

Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team Technical Advisory Group Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2011

Scheduled 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Kalispel Wellness Center, Usk

Facilitator: Nick Bean, Lead Entity Coordinator, Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Present: Nick Bean (KNRD), Sandy Dotts (WDFW), Jeff Lawlor (WDFW), Todd McLaughlin (PO County) Todd Andersen (KNRD), George Luft (PO County), Sam Castro (PO County), Ray Entz (KNRD)

Meeting: Called to order by the Coordinator Nick Bean at 9:10 am.

Introductions: Given by each attendee at 9:15 am.

Announcements:

- The 4-18-2011 TAG meeting minute's approval postponed due to the late distribution and a lack of a quorum. Tom Shuhda had some comments that were addressed on the minutes so the new version will reflect this information.
- The agenda was approved as is understanding that the duration and content of the meeting is subject to change.
- Nick provided an update on the status of SRFB funding: the PCSRF fund look like they will be funded at \$80 million which when matched by the State general funds should provide adequate funding for Lead Entities and operations for the first year of the 2011-2013 bienniums. The second portion of the biennium is still questionable. We should anticipate receiving \$360,000 for projects this year although we don't have a concrete answer yet.
- The 2011 Salmon Recovery Conference went well. Nick, Sandy, Joe and Jill attended and Ray Entz presented on the overall restoration efforts in the LeClerc Creek drainage. The conference had significant attendance and many good presentations were available.
- The County MB LeClerc project construction would begin during the end of July.
- Sandy said volunteers could come out and help with the Granite Large Wood Survey on the 11-21st of July.
- Kapelke project will take place in the last week of August.

2011 SRFB Project Proposal Presentations

- The first project presented was the Kulczyk Restoration project on Cedar Creek (WDFW and landowner sponsored). This is a bank stabilization and large wood project on private property in two locations, approximately 70-150 total feet. The project would use roughness trees, log barbs, soil reinforced lifts and planting. The trees that have fallen in will be used for the project. This involves passive anchoring primarily. The project would reduce sediment loading and protect the property from further erosion. The strategy indicates that bank stabilization in the "Town reach" is a priority action. There are some issues with the landowner willingness which the sponsor hopes to resolve prior to the rating and ranking moving; if not the project would not move forward. Cost estimates are less than \$20,000 or less at this point but an exact number is unknown. The USFWS might contribute or fully fund the project if no SRFB funding is available.
- The Pend Oreille Barrier Assessment and Prioritization project (WDFW) was presented next. This was also proposed last year (2010). The focus is to survey the last "piece of the puzzle" which is the Colville National Forest (49% of WRIA 62), then combine and prioritize all of the barriers (with the TAG) we have assessed then update the Lead Entity Strategy. There will be some reevaluation of culverts since there are some existing discrepancies in the USFS-CNF data. The sponsor will also evaluate some level B barriers previously assessed by POCD and evaluate the remaining water diversions on the river. This is a road (open and closed) and trail based survey focusing first on priority watersheds in fish bearing streams. Information would be entered into the State's fish passage database and use existing RMAP and the fish passage database barriers to date. This is a priority action in the Strategy. The information would also be incorporated into the NetMap project; the group discussed using this tool to prioritize. Todd Anderson indicated that we could use the habitat intrinsic rating feature in NetMap as one of the prioritization tools for the barriers. Cost estimate went up to \$100,841 of which \$75,821 is requested from the SRFB the remainder is match (~25%). Technician training is put on by the State and follows the fish passage barrier training manual. Project will be completed within 18 months of funding. Of the known evaluated 555 structures in WRIA 62, 297 are barriers to fish passage and 42 are unknown; this doesn't include RMAP structures.

- The Pend Oreille County (WDFW partnered) projects were presented next. Each of these projects was presented last year and the Indian and EF Smalle projects were submitted as alternates. Other than costs, the projects have not changed much. The first presented was the Smalle Creek Fish Passage Design project. The proposal is to fund the engineered design of a replacement structure for a fish passage (culvert) barrier on Smalle at Westside Calispell Rd. This culvert is a barrier primarily due to velocity and it is undersized as the standards indicate. The objective is to restore access to 6 miles of bull trout critical habitat, cutthroat habitat and restore natural stream function and processes. Currently the pumps at Calispell Creek block access to migratory bull trout, however replacement of the pumps with upstream and downstream fish passage measures are scheduled to take place within the next several years. The project would produce the final designs and cost estimate to implement the project. The SRFB funding request is approximately \$41,356 with no match required. WDFW would assist with the stream design and permitting. This would be an 18 month project from funding date.
- The next project presented was the East Fork Smalle Creek Fish Passage Design project. The proposal is to fund the engineered design of a replacement for a fish passage (double culvert) barrier on EF Smalle at Bond Rd. Both culverts are perched and undersized which are not only creating a barrier, but also scouring the stream below and impeding transport of sediment and wood. The project would produce the final designs and cost estimate to implement the project. The SRFB funding request is approximately \$51,356 with no match required. WDFW would assist with the stream design and permitting. The objective is to restore access to 4 miles of bull trout critical habitat, cutthroat habitat and restore stream function. The cost is higher on this project due to wetland issues and road alignment as well as the potential bridge design. Currently the pumps at Calispell Creek block access to migratory bull trout, but as noted previously this will be addressed in the near future.
- The last of the County projects presented was the Indian Creek Fish Passage Design project. The proposal is to fund the engineered design of a replacement for a fish passage (single culvert) barrier on Indian Creek at LeClerc Rd. South. This culvert is a barrier primarily due to velocity and it is undersized as the standards indicate. The project would produce the final designs for the bridge and new road alignment with cost estimates to implement the project. The SRFB funding request is \$81,071 with no match required. WDFW would assist with the stream design and permitting. The objective is to restore access to 5 miles of bull trout critical habitat, cutthroat habitat, restore stream function and reduce the risk of failure at the site. This is one of the last projects needed to open the system for migratory salmonids. The cost is higher on this project due to wetland issues, right of way/easement issues, road realignment as well as the extensive geotechnical surveys and bridge design. Once the design is in place this may move up the County's workplan but this would be a question for the engineer.
- The final project presented was Phase II of the Middle Branch LeClerc Creek Restoration Project (Kalispel/USFS). The first phase was the design and Phase I (funded last year) was the first implementation phase which included the replacement of a barrier with a bridge and road realignment. The County also had a two phase project that also ties in with the overall restoration. Phase II is the removal of 7 culverts at 4 sites, obliterating 2.6 miles of road in the riparian/floodplain area, and construction of 2.3 miles of new road away from the stream. The partnerships on the multiple phases of this project (MB LeClerc) have included USFS, Kalispel Tribe, WDFW, PO County and Stimson. This is bull trout critical habitat and important habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. The total cost for this project, which increased from the initial estimates, is \$467,000 of which the SRFB funding request is for the full \$360,000. The remainder of the total will be covered by \$85,000 from the USFS and \$22,000 by the Kalispel Tribe as match. A question arose as to if the group determined to partially fund the project could the sponsor seek additional funding or scale the project back. Phase I should be completed in 2011 and Phase II will be implemented in 2012, beginning the spring of 2012 and completed in the late fall of 2012.
- We revisited the Stimson cost share situation and discussed how to handle the potential impacts of backlogged project review and approval. Conservatively we would monitor the situation and work with Stimson as needed to ensure that we can move forward with cooperative projects. We need to collaboratively monitor projects to ensure that proper steps have been taken in the progression of the projects development so situations where stalling may arise can be avoided.

Implementation Schedule Discussion

- The group reviewed the changes made by the
- Nick reviewed the implementation schedule and showed the group a draft of the document (spreadsheet). This is simply a template modeled after another lead entity's plan. The template had a significant amount of information but is actually fairly simple once you look at it. The template includes project name, actions, habitat restored, sponsor, partner, funding in a given year, etc.
- We as a group need to determine the length (duration) of the schedule as either a 3 or 5 year plan.
- We also need to determine or support the CAG and TAG involvement and input.
- The group discussed if we could get this plan developed and followed for the 2011 SRFB funding cycle. We discussed the logistics of getting this going and determined that it may be difficult to have this plan in place in time for the current round.

- Nick requested that each of the agency representatives discuss projects within their organizations and bring a thought out and prioritized list to the November meeting from which we will select project for the implementation schedule. We want to avoid projects that are not ready or don't target our overall goals and objectives.
- The group agreed that this is the direction in which we need to move and felt that the project proposal process would be streamlined.

Meeting Wrap-up Discussion; Upcoming Meetings/Items:

- The meeting on June 15th was determined to be unnecessary so the next meeting will be the SRFB Review Panel meeting coming up on June 22nd. We also discussed a field visit day (CAG idea) that should be coordinated so the outcome of projects can be seen. Cedar Creek was 6 years ago and might be a great place to see the changes and outcome of a project.
- The TAG/CAG Rating and Ranking Meeting is July 20th. Nick will send out information on this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 pm