



YAKIMA BASIN FISH & WILDLIFE RECOVERY BOARD

Quarterly Report
July – Sept 2014

Board Activities Report for July 1 - September 30, 2014

Lead Entity Program

During this quarter, the Board's Technical Advisory Group and the Citizen's Committee both met to review 2014 SRFB proposals from the Yakima Basin. The ranked project list was submitted to the state after approval at the August Board meeting, and is currently under review by the State Technical Review Panel. Ten projects are proposed for nearly \$1.5 million of funding. We anticipate receiving \$1,263,450 at the December SRFB meeting. The Lead Entity Coordinator is working to secure BLM and carry-over SRFB funding from last year to provide additional funds to projects on our 2014 ranked list. She has also been active in her role as chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition, which represents all of the Lead Entities in the state, and is beginning planning for the 2015 grant round.

Recovery Planning and Implementation

Board staff continues to actively support implementation of priority actions identified in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan through participation in multiple project-specific working groups, and through the Executive Director's participation in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Habitat Subcommittee. On September 15, the US Fish & Wildlife Service released a draft Bull Trout Recovery Plan, after a decade-long delay. Board staff are working with partners in the Basin to respond to the draft plan and advocate that it incorporate the 2012 Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan developed by the Board and its partners.

Recovery Monitoring and Evaluation

The Executive Director and Recovery Program Coordinator have both been working on assembling information and convening partners to begin development of a Threats Assessment report that reviews progress towards the fish and habitat goals identified in the Middle Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan. The Board will provide the final report to NOAA Fisheries prior to the March 30 deadline for input to the NOAA 2015 Five Year Review. It is our hope that this report will 1) help NOAA evaluate the listing status of Mid-C Steelhead, 2) build local agreement about and support for actions that will be needed prior to delisting, and 3) identify key monitoring and information gaps that will need to be filled in order to effectively assess listing status in the future.

Outreach

Staff is working to update the Board's Outreach and Communication Plan. The state released a new statewide communications strategy in May, and has announced that funding will be available for regional work to implement the statewide strategy. Staff anticipates working with the Executive Committee to develop specific proposals for this funding based on the updated Board and state plans. More detail on outreach activities is provided in the Outreach Section of this report.

Statewide Coordination

Both the Lead Entity Coordinator (as chair of WSC) and the Executive Director have actively participated in monthly coordinating meetings aimed at improving statewide coordination among salmon recovery programs.

Board Logistics

The Board has run smoothly during this quarter, and full funding for the year has been secured as anticipated in the budget approved in May. New Board officers took office on July 1st. A Board meeting was held on August 7, and the Executive Committee met on September 10. We are working on financial reporting for the last fiscal year. The Board's office was robbed in July, and staff have been working to replace lost equipment and file insurance claims.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
 Outreach Report
 July-September 2014 – 1st Quarter FY15



Web Metrics

	1 st Quarter FY15	Total FY15
Website – Total Visits	899	899
Website – Unique Visitors	613	613
Website – Pageviews	2,139	2,139
Facebook – New Fans	6	6 (201 fans)
Facebook – Posts	59	59
Newsletter – New Subscribers	3	3 (221 subscribers)
Articles with direct link to board	1	1
Articles highlighting Yakima Basin salmon recovery	10	10

Top Website Pages This Quarter

<u>Page</u>	<u>Hits</u>
1. Home	706
2. Funded Project Summary	76
3. 2014 SRFB Process	70
4. Calendar	68
5. Staff	66
6. Steelhead Recovery Plan	53
7. Contact Us	46
8. Bull Trout Action Plan	46
9. Board Membership	45
10. Bull Trout Recovery Planning	37

Top Traffic Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Hits</u>
1. Google	337
2. Direct Link	262
3. Newsletter	46
4. ArcGIS (Story Board)	40
5. RCO	7

YBFWRB fosters public awareness and engagement in fish and wildlife recovery issues throughout the Yakima Basin to inform and engage elected officials; federal, tribal, state and local agencies; local interest groups; property owners; and the general public.

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Outreach Completed During the 1st Quarter of Fiscal Year

July Newsletter - <http://goo.gl/t3uJML>

August Newsletter - <http://goo.gl/vlyY8c>

September Newsletter - <http://goo.gl/TuYuEx>

Alex presented salmon recovery efforts in the Yakima Basin to the Ellensburg Morning Rotary Club on August 7.

We organized a project tour for NOAA and Commerce Department budget staff on September 16. The local NOAA staff, Yakama Nation and Kittitas Conservation District also participated.

Alex contributed to an article published in the Yakima Herald-Republic on September 29, “New Efforts aim to help basin’s bull trout” - <http://goo.gl/DvCFWV>

Staff met regularly to review the Outreach Plan to expand it into a Communications Plan for the organization, following the release of RCO’s communication plan.

Planned Outreach for the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year

The Yakima River Outreach Committee meeting will be hosted by YBFWRB on **October 31**. Guest speaker Mat Novak and others from CWU will present the GIS and Geography internship programs and how they can help with outreach and program efforts.

Heather will host a booth at the Youth Environmental Summit at the Yakima Convention Center on **November 14**. They are expecting about 500 to attend the conference, including middle school, high school, and college students.

Staff will consider the benefits of hosting an open house following the announcement of approved SRFB funding in December.

Staff will work with RCO to localize the press release announcing the SRFB funding and follow up with local media.

Staff will continue working together during regular staff meetings to update the Board’s Outreach and Communication Plan. The state released a new statewide communications strategy in May, and has announced that funding will be available for regional work to implement the statewide strategy. Staff anticipates working with the Executive Committee to develop specific proposals for this funding based on the updated Board and state plans.

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August 2014 YBFWRB Project Status Report

Project #	Project Sponsor	Project Name	End Date	RCO Funding	Current Balance	Total w/ Match
13-1322	Kittitas Co Conservation Dist Funding merged with existing Coleman Creek Project: 11-1525.	Ellensburg Water Co - Coleman Creek Intersection	1/31/2016	\$56,910	\$56,910	\$66,953
13-1320	North Yakima Conserv Dist Project sponsor has applied for Hydraulic Project Approval, Shoreline Permit, and Water Quality Certification. Working on landowner agreements before project installation.	Floodplain Restoration with Beaver Dam Analogs				
13-1315	Kittitas County Public Works Project sponsor has begun to collect existing information and drafted a Scope of Work which was recently reviewed by the local technical working group. The final SOW is almost complete and will be ready for review by the State's review panel members in August.	Naneum, Wilson, and Cherry Creek Assessment	12/4/2016	\$254,000	\$254,000	\$316,520
13-1312	Mid-Columbia RFEG Final engineering complete and construction bids received. Sponsor does not need all \$360k in SRFB funds, and is returning \$100k. These returned funds will be applied to the first alternate on the 2013 funding list (Wise Manastash Creek).	Little Rattlesnake Creek Floodplain Reconnection	12/31/2017	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$424,000
13-1557	Mid-Columbia RFEG The project partners hosted two public meetings in early April, and recieved comments from more than 50 people. The scope of work for the consultants was determined, and contracting is in progress. Continuous recording thermometers were purchased and deployed. MCFEG presented the project at the 2014 Yakima Basin Science and Management Symposium.	Bateman Island Causeway Conceptual Design	1/4/2016	\$109,160	\$109,160	\$214,760
13-1309	Mid-Columbia RFEG Funding merged with existing project: 11-1320	Lower Cowiche Floodplain Reconnection, Ph 3	3/15/2017	\$202,675	\$202,675	\$250,476
13-1347	Kittitas County Public Works This project received partial funding - approximately 15% of the total project cost. KCPW is applying these funds towards an appraisal and resources for discussing the potential for conservation easements with adjacent landowners. Additional funds are currently being moved from Little Rattlesnake (13-1312).	Wise Manastash Creek Acquisition & Restoration		\$30,680	\$30,680	\$36,095
12-1358 P	Kittitas County Public Works The first landowner/public meeting and technical advisory group meetings were held on December 17, 2013. The meetings were well attended and well received. The second technical and landowner meetings are scheduled for 5/22. The consultants conducted field work and completed the hydraulic model. Sponsor held the second TAG and landowner meetings in May to discuss the current conditions report. The landowners are concerned about the future of their area and agreed with the reports. The study area was found to be in mostly good condition but has a lot of potential for improvement.	Yakima River Assessment Hansen Pits to Ringer Loop	12/6/2014	\$95,330	\$95,330	\$117,528
12-1328 R	North Yakima Conserv Dist Project construction is complete and the new system is online. NYCD hosted a celebration on the Lust Property on 4/10. The event attracted many attendees and highlighted the decade of coordination/negotiation with partners and willing landowners needed to make the project possible. NYCD is currently monitoring and addressing issues with faulty meters to ensure the complete project is operating efficiently.	CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water	4/1/2015	\$574,600	\$151,646	\$924,607
12-1327 AR	Yakima County Public Services Negotiations with landowners is underway. Project milestones have been updated to reflect appraised values coming in higher than expected. Project sponsor is seeking other funding sources to fill the funding gap.	Naches River Ramblers Acquisition and Restoration	12/31/2015	\$223,400	\$223,400	\$263,400

12-1317 R	Yakima County Public Services	Yakima River Gap to Gap Habitat Enhancement	3/15/2015	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$68,000
	Securing agreement with DNR on the location of the project relative to State Owned Aquatic Lands has been a challenge. Project Sponsor has completed some preliminary design work and has discussed the relative timing of the project with WDFW, NOAA and County Planning. All are in favor of allowing excavation outside of the normal work window.					
12-1307 R	City of Yakima	Yakima Floodplain Ecosystem ph2	12/31/2014	\$209,620	\$12,577	\$298,396
	Project permits received in Spring of 2013, project design completed and advertised for bids in May 2013. Project was advertised for bids with Phase 1, Project 11-1565, and contract was awarded to KRCI, LLC of Wenatchee. City issued notice to proceed with project on July 9, 2013. Excavation of Greenway Trail prism revetment is 100% complete. Excavated material is being stored on site in berm outside of floodplain. Contractor completed the placement of new Greenway Trail route and re-opened Greenway Trail to the public. Project is essentially complete.					
12-1306 P	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Gold Creek Habitat Assessment + Conceptual Design	6/30/2015	\$97,750	\$60,274	\$115,000
	Held a TWG during the UYWG meeting at the USFS office. Finding the Gold Creek Pond is contributing to the dewatering, and also learned that GCP is designated as a National Wildlife Viewing Area. Installed water elevation monitoring instruments at surface and subsurface locations. Continuing landowner outreach and public education efforts. Data was collected throughout 2013 with a focus on late season low flow periods when dewatering is a problem. Field work and habitat features inventory will be combined with geomorphic assessment information when the habitat assessment technical memo is drafted. KCT received \$50,000 of Ecology's Integrated Water Resource Management Plan Funding to collect additional and more frequent monitoring data and to develop one additional conceptual design alternative to address the dewatering of the stream reach. Results to date were presented at the 2014 Yakima Basin Science & Management Conference.					
11-1600 P	Yakima County Public Services	L Cowiche Creek Restoration Design	2/28/2014	\$105,000	\$10,500	\$105,000
	Progress has been slowed by landowner reluctance to proceed with initial concept design. Design consultant changed design of restored creek location and the 3rd design location has been accepted. Project end date was extended. Milestones will be updated to reflect this change in timeline.					
14-1063	Mid-Columbia FEG	Pott Habitat Parcel Restoration	3/15/2015	\$98,500	\$98,500	\$117,000
	Planting work was put out to bid October 2013. Site visits were conducted in October 2013 with three different contractors: Natural Reclamation Service, Casey Farms LLC, and Forest Pro Inc. Contract executed for planting in April 2014. Landowner Agreement, Planting design and specs finalized February 2014. Site prepped: crack willow de-limbed and piled, mowed, and raked. End of February- Early April 2014 included installation of 7,500 native plants, weed control fabric, staples, and collars, April – early May 2014 included contractor supervision and irrigation.					
11-1565 R	City of Yakima	City of Yakima Floodplain Ecosystem Restoration	8/15/2014	\$375,400	\$18,770	\$584,658
	Project is complete, but held open for ongoing maintenance. The completed project restored the shape of Billy's Pond, re-shaped banks, re-established groundwater fed channels into pond, removed culvert and re-graded outlet channel connecting to Yakima River side channel. Placed large woody debris throughout project area and created riffle habitat in all channels. Removed yellow flag iris, reed canary grass, and other non-native vegetation from site throughout the work area and replaced with native vegetation described below. 22 acres of native grass re-seeded and approximately 8,000 feet of riparian zone was planted with black cottonwoods, woods roses, red osier dogwoods, and golden currants. In addition, Boy Scouts planted approximately 2000 live willow stakes throughout the project area.					
11-1325 R	Kittitas County Conservation District	Coleman Cr - Ellensburg Water Company Project	12/31/2015	\$483,313	\$483,313	\$800,649
	Final designs are nearly complete. Submittal for all permit applications is underway as well as acquiring the necessary easements. Project construction should begin in November.					
11-1320 R	Mid-Columbia RFEF	Lower Cowiche Creek Restoration, Phase 2	3/15/2017	\$293,429	\$226,385	\$357,267

MCFEG submitted all permit applications in April, 2014, but did not receive all the permits in time to complete the work prior to the end of the in-water work window. Specifically, the Section 106 cultural resources review was delayed due to two reasons: (1) uncertainty about the federal lead agency (USFWS and COE), and (2) an increased level of review from state and federal agencies due to comments from the public about the historical importance of the railroad berm. Permitting for work on the former Crandall property was completed during the summer of 2013. After a competitive bid solicitation, MCFEG hired Thayer Excavating to remove concrete and reshape the streambanks along 500 feet of channel. Instream work was completed in early September, 2013. 91 cubic yards of concrete and debris were removed from the stream and banks. 500 native riparian plants were installed with assistance from an Americorps Crew. Silt fencing was installed and grass was seeded on exposed banks.

10-1909 A	Yakima County Public Services	L Cowlitz Creek Conservation Easement	9/13/2014	\$84,190	\$71,581	\$99,190
	A second time extension request was submitted/approved to extend the project into September 2014 in order to provide adequate time for document review and negotiation. The cause of delay (finalizing the location of the easement based upon the location of the new channel) has been addressed and the project is poised to proceed, pending acceptance of all the documents and favorable landowner negotiations.					
10-1786 R	Mid-Columbia RFEF	Jack Creek Channel & Floodplain Rest., RM 0 to 2.	12/31/2014	\$170,000	\$151,450	\$205,000
	Large Woody Debris installed at 5 locations in the upstream reach. Sloped and planted eroding banks and planted the lower reach. An additional 203 potted riparian plants were installed. Plants were mulched with cardboard and woodchips. A WCC crew irrigated all riparian plantings biweekly from June until September. Central Washington University Interns monitored plant survivability, water quality, and cover class. WCC crews repaired the barb wire fence in Reach 2 and built new stretches to enclose one of the upper polygons. In October after the free range cattle were removed, stream crossing gates were opened to prevent debris buildup in high flows. WCC crews installed over 1900 live stakes. Snowmobile safety signs, flagging, and snow poles were installed along the new Reach 1 fence. The drivable ford across the acclimation facility outflow was removed. MCF staff and contractors moved 3 large logs and small debris from the county culvert and repositioned them down stream.					
10-1785 P	Mid-Columbia RFEF	Yakima River Delta Habitat Assessment	4/15/2014	\$127,375	\$6,369	\$150,227
	INTERA, Inc. built a model of temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Yakima Delta area, and coupled the model with their previously-constructed EFDC model of flow dynamics. The resulting output indicates that breaching the Bateman Island Causeway would significantly decrease summer water temperatures in the Delta area. The project Technical Advisory Group met in December to review modeling results, and to offer suggestions for the final report.					
10-1765 R	Yakima County Public Services	Eschbach Park Levee Setback & Restoration	2/27/2015	\$284,424	\$261,670	\$380,569
	Construction was completed this spring and looks great. Project is being highlighted in NOAA's PACSRF report to Congress!					
10-1764 R	North Yakima Conserv Dist	Herke Fish Screening, Ahtanum Creek 2	10/31/2014	\$178,527	\$11,153	\$251,928
	Project was modified from flat plate to drum screen in 2011. A time extension was granted, through March of 2014 and a cost increase was requested and granted in August, 2013. Construction began in August. September 6 flash floods damaged the diversion pipe and gasket resulting in the need to reassemble over 100 ft of diversion grade & pipe. Project is mostly complete; working on vegetation and maintenance with irrigators.					
10-1753 R	North Yakima Conserv Dist	La Salle High School Riparian Enhancement Project	1/1/2015	\$127,834	\$63,536	\$152,284
	All the planting is complete, except for some supplemental planting. Weed control and mulching ongoing. Updated plan was submitted to RCO in December 2012. Planting will occur spring & fall 2011 - 2013. Update: continuing maintenance through spring of 2014.					
10-1595 R	Dept of Fish & Wildlife	Yakima Beaver Project	12/31/2014	\$187,025	\$51,632	\$227,025

Released 42 beavers in 6 watersheds (Swauk, Robinson, NF Manastash, SF Taneum, Wenas and Yakima mainstem). In 2013, the sponsor partnered with Mid Columbia RFEF and CWU. The Mid Columbia partnership has been a highly efficient/economical way to operate the project due to the flexibility of adding or subtracting staff as the project needs require. Mid Columbia FEG recruited CWU students as unpaid interns for the Beaver Project as part of their school requirement. These interns assisted WDFW/MCFEG in the trapping and relocation of over 40 beavers in 2013. WDFW/MCFEG plan to continue work into 2014 as funding allows. Received McNary Mitigation Funds.

Total Active

\$5,119,455 \$3,401,824 \$7,402,527