

Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee (WRTAC) Meeting Notes
Fall Meeting, August 24, 2021
Call in Meeting
10:00 a.m. (MST)

WRTAC representative attendees:

Avista – Eric Oldenburg
Green Mountain Conservation District – Terry Hightower
Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) – Ken Bouwens
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – Bob Steed
Kalispel Tribe – Ken Merrill
Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club – Dave Gillespie
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Valerie Kurth
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) – Jason Blakney
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) – Mike Hensler
Montana State Historic Preservation Office – Jessica Bush
Noxon – Cabinet Shoreline Coalition – Rick Robinson
Rock Creek Alliance – Diane Williams
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service and Cabinet Ranger District – Chris Rossel
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Kevin Aceituno

Other Attendees:

Avista – Shana Bernall, Lisa Vollertsen, Paul Kusnierz, Arthur Potts, Sean Moran, Davina Brown, Andrew Ransom; Elk Creek Watershed – Judy Hutchins; Lower Clark Fork Watershed – Brita Olson; Idaho Department of Environmental Quality – Kristin Lowell; Idaho Dept. Fish and Game – Dustin Masin and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Travis Rehm

Welcome and Introductions:

Eric welcomed those in attendance and invited participants to introduce themselves. The purpose of this meeting is to update the WRTAC on the progress of the 2021 implementation efforts and identify any issues and/or actions that need to be forwarded to the Management Committee for their September 21, 2021 Fall Meeting.

Other business:

- Consent mails:
 - Appendix F5 – Additional funding for the Temperature Monitoring Data Compilation
 - Appendices B and K – Acquisition of 342-acre parcel along Graves Creek
- Winter Meeting Date
 - The group agreed on **January 19, 2021**
- Fire update
- Property Review-Arthur
- Grant Writer update-Susan Drumheller
- Cultural/Historic update-Lisa Vollertsen

There was no substantive discussion regarding progress toward 2021 implementation efforts below and the call ended at 1:10 p.m.

Appendix A: Idaho Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Fishery Enhancement Program

Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement

1. Habitat Restoration Scoping Allocation
2. Habitat Restoration and Acquired Property Maintenance and Monitoring Allocation
3. Priority Native Salmonid Habitat Acquisition and Conservation Allocation
4. Idaho Field Station Construction, Furnishing, and Operation
5. Pack River Watershed Management Plan Addendum
6. Lower Clark Fork River Minimum Flow and Water Temperature Monitoring
7. Trestle Creek Habitat Enhancement Project Phase I

Fishery Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management

8. Fish Resource Monitoring, Enhancement, and Management Plan

Appendix B: Montana Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program

Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Enhancement

1. Habitat Restoration Monitoring and Native Salmonid Abundance Monitoring Plan
2. Redd Surveys in Montana Tributaries
3. Sim Meander Stream and Floodplain Restoration Project
4. Stream Gage Monitoring
5. Cabinet Ranger District Automated Snow Recording Site Operation and Maintenance 2020-2021
6. Crow Creek Bull Trout Investigation
7. Graves Creek Pilot Habitat Enhancement Project
8. Upper Prospect Creek LWD Project
9. Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group Project Coordination
10. Habitat Restoration Monitoring, Maintenance and Contingency Allocation
11. Habitat Restoration, Property Acquisition, and Conservation Easement Contingency Allocation
12. East Fork Bull River Morphology, Connectivity, and Habitat Enhancement Project
13. Decode The Cabinet
14. St. Paul Trailhead Improvement Project

Recreational Fishery Enhancement

15. Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Reservoir Fisheries Monitoring Plan
16. Pilot Project: Modification of Eurasian Watermilfoil Beds on Noxon Reservoir for Fishery Benefits
17. Mountain Lake Fisheries Monitoring Project
18. Lower Bull River Day Use Boat Access Site Construction
19. Noxon Reservoir Boat Ramp Improvements
20. Managing Aquatic Invasive Plants on Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs

21. Dreissenid Mussel Sampling on the Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs

Appendix C: Fish Passage/Native Salmonid Restoration Plan

Annual Operations

1. Upstream Fish Passage Program
2. Graves Creek and East Fork Bull River Genetic Study
3. Tributary Trapping and Downstream Juvenile Bull Trout Transport Program
4. PIT-Monitoring Station Operation and Maintenance
5. Bull Trout Emigration Study-Complete
6. Non-Native Fish Suppression Project in the East Fork Bull River
7. Evaluation of Potential Actions for Reducing Non-native Threats to Native Salmonid Populations

Facilities

8. Fish Capture Facilities Operation, Development, and Testing
9. Graves Creek Permanent Weir Trap Enhancements

Appendix D: Bull Trout Protection and Public Education Project

1. Idaho Bull Trout Protection and Education Officer Support
2. Montana Bull Trout Education and Communication Support
3. Montana Bull Trout Education Outreach Support
4. Montana Game Warden Support
5. Trout Unlimited Outreach Coordination
6. Pend Oreille Water Festival

Appendix E: Watershed Councils Program

1. Pack River Watershed Council, Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District
2. Lower Clark Fork Watershed Council Projects

Appendix F1: Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program

1. Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program

Appendix F2: Monitoring of Noxon Reservoir Stratification and Mobilization of Sediment Nutrients/Metals

1. Monitoring of Noxon Reservoir Stratification and Mobilization of Sediment Nutrients/Metals

Appendix F3: Aquatic Organism Tissue Analysis

1. Noxon Reservoir Fish Mercury Study

Appendix F4: Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan for Maintenance, Construction,

and Emergency Activities

- There are no 2021 Project Plans associated with Appendix F4.

Appendix F5: Dissolved Gas Supersaturation Control, Mitigation, and Monitoring Operations

- There is no project plan for operations; however, Avista will continue to utilize spillway operations at Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge dams as outlined in the GSCP.

TDG Monitoring

1. Total Dissolved Gas Monitoring

TDG Mitigation and Monitoring Program

2. Project Scoping Allocation
3. Analysis of Gas Bubble Disease Monitoring Data
4. Lake Pend Oreille Experimental Walleye Angler Incentive Program
5. Lake Pend Oreille/Clark Fork River Walleye Population Assessment
6. Lake Pend Oreille Lake Trout Angler Incentive Program
7. Lake Pend Oreille Lake Trout Netting Program
8. Demography of Adfluvial Bull Trout in Lake Pend Oreille
9. Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout Survival Study
10. Lake Pend Oreille Bull Trout Population Monitoring and Evaluation
11. Lake Pend Oreille Nearshore Index Netting
12. Box Canyon Reservoir Northern Pike Suppression
13. Trophic and Phytoplankton Monitoring in Lake Pend Oreille River Idaho
14. Temperature Monitoring Data Compilation
15. Walleye Geochemistry Study
16. Priest River Coldwater Bypass Limnology Assessment
17. Idaho Protection and Education Officer Support
18. Lake Pend Oreille Tributary PIT-Monitoring Station Installation
19. Lake Pend Oreille Tributary PIT-Monitoring Station Operation and maintenance
20. Clark Fork River Population Monitoring
21. Lower Clark Fork River PIT-Monitoring Station- No immediate action or purchase
22. Lightning Creek Delta Connectivity Project

GSCP Alternative:

23. Gas Supersaturation Control Program Total Dissolved Gas Abatement

Appendix T: Project Operations Package

1. Project Operations and Coordination
2. Cabinet Gorge Fish Hatchery Spring Water Collection System Upgrade
3. Clark Fork River (Derr Island) Boating Access Site Improvements