



YAKIMA TRIBUTARY ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

Core Team Meeting

June 18, 2008 9:30am- 12 Noon

Selah Fire Department – 206 W. Fremont Ave.

Attendees: Mike Tobin, NYCD; Anna Lael, KCCD; Becca Wassell, MC RFEG; Hank Fraser, YN; Ken Schuster, Ecology; Jennifer Scott, WDFW; Angie Begosh, YRBFWRB; Heather Simmons-Rigdon, Carol Ready, RC&D; Dianna Woods, Yakima County Surface Water Management/Flood Control Zone District(?); Leonard Jordan, Dean Patterson, Yakima County Planning.

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a) Approve Agenda ✓
- b) Approve May 08 Minutes ✓ (with correction for Schneider project on Cowiche Creek)
- c) Annual Report 07-08 – deadline for final draft **July 15**, please submit any info to CR

2. UPDATES: PROJECTS, PROJECTS, PERMITS & MONITORING

a) NYCD – (MT)

Boyd Brown project: Bids have been solicited from 18 well drilling companies for the decommissioning of the ringwell and drilling of an 8 inch diameter well to serve Shelly Ward. Meetings with Pacific Power, Akland Pump and Irrigation and the landowner have helped as we further plan the well drilling and power availability. The landowner agreement has been amended. Boyd's drilled well is meeting his need. A current MOA with Yakima County will fund the gravity diversion removal, and we're still hoping it can be this summer. The YTAHP, NYCD funds and EQIP have helped with this project.

Schneider Project: Planting, maintenance/weeding and fencing projects are continuing. If you still haven't seen the project please call the NYCD for a tour.

Fines Project: Our engineers have prepared the permitting drawings. They are based on TWG review and input. ESA consultation has begun. A BE was sent to BPA and on to the services. Jen has been doing a great job coordinating our permit writing, and we're hopeful we can get it permitted for this fall's implementation. The JARPA and landowner agreement for construction access is being reviewed by the landowner, the Ahtanum Ridge Business Park/Terry McQuire. A facilities agreement is signed and in place with the irrigators, UCIP LLC. The landowner and irrigator need to agree about access after project construction. Pat Schille and I are working on an interagency agreement for use of WDFW's Mitchell Act funding as the Yakima Construction Shop will construct the project. We have met to outline funding considerations. We have been on site to identify construction staging areas and probable fill locations. Our engineers, Gina McCoy and the YCS staff are visiting the Herke Rock pit on June 25th to inspect available material for construction. We have been awarded a grant by the MCRFEG for funding and recently submitted an application for USFWS funding. The bulk of project funding will come from YTAHP, the WDFW's Mitchell Act and the DOE water metering program.

Cowiche Creek Water Users Association and Yakima Tieton Irrigation District Hookup: The BOR engineer wants to do some ground proofing for canal capacity in June, but early indications show that this project may go forward. We will know what our next steps may be in project planning as we continue to work with the BOR. If a hook up doesn't occur the Lower and Upper Lust diversions will need to be screened. The **Upper Lust** fish passage project was implemented with the expectation that the unscreened diversion would be removed. It doesn't allow for an adequate diversion for the irrigators.

Cowychee Ditch Fish Screening and Water Conservation Project: A draft landowner agreement is being reviewed by the Cowychee Ditch Company lawyer. The ditch company has met and discussed the valuation information prepared by Lisa Pelly with Washington Rivers Conservancy. We are awaiting their communication to us, as to what users may want to remain on the ditch and what users may want to sell their water. We continue to work on plans for piping and water metering with the users, fish screening and head gate installation. We completed an initial site survey with the engineers last week. Later this

spring NYCD recommends that we hold a YTAHP technical work group meeting to introduce the project and visit the site. With WDFW (Mitchell Act for screen), SRFB, irrigation efficiency program and YTAHP funding we can implement this priority project in our highest priority stream.

North Fork Ahtanum Gauging Station Fish Passage and Flow Monitoring Project: We have requested further help through the USFWS from Barry Southerland with the NRCS for additional geomorphic assistance. We met with Barry, Robes Parrish and Kate Terrell with the USFWS, and Jim Hill the Klickitat CD District Manager representing the engineers yesterday. The engineers need the assistance of a licensed geologist, who can stamp designs along with them. A more thorough survey will be completed upstream and downstream of the project site. A design concept has not been agreed upon. An additional TWG meeting will be held after more data is gathered. NYCD is assisting AID in securing an access easement. The landowners are reviewing a draft NYCD landowner agreement. We have drafted a facilities agreement that is being reviewed by AID and the landowner. Additionally, the Wapato Irrigation Project, Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Natural Resources want to continue flow monitoring at the site, and their access with the landowners and coordination with the AID needs to occur. The bulk of project funding will come from a SRFB grant and YTAHP. Additionally, NYCD has been awarded a USFWS grant for additional funding for the project. Reiss Landreau Research has completed and we've submitted the final report for cultural resource compliance.

Herke Gravity Fish Screens on Ahtanum Creek: The project addresses the last large unscreened gravity diversions on the Ahtanum system. We will be presenting a PowerPoint presentation later today that outlines the goals and objectives of the project. The two north bank gravity diversions could possibly be consolidated to one upper diversion and Brandon Rogers with the YN is taking the one on the south bank gravity diversion on tribal land. I assured Brandon that YTAHP would like to help however we can. The 2nd report of the court clearly gives the users the right to divert above their adjudicated right during high flow events, so the largest hurdle we'll face in trying to design a fish screening fix, will be what to do with the excess volumes that will be diverted during the spring. We propose that we have a TWG meeting early in project planning, let's set a date for the TWG meeting today. We are completing a SRFB grant application for the project.

Naches Cowiche Undershot Siphon and telephone siphon on Cowiche Creek: NYCD is working with the Naches Cowiche Canal Company to address the low flow fish passage needs at the site. We met with the canal company's manager, Dan Butler last week and he is very interested in partnering on the project. The company is putting real dollars, up to \$10,000 towards construction. A March 2006 initial TWG recommended vortex rock weirs for fish passage, which would also help back water the phone company siphon just upstream and trap bedload to protect the siphons. This project has been on hold as we monitor the W. Powerhouse Road bridge replacement project and potential Yakima County road widening. The area has recently been annexed by the City of Yakima. I'll continue to work with David Garretson and Dan Butler (ditch rider) on initial planning of the project. We are completing an application for SRFB funding.

Blue Slough Fish Screening, a side channel of the Yakima River: The NYCD has been working with the water users on Blue Slough a side channel of the Yakima River that's diverted near the Sportsman's State Park. YTAHP will work with specific users for fish screening. Our stream assessment identified some fish passage needs in Blue Slough too. We are working with the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Program (YRBWEP) on funding the projects. The YRBWEP has recently purchased the KOA near the side channels source and owns the Roy property near the end of the channel. We can work together on the project.

Pump Screen Projects: We are beginning the fish screening planning process with **Santos Cantu, Craig Scheibner (NYCD Pump Screen Site 7), Ron Britt (Riley Site, new landowner), and Wayne Kisner**, water users on Cowiche Creek. Jerry Anhorn with Walla Walla Community College has completed an assessment of the sites and we will prepare all of the information needed to help Jen permit the projects. Jerry brought several of his water management students up on June 5th.

The other water users we will be targeting for pump screening under our 2008-2009 Statement of Work will be the **Melville & Wilson** (met with them, but they aren't interested at this time) sites on Rattlesnake Creek. Additionally we've identified other placeholders, one of which may be the **Riches**, a landowner referred by George Marshall with the Ahtanum Irrigation District or **John Blair** a referral from Santos Cantu on Cowiche Creek.

We have 3 landowners above Wenas Lake that would like to get pump fish screens. Again, this is not priority anadromous fish habitat, as it's above the impassable reservoir, but native species including rainbow and cutthroat trout could benefit. We are hoping to partner with the MCRFEG on the projects. Becca Wassell is checking with her boss on potential partnerships.

Other Projects: Justin Bader continues to work with the water users on the Nile and Rattlesnake Ditch for piping and water conservation projects. Brian Schmidt is working on additional SOW planting projects, including the Hansen site and managing the maintenance activities for our YTAHP restoration activities.

Items of Interest: We assisted 95 (two bus loads) Tieton Elementary school 5th graders with riparian restoration plantings on Cowiche Creek at the Snow Mountain Ranch. It was a great opportunity for the WCC crew to work with the kids.

Jay Carmony has left our Washington Conservation Corps, the new crew leads name is Kelly.

The Yakima Science & Management Conference went well on June 11/12. I think YTAHP would benefit in giving a presentation as a group, as it shows the team efforts going on. We need to better coordinate this.

b) KCCD – AL

EWC/Currier Creek: The issue with the service panel and motor for the fish screen was worked out between the engineers and the contractor. The engineers admitted that their drawings and specifications were lacking. The engineers are going to pay for part of the cost for the vendor to change the service panel so that it works with the motor that has been purchased. The contractor (or subs) will pay for the other part. The leaks at the siphon remain a major issue. There is not much we can do until we can determine where the leaks are originating.

Jack Creek/Indian Creek: We received three bids for the Jack/Indian Creek project. The low bid is higher than my current budget. I'm working with BPA and David Gerth to see if we can access some of his Teanaway grant funds.

Caribou Creek: I wrote a letter to the Mayor of Kittitas notifying him that we have no more funds for engineering assistance through construction. I talked with Mayor Arington and also with his engineer Mike Meskimmon (Gray & Osborne). Mike indicated that they may have enough money in the FRIMA grant they received to sub contract with R2 Resource Consultants for assistance during construction.

Cherry Creek: Engineering and design work continues. The engineers did a site visit on the 30th to check their elevations and to present their preliminary designs. I'm a little nervous about their plan, but will wait for the review by the Technical Work Group meeting on July 1.

Lower Reecer Creek: Mark and I met with John Jewett and Dale Wilson about the current proposal for pipelines and pump stations. They have a number of concerns about the plan and would like a firm commitment from the City of Ellensburg. We presented a summary of those issues to John Akers at the City and will be working with him on an agreement that addresses all parties concerns.

Coleman Creek: Engineering and design work is beginning on the Nisbet diversion. Mark is working on the irrigation efficiencies contract for the Burris property. I submitted a pre-application for planning, engineering and design on the next three barriers (including the EWC intersection) on Coleman Creek. Larry Browne and Paul Cross (RH2 engineering) are meeting on-site today.

Naneum Creek: WDFW and the Yakama Nation have been meeting and talking about a plan to begin working to get fish up into the Naneum Creek watershed. I attended one meeting and offered our assistance. Suzanne is working on a map of the watershed to help with decision making.

Fogarty Ditch: The weirs project is complete. The contractor provided a final billing and informed us that the hydroseeding was complete a month ago.

Other: We have two seasonal employees for the summer that will help with the YTAHP stream flow data collection. They will also help with maintenance of the riparian plantings.

Pre-applications for this year's round of the Salmon Recovery Funding Program were submitted in late May. I submitted three related to YTAHP. The first was on Nelson Creek for barrier removal. I have since decided not to submit a final application as there are downstream barriers to be addressed first. The second is for the Coleman planning and design work. The third is for riparian planting projects.

c) KCT / YN – HF

Currier Creek: interviewed GeoEngineers to prepare Riparian Management Plan on Deneen's property (Hwy 10 to EWC). Currier barriers still scheduled to come out when ok with landowners.

Taneum Creek - Bruton: engineer's plan to retrofit existing ladder, but WDFW and BOR want to look at removal of all of it and go to wells or other water source.

Swauk Creek: Jennifer Goldsmith (Herrera) is working on Riparian Management Plan.

SRFB: prepared large wood project proposal.

d) RC&D – CR

Reecer Creek Floodplain: Landowner agreement will be between the City and RC&D, with YTAHP called out and the Mid-Columbia RFEG and KCCD brought in as RC&D sponsors. Implementation likely to be late summer 09 with planting in fall 09 and spring 2010. City bridge work is scheduled for 09 and should mess well. Project will explore hiring A&E firm to do complement Gina McCoy's design work. The City applied for Ecology flood control grant funding (FCAP) which would be very helpful in completing the levee. I gave a Reecer presentation at the Yakima S&M Conference on June 12. Comment on high coho returns to Reecer was made by Todd Newsome at the conference.

e) Mid Columbia Fisheries – Becca

Travelled to Walla Walla to see Conservation Reserve Program (CREP), Bank stabilization. Swauk Creek – Interfluve (SRFB\$). Kuchin fencing on Whiskey with KCWP assistance?

f) YRBWEP – Pat Monk (not in attendance)

3. PROJECT MONITORING (OVER ALL PROCESS) JS

Report for 2007 Fish Monitoring Results pending; will submit for inclusion in Annual Report. Scheduling for 2008: existing or new sites. Let JS know. JS will send around a calendar.

Permits: NEED Designs + Signatures for this Year's Projects !!!

4. ITEMS OF INTEREST

a) Dianna Woods – Yakima County Surface Water

FEMA Map Modifications (hard copy to digital) are occurring nation-wide. Many structures have been installed (bridges, etc) in floodplains without following FEMA procedures.

The National Flood Insurance Program prohibits encroachments in an adopted regulatory floodway...until it is shown to not result in an increase in flood levels for 100 year flood. An approval process is proposed to require an Engineering "No-Rise" Certification for projects in floodplains which may include a 'local expert' to judge whether a new structure would cause a rise in elevation or not. Another idea was to create a list of exemptions, but this was not the preferred route. This is related to the LOMR-CLOMAR issue.

LOMR - Letter of Map Revision;

CLOMAR - Conditional Letter of Map Revision

b) June 26 – WDFW Protocol Meeting @ Yakima Service Center

5. NEXT MEETING: July 16, 2008, 9:30 am–noon, Ellensburg Fire Department

1. Herke Diversions – Ahtanum Creek (MT)

Slideshow and handout: Request for Core Team OK to pursue as YTAHP project. **OK'd.** Last Ahtanum Creek barriers; 2 unscreened diversions (RM 21.31, 21.81) – screening, metering, +/- water conservation. Issue of "excess flow" to deal with.