

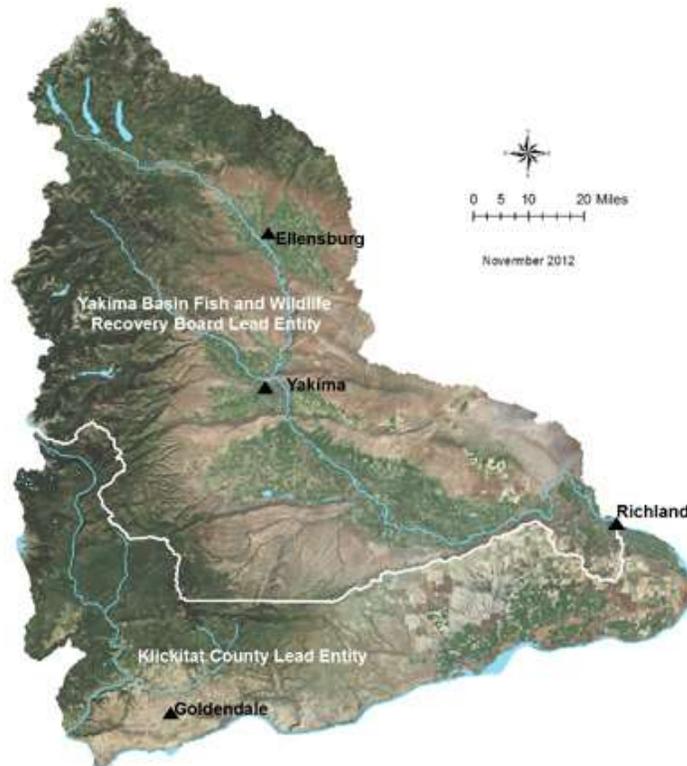


## Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Yakima Basin Fish and  
Wildlife Recovery Board  
1110 West Lincoln Ave.  
Yakima, WA 98902  
[www.ybfwrb.org](http://www.ybfwrb.org)

Alex Conley Executive  
Director  
(509) 453-4104  
[aconley@ybfwrb.org](mailto:aconley@ybfwrb.org)

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### Geography

The Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region is comprised of salmon bearing streams in Benton, Kittitas, Yakima, and Klickitat Counties.

### Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

Klickitat (30), Rock-Glade (31), Lower Yakima (37), Naches (38), and Upper Yakima (39)

### Federally Recognized Tribes

Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

**Table 19: Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species**

Species	Listed As	Date Listed
Steelhead	Threatened	March 25, 1999
Bull Trout	Threatened	1998

## Region and Lead Entities

There are five WRIAs in the middle Columbia River Evolutionarily Significant Unit. The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board is the regional salmon recovery organization and lead entity for three of these WRIAs (37, 38, and 39). The Klickitat County Lead Entity's geographic area is composed of WRIAs 29b, 30, and 31. The Klickitat County Lead Entity's geographic area is not within the purview of a regional organization established under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 or 77.85.200, but is contained within the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Regions. Therefore, a portion of the SRFB project funding allocated to the Lower Columbia and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions is allocated to the Klickitat County Lead Entity's geographic area based on a combination of historical funding allocations and anadromous stream miles.

**Table 20: Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan**

Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (for the Yakima basin; no recovery organization for Columbia Gorge populations in the middle Columbia region).
Plan Timeframe	15 years (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Actions Identified to Implement Plan	94 (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Estimated Cost (This does not include estimated cost from the Klickitat and Rock Creek plans prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)	\$269 million (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Status	<p>NOAA-Fisheries approved the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan in September 2009. This plan incorporates the Yakima board's <i>Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan</i> and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's recovery plans for steelhead populations in the Gorge Management Unit of the middle Columbia River steelhead distinct population segment.</p> <p>The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board released the <i>Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan</i> in September 2012. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a bull trout recovery plan that will include a middle Columbia River planning unit.</p>
Implementation Schedule Status	For the Yakima basin, basic elements of a 6-year

Recovery Plan	
	implementation schedule are completed, providing details of planned actions, key partners, link of actions to limiting factors and plan strategies, time to implement and achieve benefits, and estimated costs. Additional information fields and a tracking and reporting system for the implementation schedule are being developed.
Web Information	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board <a href="#">Web site</a> Klickitat Lead Entity <a href="#">Web page</a> <a href="#">Habitat Work Schedule</a>

## Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses

### Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region?

The mid-Columbia region was allocated \$1,776,600 for the 2013 SRFB grant round. Because there is not a single regional organization that includes both the areas served by the Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and that portion of the Klickitat County Lead Entity's area that is within the mid-Columbia region, the two organizations enter into discussions each year about how to divide the mid-Columbia allocation between them.

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat County Lead Entity submit separate lead entity lists and divide funding between the two lists based on an agreed upon allocation. The two groups initially planned around a 70 percent-30 percent share, and are working together to adjust final project funding amounts to arrive at a negotiated split that matches the total allocation. We continue to wait on final decisions for at least four different alternative funding sources, which will impact projects on our ranked list. As a result of this situation, both the Yakima Basin & Klickitat Lead Entity's funding lists will change as the related funding decisions are made and the projects are contracted.

**Table 21: Funding and Requests**

Funding and Requests	Totals	Percent
Total Allocation	\$1,776,600	100%
Yakima Basin Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$1,257,474	70.8%
Klickitat Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$519,126	29.2%
Remaining Balance	(\$0)	100%

## **How was the regional technical review conducted?**

The existing Yakima lead entity technical review group was used as the regional technical review team. Given that 1) the area covered by the lead entity and the regional organization is identical, and 2) most potential candidates for serving on a regional technical review team already were serving on the lead entity review team, the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board saw no reason to convene a separate review team. If in the future, there is agreement among all parties that we should develop a regional review that involves multiple lead entities, we would work with other parties to develop a separate regional technical review process.

## **What criteria were used for the regional technical and citizens' review?**

The Yakima Technical Advisory Group evaluated Yakima basin projects using three sets of criteria:

1. Salmon Recovery Matrix assesses:
  - Species benefited by project.
  - Project benefits to in-stream flow and the hydrograph.
  - Project benefits to water quality.
  - Project benefits to in-channel habitat.
  - Improvements to degraded large woody material densities.
  - Protection of functional rearing habitat.
  - Improvements to degraded rearing habitat.
  - Project benefits to habitat access.
  - Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to high quality habitat.
  - Improvement of access for juvenile or adult to functional habitat.
  - Project benefits to diversion screening.
  - Project benefits to floodplain connectivity and riparian condition.

Matrix scores are adjusted using weighting factors for:

- Quality and quantity.
- Certainty of success.
- Benefit to cost.
- Longevity of benefit.

2. Yakima Basin TAG Evaluation Form assesses:

This form is used to provide consistency in evaluating projects. It is used to generate discussion and provide additional guidance to TAG members for how to rank projects. These are also provided to the Citizen's Committee so they are aware of how the TAG evaluated the proposals. Form elements include:

- Landowner commitment.
- Certainty of valuation (protection projects only).

- Project sequencing.
- Reasonableness of the budget.
- Threats to habitat values.
- Organizational capacity of sponsor.
- Presence of uncertainties and constraints.
- Plans for future stewardship.
- Fit to regional plan.
- Adequacy of design.
- Value to education and outreach.

### 3. Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board's Priority Action List

The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board's [Priority Action List](#) is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help identify high priority Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects and apply those funding resources to projects that represent the most immediate needs of priority species. The list is used to:

- Give the TAG a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions
- Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose
- Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and Recovery Plan priorities

Projects that clearly implement Priority Actions identified in the list receive 10 bonus points in the Matrix. If a proposal does not address a next step related to a priority action, zero bonus points are awarded. It is important to emphasize that the TAG uses this approach as a way to recognize and reward proposals that implement identified priorities, but not as a way to exclude other SRFB proposals.

The Yakima Citizens Committee evaluated ranking based on the following criteria:

- Cultural and social benefits:
  - Will the project create benefits or raise concerns for the Yakama Nation and its members?
  - Will the project create benefits or raise concerns for the agricultural community?
  - Will the project create benefits or raise concerns for the community at large?
  - How will the project affect Endangered Species Act liabilities for community members?
  - How will the project affect recreational opportunities?
  - Does the project propose a planned and compelling education and outreach component?
- Economic considerations:
  - What is the potential short-term impact on the community's economy?
  - What is the potential long-term impact on the community's economy?

- Is the project budget clearly defined and reasonable?
- How much benefit does the project create for the dollars invested?
- Project context and organization:
  - If the project is not funded now, are key opportunities lost or is the proposal premature?
  - Is the project innovative, standard, or problematic?
  - How is the project coordinated with other past, present, and future salmon recovery actions?
  - Are we confident that all the pieces of the project can come together as anticipated or are there uncertainties?
- Partnerships and community support:
  - Does the proposal demonstrate the breadth and strength of community/citizen involvement in the project?
  - Are the right partners involved to make the project successful?
  - Is the project sponsor using SRFB funding to leverage other funding sources?

**Who completed the regional review (name, affiliation and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?**

Participants in the 2013 Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group are listed below. Participants were chosen to assure 1) a broad range of knowledge about fisheries and habitat restoration in the Yakima basin, 2) inclusion of participants from all parts of the basin (upper, mid and lower), and 3) representation of the full range of organizations active in fisheries and watershed management in the basin. The Technical Advisory Group is a long-standing committee that the lead entity has used in past SRFB project reviews and other processes. All of the voting members are independent of the regional organization in that they work with the lead entity as representatives of their individual organizations and are not otherwise directly affiliated with the regional organization.

***Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group***

- Richard Visser, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, restoration biologist
- Dale Bambrick, NOAA-Fisheries
- John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Fish Program manager
- Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County, fish and wildlife biologist
- Anna Lael, Kittitas County Conservation District, district manager
- Paul LaRiviere, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in-stream flow biologist
- Pat Monk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, fisheries biologist
- Scott Nicolai, Yakama Nation, Yakima Klickitat Fisheries Project habitat biologist
- Tom Ring, Yakama Nation, hydrogeologist
- Jeff Thomas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, fisheries biologist
- Sean Gross, NOAA-Fisheries, fisheries biologist

- Rebecca Wassell, Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, project manager
- David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board, fish biologist
- Arden Thomas, Bureau of Reclamation, fish biologist

**Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB for funding that were not specifically identified in the regional implementation plan or habitat work schedule? (If so please provide justification for including these projects to the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan but considered a low priority or is a low priority area, please provide justification.)**

All of the projects submitted for the 2013 SRFB grant round are identified in the *Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan*. The actions database included in the plan is recognized as our implementation schedule of actions as per correspondence dated October 20, 2008 from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. We currently are working to incorporate both bull trout and steelhead actions into a joint implementation schedule.

**How did your regional review consider whether a project:**

- **Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability? In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP<sup>1</sup>, what stock assessment work has been done to date to further characterize the status of salmonid species in the region?**

Steelhead and bull trout are the Endangered Species Act listed species in the Yakima basin, and all stocks are high priority for recovery actions. The [Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan](#) (2009) contains the most current data and local knowledge of the status of steelhead populations. The plan incorporates the Internal Columbia Technical Review Team population designations and stock status reports, assesses limiting factors, sets specific recovery goals and identifies the actions needed to meet them. The draft [Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan](#) was completed in 2012 in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an update to the board's 2005 *Salmon Recovery Plan*. The Technical Advisory Group assesses the fit of proposed projects to the priority actions identified in these plans, and uses a matrix that is designed to prioritize projects based on their specific contributions to recovery goals. The matrix also gives projects credit for parallel benefits to non-listed focal species.

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<sup>1</sup> SaSI = Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

- **Addresses cost effectiveness?**

Both the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Citizens Committee (CC) evaluated project budgets as a part of the ranking process. The TAG assigned each project a high, medium, or low certainty of success score based on:

- The completeness and accuracy of project budgets.
- How reasonable the costs are relative to similar projects.
- The proposed return for the dollars invested.

A new item for 2013 was the benefit to cost weighting factor, which was developed by our TAG. This weighting factor asks TAG members to consider if the proposed cost of the project is reasonable with respect to the expected biological outcomes? This weighting factor is a qualitative evaluation of the biological benefit of the project compared to the cost to SRFB and is not intended to require quantification of biological benefits.

The Citizens Committee also scores a project based on its assessment of whether a budget is reasonable relative to other similar projects and the proposals expected benefits.

As both committees have evaluated projects over the past few years, they have been concerned about the increasing cost of implementing projects. As in previous years, the focus was proactive – asking sponsors to adjust their budgets and remove cost elements from projects that they felt weren't the best use of limited salmon recovery funds.

## Local Review Processes

**Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation of your local Citizens Advisory Group and Technical Advisory Group ratings for each project, including explanations for differences between the two groups' ratings.**

### *Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board*

The Technical Advisory Group and the Citizens Committee each have distinctive roles in the evaluation of projects. The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for determining the technical validity of a project, and how valuable the project is to salmonid populations. The Citizens Committee is responsible for evaluating how the project might affect the community, and how much community support the project garnered. The final rank is determined by the Citizens Committee and approved by the board. The Technical Advisory Group develops a recommended ranking by considering the Technical Advisory Group matrix score and ten different certainty of success criteria, which include items such as project sequencing, uncertainties and constraints, organizational capacity, and reasonable budget. The Technical

Advisory Group then submits its recommended ranking to the Citizens Committee for review. The Citizens Committee then evaluates the project based on its set of criteria, and adjusts the Technical Advisory Group's proposed ranking based on its evaluation. The Citizens Committee's proposed project ranking then is submitted to the board for review. The board can either approve the list as submitted or remand the list to the Citizens Committee for reconsideration, but the board cannot re-rank projects. This process is set up to meet the requirements of the state statute creating the SRFB and the Lead Entity Program, and is designed to ensure that projects proposed for SRFB funding are technically solid, address priority issues, and are broadly supported by diverse community interests.

For the regional and local technical review, we used two sets of criteria to rank projects. The Citizens Committee used its own established set of criteria. The Technical Advisory Group met to review and ranking projects on July 16 ([TAG meeting notes](#)). The TAG's proposed ranking and the notes of their meeting were then provided to the Citizen's Committee, which met on July 31 to rate the projects based on the Citizen's Committee criteria ([CC scoring notes](#)).

The CC's final ranked list was presented to and approved by the Board on August 7.

### **Technical Advisory Group Biological Matrix**

The technical advisory group used [this tool](#) to award projects a score based on its possible and intended biological benefit. The maximum score a project can receive is listed under possible score – projects can receive partial points. This score is adjusted based on four weighting factors; habitat quantity and quality, biological certainty of success, benefit to cost, and longevity of benefit.

### **Technical Advisory Group Evaluation Form**

This [worksheet](#) lists several "certainty of success" categories, and Technical Advisory Group members use it as a guide to discuss factors not addressed in the matrix. The main intent of these forms is to help maintain consistency in the project evaluations, and to help lead entity staff document the discussion.

The Citizens Committee used its community evaluation and scoring criteria, which focuses on cultural, social, economic, efficient and effective resource use, educational value and community support.

A full description of the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity process can be found in our [Lead Entity Manual](#).

### *Klickitat County Lead Entity*

In the Klickitat County Lead Entity's portions of the Lower and Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Regions, the Klickitat County Lead Entity process was followed, including reviews by the lead entity's Technical Committee. A regional recovery plan has not been developed under Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.090 and 77.85.150 for any portion of the Klickitat County Lead Entity's area. Projects were evaluated for fit to the *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy* (September, 2012), which is the adaptive management strategy developed pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 77.85.060(2)(e). The *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy* references currently known stock assessment information and assessment work performed within the region, including the *Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment ESA Recovery Plan* that was developed by NOAA-Fisheries. This recovery plan specifically addressed WRIA 30 in *Appendix B: Recovery Plan for the Klickitat River Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment*, and addresses WRIA 31 in *Appendix C: Recovery Plan for the Rock Creek Population of the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment*. *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy* also cites stock assessment information in the draft salmon and steelhead recovery plan developed by NOAA-Fisheries for the White Salmon River (WRIA 29b) populations of Endangered Species Act-listed steelhead and salmon. These recovery plans include stock assessments by the NOAA-Fisheries' lower and middle Columbia regional technical teams.

The technical review consisted of the following:

- A preliminary project review in which project sponsors met with the technical committee to discuss and refine project concepts and designs.
- A project site tour during which project sponsors presented their projects to the SRFB Review Panel representatives and to members of the Klickitat County Lead Entity's Technical Committee and Citizen's Review Committee.
- Project sponsors responded to comments received from the SRFB Review Panel throughout the grant round.
- A final technical committee evaluation in which project sponsors presented their updated proposals and the Technical Committee ranked projects and provided input and feedback to both project sponsors and the Citizen's Review Committee.
- The Citizen's Review Committee meeting in which project sponsors presented their projects to the committee and the committee evaluated and ranked projects for the project list with technical input from the technical committee.

The Klickitat Technical and Citizen's Review Committees evaluated ranking based on the following criteria:

- Habitat features and process
- Areas and actions
- Scientific

- Species
- Life history
- Costs
- Scope and approach
- Sequence
- Stewardship
- Landowner willingness
- Meets SRFB eligibility criteria
- Implementation readiness

## **Community Support**

The project priority rankings were the same between the two local committees. Comments from the local Technical Committee were provided to the Citizen's Review Committee.

During the grant round review process, both the lead entity Technical and Citizen's Review Committee's evaluated cost effectiveness when evaluating and ranking potential habitat project applications. This item also was addressed by the SRFB Review Panel during the project tours.

In addition to discussing proposed project budgets, there is a specific line item on each project evaluation that relates to cost benefit and effectiveness. Specifically, the question asks the reviewer to score the project between -10 (or 0 for Technical ranking) and 10 regarding costs, considering if the project:

- Has low cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.
- Has a reasonable cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.
- Has high cost relative to the predicted benefits for the project type and location.

During the review process, this specific topic is one of the most highly discussed issues when evaluating project proposals due to the limited funding allocation available and given the sentiment and responsibility that public funding should be spent in most beneficial and responsible fashion possible.

## **Identify your local technical review team**

### *Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board*

The Yakima Basin Technical Advisory Group members are identified above.

### *Klickitat County Lead Entity*

- Joe, Zendt, Yakama Nation (Fisheries), fisheries biologist
- Will Conley, Yakama Nation (Fisheries), hydrologist
- Brady Allen, U.S. Geological Survey, fisheries biologist

- Doug Rushton, National Marine Fisheries Service, biologist
- Jim Hill, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation District, conservation district manager
- Mark Kreiter, U.S. Forest Service, hydrologist
- Tova Tillinghast, Underwood Conservation District, conservation district manager
- Margaret Neuman, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, executive director
- Jill, Hardiman, U.S. Geological Survey, fisheries biologist
- David Lindley, Yakama Nation (Fisheries) alternate, habitat restoration specialist
- Martha Blair, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation District (alternate), field technician
- Adrienne Zuckerman, Underwood Conservation District (alternate), field technician

All voting members are independent of a regional organization as they work with the lead entity as representatives of their field of expertise.

**Explain how and when the SRFB Review Panel participated in your regional/lead entity process, if applicable.**

*Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board*

SRFB Review Panel members Kelley Jorgenson and Tom Slocum toured 14 project sites and had 3 project presentations spanning June 4 – 7, 2013. The tour visited all project sites except for the Little Rattlesnake, Bull Trout Task Force, and Nanum Wilson Cherry Assessment sites, because we agreed before the visit that sponsor would prepare an office presentation for these projects. Review panel members provided feedback to staff and applicants on site, and followed up with their written comments. They also provided lead entity staff with feedback on some of the technicalities of applications such as eligibility, budget formatting, and wording.

Board staff invited all review committee members to attend the site visits. Representatives of the Technical Advisory Group included David Child, Richard Visser, Sean Gross, Paul LaRiviere, John Easterbrooks and Rebecca Wassell . Representatives of the Citizens Committee included Onni Perala, McClure Tosh, Tuck Russell, Jerry Rhodes, and Cynthia Wilkerson. The panel members asked questions and addressed their concerns with project applicants and board staff. A summary of on-site discussion and potential concerns was sent to project sponsors immediately following the site visits. The board received review panel comments on June 25. These comments were shared with applicants and Technical Advisory Group and Citizens Committee members, and applicants were asked to address these issues to strengthen their proposals as they entered them into PRISM.

Between June 7 and June 28, applicants had the opportunity to submit any changes or adjustments to their applications so a packet containing amended applications could be

prepared two weeks before the Technical Advisory Group review. The board is pleased with how well review panel involvement enhances their review process.

### *Klickitat County Lead Entity*

SRFB Review Panel members Tom Slocum and Paul Schlenger attended the Klickitat County Lead Entity project site visits on June 12, 2012. They received the pre-application packet for each proposed project two weeks before the site visits. The SRFB Review Panel provided feedback and questions to each of the project sponsors, at which point project sponsors submitted responses to their questions and concerns.

Following the project sponsor responses, the SRFB Review Panel accepted all of the proposed projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity as okay to proceed with the funding process as the additional information requested was provided. At this point, no project application had a project of concern designation.

As allocations and funding situations became clear, the local technical and citizens committee reviewed and ranked projects. Changes in project application scope made at the request of the local Citizens Review Committee were communicated to the SRFB Review Panel. The lead entity coordinator communicated with the SRFB Review Panel and RCO grants managers during the application process.

### **Explain how multi-year implementation plans or habitat work schedules were used to develop project lists**

#### *Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board*

The August 2009 Yakima steelhead recovery outlines a list of recommended recovery actions that will contribute to restoring steelhead to viable levels in the Yakima basin. Project applicants were asked to identify the actions that pertained to their projects in their applications, and during the Technical Advisory Group evaluation process, we determined if a project had a high, medium, or low fit to the recovery plan.

During the 2012-13 review of our Lead Entity process, participants emphasized the need to improve the fit between SRFB proposals submitted by sponsors and the biological priorities that TAG participants feel need to be addressed. In response, the TAG working group convened to develop a process to identify and describe priority actions, and revise the TAG matrix to recognize proposals that implement TAG priorities.

This effort resulted in the [TAG Priority Action List](#). The list is used to:

- Give the TAG a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority actions

- Provide guidance to sponsors deciding what types of projects to pursue and propose
- Strengthen the link between the SRFB project review criteria and Recovery Plan priorities

### *Klickitat County Lead Entity*

The *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy* is the basis for project prioritization and work schedule development; project evaluation criteria incorporate strategy priorities. This strategy has a priority matrix containing priority sub-basins and reaches with associated rational, impacted species, life history significance, limiting habitat features, action priority ranking, specific habitat actions and rational, habitat forming processes, community interests, and the source of the information if applicable. This strategy and matrix are updated annually to reflect project completion and new information and data. All projects submitted for the 2012 SRFB grant round are specifically identified or address habitat issues identified in the *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy*.

**Explain how comments of technical, citizen, and policy reviews were addressed in finalizing the project list. Were there any issues about projects on the list and how were those resolved?**

### *Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board*

We provided each sponsor with a summary of comments and suggestions after project review milestones (site visits, sponsor presentations, etc.). As we moved through each evaluation feedback loop, sponsors considered the feedback received and modified their proposals as appropriate. All issues identified were to be addressed two weeks before the Technical Advisory Group review.

Upon completion of the Technical Advisory Group's review and scoring, the lead entity's Citizens Committee reviews and ranks the projects. Citizens Committee members may include individual citizens, local, state, federal, and tribal government representatives; community groups; environmental and fisheries groups; conservation districts; and industry. The Citizens Committee is critical to ensure that biological priorities and projects identified by the Technical Advisory Group have the necessary community support for success. Citizen Committee members are often the best judges of the community's social, cultural, and economic values as they apply to salmon recovery, and they can assess how to increase community support over time through the implementation of habitat projects. The Citizens Committee reviews the Technical Advisory Group's proposed project ranking and adjusts it based on the results of their evaluation of community values. Community values considered include: cultural, social, economic, efficient and effective resource use, community support, and partner support. The Citizens Committee develops the final recommended ranked project list. The committee takes the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group into consideration, but they are not obligated to maintain the

same ranking given to projects by the Technical Advisory Group if they feel a project's ranking needs to be adjusted based the Citizens Committees evaluation.

The CC chose to maintain the TAG's ranking for the first six projects, based on the fact that in general the TAG's highest ranked projects also received the highest scores based on the CC criteria. They noted that in the case of the one exception, the Little Rattlesnake Floodplain Reconnection Project, the CC's concerns could be addressed if the project sponsor implements effective public outreach and communication about the project and its impacts on road access. The CC emphasized that while the project has created some concerns for road users, significant efforts are being made to ensure that road access to areas above the closed section will be maintained.

CC changes to the TAG rank occurred for several projects further down the list:

- 1) The Yakima Basin Bull Trout Task Force was moved downward from #7 on the TAG's list to #11 on the CC list, based on its relatively poor CC score of 4 and CC concerns that portions of the work (outreach and monitoring) were not clearly eligible for SRFB funding while the case for the need and effectiveness of work to address other elements (recreational dams) was not well developed.
- 2) The Ellensburg Water Company Coleman Creek Intersection Project was moved upward from #12 to #10, based on its high CC score (9 vs 4 and 5 for the projects moved below it) and the CC's desire to see the project completed so as not to strand funded allocated to it in previous years.
- 3) The Ahtanum Creek Restoration Survey and Design Project was moved above the Naches River Riparian and Side Channel Design Project, trading the 13th and 14th spots in the list. The CC based this on the significantly higher CC score (7 vs 1) received by the Ahtanum Project.
- 4) The CC changed the TAG's 'Do Not Fund' recommendation for the West Side Crossing Reach to 'Fund', giving the project the 16th place on the list. The CC concurred with the TAG that the SRFB should not fund any work on the actual siphon site that might be considered a required element of the project to remove the siphon and replace it with a flume, but noted that there were fundable habitat improvement elements proposed downstream of the siphon site.
- 5) The CC confirmed the 'Do Not Fund' recommendation for the Healing Greens project, noting that while they commended the project sponsor for their interest in salmon recovery, the proposal did not clearly define what would be done, its potential benefits, and the capacity of the sponsor to effectively implement the project.

6) Finally, the CC considered the TAG recommendation that monitoring elements of the Bateman Island Causeway Design not be funded, but decided to provide that input as a recommendation to the sponsor, rather than as a condition of funding.

On August 7, the board met and reviewed the ranked lead entity list submitted by the Citizens Committee, and approved the list unanimously.

### *Klickitat County Lead Entity*

The Klickitat County Lead Entity receives SRFB funding out of both the lower Columbia region allocation and the mid Columbia region allocation. Therefore, the lead entity essentially comes up with two prioritization lists, one to use the funds available from the middle Columbia and one from the lower Columbia.

Proposed for funding in the Middle Columbia, the Klickitat Floodplain Restoration Phase 4 project had few comments and questions. The main concern was regarding cost-benefit. However, the fact that it is a high use area for fish and important section on the river, in addition to the good track record of the project sponsors and successful implementation of past work, led to it being the top ranked project in the lead entity.

Also proposed for funding in the Middle Columbia, the Klickitat Beaver Project was met with mixed feelings when originally being proposed as an on-the-ground restoration project. The project sponsor had experience with similar projects and it seemed to be a cost-effective approach and a good concept. However, concerns with the long-term success, viability, and potential issues with surrounding landowners, as well as not having the detailed data required for potentially relocating beaver, caused the project not be recommended for funding during this grant round at the local level by the Citizen Review Committee. Additionally, the Citizens Review Committee wanted to fund the Klickitat Floodplain Restoration Phase 4 project to the maximum extent possible, which coupled with the concerns about the beaver project, did not leave any funding for the beaver project. Projects proposed for funding in the lower Columbia region are described in that section of the grant round report.



## Project List Summary Table