting habitat features, action priority ranking, specific habitat actions and rational, habitat forming processes, community interests, and the source of the information if applicable. This strategy and matrix are updated annually, or as needed if not annually, to reflect project completion and new information and data. All projects submitted for the 2020 SRFB grant round are specifically identified or address habitat issues identified in the *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy*. The Strategy was updated in 2015 to include monitoring projects.

B. Explain how comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews were addressed in finalizing the project list. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

We provided each sponsor with a summary of comments and suggestions after site visits. In order to provide clear feedback to project sponsors, the Technical Advisory Group iteratively edited feedback after the site visits to identify disagreements and red flag issues. This allowed consensus to develop and the Technical Advisory Group was able to provide sponsors with written feedback. Each Project Sponsor is then provided a Comment Matrix form which includes one section with comments from the local TAG and CC members captured during site visits and sponsor presentation, and a second section that lists comments and questions from the state review panel members. Sponsors are asked to respond to concerns on the Comment Matrix and

upload the document in PRISM with “Comment Matrix” as part of the tile. The goal of using the matrix is to let reviewers know how the Sponsor addressed the issue and direct them to where they can find the details. Sponsors are also reminded that completing this Matrix does not replace the need to respond to Review Panel comments in their application. As we moved through each evaluation feedback loop, sponsors considered the feedback received and modified their proposals as appropriate. All issues identified were to be addressed two weeks before the Technical Advisory Group review.

Upon completion of the Technical Advisory Group’s review and scoring, the lead entity’s Citizen Committee reviews and ranks the projects. Citizen Committee members may include individual citizens, local, state, federal, and tribal government representatives; community groups; environmental and fisheries groups; conservation districts; and industry. The Citizen Committee is critical to ensure that biological priorities and projects identified by the Technical Advisory Group have the necessary community support for success. Citizen Committee members are often the best judges of the community’s social, cultural, and economic values as they apply to salmon recovery, and they can assess how to increase community support over time through the implementation of habitat projects. The Citizen Committee reviews the Technical Advisory Group’s proposed project ranking and adjusts it based on the results of their evaluation of community values. Community values considered include: cultural, social, economic, efficient and effective resource use, community support, and partner support. The Citizen Committee develops the final recommended ranked project list. The committee takes the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group into consideration, but they are not obligated to maintain the same ranking given to projects by the Technical Advisory Group if they feel a project’s ranking needs to be adjusted based the Citizen Committee’s evaluation.

The Citizen Committee did not see any compelling reason to re-order the ranked list provided by the Technical Advisory Group and confirmed the TAG’s recommendation to defer the Naches North Loop Side Channel project.

On August 13, the board met and reviewed the ranked lead entity list submitted by the Citizen Committee, and approved the list unanimously.

Klickitat County Lead Entity

The Klickitat Lead Entity receives SRFB funding out of both the Lower Columbia Region allocation and the Middle Columbia Region allocation, 2.7% this year and 30% respectively. 2015 was the first year in which Middle Columbia Region allocation dollars were used in the White Salmon Basin. In 2020 there were no projects in the White Salmon asking for Middle Columbia Funds.

Project List Summary Table

Following is a project list summary table for the region. For the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region, there are 6 projects totaling \$1,187,275 submitted by the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. The unfunded portion of the 2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship project, \$149,806 will be reserved from the Yakima Basin Lead Entity SRFB allocation for 2021. The Middle Columbia Region also has 7 alternate projects totaling \$1,254,588. The remaining \$501,125 of the Mid-Columbia allocation will be used by the Klickitat Lead Entity. If any Klickitat project does not move forward for any reason, we request a transfer of those funds back to the Yakima Basin Lead Entity to help fund our alternate projects.

Table 7: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Proposed Projects

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
1	20-1515	Sunnyside Dam Smolt Passage Improvement Project	Sunnyside Division Board of Control	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Lower Mainstem Action #3: Reconfigure infrastructure to improve smolt survival rates.
2	20-1203	Upper Yakima River Floodplain Acquisition	Kittitas County Conservation District	Steelhead	TAG Focus Action #21: Upper Yakima Floodplain & Side Channel Protection. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
3	20-1390	West/Middle Fork Teanaway Instream Wood Design II	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steelhead	TAG Focus Action #17: Teanaway, Swauk, & Taneum Floodplain and Side Channel Restoration. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum Rivers.
4	20-1401	Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Habitat Design	Benton Conservation District	Steelhead	TAG Focus Action #2: Lower Yakima River Projects. Steelhead Recovery Plan Lower Mainstem Action #7: Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
5	20-1398	Tjossem Ditch Headworks Removal and Restoration	Trout Unlimited	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.
6	20-1391	2020 Yakima Basin Riparian Stewardship	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum Rivers. Upper Yakima Action #15: Restore Tributary Riparian Areas. Naches Action #8: Maintain, upgrade, or abandon forest roads. Naches Action #19: Restore lower Cowiche Creek floodplain. Naches Action #22: Improve riparian, floodplain, and temperature conditions in Cowiche Creek.
7 ALT	20-1393	Nile Creek Restoration	Yakama Nation	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment Steelhead Recovery Plan Naches Action #13: Reduce dispersed recreation impacts in key tributaries. Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of Cottonwoods.

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
					Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues.
8 ALT	20-1400	Wenas Creek Passage and Screening Prelim Design	North Yakima Conservation District	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.
9 ALT	20-1395	Upper Yakima Tributary Supplementation 2020	Trout Unlimited	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #5: Provide passage and instream flows in lower Manastash Creek. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks. Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.
10 ALT	20-1397	Swauk Creek Streamflow: Supplementation Design	Trout Unlimited	Steelhead	TAG Focus Action #16: Teanaway, Swauk, and Tributaries Instream Flow. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima Action #14: Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum Creeks. Basinwide Action #4: Improve irrigation water delivery efficiency. Basinwide Action #5: Utilize Trust Water Rights Program to improve instream flows.

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
11 ALT	20-1388	Rock the Canyon	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian, and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.
12 Defer	20-1202	Kachess River Restoration Project—Phase 1	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Bull Trout	TAG Focus Action #22: Bull Trout Stranding and Passage. Bull Trout Action Plan: Kachess River Action #1: Upper Kachess River Habitat and Passage Projects.
13 Defer	20-1462	Snake Creek Fish Passage and Screening Prelim Design	North Yakima Conservation District	Steelhead	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.
Klickitat County Lead Entity Projects in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region					
1	20-1545	Klickitat River Floodplain Stewardship	Columbia Land Trust	Steelhead,	Tier A, Priority B. Pages: 4, 66
2	20-1544	Klickitat Canyon Phase III Acquisition	Columbia Land Trust	Steelhead	Tier C, Priority A. Pages: 4.
3	20-1565	Habitat Restoration through Beaver Supplementation	Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steelhead	Tier B, Priority A. page: 4.