

# Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

**December 3, 2014**

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98504

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

**Order of Presentation:**

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

**Public Comment:**

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

**Special Accommodations:**

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

## Wednesday, December 3

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

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### OPENING AND WELCOME

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

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### MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS

- |                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| <b>9:10 a.m.</b> | <b>1. Management Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Director's Report</li><li>B. Legislative and Policy Updates</li><li>C. Performance Update</li><li>D. Financial Report (<i>written only</i>)</li></ul>                                    | <i>Kaleen Cottingham<br/>Wendy Brown<br/>Jen Masterson</i>                                |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b> | <b>2. Salmon Recovery Management Report</b>   | <i>Brian Abbott<br/>Tara Galuska</i>  |
| <b>9:45 a.m.</b> | <b>3. Reports from Partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Council of Regions Report</li><li>B. Washington Salmon Coalition Report</li><li>C. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups</li><li>D. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates</li></ul> | <i>Jeff Breckel<br/>Darcy Batura<br/>Colleen Thompson<br/>SRFB Agency Representatives</i> |

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**10:05 a.m. General Public Comment:** *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

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### BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

- |                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| <b>10:10 a.m.</b> | <b>4. Department of Fish and Wildlife 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon</b> | <i>Jim Scott<br/>Kelley Cunningham<br/>Erik Neatherlin</i> |
| <b>10:55 a.m.</b> | <b>BREAK</b>   |  |
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<b>11:10 a.m.</b>	<b>5. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects</b>	<i>Brian Abbott</i>
<b>11:25 a.m.</b>	<b>6. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit</b>	<i>Brian Abbott</i>
<b>11:40 a.m.</b>	<b>7. Monitoring Panel: Updated Approach for 2014-15</b>	<i>Dr. Marnie Tyler</i>
<b>12:10 p.m.</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
<b>BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS</b>		
<b>12:25 p.m.</b>	<b>8. 2014 Grant Round</b> A. Overview B. Slideshow of featured projects proposed for funding C. Review Panel Comments	<i>Tara Galuska</i> <i>Grant Managers</i> <i>Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel Chair</i>
<b>1:25 p.m.</b>	<b>9. 2014 Grant Round, continued</b> D. Regional Area Comment Period to Discuss Project Selection and Projects of Concern (Optional, maximum 10 minutes per region) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board</li> <li>• Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership</li> <li>• Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board</li> <li>• Snake River Salmon Recovery Board</li> <li>• Puget Sound Partnership</li> <li>• Northeast Washington</li> <li>• Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board</li> <li>• Hood Canal Coordinating Council</li> </ul>	<i>Alex Conley</i> <i>Miles Batchelder</i> <i>Derek Van Marter</i> <i>Steve Martin</i> <i>Jeanette Dörner</i> <i>Joe Maroney</i> <i>Jeff Breckel</i> <i>Scott Brewer</i>
<b>Public Comment on Grant Funding and Projects:</b> <i>Please limit comments to 3 minutes.</i>		
<b>2:40 p.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>2:55 p.m.</b>	<b>10. 2014 Grant Round, continued</b> E. Board Funding Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board</li> <li>• Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership</li> <li>• Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board</li> <li>• Snake River Salmon Recovery Board</li> <li>• Puget Sound Partnership</li> <li>• Northeast Washington</li> <li>• Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board</li> <li>• Hood Canal Coordinating Council</li> </ul>	
<b>BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS</b>		
<b>4:10 p.m.</b>	<b>11. Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015</b>	<i>Tara Galuska</i> <i>Kat Moore</i>
<b>BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS</b>		
<b>4:40 p.m.</b>	<b>12. Adopt 2015-17 Large Capital Project List for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Program</b>	<i>Tara Galuska</i> <i>Michael Blanton</i>
<b>5:25 p.m.</b>	<b>ADJOURN FOR THE DAY</b>	

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** December 3, 2014

**Title:** Director's Report

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

#### In this Report

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

## Agency Operations

### New Contract for Habitat Work Schedule

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

### Staff Give Results Washington Presentation on Salmon Recovery

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

### Board Survey

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

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

### **Information Technology Strategic Planning and Survey Work Underway**

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

### **Department of Transportation to Help with Reviewing Projects for Cultural Resources**

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

### **Staff Attend Lean Pilot Training**

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

### **RCO Celebrates 50 Years**

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

## Employees on the Move

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



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



## Legislative, Policy, and Budget Updates

### RCO's Budget Submitted

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

### RCO Helps on Levee Modification and Side Channel Development Project Negotiation

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

### Policy Team Wraps Up Phase 2 of WAC Changes

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

## Update on Sister Boards

### Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

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

### Washington Invasive Species Council

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

### Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

#### In this Report

- Project Impact Performance Measures
- Grant Management Performance Measures

### Project Impact Performance Measures

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

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

**Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics**

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

**Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible**

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



## Grant Management Performance Measures

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

**Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures**

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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Balance Summary

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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

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

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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Grant Management

#### 2013 Grant Cycle Update

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

#### 2014 Grant Cycle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) Projects Underway**

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

### **Viewing Closed Projects**

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

### **Amendments Approved by the Director**

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

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

## Grant Administration

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

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

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

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

## Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

### Upper Columbia - Fire Impacts to Fraser Creek

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

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

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

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

### Communications Strategy

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

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

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

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

### **State of Salmon in Watersheds Report**

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

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

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

### **Habitat Work Schedule**

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

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



## **Fish Barrier Removal Board**

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

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

## **Mitigation Matching Demonstration Project**

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

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

## **Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel**

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

## **Attachments**

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

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

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

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

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

**November, 2014**

## **Fish and Fire Effects Subgroup:**

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## Introduction

The year 2014 experienced extensive wild fires within the Upper Columbia River basin. The first fire started near Mills Canyon in the Entiat River valley on July 8 and may have been human-caused. About a week later, a widespread lightning storm passed through the Upper Columbia region and started multiple fires. The fires burned on private and state lands as well as within the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests. Combined, over 360,000 acres (550 sq mi; 1,400 km<sup>2</sup>) acres were burned (Table 1 and Figure 1).

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

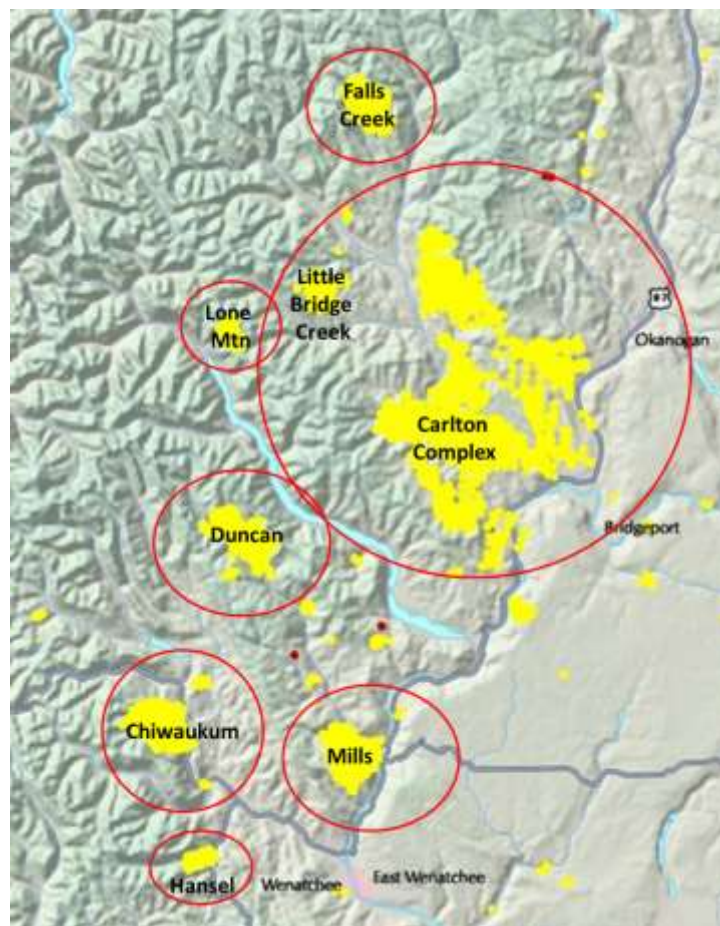


Figure 1. Extent of fires in the Upper Upper Columbia River basin in 2014. Image derived from [http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/data/activefiremaps/nwx2014275\\_1500.jpg](http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/data/activefiremaps/nwx2014275_1500.jpg).

## Description of Burned Areas

### Wenatchee Basin

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

### Entiat Basin

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

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

### Methow-Okanogan

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

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

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

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

## Potential Effects of Fires on the Aquatic Environment of Listed Salmonids

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

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



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

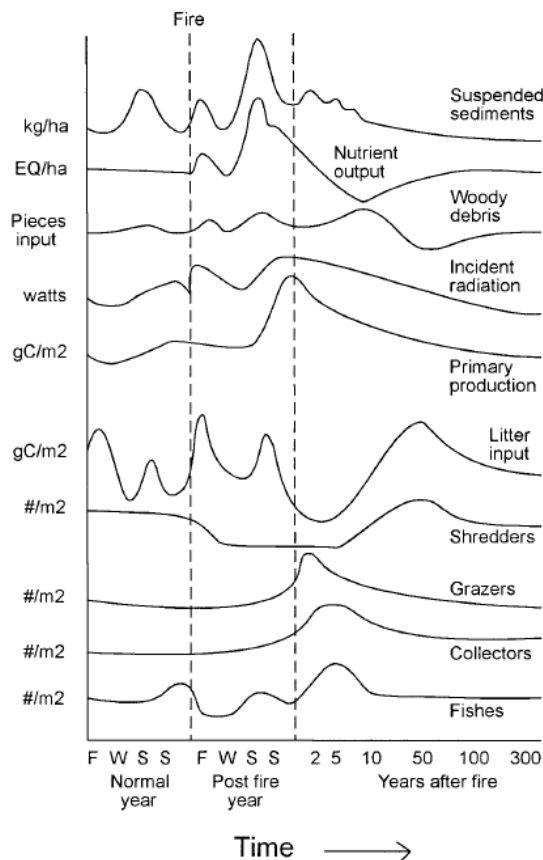


Figure 2. Hypothetical changes in physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of fluvial systems following fires (letters FWSS represent fall, winter, spring, and summer, respectively). From Gresswell (1999).

### Short-term (< 5 years)

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

### Long-term (> 5 years)

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



## Objective of this exercise

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

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

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

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

## Review Material

### BAER Reports

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

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

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

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

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

## **RTT Biological Strategy**

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

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

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

## **Methods**

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

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

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

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Wenatchee and Entiat Subbasins**

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

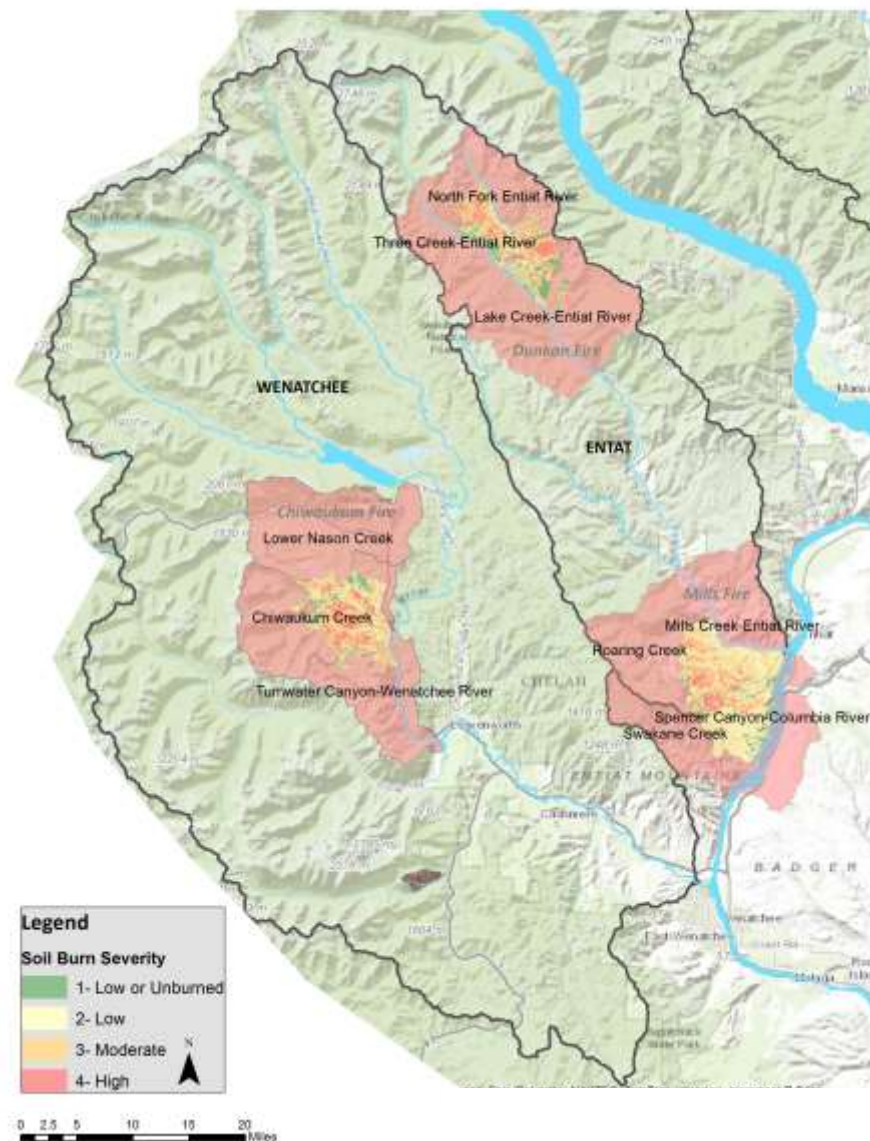


Figure 3. The Chiwaukum Complex fire showing burn severity and sub-watersheds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Severity of Burned Area**

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

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

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

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

## **Methow and Okanogan Subbasins**

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

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

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

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

### **Severity of Burned Area**

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



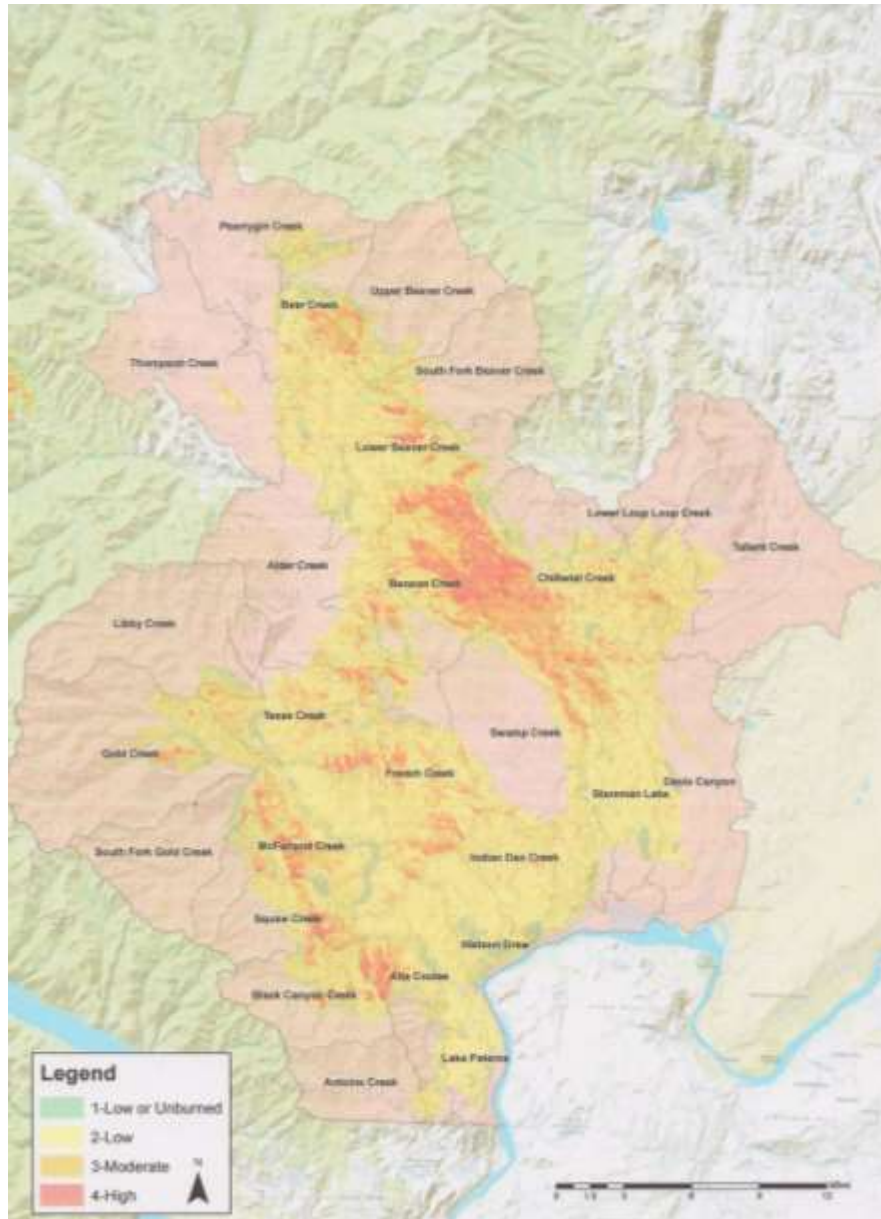


Figure 4. The Carlton Complex fire showing burn severity and sub-watersheds.

## Effects of the Fires

### Wenatchee-Entiat Basins

#### Chiwaukum Complex

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



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

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

### **Mill Canyon Complex**

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

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

## **Methow River Basin**

### ***Fish-bearing streams***

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

### **Lower Methow River**

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

### **Beaver Creek**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Frazer Creek**

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

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

## **Benson Creek**

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

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

### ***Non-fish-bearing streams***

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

## **Okanogan River Basin**

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

### ***Fish-bearing streams***

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

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

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

### *Non-fish-bearing streams*

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

### **General Recommendations**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Culvert and Road Crossings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Conclusions and Recommendations

### Prioritization of Potential Actions

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

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

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

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



Subbasin (in priority order)	Salmonid Use	Burn Severity (percent of sub-watershed moderate-high burn)	Potential fish blockage after storm event	Potential Actions (in priority order)	Estimated Cost (primarily from Tables 5 and 6)	Comment
				2. Investigate sediment reduction methods for Cow, Canyon, and Leecher creeks.  3. Hydro-mulch soil stabilization in Benson Cr.  4. Place straw waddles in Texas Cr.	waddles: \$10,000  Investigate creeks for sediment reduction: \$25,000	
5. Chiliwist Creek	steelhead rearing	25	Moderate-high	1. Evaluate three culverts within Chiliwist Creek and one over Highway 97 for debris load movement and replace culvert or place bridge over creek.  2. Hydro-mulch soil stabilization and place straw waddles.	Culvert replacements: \$975,000  Hydro-mulch: \$100,000  Straw waddles: \$6,000	
6. Monitoring	NA	NA	NA	Monitor the following:  1. Sediment in spawning gravels in Beaver Cr.  2. Fish recolonization in Beaver Cr.  3. Repeat USGS electro fishing surveys  4. Habitat re-assessment of lower 8 miles of Beaver Cr.  5. Channel cross sections at alluvial fans on mainstem.		Some of the monitoring should occur more than one year.
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$4,824,000</b>	



## Conclusion

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

## References

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

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

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

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

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





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

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November 12, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Troutt and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

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

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

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

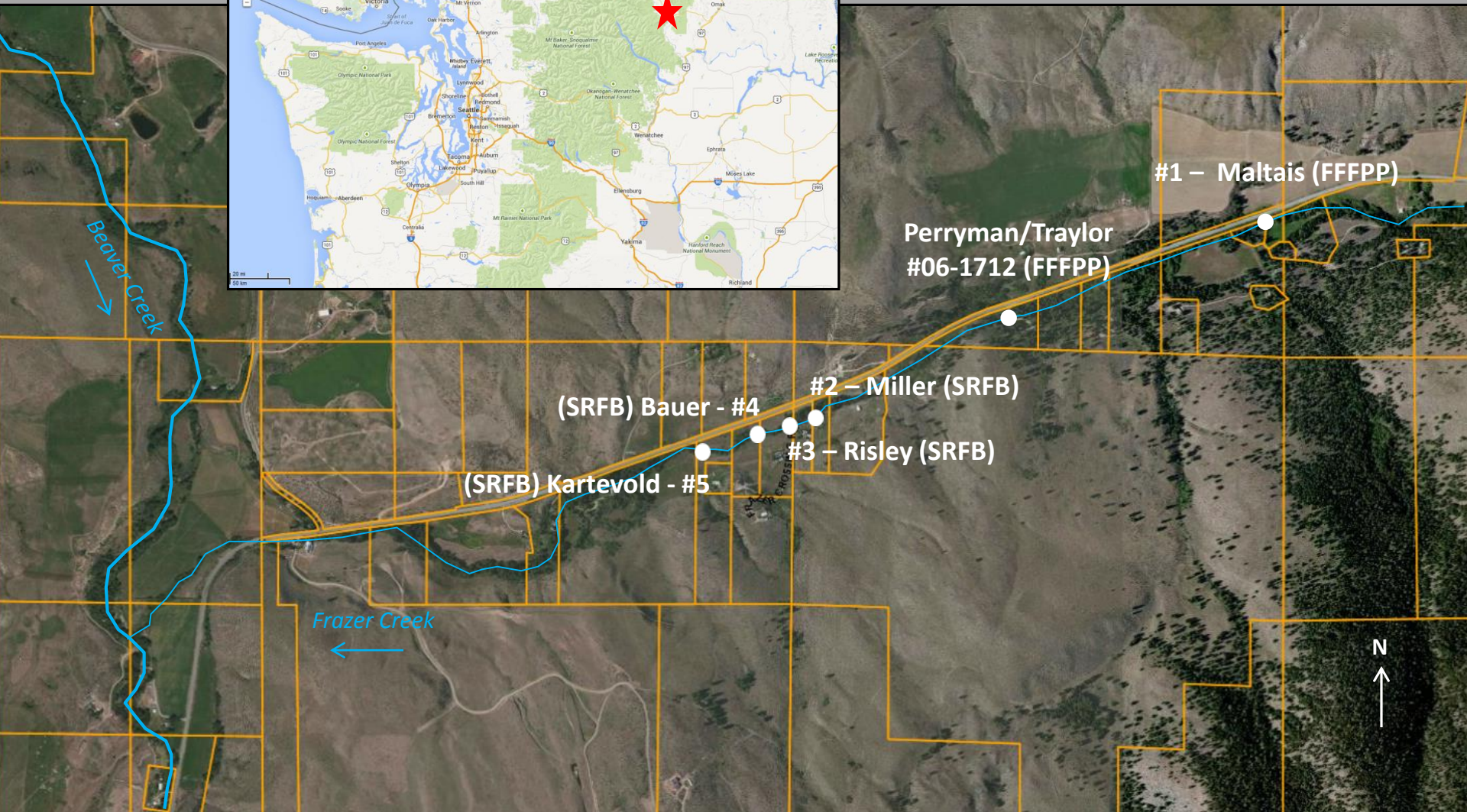
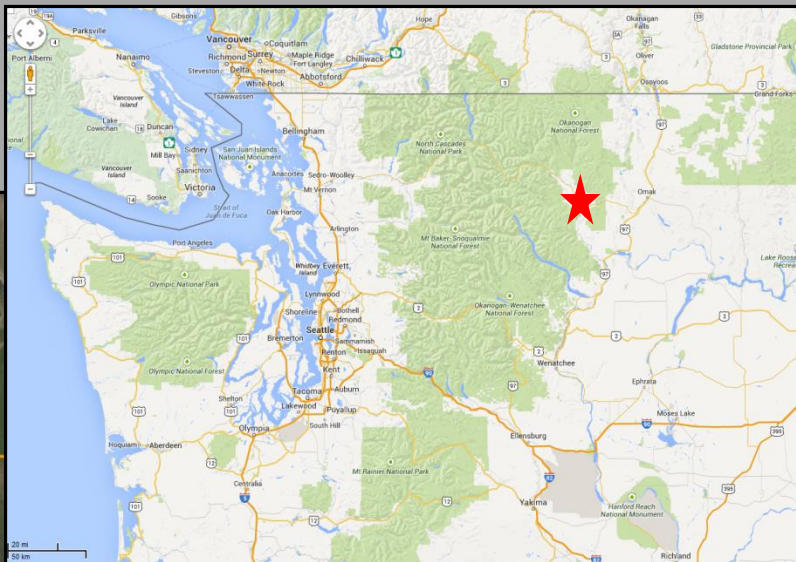
Respectfully,

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

Derek Van Marter  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Parlette  
Representatives Condotta and Hawkins





## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

#### Proposed Motion Language

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

### Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Staff Recommendation**

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

### **Next Steps**

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

### **Attachments**

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



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Options

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Staff Recommendations

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

#### Proposed Motion Language

Motions are included as Attachment A.

## Background

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

The funding report serves a number of purposes:

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

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



The funding report is organized into four sections:

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

## **Project Approval**

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

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

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

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

## **Supporting Documents**

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

## **Attachments**

A. 2014 Grant Round: Suggested Motions

## 2014 Grant Round: Suggested Motions

### Yakima Region

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

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

### Washington Coast Region

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

### Upper Columbia Region

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

### Snake River Region

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

### Puget Sound

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

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

### Northeast

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

### Lower Columbia

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

## Hood Canal

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

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

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

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

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

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

# ***Hood Canal Coordinating Council***

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

1 December 2014

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

Dear Chair Troutt:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Scott Brewer  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> see page 132 of the Skokomish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan

# PugetSoundPartnership

LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

December 1, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Jeanette Dorner  
Director of Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### PPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Background

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

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

### Review Panel Topics of Interest

#### General Grant Round Process Observations and Recommendations

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



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

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

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

### Conditioned Projects

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

### Noteworthy Projects

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

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

### Noteworthy Projects

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

## Manual 18 Recommendations

### Manual 18

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

The panel is asking for more details on:

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

### Next Steps

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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **11**

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Background

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

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

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

### Manual 18 Changes Proposed for 2015 Grant Cycle

#### Administrative Updates and Policy Clarifications

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

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

## **Policy Changes**

### **Monitoring eligibility**

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

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

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

### **Review Panel Recommendations**

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

### **Opportunity for Stakeholder Comment**

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

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

## Next Steps

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

## Attachments

A. 2015 Grant Schedule

## 2015 Grant Schedule (Draft)

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



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

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

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

#### Summary

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

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

#### Proposed Motion Language

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

### Background

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

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

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

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

## **Board Decisions**

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

## **Staff Recommendation**

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

## **Analysis**

### **Review of the Proposed Projects**

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

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

## Next Steps

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

## Supporting Documents

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

## Attachments

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

**2015-17 PSAR Large Capital Project List in Ranked Order**

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

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

**SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS**  
**December 3, 2014**

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Formal Action</b>	<b>Follow-up Action</b>
September 2014 Meeting Summary	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.
1. Management Report A. Director's Report B. Legislative and Policy Updates C. Performance Update D. Financial Report ( <i>written only</i> )	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. Department of Fish and Wildlife 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Salmon	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
5. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects	Decision: APPROVED	The board requested to remain apprised of the progress in these restoration efforts.
6. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Monitoring Panel: Updated Approach for 2014-15	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. 2014 Grant Round A. Overview B. Slideshow of featured projects proposed for funding C. Review Panel Comments	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
9. 2014 Grant Round, continued D. Regional Area Comment Period	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
10. 2014 Grant Round, continued E. Board Funding Decisions	Decision: APPROVED	For the Hood Canal region, the board deferred action on project #14-1334 South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, and held \$175,437 for Hood Canal pending board decisions at the February 2015 meeting, following continuing discussions between the review panel, sponsor, and the regions.
11. Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015	Briefing	Staff will present the summary of changes to the board at the February 2015 meeting.
12. Adopt 2015-17 Large Capital Project List for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Program	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.

## **SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Date:** December 3, 2014

**Place:** Olympia, WA

### **Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:**

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<b>David Troutt, Chair</b>	Olympia	<b>Carol Smith</b>	Department of Ecology
<b>Nancy Biery</b>	Quilcene	<b>Susan Cierebiej</b>	Department of Transportation
<b>Bob Bugert</b>	Wenatchee	<b>Megan Duffy</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>Sam Mace</b>	Spokane	<b>Stu Trefry</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>Phil Rockefeller</b>	Bainbridge Island		

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

### **Opening and Welcome**

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and a quorum was determined. Member Jennifer Quan was excused.

### **Agenda adoption**

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### **August 2014 Meeting Summary Minutes**

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### **Management and Partner Reports**

#### **Item 1: Management Report**

**Director's Report:** Director Cottingham requested that the board consider changing the October 2015 travel dates from October 14-15 to October 15-16, in order to allow full board participation. Member Smith noted that she may have a conflict on October 16. Director Cottingham suggested holding the meeting on the first day (October 15) and the tour on the second day (October 16), to allow Member Smith to join for the business meeting portion.

Director Cottingham shared that the annual survey will be sent to board members in the next few weeks. The survey questions pertain to board logistics and proceedings, and will be used to improve practices and policies.

Director Cottingham shared news of the recent agreement between RCO and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to have them review projects for possible cultural resources



impacts. To cut down on the number and cost of surveys, WSDOT's archaeology staff will review potential projects and provide a recommendation based upon resources and expertise about which sites likely have cultural resources.

**Legislative and Policy Updates:** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on preparations for the upcoming legislative session, including an overview of the recent budget submissions. These requests were approved at the August meeting. The Governor's budget is anticipated to be released in mid-December. Additionally, RCO staff will work with the Senate Resources Committee to have all board members confirmed in the 2015 session.

After a brief summary, Ms. Brown explained that presentations throughout the day would provide details on the progress towards policy goals and metrics.

**Performance Report:** Jennifer Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager, provided an overview of the performance measures for fiscal year 2015. She provided specific information regarding the metrics for removal of fish passage barriers, stream miles made accessible, and management performance measures for SRFB-funded projects. Details are included in the board materials (Item 1C). She concluded by sharing ways that RCO uses the performance data to inform staff and improve business practices.

## **Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided updates on the 2013 and 2014 grant rounds. Details about funded projects, closed projects, and director authority regarding project amendments may be found in the board materials.

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, provided an update on the salmon recovery communications strategy in three parts. First, GSRO and RCO jointly issued a request for proposals to hire a facilitator for the workgroup. Responses were due in November 2014. From the proposals received, the evaluation team narrowed the candidates to two firms and held interviews last week. Second, Mr. Abbott updated the board on the progress of lead entities in strengthening their unique approaches. Finally, GSRO provided funds to develop visual representation of the network to support the communications strategy.

The 2015 Salmon Recovery conference is scheduled for May 27-29, 2015, in Vancouver, WA. A call for abstracts went out in mid-November. Registration will open after the first of the year. For the upcoming conference, a new approach to recruiting presenters includes an early call for abstracts in order to refine the theme of the conference with supporting presentations. A multi-stakeholder Conference Advisory Committee will frame the agenda, which will likely include plenary sessions covering topics of interest to all. Mr. Abbott offered a position on the Conference Advisory Committee to interested board members. Member Biery volunteered. Director Cottingham also reached out the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and a representative will join the committee as well. Mr. Abbott also invited interested organization sponsors to contribute, which would be represented at the conference.

The *State of Salmon* report will be released at the end of December and published to <https://data.wa.gov/>. Member Bugert acknowledged the contributions of GSRO staff in completing this work as they continue to collaborate with state agencies, regions, and contractors.

Member Mace inquired about outreach and communication regarding the conference. Mr. Abbott noted that there were 585 attendees last year. Director Cottingham acknowledged Long Live the Kings, a key partner in preparing for and supporting the conference.

### Item 3: Reports from Partners

**Council of Regions Report (COR):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, provided an overview of the current issues facing the Council of Regions. Mr. Breckel touched on regional monitoring needs, the draft bull trout plan coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the communications strategy carried out in partnership with Pyramid Communications, partnerships among regions with NOAA pertaining to the 5-year status review, and contributions to the *State of Salmon* report. Details about these issues are covered in the COR report included in the board materials.

Chair Troutt asked about the potential funding strategies for monitoring needs. Mr. Breckel suggested potential funding shifts that would maintain the balances across needs, yet addressing critical monitoring gaps.

Member Bugert expressed interest in the bull trout recovery plan, specifically the potential discrepancies between the individual regional plans and the broader, federal plan. Mr. Breckel explained that next year's regional plan adjustments would use information and support from USFWS to ensure consistency. COR will encourage USFWS to build upon existing regional recovery plans.

Chair Troutt inquired about progress indicators as shared through the NOAA 5-year status review. Mr. Breckel shared that this information is not yet available, but they are looking at status changes within species.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Darcy Batura, Chair, and Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend. Ms. Batura and Ms. Hatch-Winecka provided a summary of the recent progress of WSC. Issues covered included regional planning meetings, funding priorities and requests, legislative preparations, lead entity transitions, an upcoming retreat for lead entity partners, and the continued work as part of the Salmon Recovery Network. Full details regarding these issues can be found in WSC's report included in the board materials.

Chair Troutt inquired about the discussion regarding large and complex projects, specifically addressing funding gaps and re-adjustments. Ms. Batura explained that this is an issue to address and they may use the South Sound region as an example.

Member Biery asked about the availability of the lead entity guidance manual and advocacy handbook. Ms. Batura stated that each region's manuals should be available by the end of the month. Member Bugert agreed that sharing this with the board would be useful for understanding regional level policies and practices.

**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs):** Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, shared information about site tours and community engagement. During this grant cycle, RFEG submitted 43 applications. Ms. Thompson provided an update on the contracting metrics for these and existing projects, information about the Citizen Action Training School (CATS) program, and participation in the Salmon Recovery Network and the Family Fish Forest Passage Program (FFFPP).

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Member Megan Duffy reported that the 2015-17 budget has been submitted, an update since September's meeting. She provided details about specific requests for the capital and operating budgets related to salmon recovery. DNR also participated in the budget reduction exercise, which may impact salmon recovery related efforts. Current work focuses on legislative preparations for the upcoming session.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Stu Trefry provided a brief update on the new staff member, Brian Cochrane, who will be the new SRFB representative for the WSCC.

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC):** Member Phil Rockefeller shared that the NPCC released a revised version of their fish and wildlife management program. These efforts take into consideration federal law, state fish and wildlife managers, and tribal entities. Member Rockefeller encouraged the board and audience to visit the NPCC website to view the draft recommendations, found at: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/>.

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about the 15% budget cut identified by Ecology in the next biennium. The reduction comes from diverse funding sources, as the general fund budget does not provide many options. Ecology releases a water quality assessment every few years that shows impaired water bodies, information which can support restoration efforts; the cuts will impact these stream gauging efforts. The current draft of the assessment will be up for public review in February 2015.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about WSDOT budget requests that address removal of fish passage barriers. WSDOT partnered with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) to support areas impacted by the recent fires in the Upper Columbia region.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Jennifer Quan was excused from the meeting; no update for WDFW was provided.

#### **General Public Comment**

No public comment was provided at this time.

#### **Board Business: Briefings**

##### **Item 4: Department of Fish and Wildlife 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon**

Jim Scott, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend and share this information. Kelly Cunningham and John Long joined Mr. Scott for the presentation, which covered the main points of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative, the hatchery and fishery reform policy, and progress and partnerships along the way.

Mr. Scott provided an in-depth history of the initiative, beginning as early as 2006 and continuing through the current year. The history included an overview of the development and progress associated with the work and the intended purpose of the initiative. Mr. Scott shared information about the framework design which established an estimated timeline for accomplishing this work. The design is comprised of six outcomes that include general metrics and timelines for evaluating progress and success.

Mr. Cunningham shared information about how the initiative will be carried out in the field, focusing his presentation on hatcheries and fish reform policy. Implementation metrics show steady progress in some areas and compliance gaps in others.

Mr. Long provided a summary of the implementation of mark-selective fisheries, along with current and historical statistics for Endangered Species Act (ESA) measures. The data demonstrates an increased need for monitoring and intensive sampling, as well as the resources to support these efforts.

Mr. Scott addressed the monitoring and performance measures and efforts for fish in/fish out, restoration effectiveness, and continued research. He concluded by highlighting the important role of regional, state, and federal partnerships, including shared goals and advocates at all levels. He emphasized the importance of habitat projects, sampling, long-term monitoring, and progress assessment of salmon recovery goals.

Chair Troutt inquired about how this initiative impacts other WDFW programs. Mr. Scott explained that since multiple programs maintain habitat with different foci, e.g. shellfish, wildlife, etc., the goal of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Salmon is to address these potential overlaps and coordinate solutions for salmon recovery in line with other agency program goals.

Member Bugert asked about the marine survival study and potential causes or mechanisms affecting this work. Mr. Scott deferred the question due to his limited knowledge of the topic.

Director Cottingham noted that RCO funding goes to fish in/fish out and hatchery reform, asking if budget gaps affect these niches. Mr. Scott replied that they use braided funding from federal and state sources.

***Break 11:06 – 11:26 a.m.***

**Board Business: Decisions**

**Item 5: Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Proposals for Fire-Impacted Projects**

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, Joy Juelson, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB), and Chuck Pevin, UCSRB Technical Review Team, presented information regarding a funding proposal for a project in Upper Columbia region. Based on observations during the September meeting in Winthrop, the board requested that RCO staff support UCSRB in preparing a proposal for the December meeting that focuses on salmon recovery in the areas devastated by the fire.

Ms. Juelson provided an overview of the events that impacted Frazer Creek, which is located in the Methow Valley. Mr. Abbott shared details of the state agency response to damage and of the discussions regarding the most effective repair and funding strategies. A number of resources aligned with RCO funding to allow for swift planning and action, including regional resources and engineering expertise. The total cost of the five bridges is approximately \$600,000. In October 2014, the RCO director approved \$250,000 in returned funds for emergency repairs. WSDOT provided RCO \$102,000 in federal emergency funds to assist with four of the five crossings. The fifth site was funded by FFFPP because of its enrollment in the program before the flood event occurred. The remaining funding came from returned funds from other projects within the region.

A number of partners worked collaboratively with GSRO and RCO to assist five landowners with replacement of their stream crossings with bridges. Mr. Abbott shared photos from the Frazer Creek site, demonstrating the progress of efforts on the ground. These five projects will reach completion by mid-December.

Mr. Pevin relayed information from a study submitted by Derek Van Marter, Executive Director of the UCSRB. The UCSRB technical team completed this study on the emergency fire response needed for salmon recovery habitat improvements, which includes prioritization of areas and potential actions to be taken as a result of the August fires. They propose funding a project with approximately \$250,000 in returned funds, which will support the two highest priority culverts. The full study is available in the board materials.

Member Smith asked about other potential barriers that may exist due the damage incurred during the summer fires. Mr. Pevin noted that the priority areas are identified, but he is unaware of other sites that have such severe damage. There may be other less-severely damaged areas, perhaps subject to future floods or landslides, which are not included at this time.

Member Mace inquired whether an assessment of second priority projects has been conducted that may address potential future damage (resulting from weakened structures from the fires). Mr. Pevin explained that the extent of the watershed assessment was limited to the projects that are of highest priority.

Director Cottingham inquired about discussions regarding riparian plantings and sediment control issues. Mr. Pevin replied that these metrics were included in the priority action planning. Although some erosion is expected, the extent of the restoration efforts are still unclear; no further assessment was conducted by either the review team or the project sponsors. Ms. Juelson noted that these projects may come up in the future because it is a topic of concern in the area.

Member Bugert asked about the itemization of costs and funding sources. Mr. Pevin and Ms. Juelson noted that the study found in the board materials includes this information. Director Cottingham explained the current funding strategy for these efforts.

Ms. Juelson highlighted the opportunities for future and/or long-term benefits resulting from these efforts. She noted that the emergency projects encouraged cooperation from landowners and the outlook for restoring fish passage remains positive.

Chair Troutt and Member Bugert both expressed their appreciation and acknowledgement of the efforts to reach these solutions.

**Motion:** Move to approve funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the project identified by the Upper Columbia Fish Recovery Board which would help salmon recover after the catastrophic fires in Okanogan County.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

Member Rockefeller clarified whether the requested \$250,000 is sufficient for the priority sites identified. Ms. Juelson confirmed that the funds should cover the restoration efforts. Member Trefry asked about the potential support from the conservation districts. Ms. Juelson noted that she would follow up on this suggestion.

The board requested to remain apprised of the progress in these restoration efforts.

## **Board Business: Briefings**

### **Item 6: Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Deficit**

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, briefed the board on the background behind the gap in IMW funding, a result of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award. NOAA cannot provide federal funding to one of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) subcontractors – the Northwest Science Center. The Office of Financial Management advised RCO that stand-alone monitoring projects cannot use capital funds. In September, the board funded the IMWs minus the Northwest Science Center portion and asked staff to develop options. The allocation of \$1,831,515 to three monitoring components left the board's monitoring program under-funded by \$260,000.

GSRO, RCO, and NOAA staff worked together to amend the 2014 PCSRF contract by adding language specific to the Northwest Science Center subcontract with Ecology which would allow the use of PCSRF funds. At this time, staff is waiting for the Northwest Science Center's fiscal managers to accept the amendments.

Mr. Abbott explained three potential options for resolving this funding gap, outlined in detail in the board materials. The board is asked to consider these options, and staff will bring the issue to the February 2015 meeting for a decision. Further clarification on these potential solutions may come forth prior to the next meeting; staff will update the board as needed.

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

Dr. Marnie Tyler, Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel), provided an update on recent accomplishments and expected developments in 2015 for practitioners and for the monitoring panel. The monitoring panel finalized reporting templates for inclusion in contracts with monitoring partners, and provided suggestions and edits to Manual 18. The latter contributions are meant to enhance coordination on project development in IMW watersheds.

Dr. Tyler expects to share all developments, including updates to the IMW study plan, on their website. The monitoring panel also encourages practitioners to provide presentations at the Salmon Recovery Conference next May. She concluded by providing an overview of the intended actions for the monitoring panel in 2015, including the adaptive management framework, related protocols, and evaluation criteria.

Chair Troutt thanked Dr. Tyler for the monitoring panel's efforts and contributions. He asked whether future budget requests would reflect the changes in scope/action. Dr. Tyler noted that this was on the radar in September, and currently they are expecting to overcome the shortfalls without intervention from the board.

#### **Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

*\*The agenda is based on a working lunch.*

#### **Board Business: Decisions**

##### **Item 8A: 2014 Grant Round - Overview**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided an overview of the 2014 grant round, including the timeline, review process, and decisions brought to the board today. The board will consider each region's list of projects and make funding decisions by regional area. Each region has ten minutes to discuss the project selection process, highlight any issues on their regional lists, present noteworthy projects, and address projects of concern.

Today the board will hear about and decide funding for projects totaling \$18 million from state and federal sources. A summary of the 2014 grant round projects was provided. Ms. Galuska reminded the board of decisions made during the September board meeting to allocate the remaining 2013-15 PSAR funds. The board will also review and approve a project list for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding for next biennium if the legislature funds PSAR in the 2015-17 budget.

Two projects of concern (POCs) included in the funding tables were submitted to the board. One project is on the lead entity list for Thurston County (Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 13). If the board decides not to approve this project, the lead entity and region's allocation will be reduced by the project amount. The other project is on the Hood Canal Citizen's approved list as an alternate. The region would like to move this project up on the list and is seeking funding approval.

Ms. Galuska also provided an update on the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report (funding report), which was published on November 19, 2014. She explained the report's format and the sections included. If approved, projects listed in the tables will receive PCSRF federal funds or state bond funds.

## **Item 8B: 2014 Grant Round - Presentations of Featured Projects Proposed for Funding**

RCO salmon grants managers presented projects from their respective regions, highlighting the key components, location, salmon recovery related goals, and respective funding requests. Details of each project may be found using PRISM Project Search, with links provided below.

Mike Ramsey presented the featured project from the Hood Canal region, Beards Cove Restoration and Protection (RCO Project [14-1326](#)).

Alice Rubin presented the featured project from the Lower Columbia region, Clear Creek Fish Passage Project (RCO Project [14-1308](#)), as well as the featured project from the Washington Coast region: Delezenne, Creek Fish Passage Restoration (RCO Project [14-1159](#)).

Dave Caudill presented the featured project from the Northeast region, Mill Creek Fish Passage Restoration (RCO Project [12-1625](#)).

Elizabeth Butler presented the featured project from the Puget Sound region, Filucy Bay Estuary Shoreline Protection (RCO Project [14-1946](#)).

Kay Caromile presented the featured project from the Snake region, PA 24 Floodplain and Channel Complexity (RCO Project [14-1900](#)), as well as the featured project from the Middle Columbia region, Naneum-Coleman Fish Passage Projects (RCO Project [14-1215](#)).

Marc Duboiski presented the featured project from the Upper Columbia River region, Silver Side Channel Revival (RCO Project [14-1735](#)).

Member Bugert commended staff for the diversity of sponsors and projects presented.

## **Item 8C: 2014 Grant Round - Review Panel Comments**

Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel Chair, presented several topics that warrant clarification or policy guidance for future projects. Based on the discussion with the board, the review panel will work with staff to refine policies in Manual 18.

The review panel, with their statewide perspective on projects and the grant round, offered several topics and observations for the board to consider. Ms. Jorgensen briefly explained these issues, detailed in the board materials (Item 8C). She focused on state-wide funding gaps for large, complex multi-phased projects, technology needs, and potential issues with project partners.

Member Cierebiej emphasized that the timelines are critical when partnering with WSDOT, and encouraged early sponsor engagement to ensure full participation. Ms. Jorgensen agreed that sponsor education is needed. Member Cierebiej continued to ask whether consideration of these issues could be included in Manual 18, regarding advance notification to support partnerships. Director Cottingham stated that this is possible and could be modeled after similar language used by the Department of Natural Resources for advance notice. Chair Troutt encouraged WSC involvement in this process.

Ms. Jorgensen provided details on four noteworthy RCO projects:

- 1) Barkley Irrigation Company - Under Pressure ([14-1737](#));
- 2) Kilisut Harbor Restoration ([14-1366](#));
- 3) Lower Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration ([14-1382](#)); and
- 4) Rock Creek Riparian Easement ([14-1857](#)).



Chair Troutt raised concern around the high volume of conditioned projects. Ms. Jorgensen explained that conditions relate to project complexity and/or sponsors who are not fully prepared or equipped to address large challenges. She added that conditions allow an opportunity to find solutions with sponsors while moving forward on projects. Chair Troutt asked if this adds a significant amount of time. Ms. Jorgensen explained that the process includes a few hours for extra review, sometimes a site visit; this does not create a significant time draw.

Member Trefry asked whether panel members are allowed to independently address questions for sponsors. He receives comments indicating that members are subject to frequent and overwhelming questions, which may not allow adequate time for a response. Ms. Jorgensen conceded that as sponsors prepare and submit applications the process often involves rushed efforts and many questions. She noted that multiple opportunities exist for sponsors to address review panel concerns. The review panel provides feedback on initial site visits, within two weeks of the visit, and after the review panel meets in early fall. The purpose is to consolidate and streamline while balancing individual needs.

#### **Item 9: 2014 Grant Round, continued / Regional Area Comment Period**

Each region presented in turn as ordered on the agenda, highlighting issues on their regional lists and some of their outstanding projects. Regions had the opportunity to address “projects of concern” that remain on their lists.

**Alex Conley and Darcy Batura, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, and Greg Schuler, Klickitat Lead Entity.** Greg revisited the 2013 lead entity list of ranked projects with respective funding requests, highlighted other funding sources, and discussed areas that needed to meet steelhead spatial structure standards. They then presented the new 2014 list, noting the alternate projects and challenges faced in ranking the projects.

**Miles Batchelder, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership,** offered the board the opportunity to ask any questions regarding their submitted regional list. He noted that progress continues towards barrier removal, pointing out the Schweickert Farm project in the Chehalis Basin (RCO Project [14-1719](#)). The agricultural partnerships are proving to be successful, promoting opportunities for new farmer education and engagement. Mr. Batchelder also shared information about Delezenne Creek (RCO Project [14-1159](#)), noting that comments from the review panel were helpful and ultimately changed the sponsor’s approach to restoration planning.

**Joy Juelson and Chuck Pevin, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board,** explained the challenges imposed by the regional fires to project implementation. The shared several maps demonstrating the geographic distribution of projects in relation to the fire damage incurred. Ms. Juelson shared information on the varied funding sources for projects submitted by the region, and provided some details on projects of note. She concluded with a drone video of the restoration efforts occurring in the area.

**John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board,** thanked the board for their support and opened the floor for questions. Member Mace clarified the location of one project located on a tributary to the Snake River which supports steelhead-spawning habitat.

**Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership,** was joined by five of her colleagues. She expressed her appreciation of the board’s support, guidance, and communication to keep valuable science based projects moving forward. Amy Hatch-Winecka provided details on projects in Thurston County and related activities along the Deschutes River. The team addressed the region’s project of concern, the Pioneer Park Restoration Preliminary Designs (RCO Project [14-1405](#)), noting that it could provide an opportunity for sediment reduction, wetland reconnection, anadromous fish spawning habitat, and education within the watershed. Lance Winecka provided information about the preliminary design

process and intended scope of work, noting the review panel's concerns for public safety. Mr. Winecka indicated that the Pioneer Park project would integrate stable log structures and qualified engineering designs that address concerns. He emphasized the Mashel River Restoration Assessment (RCO Project [06-2206](#)), which installed similar LWD structures.

Chair Troutt invited Kelley Jorgensen and other review panel members to address their concerns related to the Pioneer Park project. Ms. Jorgensen shared concerns regarding public safety issues associated with the project design. She emphasized softer engineering approaches and safety component issues around placement of large woody debris. Dr. Marnie Tyler expressed concerns about funding a design project with public funding that may never reach construction.

Member Duffy asked about the Tumwater City Council input regarding safety concerns. Although the concerns have been noted for several years, the City Council and the review panel feel that a subcommittee could be established to address concerns and continue moving the project forward.

Chair Troutt suggested further collaboration amongst the review panel, the regional team, and the City Council. Member Smith asked about the plans for community outreach and awareness, especially at times of low summer flows when public use will be peaking. Mr. Winecka discussed this issue with the engineers and shared ways that the sponsor's plan to limit structural hazards (such as large woody debris) during these times.

Member Rockefeller asked whether the sponsor or Manual 18 addresses avoiding creation of attractive nuisances. Ms. Galuska confirmed that Manual 18 does not include such criteria, however, Dr. Marnie Tyler indicated that the manual does have language regarding "projects sited improperly."

Director Cottingham shared that RCO is advised not to engage in projects that leave the agency open to liability, even though the structure would be owned by the City of Tumwater.

Member Mace asked if guidance or parallels could be drawn from other structures built in white water areas. Kelley Jorgensen replied that structures are designed to address hydraulic features and impacts.

**Todd Anderson, Northeast Washington**, provided a brief update for the Pend Oreille region. He thanked the board and Dave Caudill for the work in the region to recover native fish species. Funds from SRFB grants support implementation of important projects in critical habitat areas.

**Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board**, provided an update of the history of the region's participation in salmon recovery, overcoming challenges, budget cuts and restrictions, and coming together to support common goals. Despite being spread thin, the region continues to implement Tier I projects to work towards delisting of salmon species.

**Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council**, introduced the members of his team and provided background on the lead entity and region. He addressed the region's project of concern, asking the board to consider the alternate motion provided to the board for this decision (Motion 5, included in the board materials). Jeanette Dorner noted policy concerns with the project and also encouraged consideration of the alternate motion. She suggested that funding decisions be delayed to the February 2015 meeting, adding that NOAA would be willing to submit a letter of support to the board regarding this project.

Chair Troutt requested that Kelley Jorgensen and the review panel address these concerns and support the region through this process.

Member Duffy asked for clarification on RCW 77.85.050, specifically whether the statute permits a lead

entity to adjust the prioritization of projects. Brian Abbott stated that the board could direct funds to the project because it is on the ranked list. Director Cottingham explained the recommendations and considerations that the lead entities and board are responsible for following. Member Duffy stated that she has concerns about revising the citizen list and encouraged the board to look at the statute carefully.

**Break 3:17 – 3:30 p.m.**

#### **Item 10: 2014 Grant Round, continued**

Chair Troutt requested that the board consider the motions, addressing any public comment as each region is presented.

##### **Yakima Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,776,600\* for projects and project alternates in the Yakima Mid-Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

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

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

##### **Washington Coast Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,620,000 for projects and project alternates in the Coastal Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

##### **Upper Columbia Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,953,000 for projects and project alternates in the Upper Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Decision:** APPROVED

##### **Snake River Region**

**Motion:** Move to approve \$1,598,400 for projects and project alternates in the Snake River Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Mace

**Seconded by:** Member Bugert

**Decision:** APPROVED

##### **Puget Sound**

Chair Troutt commented on the approach used to address project concerns. He highlighted the importance of having all partners on board as the project moves forward, including engagement of the review panel. Member Rockefeller made a motion for the second alternate motion presented.

Member Bugert stated that he is prepared to vote against the motion, considering the previous discussion regarding unresolved concerns. For future projects, concerns should be addressed thoroughly, including personal injury protection and limiting the liability for the city, the project sponsors involved, and the

board. Chair Troutt noted that such discussions are appropriate during the planning and design phases, and should lead up to the project decisions. Member Rockefeller expressed concerns that the Legislature would not be able to easily address liability concerns, but requested a way to move forward with preliminary designs that better informs the board and involved parties. Member Smith added that the sponsors have already scaled back from the original project scope, and this reduced risk should be considered.

Member Bugert asked whether alternatives that address personal injury concerns would be included should the project design be funded. Mr. Winecka affirmed, stating that these discussions are underway and engineering considerations are being evaluated. Ms. Hatch-Winecka added that the design process is iterative, meaning that as feedback is provided it would be incorporated in the planning phases before a draft is presented.

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

**Moved by:** Member Rockefeller

**Seconded by:** Member Mace

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Northeast

**Motion:** Move to approve \$360,000 for projects in the Northeast Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Lower Columbia

**Motion:** Move to approve \$2,700,000 for projects and project alternates in the Lower Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated December 3, 2014.

**Moved by:** Member Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Biery

**Decision:** APPROVED

#### Hood Canal

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

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Rockefeller

**Decision:** APPROVED

## **Board Business: Briefings**

### **Item 11: Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2015**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, shared that a public survey is available that captures information about adaptive management and improved process measures. There is another survey available to the public regarding the 2014 grant round process, data from which will support updates and suggestions for the 2015 grant round.

Kat Moore, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, summarized the proposed administrative revisions to *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection*. Final revisions and updates to the manual will be brought to the board at the February meeting, just prior to the start of the 2015 grant round.

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

1. Updated 2015 grant schedule.
2. New guidance on riparian buffers as recommended at the June 2014 board meeting.
3. New cost estimate templates for restoration, planning, and acquisition projects as guidance for applicants.
4. Updated project proposal to include more detailed information on a project's goals and objectives.
5. New PRISM-based submittal process for the lead entity's ranked project lists.

Staff sent out an initial request to lead entities and regions for their comments and feedback on improvements to the 2015 manual. Staff held informal discussions with stakeholders about the proposed changes. Lead entities, regions, and other stakeholders may comment on the proposed changes after today's board meeting.

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, reminded the board that in March the monitoring sub-committee recommended that allowing monitoring to be an eligible project type should be considered. It was suggested that GSRO work with regional organizations to define specific monitoring activities that could receive funds.

Mr. Abbott outlined several components of the concept for monitoring related to delisting. Staff recommends that the board focus potential eligibility in regional areas that are close to de-listing certain listed stocks. It should not be a requirement for regions to monitor; rather, it should be up to each region to decide if they want to take advantage of available but limited monitoring resources. For monitoring projects, staff recommends that the board's monitoring panel review the stated objectives in the regional proposal(s) for consistency. The board could provide guidance in order to bring back fully developed eligibility language in February for inclusion in Manual 18. Mr. Abbott asked the board for guidance regarding the proposed recommendations.

Member Smith requested that the guidance for monitoring and delisting provided to sponsors be clear and easily understood. Chair Troutt stated that given the regions resources, they would work to evaluate project balance in order to encourage salmon recovery. The discussion should revolve around needs and reaching delisting objectives, not capping monitoring funds. Mr. Abbott informed the board that regions continue to discuss available funding options.

Member Bugert asked whether the Viable Salmon Population (VSP) needs are consistent across regions. Mr. Abbott clarified that the needs are identified by NOAA, and across regions are unique and vary widely.



GSRO will work with the monitoring panel and bring a proposal to the board in February. Manual 18 will include the guidance for monitoring projects. Mr. Abbott encouraged actively seeking funds to accomplish salmon recovery projects.

### **Board Business: Decisions**

#### **Item 12: 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital Project List**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, and Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership, presented information on the 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund large capital project list and the background behind the decision to recruit, rank, and approve a project list in advance of the legislative session.

The [2014 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#) provides information in Attachment 6 regarding the recruitment process and the scoring criteria used to rank the large capital project list. PSP coordinates with lead entities and the RCO staff to submit projects. Both PSAR regular and regional large capital projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects. Only projects that received a "Clear" or "Conditioned" status from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel were submitted for approval. Upon approval of PSAR funds by the 2015 Legislature and the board, the RCO Director will have the authority to enter into agreements for listed.

Director Cottingham noted that the project conditioned by the board in September was included and may need revision. Member Cierebiej clarified that this project may be postponed while WSDOT rearranges their priorities, due to a lack of funding. Unfortunately, the Kilisut project is not high-ranking for WSDOT.

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

**Moved by:** Member Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bugert

**Decision:** APPROVED

### **Closing**

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.

### **Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Troutt, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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

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

phone: (509) 662-4707

[www.ucsrb.org](http://www.ucsrb.org)

November 12, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Troutt and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board:

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

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

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

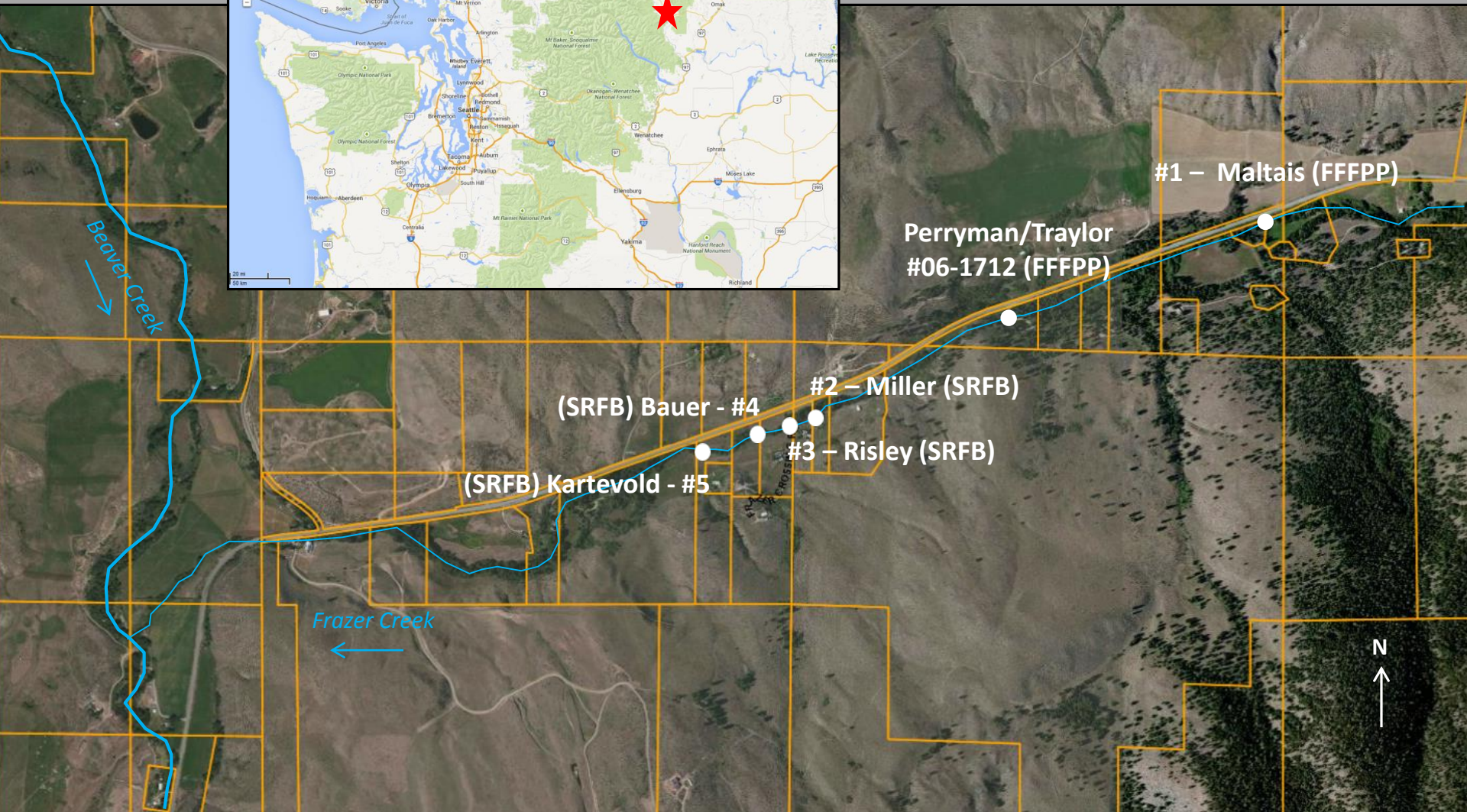
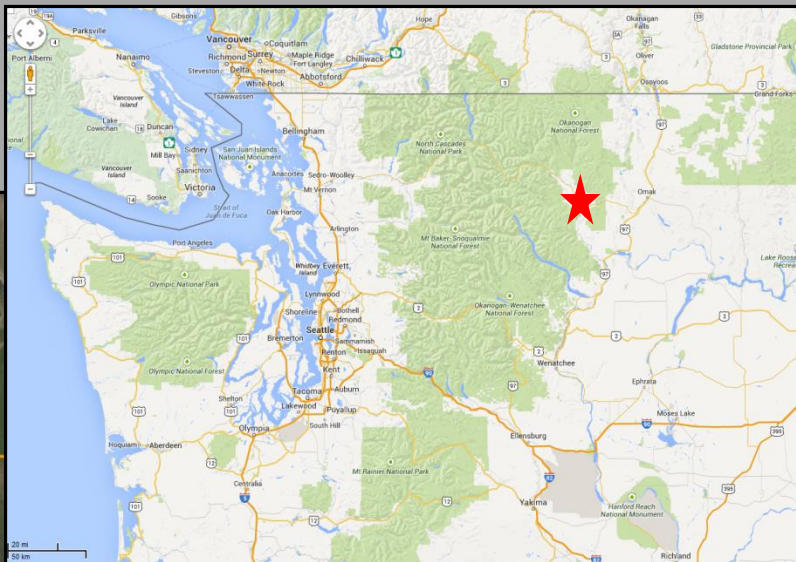
Respectfully,

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

Derek Van Marter  
Executive Director

Cc: Senator Parlette  
Representatives Condotta and Hawkins







To SRFB



1010 NW 4th. Ave.  
Camas, WA 98610

10-8-14

RECEIVED

OCT 15 2014

WA STATE  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

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

Re: Klickitat River

Mr. Scott:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchison  
360 837-8011

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



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

12 - 13 - 13

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

Re: Klickitat River Restoration Project

Glenn and Lindsay,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchison

wilandhutch@gmail.com

cc: SRFB ✓