

February 3, 2022 Yakima Bull Trout Work Group Meeting

Attendees:

Alex Conley and Kayla Gallentine (YBFWRB), Russ Byington (YN), Paul James (CWU), Mitch Long, Melissa Speeg (KCT), Marc Divens, Scott Kline, William Meyer (WDFW), Pat Monk, Richard Visser (BOR), Michael Callahan (ECY), Craig Haskell, Jason Romine, Judy Neibauer (USFWS), Gary Torretta (USFS), Bob and Sue Mecklenburg. *Attendance list may be incomplete.*

Updates and announcements

The group reviewed the Request for Proposals for USFWS Recovery Implementation and Candidate Conservation funds. Proposals are due March 2; the group discussed past experiences with this funding and possible applications from the Yakima Basin.

Alex reminded all of the Yakima Core Area Threats Assessment workshop to be led by USFWS and WDFW on the following day.

William and Alex noted that they would like to update the bull trout sightings spreadsheet, and encouraged work group members to send them information on sightings of bull trout outside of known spawning and rearing areas.

Mitch and Melissa gave an update on the Kachess River Instream Restoration Project. They plan to do the bid tour this summer, with construction planned for next year (given the late snowmelt, it is hard to take bids and move to construction in a single season).

Craig Haskell noted that the mobile fish collection device designs should be completed this summer, with construction in time for use in 2023.

The group discussed who was sending support letters for installing a PIT tag array at the Clear Creek Dam fishway.

Jason noted that a USFWS opening for a GS-5 tech position with an opportunity to advance over time.

YBIP 10-year Plan and BTAP

The group discussed the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan 10-year Plan being developed and expressed support for providing a review of the document when it is available. Richard Visser will provide Alex with a document to circulate when it is available so that it can be discussed at an upcoming meeting. The group discussed the relationship between the 10-year plan, the Bull Trout Enhancement Plan and the Yakima Bull trout Action Plan, and the relationship between the

Bull Trout Hatchery Update

Russ Byington gave an update on the progress of the bull trout held in the LaSalle Hatchery and plans for the 2022 field season. Kachess Fry are the majority of fry at this time, due to the relative ease of collection compared to Gold Creek. After following a large krill feeding plan, the fry are fairly large, and as a result are too big for stream introduction and are more suited for lake projects. Todd and Russ are working to complete the feasibility plan for the bull trout reintroduction program.

Natural Barrier Database

Alex showed a web map of known natural barriers in the Yakima Basin, and noted that it is in need of review and update. He asked group members to review the map and send him information on any edits or additions; William noted that he is working to compile information on barrier locations from red survey records, etc.

Temperature Data in the Teanaway

William Meyer gave a presentation on initial findings from temperature data collected in the Teanaway watershed.

Delta Sediment Study

Richard Visser gave a brief update on the study of reservoir bed/stream interactions being completed by Reclamation's Denver Technical Services Center.

Spokane American Fisheries Society Meeting

The group discussed plans for submitting abstracts for the August meeting of AFS in Spokane, noting that there would be sessions on the Cle Elum Fish Passage project, a bull trout symposium, and at least 2-3 abstracts from the Yakima USFWS group.