

Meeting of the Governor's Salmon Working Group

7-31-2019 - Salmon

See sign in sheet for attendance

Presentations Available on Office of Species Conservation Website/Governor's Salmon Workgroup page

Meeting started: 8:35am

Intro:

- All Workgroup members introduce themselves.
- Scott Pugrud (Co-Facilitator)
 - Thanks everyone for coming out.
 - Had a really great tour yesterday.
 - What stood out is the willingness to visit with each other, the civility, and the willingness to collaborate.
 - This area is ground zero for habitat improvement in Idaho.
 - Thank you IDFG for their help on the tour.
 - Introduced Representative Moon.

Welcome to Salmon (Representative Dorothy Moon)

- Welcome and thank you for having this meeting in Lemhi County.
- I represent several counties, including the largest county in the state.
- Of all the counties I represent, Custer is the most rural and Lemhi is also very rural.
- We have a lot of similar issues here and what I pride myself on how tough the people in Lemhi County are.
- You have the descendants of the original settlers here.
 - They came here to log and to farm and to find gold.
- The pillars in this area of Idaho are:
 - Ranching, mining, and recreation.
- When I first ran for office, I went to businesses to see what they believed the issues where
 - Biggest issue was that their kids and grandkids could not come back to Lemhi County to make a living.
- Median age in Lemhi County is 50 years old.
- We have such a rich history here:
 - Sacajawea Center, mines, historic trails
- As legislator I am last line of defense for my constituents.
 - When I get a call in Boise, it's because they really are hurting and need help. Not just giving me their problem of the day.
- My number one concern is to represent my people.

- I know that we're talking fish, but we need to know how it is going to affect people, good or bad.
- The Good Neighbor Authority is something that USDA is pushing.
- Lands still remain public and that's important.
- We have some cobalt here.
 - If you want to see batteries and electric cars, then you need the cobalt.
 - People are interested in developing that resource here.
- There are a lot of industries that have benefited from federal lands.
- Recent closure of the steelhead season due to a notice of intent to sue by the following environmental groups:
 - Conservation Anglers
 - Idaho Rivers United
 - Friends of the Clearwater
 - Snake River Waterkeepers
 - Wild Fish Conservancy
- People affected by this closure don't have the resources to fight these issues.
- I have some emails with examples to illustrate injury from the closure:
 - One person lost over \$24,000 from the closure from loss of fishing trips.
 - Says that losses are probably greater than short term benefit.
- You all should be working to promote the life liberty and pursuit of happiness for constituents.
- I'm a level playing field kind of gal.
 - I see ranching, mining, recreation taking hits for silly things.
 - One of the biggest issues I've seen is issues in Yankee Fork.
 - Displays picture of tractor-trailer creating enormous dust cloud.
 - Truck was dragging a tree with crown on road, raising much dust.
 - Displays picture of dust rising.
 - Displays picture of tree dragging.
 - Tree was drug for 6 miles.
 - They were live trees but there are a lot of dead trees right along the rivers.
 - Trees came from from Lightening Creek, so I went up there and it looked like a bomb went off.
 - How could they get away with that?
 - Displays picture of sign on ground.
 - Says that trees had knocked down several signs along the road.
 - Custer country had recently graded the road for Memorial Day for the tourists.
 - Missing picture of sign "Loggers Ahead".
 - Many people were out taking pictures.
 - What do you think they are going to post on social media?
 - Gives loggers a bad name.
 - Would like for all groups working on habitat projects to get more community support if all were on playing field.
 - Picture of sediment in the river.

- If a mining operation did this, they'd be in big trouble.
 - Just ask that everyone play by the same rules and level playing field.
 - On ongoing habitat project on the Yankee Fork had an accident that put sediment in river and if it had been anyone else it would have been a big deal.
 - Would like to see hiring of locals.
 - See a lot of Montana trucks up Yankee Fork.
- Thank you for coming here.
- Please keep the people of District 8 in mind.
- **Kira Finkler, Workgroup Member (Trout Unlimited)**
 - Feels need to respond to Representative Moon's comments.
 - Want to say quickly that these restoration projects involve very complicated systems.
 - We are working with several partners.
 - We will be first to admit that unexpected things will happen and we will do our best to fix them.
 - If you feel others are not being responsive to your concerns, please contact me.
- **Representative Moon response** – They have been responsive, but my point is level the playing field.
 - If it had been industry it would have been different outcome.
 - Would like to talk later.

Feedback from Workgroup

Katherine Himes (Co-Facilitator)

- At last meeting, the Workgroup had opportunity to fill out feedback cards.
- Cards had 2 questions: What does success look like to you and what additional information would you like to see?
- Want to talk about feedback on what success looks like.
 - Look at the what, why, and how.
 - Want to pull out some phrases.
- For the WHAT many mentioned:
 - Abundance
 - Reasonable use of rivers
 - Plans, goals, metrics
 - Sustainable in long run
 - Resilient
- WHY:
 - Livelihoods
 - Harvests
 - Healthy rural communities
 - Keep groups whole
 - Economics
 - The importance of place in Idaho

- Passing on to next generation
- HOW:
 - Respect
 - No one feels like they are losing
 - Mutually beneficial
 - All around Idaho support
 - Willingness to compromise
 - Buy in from Workgroup members
 - Buy in from constituents
 - Understanding all Workgroup interests
 - Happens now or as soon as possible
 - Cooperation
 - There are fish
- Common response to “What additional info would be helpful?”
 - We have a document with everyone’s comments listed and will hand out.
 - We could place responses into categories.
 - Most popular answers were:
 - Learn more about fish.
 - Abundance
 - Status
 - Tours
 - Hatcheries
 - Habitat
 - Hydro
 - Social, cultural and economic
 - Lots of interest in hydro and power specifically:
 - Policy and legal
 - Hydro/Ocean
 - Habitat
 - Harvest hatcheries
 - Ocean predation
 - Reintroduction
- **Scott Pugrud (Co-Facilitator)**
 - While summary of responses are being passed out, I’ve got feedback from the mission statement.
 - Had Workgroup members send in ideas for the mission statement and Workgroup members responded.
 - Was nice that many hit “reply all” so all members could see it.
 - Here is what I came up with to combine them (read proposed mission statement).
 - *“Develop policy recommendations for Governor Little through a collaborative, consensus driven public process to ensure that abundant and sustainable populations of salmon and steelhead exist for present and future generations to enjoy, while recognizing the diverse interests of stakeholders throughout the*

State, maintaining a clean and reliable energy system, meeting the needs of water users and agricultural interests, and providing for the continuity of socioeconomic strength and opportunity in tribal and Idaho communities.”

- Earlier, feedback cards were given to Workgroup on proposed mission statement. The questions asked were:
 - Is it realistic?
 - Is it clear and concise?
 - Does it reflect our values and beliefs?
 - Does it reflect our values and beliefs?
 - Does the statement demonstrate a commitment to serving the public good?
 - Will other individuals/organizations understand this statement?
- Lowest ranking was whether the statement was clear and concise.
- Would like to have the edits to the mission statement come out in this forum so we can all be on the same page on our mission.
 - If we can get this worked on, then it's something we can share with other organizations.
 - If we can't get it done today, then may do another round and send out edits.
- Paul Arrington
 - Could we get it on the screen?
- Scott
 - While we wait to get it on the screen, I want to cover the lowest ranking category
 - Two separate questions: is it clear and is it concise?
 - Let's talk about them separately.
 - We'll wait for a second until it's on the screen.
- Katherine
 - While we wait, I will point out that at 3:00 PM we will talk about future meeting agenda ideas so keep in mind the feedback cards.
- Scott Pugrud
 - Highest ranking was 49 on whether it is realistic.
 - Close margin between all questions.
 - 60 was maximum score.
 - 2nd is does it serve public good? 44
 - 3rd reflects values and beliefs? 42
 - 4th will other individuals be able to understand the mission statement? 41
 - 5th is it clear and concise? 39
- Got the mission statement on the screen.
- Justin Hayes (ICL)
 - I appreciate focus on abundance but would like to know what that means.
 - Could mean different things to different people.
 - We think the goal should be to return wild fish and that they be well distributed in economically significant numbers, not just below the hatcheries.
 - Want the decisions to be science based.

- Has socio economic statements.
 - Would encourage that whatever we include, that decisions must be based in science.
 - Could be harvestable abundance or ecological abundance.
- Aaron Lieberman
 - I think that Justin's comments would fit into the clear and concise category.
 - I've been debating whether we should include SAR's in our mission statement or not.
- Richard Scully
 - Abundance means different things to different people.
 - Northwest Power Council say that recovery includes SAR rate of 4-6%.
 - We are a recovery Workgroup so we should put a hard number in there to show what recovery looks like.
- Brian Brooks
 - Would say that including wild fish would fall under public good.
 - Wild fish are the reason for ESA restrictions.
- Jim Yost
 - Thought we could get by with a sentence or two, but everyone seems want to write a book.
 - Of all the things you're talking about we should probably make a definition section for words but probably not include all that in the mission statement.
 - Power council does have the SAR but it's a ballpark number, we just through numbers out to make it stick.
 - We're (NWPC) no different than this group.
 - I think that everyone wants to include their specific words and it'll end up being a book.
 - The more words you put in the more objections I have.
 - Everyone saying they want their issue in there but so does everybody around the table.
 - I think we can get into the things we're trying to put into the mission statement in other documents.
 - The habitat work we do in the Potlach (Clearwater Basin) is different than in the Salmon Basin.
- Mark Menlove
 - Doesn't say recovery or restore anywhere in statement.
 - Inclusion of word enjoyment makes it feel trite. It's much bigger than enjoyment.
- Jim Yost
 - Well what do you want.
 - People want to catch one and take home and cook it.
 - Tribe wants more harvest.
 - Everyone wants to kill them.
 - No need to make it fancy when realistically it's just trying to kill fish.
- Aaron Lieberman

- Offers suggested edits.
 - Suggests remove enjoy.
- Scott Pugrud
 - What I think we're going to do is send this version out to the Workgroup again and try to get some edits done before the Lewiston meeting.
 - Not trying to limit the discussion but want to try to stay on schedule.
- Kira Finkler
 - Columbia Basin Partnership, they have set out a vision with qualitative goals.
 - How does this effort compare to that effort and should we try to be consistent?
 - And is this an issue that a subcommittee could help you with?
- Scott Pugrud
 - Good point and we will talk at 3pm on the potential for forming sub-groups.
- Katherine Himes
 - Important for everyone to know that we will come up with a honed version, and the idea is for each Workgroup member to share it with three outside organizations and bring that feedback to our Lewiston meeting to share with the Workgroup.
- Scott Pugrud
 - Then after that, either Sam and I or the sub-group will work to finalize a version.
- Will Hart
 - This is the Governor's Workgroup and it's important to take into consideration the Governor's goals.
 - So, it's important to go back to the comments he made at the first meeting.
 - I don't think we were tasked to solve the issues of the region, just what we could do in Idaho.
- Stacey Satterlee
 - Mission statement is important for the group.
 - I would recommend not having too detailed of a mission statement.
 - But we are looking for a consensus in the end.
 - Mission statement should be broad and informative and not get down in the details.
 - We can work out the details later.
 - All depends on how long we want it to be.
- Brian Brooks
 - I think we need to respond to comment on only working on Idaho issues.
 - Can't just look at Idaho without looking at region.
 - I think if we have this group and don't provide recommendations on regional issues, that it will be a huge missed opportunity.
- Scott Pugrud
 - We are working on getting the Governor's speech from the first meeting out.
- Justin Hayes
 - I'm getting a bunch of texts asking if we could identify who we are before we speak.

- Scott Pugrud
 - Thank you for the discussion we definitely have a lot more to do.
 - Want to move into presentations.
 - First one is Chris Beasley and Tom Curet.
- *Presentations are available on the OSC website on the Governor's Salmon Workgroup page. See bottom of this [page](#).*

Quantifying Habitat Capacity (Chris Beasley with Biomark and Tom Curet with IDFG).

- Tom Curet, first – [What habitat looked like historically](#), how it has changed, and what to do to get it back
 - Scott Hauser
 - Comment: mentioned work that Walker had done:
 - Estimated that tribes ate 2.2lbs of fish per day per person.
 - So, going back to the mission statement, the goal goes much farther than enjoyment for the 4 tribes I represent.
 - Represents sustenance and so much more and I think that the mission statement should reflect that
- Chris Beasley, Second – [Salmon Lifecycle, habitat capacity, and various roles of habitat in producing fish](#)
 - Katherine Himes - question
 - Yesterday on tour we went to Biomark facility and looked at numbers from that facility; are these numbers from that trap?
 - Chris Beasley – In part, yes, but the numbers come from multiple screw traps (three) and multiple pit-tag arrays (12+) and other data sources like red counts, and carcass surveys.
 - Scott Hauser
 - What was the date range on data?
 - Chris Beasley -10yrs
 - Merrill Beyeler (Lemhi River Velocity Slide)
 - I recognize that piece of ground.
 - Wondering when photo was taken because we've had some years of high flows that have changed this portion of the river.
 - (Chris Beasley) This photo is from 2013 and does not reflect changes since then.
 - Merrill Beyeler- There have been significant changes to that stretch in the last 6 years.
 - **Scott Pugrud**
 - One thing I want to point out is that all slideshows will be available on the OSC website by the end of the week.
 - Will be available on Governor's Salmon Workgroup page, on OSC's website.
 - Scott Pugrud - Question
 - Can you give us a perspective on where we are on habitat restoration?

- Chad Colter – where do you think the loss of marine provided nutrients fits into this?
 - Chris Beasley – that is a huge part of the issue
 - Definitely affects food availability.
 - Not enough data for me to make a definitive determination on what’s needed in that regard.
- Brett Dumas
 - Could you put some context to the Recovery Plan with the science we know now? With the science we have now is the recovery plan still realistic? Can we get there, is it possible?
 - Chris Beasley – *this is my personal opinion as scientist and citizen:*
 - Yes, I think it is possible.
 - I hope that we find some flexibility to work with NOAA on delisting.
 - I think we should ask if there are locations with higher restoration potential to focus on.
 - If we could concentrate on areas that have higher restoration potential and have some flexibility, then we can do it.
 - *Editor’s note: there was discussion on Chinook and the abundance targets for each local population and the idea that getting more fish one area could offset an area that was more depauperate. Idaho, in it’s comments to NOAA on the Sp/Su Chinook and Steelhead Recovery Plan, requested just this kind of flexibility.*
- Justin Hayes
 - I appreciate the near-term focus on delisting goals.
 - I don’t think that many of us think that just getting to delisting as the end goal.
 - What would this chart look like if we were trying to get to sustainable abundance and not just delisting?
 - Chris Beasley
 - We did set a much higher bar than MAT.
 - If you want 4x MAT, then you will need 4x the habitat.
 - Few people think MAT is end target.
 - We want sustainable abundance.
- Richard Scully
 - I had a friend who ran Dworshak hatchery and they used to go catch a chinook every day.
 - Used to have about 1,500 and now they have 300 or so redds.
 - Do you think the marine derived nutrients could account for this or what do you think is the issue?
 - Chris Beasley– *this is my personal opinion as scientist and citizen:* I think that it’s several things:

- Long periods of low populations result in low genetic diversity and inbreeding; I think that's part of it.
- But it's also other factors that affect it.
- Even with the recent habitat restoration, it takes years before it becomes really effective.
- Even if we improve conditions now, we will not see an improvement in adult returns for 3 or more years.
- Ocean conditions have also had a major effect on salmon populations.
- Many things happen outside the basin that affect salmon returns (harvest, hydro, predation, estuary, ocean).

Break at 10:29 to return at 11:00am

Panel: Funding for Habitat Improvements (Hannah Dondy-Kaplan – BPA, Jennie Franks – NOAA, and Kira Christensen – BOR)

- Announcement from Katherine Himes
 - Many requests for info on handouts so they will be posted to OSC's Website on Salmon Workgroup Page. The two handouts are [here](#) and [here](#).
- Presentation – Hannah Dondy-Kaplan with BPA
 - [Brief overview of BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program](#)
- Presentation Jennie Franks – [NOAA PCSRF Program](#)
- Presentation – Kira Christensen – [BOR habitat project program](#)
- Scott Pugrud – Thank you, and we will move into questions.
- Justin Hayes
 - Thank you for the presentations and for the good work you do.
 - Question for BPA – FY 2020 looks to be a significant decline in funding.
 - This seems to be most urgent time for recovery efforts so why is funding declining?
 - Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
 - Has to do with getting management plan with mission statement have to set rates and adjust budget.
 - Justin Hayes - follow up
 - Had excellent tour to see habitat that rely on BPA funding.
 - BPA savings could be used on additional habitat projects rather than costs savings.
 - From the crowd John Williams (Constituent Account Executive, Regional Relations with BPA)
 - Been with BPA for 31 years.
 - This is towards the end of our Accord programs.
 - Our customers came to BPA and challenged us to look at our costs.
 - We cut internal costs as well as our external costs.

- We revised our fish and wildlife budget and will work within that budget.
 - Therefore, we are not going to raise rates.
 - If we get court order, we will look at existing budget and re-prioritize
- Paul Arrington
 - Looking at PCSRF funds charts:
 - Why are we receiving significantly less PCSRF funding than other states? Is there a limiting factor?
 - Jennie Franks
 - Looking at number of ESA listed species per state could be one limiting factor.
 - Mike Edmonson (Project Manager for Idaho Office of Species Conservation)
 - Idaho did not receive PCSRF funds until 2004 and then it was by congressional earmark.
 - Important to note that this is a competitive program among the states.
 - There is a technical ranking of applications and then it is translated into funding levels by the NOAA Administrator.
 - Have not received info on how that translation works specifically.
 - Funding received does not usually match funding requested.
 - Could be number of listed species or other factors.
 - Alaska received a lot of money early on but as the program reprioritized, their funding went down.
 - It's a zero-sum game, so if we get more money than another state gets less
 - Idaho's doing better. We've gone from receiving \$2.4 million at the start of the program to \$5.25 million this year.
 - Justin Hayes question for Mike Edmonson
 - Is some of Idaho's less attractiveness due to the fact that there is not State matching money?
 - Mike Edmonson– that is one theory but can't know for sure until PCSRF provides info on what is limiting our attractiveness.
 - Oregon does use lottery money for match dollars.
 - Washington also provides non-federal cash match through issuing bonds.
 - If Idaho had a similar program, I cannot guarantee that it would lead to more funding.
- Brian Brooks
 - Would like clarification on power. In past 8 years I believe rates have increased 30%. Does this mean we can expect BPA money not to increase going forward?
 - John Williams – with the new Fish and Wildlife budget we've established that we will work in that amount. We are going to work within that amount and not use rates to add more in that budget.
 - Brian Brooks
 - Is there a commitment as to when price increases may be on the table?

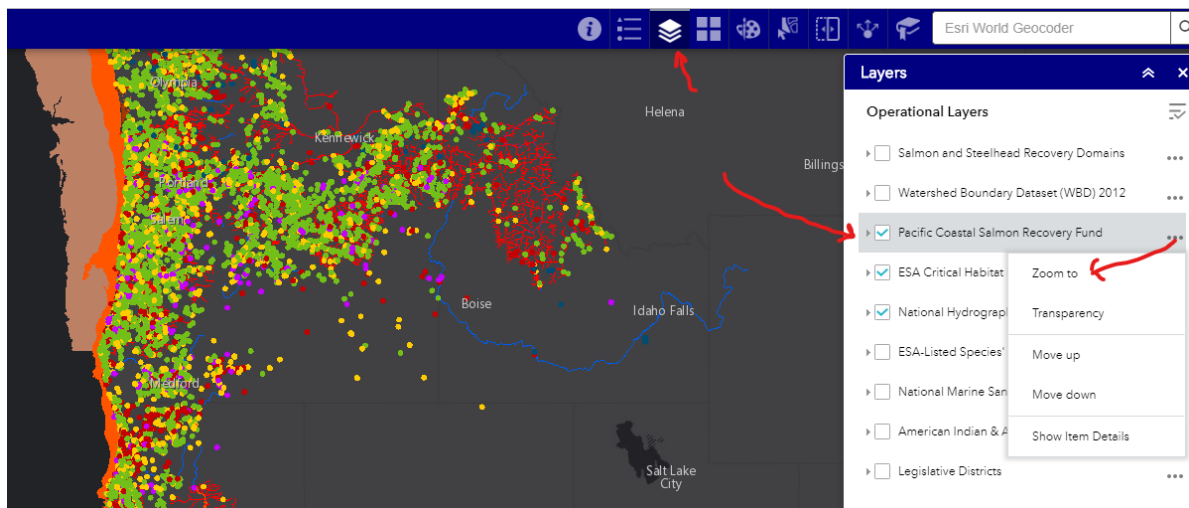
- John Williams – No.
- Scott Pugrud – want to bring up that we will have BPA members to talk to us about BPA funding at future meetings.
- Will Hart –
 - Represent 22 rural cooperatives and power companies and want to put a face to ratepayers.
 - About 1/3 of what our customers are billed for in their rates on wholesale electricity is Fish and Wildlife program costs.
 - Want to recognize that there are 137,000 Idaho rate payers paying those rates along with the Region.
- Scott Hauser
 - Question directed at Hannah Dondy-Kaplan:
 - This is the first I've heard that the 2020 budget will be decreased. I was under the impression it would remain flat. Did something happen to change that?
 - Hannah Dondy-Kaplan- This shouldn't be a surprise and if you heard otherwise, I would say that it would be misinformation.
- John Simpson
 - Directed at BOR (Kira Christensen)
 - Would there be other programs where other agreements with water users may be available for water efficiency? Possibly ones for drought resiliency?
 - We saw some of those types of projects yesterday that benefited both wildlife and water users.
 - Kira Christensen– I don't have those answers with me.
- Richard Scully
 - Every time the discussion comes up of how much ratepayers are paying on these issues it makes me think that fish have been here for thousands of years.
 - We have taken away from the fish, they haven't taken from us.
 - We have relatively cheap power in the NW.
 - Need to restore fish even if we can't have cheapest rates.
- Aaron Lieberman
 - For Jennie Franks:
 - Please go to the slide in your presentation that shows significant progress – do you have the parameters for this data? (are they Idaho specific)?
 - Jennie Franks – They are Snake River specific.
 - One data set shows Snake River sockeye and Snake River fall schnook increasing.
 - These are from 2016 status reviews.
 - Will be starting our new five-year review period and numbers will be updated in 2020.
- Stacey Satterlee
 - Question on PCSRF funding:
 - What percentage of our request have we received?
 - Mike Edmondson -I can share that specific information with group by year

- Off top of my head I can say about 2/3, but I can get those numbers to the group.
- *Editor's Note:*

Year	PCSRF Requested	PCSRF Awarded	Percentage Awarded
2013	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 3,100,000	51.67%
2014	\$ 6,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	66.67%
2015	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 4,000,000	52.63%
2016	\$ 7,800,000	\$ 4,000,000	51.28%
2017	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 4,150,000	46.11%
2018	\$ 8,200,000	\$ 4,485,000	54.70%
2019	\$ 8,750,000	\$ 5,250,000	60.00%
Average amount of Idaho PCSRF request awarded:			54.72%

Awards prior to 2013 have been archived. We can retrieve these materials if the Workgroup wants to view the earlier records.

- Brian Brooks
 - Question to all panelists:
 - We appreciate the on the ground work you do and the boost to local economies.
 - Is their overlap on the projects you're highlighting?
 - Hannah Dondy-Kaplan- yes, I would guess there is overlap.
 - BPA is often used as match for PCSRF so that will overlap.
 - BOR is working on designs for projects that BPA will fund and possibly PCSRF as well.
 - Jennie Franks, [website](#) in my presentation will give all info on specific projects.
 - *Editors note: follow the link above by clicking 'website', click protected resources app, agree to terms and conditions, click OK in lower right. Then in the button bar, click layers, and in the drop down and select PCSRF or whatever layers you are interested in. It will look like this:*



- Hannah Dondy-Kaplan- data on overall funds are not repetitive it is just the projects that may overlap.
- David Doeringsfield
 - Question for Mike Edmondson:
 - When dollars are being requested for PCSRF for Idaho where do Idaho match dollars come from?
 - Mike Edmondson – Match dollars can have many sources
 - Usually project sponsors have to identify where match will come from before we can award them project.
 - Many times, it will be BPA funds used as match.
 - In many situations, such as Eagle Valley, its private dollars.
 - Donated land, materials, or labor can be quantified as non-federal cash match.
 - Almost never are they dollars from our office or the State General Fund, unless I identify my hours as match such as for PCSRF Administration.
 - We don't take general fund money to put projects on the ground.
 - Jim Yost:
 - Not only coming from sources we looked at today but also the Accord, the IDFG budgets, IDL, Highway Districts.
 - There are lots of funding sources and we mix and match those sources as projects require.
 - Managing funds is a complicated thing because there is so much mix and match dollars from many different sources .
 - OSC usually coordinates that.
- Scott Pugrud: We will break for lunch, Grain Producers Association and Nature Conservancy to thank for lunch.
 - We will reconvene at 1pm.

Break for Lunch

Meeting Reconvened at: 1:07pm

Panel: Types of Habitat Improvements. Mark Davidson – The Nature Conservancy, Rob Richardson – Rio Applied Science and Engineering, Jeff Dillucia – Idaho Fish and Game, and Jim Gregory – Lost River Fish Ecology.

- Oral Presentation – Mark Davidson - Conservation Easements
 - I was asked to speak specifically about tools used up here and the importance of conservation easements.
 - Jen Smith did a good job talking about how the tool works in a practical way.
 - I want to talk about the social context of conservation easements in this basin (Lemhi Basin).
 - There are things that easements are and are not.
 - They are voluntary agreements.
 - They keep land in production.

- May restrict use of land but does not take land out of production.
 - If it does take out of production, there are incentives to do it.
 - The lands stay on the tax roll and continue to be valued as ag lands.
 - Conservation easements were not originally thought of as a tool for salmon and steelhead recovery.
 - Landowners noticed changes in the basin and landowners are a community that work together to solve problems.
 - Back in early 2000s there were several conservation easements.
 - A few things were happening at that time.
 - Partnerships were starting to grow.
 - Landowners in the basin started working together and changed the dynamic of the basin
 - The community here is like salmon, they are very resilient.
 - I'm in awe of what both can do to survive.
 - Landowners are willing to work for it and put in their own blood, sweat, and tears.
 - How conservation easements came about.
 - Value of land is wrapped up in a variety of things from development potential to agricultural production.
 - Early landowners saw the changes in the community and recognized the pressures of skyrocketing land prices.
 - Landowners in the basin decided on their own that something needed to be done and they were the ones that started the momentum of easements being used as a conservation tool.
 - Landowners want to figure out how to keep kids and grandkids on the land.
 - Want to protect these places and keep them as ranches.
 - Had meeting in 2004 and had 94 ranchers show up to participate.
 - Knew that there was money out there and that there was a desire to protect the land and habitat and that's how that relationship grew.
 - Started by protecting spawning habitat and eventually relationships evolved into what they are today.
 - Easements provide mechanisms for us to get where we want to go.
 - We try to structure our agreements to meet the needs of the fishery in conjunction with what works for the community.
 - Not something that we force, it is all voluntary.
 - Conservation easements provided a mechanism to talk to landowners about fish habitat and restoration.
 - Conservation easements are adaptable and can change focus, i.e. spawning to rearing habitat.
- Presentation - Rob Richardson – [Habitat Restoration](#)
- Presentation – Jeff Dillucia – [Lemhi River Sub-basin: Habitat conservation; a collaborative approach for beneficial actions](#)
- Presentation – Jim Gregory – [Complex Habitat in Simplified Streams](#)
 - Jim Gregory Opening Comments:

- I'm working on a project in Yankee Fork that Rep. Moon talked about earlier
 - When she talked, she talked about how important it is to keep our kids here and provide jobs.
 - When we advertise contracts for these jobs, we post in local papers.
 - Pretty much all of our contractors are local.
 - One contractor told them on previous project that our project had kept him in business.
 - Rep. Moon talked about the turbidity event. Issue wasn't that we didn't have our permit. We did.
 - Issue was groundwater unexpectedly came up and went into the channel by moving underground through the loose material left by the dredge.
 - Issue was that we were not within the work window to be in the stream, but we were not working in the stream.
- Rest is covered in presentation available on OSC website
- Scott Pugrud: We've got about 5 minutes for questions for the panel
- Merrill Beyeler –
 - Do you have any idea how much money has come into local economics through these projects?
 - Jeff Dillucia – recently ran a query in my database on this question and specifically in the Lemhi I was at 5.4 million dollars since 2004
 - All those dollars have been spent in Lemhi county
 - Mark Davidson – has been an effect on ranching economy that's not captured in dollars
 - Increased efficiency in some areas
 - All of this body of work is very important, and we have to think about this in the context of a shared responsibility outside this basin
 - This is a success story, but it is in the context of a basin
 - This Workgroup is in a position to create a scenario where we make good on the promises that we've made
 - State says to ranchers and landowners that we will take care of you and we need to follow through on that
 - It's a bigger story than just the pure economics
 - The context of this group has impacts beyond one space
- Stacey Satterlee
 - Everybody has pointed to landowners as critical to making this work
 - In our context we're looking at what we can do better
 - In terms of incentives, what do you think would help it make it more appealing to landowners to come to the table?
 - Mark Davidson – Level playing field was mentioned earlier
 - I think there is some need for an unlevel playing field
 - There are people are doing great things out on the ground

- Level playing field is not helping people who are putting their land and operations on the line to make these things work
 - If livestock are on range and affect a small tributary, it's tougher on people who are trying to work to do things better because they're bound by the same restrictions as those who aren't
 - It's a combination of policy issues, money, and concept of shared responsibility
- Jeff Dillucia– there was some discussion earlier about state contributions
 - Its challenging when you have projects
 - We are using about 110 acres on a project and converting it for fish habitat (there is a net loss there to landowner)
 - It is tough for us when we cannot find cost share and there are not State dollars available for to incentivize landowners to take on such a commitment.
- Scott Pugrud: thank you panelists. Introduce Chad Colter for next presentation.

Shoshone-Bannock Presentation – Chad Colter

- Presentation – [Salmon River Sub-Basin Habitat Actions](#)
- Questions
 - Mark Menlove
 - Marine derived nutrients are derived from Salmon carcasses, correct?
 - Chad – yes, the returning adults provide those nutrients
 - Fish may be coming out in a less fit condition which affects their ability to return and provide those nutrients
 - David Doeringsfield
 - You talked earlier about Tribes fertilizing rivers. If you had more resources could you supplement nutrients in more locations or is there limiting factor?
 - Chad – yes, if we had more resources, we could do more.
 - One thing we are trying to do is research.
 - Nutrients was eaten by many animals that would spread it from ridgetop to ridgetop and improve soil and overall habitat.
 - Where we are now is trying to show through our research that that is true.
 - *Editor's note: Here is a [paper](#) that demonstrates an example of what Chad discussed relative to marine-derived nutrients.*

Public Comment

- **Scott Pugrud: comments will be limited to 3 minutes**
- **If we cannot get to everybody within the timeframe, we will accept written comments**

CJ Pierce

- Thank you, all Workgroup members, for being here and taking the time to address this issue.
- I am an Idaho resident and BPA customer.
- I am invested in all the different industries here.
- I feel that with that investment that I can understand each of your perspectives and want to provide you with mine.
- You are fortunate to have the opportunity to work on this issue that affects so many in the community.
- Coming here I drove through 3 river systems and only one has fish in it.
- I would like group to not rely on finger pointing and just accept where we are and move forward.
- We're all to blame, no one group is to blame, and we must work together now.
- We talked about a short-term goal of 25 years which is 8 salmon lifecycles.
- Let's look at lot of different factors and be flexible.
- You should brainstorm and shoot out all ideas.
 - No idea is a bad idea right now.
- Idaho must protect our interests regionally.
 - Let's not just caught up in Idaho.
- It's going to take compromise, there is not silver bullet to this, and we will have to work together.

Doug Stowers

- I am a resident of Middleton and grew up in Riggins.
- I attended last meeting in Boise and thank you for taking the time to make this work.
- I'm really envious of your positions and would love to be part of this group.
- Each of you should ask yourselves why you're here.
 - We all need to be here to save these fish.
- Personal interests are important but need to come up with ideas.
- Listen to everyone's ideas and come up with a single plan that can work.
- If we do nothing it will make it so my grandkids can't fish and that is unacceptable to me
- Thank you again.

David Dickinson

- I'm from Challis.
- Asked how many group members are regular salmon fisherman? (members raised hands)
 - Most are, that is good.
- Have talked a lot about restoration but would like to talk on getting Idaho fish back to Idaho.
- Our pit tag data shows that many fish that go over Bonneville dam don't make it back to Idaho.

- Idaho could remove fins other than adipose fins so that we can mark all fish, so we know which ones are Idaho fish .
- This could identify Idaho fish in the Columbia river so that Idaho fish would have to be released back into water.
 - Idaho tribes deserve to be able to harvest as well.
- Idaho needs to send the message that we want our fish to return to our state.
- IDFG needs financial backing from sportsmen and legislature to show we are serious.
- Idaho must not be step child in negotiations.
- Salmon fishing is a heritage in Idaho.
-

Robert Boren

- Live on banks of Salmon river on mouth of Gardner Creek on Salmon River because it's some of the best fishing available.
- 1947 was the year I caught my first salmon.
- My dad owned Sunbeam Store. Sunbeam used to very productive.
- I became an Information Officer for Clayton Ranger District on the Challis National Forest where I was supposed to know about salmon and tell people about salmon.
- On Labor Day weekend my job was to stay on the river at Indian Riffle for the 100s of people coming to see the salmon spawn.
- I have personally counted 400 salmon spawning in that section. Last year there were two.
- I'm hoping you're here because you care about the salmon and not your own personal interests.
- At some meetings people were there to win battles and not to work together.
- I heard some of that today.
- I encourage you to use the talents and resources you have to recover salmon and not try to win battles.

Ken Dizes

- I'm general manager of Salmon River Electric Cooperative (SREC).
- Kind of another face of BPA.
- Our rate payers fund BPA, without our rate payers there is no BPA.
- Want to express how valuable BPA is to SREC.
- We are all about fish and we love our salmon.
- Challis relies on it for recreational values.
- We also serve agriculture and we need reliable and reasonable power.
- Cheap affordable power is extremely important.
- There are only a few of us operating these power systems so many can come enjoy these areas.
 - We have a lower number of customers per line mile and they support the infrastructure that allows folks to come see and enjoy these beautiful fish.
- These dollars don't just appear, they come from our rate payers.

- It's important to us that every dollar count.
- At the end of the day we have to supply the power.
 - If we jack up the wholesale rate, then we are not cost effective and rural communities will shrink.
- Please remember that it isn't just a rates issue for electric but it's more than that for us.
 - We do need affordable reliable electricity for a productive community.
 - We value salmon and recognize that this affects everyone.
- Glad to hear that the Governor said breaching wasn't on the table, carbon free power is valuable.

Nic Nelson

- Thank you, landowners who had the conservation ethic and foresight to put these conservation easements into place.
- Want to remind everybody of the terrible 2019 returns.
- Steelhead also have bad return forecast.
- Fisheries will suffer and community will suffer.
- These returns represent failures of past administrations.
- Workgroup need to move away of aiding and abetting ineffective salmon policy of the past.
- Presentations have tried to defend an ineffective policy on salmon.
- Idaho salmon cannot be restored by actions in Idaho alone.
- There is much habitat in central Idaho that is perfect but not being utilized.
- Should we add more spawning and rearing habitat if the salmon are not present?
- If this is to succeed it needs to focus on downstream survival and look regionally at the issues.
- It is the fiduciary duty of this group to have the interests of Idahoans in mind.

Robert Gregory: Didn't intend to testify

Pam Malloy

- Mission statements are generally vague and then you have more specific goals and objectives supporting your mission statement.
- Please don't get tunnel vision and look only at fish and restoring streams.
- The entire forest is interdependent.
- When you have mega fires and the stream is totally denuded and you have massive mud/debris flows these need to be considered.
- Need to assess whole forest because it all affects fish in some regard.
 - Systems are intertwined and should all be analyzed together.
- The recommendation to the Governor should consider whole landscape.

John Malloy

- Henry David Thoreau talked about thousands hacking at the branches and only one hacking at the root.
 - Everyone here is hacking as branches.
- Have a 149-page decision here from Judge Morris in 2016 on require an EIS on breaching or bypassing dams.
- We do have habitat problems but if we are not getting fish here then what's the point?
- No NEPA has been drawn up and no EIS has been done.
 - *Editors Note: BPA, BOR, and Army Corps of Engineers along with many Cooperating Agencies, including the State of Idaho, are three years into developing these documents. Progress can be tracked here: <http://www.crsso.info/>*
- We're sitting here building hotels and no-one is coming
- Going to provide this court decision to OSC and want to know why this isn't being done.
 - *See previous Editor's note.*
- There has been 18 billion dollars spent on habitat what do we have to show for it?
 - Declining populations.
- The problem is downriver.

Tom Page

- Owner of Big Creek Ranch in upper Pahsimeroi.
- In addition to private lands we have BLM grazing permits.
- Many of you and I have worked on several projects addressing habitat and flows.
- From my perspective we have done a lot in the basin.
- The question of geographic focus came up and I would encourage you to look outside of Idaho.
- We get kind of the scraps of funding in comparison to other states.
- We need to talk about water rights and transaction programs.
- At the state level:
 - Water rights, the projects are ahead of the policies.
 - Could look at expanding instream flow program and transaction program.
 - Need certainty in water rights and benefits and also be able to have flexibility to adjust for variable flows.
- If we want support from the folks we need some certainty for those folks.
- I would encourage you when working with BPA to take into consideration what the end game is for them but also what's needed for those who built livelihood here.
- Anything you do around here you have to deal with NEPA and ESA.
- I think about how much time simple permit renewals take and wonder if that is good use of time.
- Maybe spend more time on effects downstream.

Gary Power

- I am cautiously optimistic.

- I attended the Andrus Conference and I agree with Representative Simpson that this will take collaboration.
- Successes in Lemhi county have been through collaboration.
 - It's fairly easy for Lemhi county.
- We are the tail wagging the dog.
- Most of the power and issues are downstream from here.
- While you do this all the working groups down river have to be working as well.
- Can't just be a solution for here.

Tom McFarlane

- My dad came here in 1924.
- There were fish here in 60s.
- Our land management practices are getting better.
- I think you'll find majority of landowners in Lemhi are willing to work with you.
- Many common projects do fences or irrigation with 20-year agreements which is blip in time.
- Habitat restoration with an easement is perpetual and won't require us to figure out issues again in 20 years.
- Thank you.

Brad Gamett

- I am with electric Lost River Electric Cooperative and we are a Bonneville preference customer.
- Hope we can arrive at constructive consensus through this process.
- As a BPA preference customer, we do pay for a lot of these projects.
- BPA is committed though its customer base to support this kind of collaborative effort.
- Power industry recognizes that we need carbon free and reliable power sources to provide base load power.
 - BPA system does that and provides a renewable and clean power source.
 - The hydro system does provide environmental benefit, its carbon free.
- We are looking at other carbon free sources for future.
- We support what you are doing, are in it for long haul, and will be here indefinitely.

Jerry Myers

- Grew up in Palouse (near the Clearwater River) in 1960s and saw dams go in.
- Dad was wheat farmer and cattle rancher.
 - When he wasn't working, he loved to go salmon and steelhead fishing.
 - Have pictures of grandfather with father and big salmon.
- Moved to Salmon 42 years ago and started a guiding business.
- I understand very well how all aspects of this discussion are important and difficult.
- One thing that is often lost is that there is a huge cultural and spiritual value to this issue.

- When you live in a place like salmon for 42 years, relying on those salmon, you become part of them, and they become part of you.
 - May be outside scope of value but need to understand cultural and spiritual value.
- For 10,000 years these salmons have fed people in Salmon and in my lifetime, we went from abundance to brink of extinction.
- I understand that the load of saving fish can't be shouldered solely by the people in Salmon.
- Have to encompass downstream migratory corridor but do it respectfully.

Kristen Troy

- My husband, Mark, and I own Idaho Adventures rafting and fishing company.
- We also manage Middle Fork Lodge.
- Pioneers may not have come here to kayak but you are in Salmon, ID on the Salmon River. They named it after our most important resource.
- As a Salmon graduate, I understand the importance of kids coming home to stay here.
- Story –In 2005 my life got a lot more interesting. A few ranchers came together to try to solve how to get kids to come back here and keep ranches profitable.
 - Did something surprising and started a Land Trust (Lemhi Regional Land Trust).
 - They defined conservation for themselves.
 - As we tried to figure out how to do this thing, which seemed impossible.
 - Stuff you heard about today seemed impossible in 2005 but they did it because they cared enough to try different things.
 - Would ask this group to do the same, it's time to think differently about these issues.

Zac Miller

- Director of commodities for Eastern Idaho Farm Bureau.
- Want to represent 80,000 members in Idaho and elsewhere.
- FB defends zealously the rights of landowners and water rights.
 - Was encouraged by terms of keeping landowners whole and water whole.
- Encouraged to find win-win scenarios.
- Landowners have most on the line.
 - If you keep that in mind, then you'll be successful.
- Agriculture is the largest part of the Idaho economy.
 - BPA costs and infrastructure is important not only for salmon but also for well fare of Idahoans.
- Literally all Idahoans are stakeholders here.
- Electricity systems are integral to production.
- In terms of mission statement discussion, you seemed to become tribal and I would advise against that.
 - You may please your constituents, but you won't achieve your goal.
 - (The Mission Statement) Should be broad and generalized.

Dave Telferd (Not here)

Terri Meyers

- My kids were born and raised here and came back for sense of community and quality of life.
 - We spend a lot of time outdoors and salmon are a big part of that.
 - Lots of our kid's friends came back here too.
- Thank you, task force.
- I always tell kids that things are scarier when you can't talk about it.
 - I feel same way about the dam issue.
 - Not talking about it makes it a bigger boogey man than it is.

Stan Davis

- Was mayor of Salmon for 12 years and was active in politics.
- Went to the Governor at the time and got Salmon declared the birthplace of Sacajawea.
- This will not be solved by building new houses or adding on to new houses.
 - Support habitat work but it won't fix the issues.
- Something is wrong and it's not in our habitat down here.
- The issues are downstream between edge of Idaho to edge of ocean.
- Should consider this process as an Idaho first program.
 - Shouldn't allow any fishing in Columbia river etc. until first tagged fish gets back to Idaho.
- Governor Little should go to President Trump for a 4-year program that doesn't allow fish to be harvested until they reach Idaho.
 - Should be no fishing from March 1st until first fish tagged at Bonneville reaches Idaho.
- Need to do that to bring back brood stock.
- Would also like to say that when you have a meeting and see how many people show up that you consider putting in a little overtime and accepting all the public comments that come in.
- Please consider an Idaho First Strategy.

Open Discussion

Scott: We set up a planning committee to handle the planning of these meetings.

- Named members of planning committee.
- We meet before and after each meeting to plan meetings and tasks related to the meeting.
- At the next planning meeting we will hear proposals from folks that want to present to this group.
- If you have any questions on what planning group is doing, just ask us.
- We had previously talked about forming sub-groups.

Katherine Himes

- Seems to be interest within the Workgroup to work more with other Workgroup members.
- Think it would be good to have to sub groups to address Mission Statement and one to address Agenda Setting.
- This meeting was focused on habitat and future meetings will be focused on other issues.
- If you are interested in being on a sub group, then please send your name to me.
- We will try to keep sub-groups balanced.

Scott Pugrud

- As much as we've talked over the last months this is a good time to talk about sub group.

Brian Brooks

- If I tell my group about the members on planning group, it's all government employees and I don't know how that will sit with them or how you want to address that.
- Scott Pugrud – purpose of Agenda Setting sub group is to provide guidance to that planning committee.
- Brian Brooks – good, that's what I wanted to hear.

Scott Pugrud

- Need to get this sub-group started sooner rather than later so we can use it to plan next meeting.
- Please plan on full day meeting and full day tour for next meeting.
- The Dates for next meeting will be September 19th and 20th in Lewiston, ID.
- Please look at notes from last meeting and provide feedback so we can post those to the OSC website. Deadline for feedback is the end of next week.

Paul Arrington

- Is there deadline for subgroup interest?

Katherine Himes

- Let's go with same deadline, by end of next week.
 - We are still in a get to know each other stage so thank you subgroup for your patience.

Scott Pugrud

- How many have toured port of Lewiston or a hydro facility? (few Workgroup members raise hands)

Aaron Lieberman

- First meeting we were just getting to know each other.
- I would encourage those on agenda setting committee that meetings be more structured in the agenda going forward.

- I mean structure in addressing what the problems are and address them by what efforts have been done, what's working, what's not, etc.
- A piecemeal approach will get us nowhere.

Katherine Himes:

- Thanks Aaron
 - One of the needs we heard from last meeting was to get everyone on same page with information, which was the goal of this meeting.

David Doerignsfield

- The Columbia Basin task force has completed their Phase 1 approach and I would encourage people to look at the report.
- It's regional but you could look at that report and it could inform what we may be able to do in Idaho.

Paul Arrington

- Agree with David.
- As it relates to Idaho, there was work put in by a Columbia Basin task force subgroup that addressed much of the same populations we are addressing here.
- As it relates to Idaho stocks, a lot of work was put into the short, middle, and long-term goals.
 - *Editor's note: Copies of the Columbia Basin Partnership, Phase 1 Report: A Vision for salmon and Steelhead – Goals to Restore Thriving Salmon and Steelhead to the Columbia are being distributed to members of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup at the request of Workgroup members.*

Kira Finkler

- Thank you for all the public comments.
- I know it's not easy to show up in the middle of the week during the workday but it is very helpful.

Joe Oatman

- Clarifying question on sub groups:
 - On Mission Statement sub group, it was mentioned that they may also focus on goals and objectives. Are there other aspects they may cover?
 - Katherine Himes: we did not lay out exactly what the sub group's role would be.
 - The thought was that the sub group would work together and present their product to the whole Workgroup in Lewiston.

Scott Pugrud

- Thank you to everyone for coming.

- Please travel safely.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:34pm