

Meeting Date: November 17, 2021

Location: This meeting was conducted by Zoom conferencing

Attendees via Zoom conference: Brian Miller, RC&D, Justin Bader, NYCD, Anna Lael, KCCD, Mark Crowley, KCCD, Cassandra Weekes, WDFW, Melissa Speeg, KCT, Rebecca Wassell, MCF, Joel Hubble, KRDC, Michael Horner, YBFWRB, Katy Pfannenstien, USFWS, Cole Provence, Ecology, Erin Eaton, TU, Michelle O'Malley, BPA

1. ADMINISTRATIVE-

- A. The meeting agenda was approved.
- B. The minutes from the October 20 YTAHP Core Team Meeting were approved.
- C. The BPA FY 2021 Cost-Share Report was submitted on October 28.
- D. The BPA Anadromous Fish Habitat and Hatchery Review project proposal response to the ISRP Preliminary Report is due to be submitted by November 22.
- E. The FY 2022 Expense Contact SOW CR-351590 has been initiated in Pisces and is due to be submitted to BPA by November 30.
- F. Michelle O'Malley reported that Crystal Ball the Executive Manager of the Fish and Wildlife Program has announced that she is resigning from her position at BPA.

2. CORE TEAM PROJECT UPDATES-

A. NYCD- Justin Bader-

- **Cowiche Creek – Naches Cowiche Canal Co. Siphon: fish passage- O & M** ongoing this FY.
- **Cowiche Creek – Lust/Stevenson Water Quality: riparian fencing, planting, spring development-** O & M ongoing this FY.
- **Ahtanum Creek- Herke South: fish screening and floodplain reconnection/enhancement-**
 - Project has been shelved.
 - O & M ongoing this FY for phase 1.
- **Wenas Creek – Priority passage and screening project-**
 - Awarded RCPP funding under the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Partnership application.
 - Will begin setting up agreements to facilitate expenditures.
 - Selected design firm to develop an alternative analysis and preliminary design.
 - Field meeting first of December to begin site investigation and conduct topographic survey.
- **Wenas Creek – Purdin Ditch Passage and screening project-**
 - Awarded RCPP funding under the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Partnership application.
 - Will begin setting up agreements to facilitate expenditures.
 - Met with project engineer on site to tour point of diversion and the ditch to begin design work on diversion and ditch piping.

- **Wenas Creek –Riparian Enhancement-**
 - Developing project to install riparian fencing, planting, and provide compliant fish screen.
 - Planting will focus on supplementing heavily burned areas with larger tree species such as cottonwood and ponderosa pine.
 - May include some willow stakes on cut banks to help stabilize until more vegetation re-establishes.
 - Fencing will be done in field to exclude livestock and protect riparian area still intact after fire, water gap will be included.
 - Fish screen will be provided, sized to water right. Water meter will also be provided.
 - Cultural Resources consultation complete.
 - Will be scheduling WCC crew to implement project in December.
- **Wenas Creek – Chandler Riparian Enhancement-** O & M ongoing this FY.

B. KCCD- Anna Lael & Mark Crowley-

- **Parke Creek-** Construction is just beginning on this project. The contract was awarded to Hurst Construction, who also did the Coleman-Olmstead project. The bypass channel was finished on Monday and the fish rescue was done yesterday. The concrete structure has been removed and they expect that part of the project to be wrapped up by Thanksgiving.
- **Cascade at Coleman-** KCCD held a TWG meeting with agencies and Cascade Irrigation District. Work continues on the designs.
- **Coleman Creek – Schomer/Beard-** A task order for design work has been executed with Anderson Perry.
- **Naneum Creek - Poulsen-** A task order for design work has been executed with Anderson Perry.
- **Coleman Creek 2.0 and Caribou 2.32-** KCCD is still hoping to be able to remove these decommissioned diversion structures this winter, maybe in January or early February.
- **Ranch on Swauk Creek-** Construction continues this project. The roughened channel and instream work is completed. The fish screen is partially installed, waiting on the fittings to connect the bypass and irrigation pipe to it. The pipeline is also partially installed. There have been security issues on site including the KCCD truck window broken and staff personal items stolen, as well as conflicts with neighboring landowners that resulted in the Kittitas County Sheriff's office involvement.

C. KCT- Melissa Speeg-

- **Restoration Projects-**
 - **Kachess River-**
 - KCT is working on finalizing the designs, spec sheets, etc. for the project.
 - Also applying for ECY Streamflow Restoration funding to cover the cost of the other river restoration components.
 - **Gold Creek-** Working on developing an RFQ to hire the 3rd party NEPA contractor.

- **Hanson Ponds-**
 - KCT met with Jay McGowen, mayor of Cle Elum, and they came up with a plan for public process. KCT will meet with the TAG and other stakeholders to get their recommendation, which they will share with the City of Cle Elum who will make a final decision on what alternatives to move forward to 30% designs.
 - Considering applying for a Floodplains By Design grant to complete and implement this project. KCT will be speaking with Kittitas and Yakima county to understand if they are planning to apply this year so they aren't competing with them.
- **Conservation Projects-**
 - **Cottonwood Cove-** KCT is working on finalizing the earnest money and then they will be ready to proceed.
 - **Other Conservation Projects-**
 - KCT is working with a small group of partners to conserve important habitat lands adjacent to/near the I-90 lane widening project. Forterra (a state-wide land trust) applied for Section 6 funding on behalf of the group and was successful, so they are looking at conserving private property in Gold Creek

D. MCF- Rebecca Wassell-

- Rebecca gave an update on current MCF activities.

E. Yakama Nation- No report this meeting-

3. WDFW- Cassandra Weekes-

- A. As Brian mentioned, we spent time over the past month working on our response to the ISRP. We are planning to send it in later today.
- B. Continuing to work through the permitting for a couple YTAHP projects, which have already been discussed today. We're on the home stretch!
- C. Construction dewatering and fish rescue for the Parke Creek fish passage & screening project was completed at stream mile 1.0 on Monday. 677 fish were rescued! Over 300 lamprey, 28 o.mykiss, 22 coho, 1 chinook, and stickleback, sculpins and mountain whitefish were relocated downstream of the project area.
- D. As Mark discussed, we had a productive and meaningful technical working group meeting for the Coleman Creek at Cascade Irrigation District canal project. Cassandra is waiting on some final comments from WDFW colleagues and she will send WDFW's compiled comments to Mark and the project engineers.
- E. Working on updates to the Statewide Washington Integrated Fish Distribution database (SWIFD). We discussed this at last month's meeting. The need for updates has been known but came up again recently as BPA was reviewing a YTAHP project in Caribou Creek. BPA's StreamNet database pulls data from the SWIFD database, which showed only historic, not current, presence of Chinook, coho and steelhead in Caribou Creek. We have data documenting these species in Caribou but it's not in the database. Cassandra will be prioritizing updates on YTAHP focal tributaries and working with colleagues and partners to ensure our occupancy and distribution data for confirmed

presence and presumed presence is accurate before submitting it to WDFW's database folks.

- F. It's the time of year for coho surveys! WDFW, the Yakama Nation and partners will again be surveying upper Yakima River tributaries for spawning coho. Adults have been placed in Big Creek, Reecer Creek, Wilson Creek, Taneum Creek, MF Teanaway River, Cle Elum River and the Yakima River near Thorp. These tributaries and reaches will be prioritized for survey soon. If you're interested in doing any coho surveys, let Cassandra know and she will connect you with Nick Mankus, who is working to organize much of the effort.
- G. The YTAHP active projects spreadsheet was sent out after our last meeting. If you have updates to be incorporated, let Cassandra know.
- H. Tomorrow is the monthly project & permitting call with BPA. It's at 11:00 a.m. If you're available and want to join, let Cassandra know!

4. **ITEMS OF INTEREST-**

- A. Katy Pfannenstein reported that the USFWS Leavenworth, WA office is hiring a Civil Engineer (Hydraulics) for fish passage at the Columbia River Dams and habitat restoration projects.
5. The next Core Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.

YTAHP Core Team Meeting Appendix