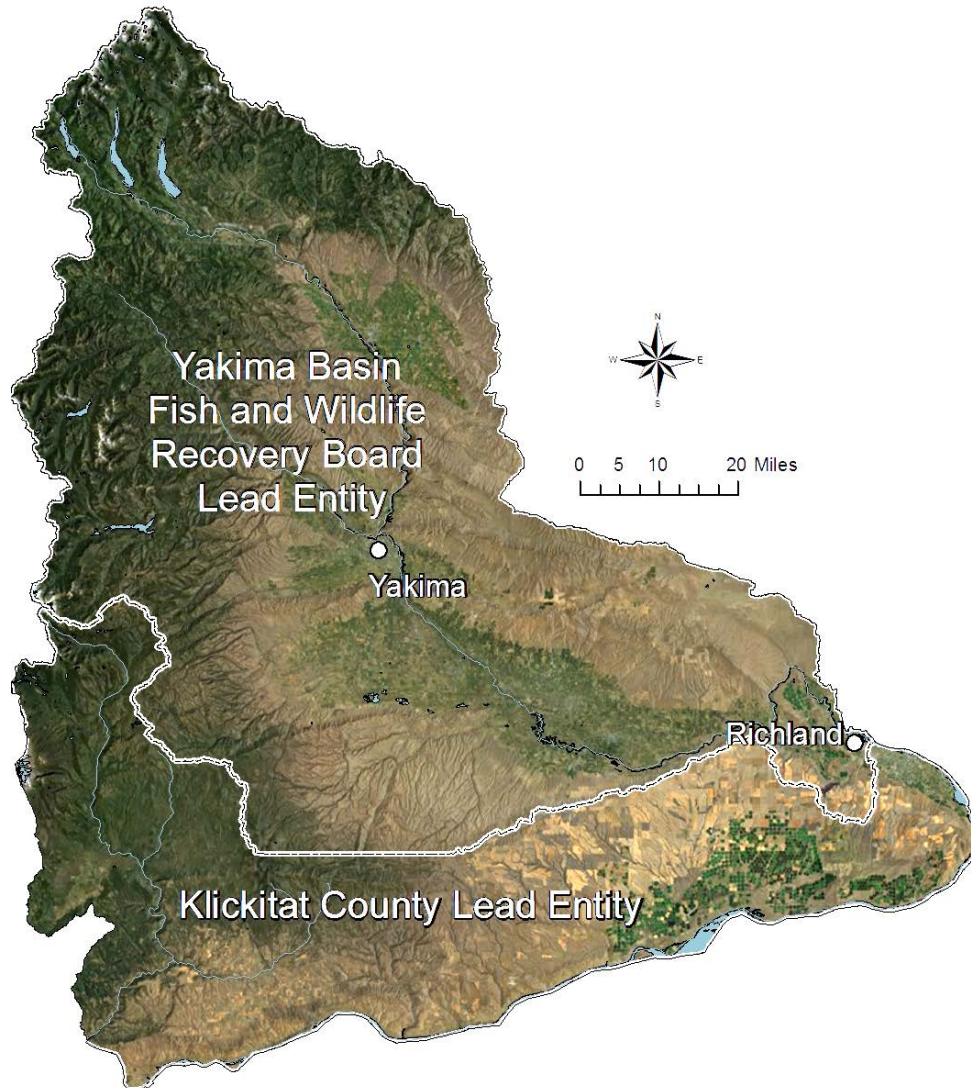


Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region



Yakima Basin Fish and
Wildlife Recovery Board
1200 Chesterly Drive
Yakima, WA 98902
www.ybfwrb.org

Lead Entity Coordinator
Tricia Snyder
(509) 453-4104
tsnyder@ybfwrb.org

Klickitat County Lead Entity
127 West Court Street, Mail Stop CH-27
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-2410

Region Overview

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

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Endangered Species Act Listings

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

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

Salmon Recovery Plan

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 NOAA.)	\$269 million (Yakima steelhead recovery plan only)
Status	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 NOAA’s recovery plans for steelhead populations in the Gorge Management Unit of the middle Columbia River steelhead distinct population segment.

Recovery Plan	
	The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board released the <i>Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan</i> in September 2012, with an update in 2017, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its bull trout recovery plan in 2015.
Implementation Schedule Status	For the Yakima basin, basic elements of a 6-year 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 Web site Klickitat Lead Entity Web page Habitat Work Schedule

Region and Lead Entities

There are five WRIAs in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. 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.

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 \$1,688,400 for the 2019 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.

Every year from 2015-2019 the Klickitat County Lead Entity has requested the use of Mid-Columbia Region funds for use on projects in the White Salmon. The Yakima Basin Fish &

Wildlife Recovery Board is genuinely excited to see important fisheries restoration projects occurring in the White Salmon Basin, and believe that they can help all of us meet delisting goals for Middle Columbia Steelhead. However YBFWRB also wants to ensure that decisions about the use of the Middle Columbia allocation are considered in a transparent manner by the appropriate decision making body.

In 2016, the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board and the Klickitat County Lead Entity formalized the process for requesting the use of Mid-Columbia Region funds for use on projects in the White Salmon. The process involves the Klickitat County Lead Entity making a formal request to the Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board for any proposed transfer of funding from the Mid-C allocation to the Lower Columbia allocation. In 2019, the Klickitat Lead Entity did not propose using Mid-C funds in the White Salmon watershed.

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.

Table 1: Funding and Requests

Funding and Requests	Totals	Percent
Total Allocation	\$1,688,400	100%
Yakima Basin Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$1,181,880	70%
Klickitat Lead Entity List (without alternates)	\$506,520	30%
Remaining Balance	(\$0)	100%

Explain if the projects list(s) submitted in your region funds the highest priority projects.

Our project list submitted for the 2019 SRFB grant round funds the highest priority projects and actions that are eligible for funding by the SRFB that have been proposed by sponsors in the lead entity area in the current grant year, and address the strategies in our Salmon Recovery Plan.

If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in your region.

The majority of high priority projects in the Yakima Basin are being funded. Some of our recovery plan priorities are not necessarily best addressed through the SRFB program. We have successfully advocated for many of our priorities through other funding sources and continue to

fund high priority projects. Some priorities require challenging political commitments and/or are impacted by landowner willingness.

Do suballocations to lead entities limit your region from getting to the highest priority projects?

No, suballocations do not limit our region from getting to the highest priority projects.

Regional Technical Review Process

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 Technical Advisory Group [Evaluation Form](#). This form is used to provide consistency in evaluating projects. It is used to generate discussion and provide additional guidance to Technical Advisory Group members for how to rank projects. These also are provided to the Citizen Committee so members are aware of how the Technical Advisory Group evaluated the proposals. This form evaluates the strengths and weaknesses in regard to:
- Biological Benefit
 - Landowner Commitment
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Sequencing
 - Budget
 - Design
 - Future Stewardship
 - Uncertainties and Constraints
3. Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board’s [Focus Project List](#): The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board’s Focus Project List is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group to help identify high priority 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 Technical Advisory Group 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 Technical

Advisory Group 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 matrices and evaluation forms from the 2019 technical advisory group evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

The Yakima Citizen Committee evaluated and ranked projects based on the following [criteria, which were updated in the winter of 2018](#):

- Cultural and Social Considerations:
 - How does the project affect the Yakima Nation and its members?
 - How does the project affect agricultural interests?
 - How does the project affect recreational opportunities within the Basin?
 - How will the project change ESA liabilities for community members?
 - Does the project include substantive and compelling education and outreach components?
- Economic Considerations:
 - Are there economic effects associated with this project?
 - Is the project budget clearly defined and reasonable for the current stage of the proposed project?
 - At the current stage of the proposed project, how much benefit does the project create for the dollars invested?
- Project Context and Organization Considerations:
 - How is the project coordinated with other past, present and future salmon recovery actions?
 - Is the project timely?
 - Are we confident that all the pieces of the project can come together as anticipated or are there significant uncertainties?
- Partnerships and Community Support Considerations:
 - Are the right partners involved to make the project succeed?
 - Are the landowners who are directly affected by the proposed project in strong support of this proposal?

- At the current stage of the proposed project, is the project sponsor using SRFB funding to leverage other funding sources?

The matrices and evaluation forms from the 2019 citizen committee evaluation meeting are included as a separate document with this appendix.

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

Participants in the 2019 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.

Table 2: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Dale Bambrick	NOAA-Fisheries	Supervisory fish biologist
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County	Fish and wildlife biologist
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries biologist
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District manager
Ashton Bunce	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Fisheries biologist
Shannon Archuleta	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries biologist
Tom Ring	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Hydrogeologist
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist
Arden Thomas	Kittitas County	Water resources
Jason Romine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Rebecca Wassell	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Restoration biologist
Robert Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Darren Friedel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat 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 but one of the projects submitted for this 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. One project, Tieton River Restoration Design #4, is addressing new information regarding the importance the Tieton River to steelhead recovery that is not yet reflected in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. This information will be reflected in any update to the recovery plan but local reviewers feel this project is innovative, timely, and should be funded in the 2019 grant round.

Criteria the SRFB considers in funding regional project lists:

How did your regional review consider whether a project:

- A. Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability? In addition to limiting factors analysis, SaSI, and SSHIAP¹, 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*. An update was started in 2016 and finalized in 2017. The Technical Advisory Group assesses the fit of proposed projects to the priority actions identified in these plans, and uses a matrix that

¹ SaSI = Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory; SSHIAP=Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program

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.

B. Addresses cost effectiveness?

Both the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee evaluated project budgets as a part of the ranking process. The Technical Advisory Group 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.

The Technical Advisory Group also considers a benefit-to-cost weighting factor. 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 Citizen 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.

C. Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit listed fish. Identify projects on the regional list that primarily benefit non-listed species.

All projects on our 2019 list provide primary benefit to listed fish species. Please see the 2019 ranked project list, attached to this report, for full details.

D. Preserves high quality habitat. Identify the projects on your list that will preserve high quality habitat.

The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board Lead did not receive a protection proposal in 2019. Since 2000, our Lead Entity has received 23 acquisition proposals and

funded 19, or 86% of those requests. However, SRFB funding represents a relatively small portion of overall acquisition spending in the Yakima Basin.

E. Implements a high priority project or action in a region- or watershed-based salmon recovery plan. Identify where and how the project is identified as a high priority in the referenced plan.

All but one project implement priority recovery actions identified in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan and/or the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan. One project, Tieton River Restoration Design #4, is addressing new information regarding the importance the Tieton River to steelhead recovery that is not yet reflected in the Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan. This information will be reflected in any update to the recovery plan but local reviewers feel this project is innovative, timely, and should be funded in the 2019 grant round. The Technical Advisory Group identified three of our projects as “High Priority Fund.” Three projects were identified as “Priority Fund.” Three projects were listed as “Fund.” In addition to the TAG Fund Category, three of the projects aligned with the [TAG Focus Project List](#) (as described in response to [question 2B](#)). Please see the following summary table of funded projects for additional detail:

Table 3: TAG Designations

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
1	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #4: Yakima River “Gap to Gap” Floodplain and Side Channel Restoration. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
2	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	High Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #13: Teanaway, Swauk, and Tributaries Instream Flow. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima #15: Restore tributary riparian areas.
3	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	High Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Basinwide Action #2: Adequately screen all water diversions.

Appendix M– Regional Summaries

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
			Basinwide Action #3: Increase on-farm irrigation efficiency. Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
4	Tieton River Restoration Design #4	Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment.
5	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	Priority Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods. Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues.
6	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	Priority Fund	TAG Focus Action #10: Ahtanum Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration. Steelhead Recovery Plan Naches Action #27: Ahtanum creek floodplain and side channel restoration. Naches Action #28: Reduce livestock impacts on Ahtanum Creek riparian areas. 2017 Bull Trout Action Plan Ahtanum #7.
7	Spoon Full Side Channels	Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #12: Reduce confinement of Upper Yakima River. Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
8	Hanson Ponds Project	Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
9	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	Fund	No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan

Rank	Project	TAG Fund Category	Alignment with Plans and Priorities
			Upper Yakima Action #11: Restore passage, separate irrigation conveyance, and screen diversions in Ellensburg-area tributaries.

F. Provides for match above the minimum requirement percentage. Identify the project’s match percentage and the regional match total.

The majority of projects submitted for funding include, where required, match at or just above 15%. Due the administrative tasks that are involved with reporting on additional match, most of our sponsors prefer to keep their official SRFB match at 15%, but demonstrate additional project support, separate from the SRFB total, on the project budget forms attached in PRISM. The 1 project that has included their total match amounts, above the required 15%, within their official SRFB match is highlighted below.

Project Name (in order of rank)	SRFB Request	Match	% Match	Project Total
Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	\$400,000	\$81,353	17%	\$481,353
The Ranch on Swauk Creek	\$168,691	\$60,464	26%	\$229,155
Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	\$249,774	\$49,000	16%	\$298,774
Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4	\$90,000	--	--	\$90,000
Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	\$199,764	\$36,431	15%	\$236,195
Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	\$120,000	--	--	\$120,000
Spoon Full Side Channels	\$338,295	\$60,300	15%	\$398,595
Hanson Ponds Project	\$95,818	--	--	\$95,818
Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	\$99,039	--	--	\$99,039

G. Is sponsored by an organization that has a successful record of project implementation. For example, identify the number of previous SRFB projects funded and completed.

Table 4: History of Projects

Rank	Project	Sponsor	Number of projects	Number of projects	Number of
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			previously funded	previously completed	active projects
1	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	Yakima County	9	9	0
2	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	Kittitas County Conservation District	18	17	1
3	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	Trout Unlimited	8	4	4
4	Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4	Yakama Nation	7	4	3
5	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	36	25	11
6	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	Yakama Nation	7	4	3
7	Spoon Full Side Channels	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	36	25	11
9	Hanson Ponds Project	Kittitas Conservation Trust	10	10	0
10	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	Trout Unlimited	8	4	4

H. Involves members of the veterans conservation corps established in Revised Code of Washington 43.60A.150.

To our knowledge, none of our recommended projects involve members of the veteran’s conservation corps.

Local Review Processes

Provide project evaluation criteria and documentation of your local Citizen’s 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 Citizen 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 Citizen 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 Citizen

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 Citizen Committee for review. The Citizen Committee evaluates the project based on its set of criteria, and adjusts the Technical Advisory Group’s proposed ranking based on its evaluation. The Citizen 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 Citizen 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 Citizen Committee used its own established set of criteria. The Technical Advisory Group met to review and rank projects on July 9. The group’s proposed ranking and the notes of their meeting were then provided to the Citizen Committee, which met July 23 to rank the projects based on the Citizen Committee’s criteria.

The Citizen Committee’s final ranked list was presented to and approved by the board on July 31.

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 score is listed at the bottom of the form – 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 maintain consistency in the project evaluations, and to help Lead Entity staff document the discussion.

The Citizen 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 and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity process can be found in our [Lead Entity Manual](#).

Please see question 5B and attached ranking forms for project specific details.

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 (August, 2018), 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 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 Technical Committee

commented on and ranked each project and forwarded consensus comments to 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 Issues and Support (Citizens Committee only)

Community Support

The project priority rankings for the Mid-Columbia allocation were consistent 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 0 and 20 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

Table 5: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Name	Affiliation	Expertise
Dale Bambrick	NOAA-Fisheries	Supervisory fish biologist
Joel Freudenthal	Yakima County	Fish and wildlife biologist
Sean Gross	NOAA-Fisheries	Fisheries biologist
Anna Lael	Kittitas County Conservation District	District manager
Ashton Bunce	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Fisheries biologist
Shannon Archuleta	Bureau of Reclamation	Fisheries biologist
Tom Ring	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Hydrogeologist
Jennifer Nelson	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist
Arden Thomas	Kittitas County	Water resources
Jason Romine	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Rebecca Wassell	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Restoration biologist
Robert Parrish	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Fish biologist
Darren Friedel	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Habitat biologist

Table 6: Klickitat County Lead Entity

Name	Affiliation
Brady Allen	Fisheries Biologist, Bonneville Power Authority
Diane Driscoll	Fishery Resource Specialist, NOAA Fisheries
Jill Hardiman	Fisheries Biologist, US Geological Survey
Loren Meagher	Engineer, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts
David Lindley	Habitat Restoration Specialist, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program

Margaret Neuman	Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement
Tova Tillinghast	District Manager, Underwood Conservation District
Dan Richardson (Alt.)	Field Technician, Underwood Conservation District
Joe Zendt, Chairman	Fisheries Biologist, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program
Diane Hopster	Hydrologist, US Forest Service
Amber Johnson	Habitat Biologist, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Gardner Johnston	Hydrologist, Inter-Fluve
Jay McLaughlin	Timber, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards

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 Tom Slocum and Michelle Cramer toured ten proposed project sites spanning May 20-21, 2019. Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment was presented with visuals due to timing constraints and the difficulty in picking one stop for an assessment of this size. Lead Entity staff provided a tour packet including project details, photos, cost estimates, and maps along with the Yakima Basin TAG Focus Project List and the Limiting Factors for each reach or stream. Review panel members provided feedback to staff and applicants on site, and followed up with their written comments.

Board staff invited all review committee members to attend the site visits. 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 6. These comments were shared with applicants, the Technical Advisory Group and Citizen Committee members, and applicants were asked to address these issues to strengthen their proposals as they entered them into PRISM.

Between June 6 and June 21, 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

The SRFB Review Panel members Jeanette Smith & Marnie Tyler attended the Klickitat Lead Entity project tour on June 11, 2019. They received the pre-application packet for each proposed project three weeks prior to the site visits. The SRFB Review Panel provided feedback and questions to each of the project sponsors on June 21st, at which point project sponsors submitted responses to their questions and concerns and updated their Projects in Prism. After the sponsors addressed questions and comments provided by the SRFB Review Panel and those from local committee members the committees convened to evaluate and rank the projects. The Klickitat Lead Entity Coordinator routinely communicated with the RCO Grant Manager regarding general process questions, and questions specific to each of the projects.

Local evaluation process and project lists.

A. 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 Plan outlines a list of recommended recovery actions that will contribute to restoring steelhead to viable levels in the Yakima basin; the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan identified specific priority actions that will contribute to recovering bull trout populations 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.

The YBFWRB Focus Project List was added to our Lead Entity process in 2013. In response to committee members request to improve the fit between SRFB proposals and the biological priorities that Technical Advisory Group participants feel need to be addressed, a Technical Advisory Group working group convened to develop a process to identify and describe focus actions. The result of this process was the YBFWRB [Focus Project List](#). It helps identify the most timely/urgent of the 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 was last reviewed and updated in late 2018.

The list is used to:

- Give the Technical Advisory Group 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, or as needed if not annually, to reflect project completion and new information and data. All projects submitted for the 2019 SRFB grant round are specifically identified or address habitat issues identified in the *Klickitat Lead Entity Region Salmon Recovery Strategy*. The Strategy was updated in 2015 to include monitoring projects.

B. 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 site visits. In order to provide clear feedback to project sponsors, the Technical Advisory Group iteratively edited feedback after the site visits to identify disagreements and red flag issues. This allowed consensus to develop and the Technical Advisory Group was able to provide sponsors with written feedback. Each Project Sponsor is then provided a Comment Matrix form which includes one section with comments from the local TAG and CC members captured during site visits and sponsor presentation, and a second section that lists comments and questions from the state review panel members. Sponsors are asked to respond to concerns on the Comment Matrix and upload the document in PRISM with "Comment Matrix" as part of the tile. The goal of using the matrix is to let reviewers know how the Sponsor addressed the issue and direct them to where they can find the details. Sponsors are also reminded that completing this Matrix does not replace the need to respond to Review Panel comments in their application. 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 Citizen Committee reviews and ranks the projects. Citizen Committee members may include individual citizens, local, state, federal, and tribal government representatives; community groups;

environmental and fisheries groups; conservation districts; and industry. The Citizen 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 Citizen 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 Citizen 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 Citizen Committee’s evaluation.

The Citizen Committee did not see any compelling reason to re-order the ranked list provided by the Technical Advisory Group and confirmed the TAG’s recommendation to defer the Naches North Loop Side Channel project.

On July 31, the board met and reviewed the ranked lead entity list submitted by the Citizen Committee, and approved the list unanimously.

Klickitat County Lead Entity

The Klickitat Lead Entity receives SRFB funding out of both the Lower Columbia Region allocation and the Middle Columbia Region allocation, 2.7% this year and 30% respectively. 2015 was the first year in which Middle Columbia Region allocation dollars were used in the White Salmon Basin. In 2019 there were no projects in the White Salmon asking for Middle Columbia Funds. .

Project List Summary Table

Following is a project list summary table for the region. For the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region, there are 6 projects totaling \$1,181,880 submitted by the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. The Middle Columbia Region also has 4 alternate projects totaling \$596,178. The remaining \$506,520 of the Mid-Columbia allocation will be used by the Klickitat Lead Entity. If any Klickitat project does not move forward due to POCs, landowner issues, or other reasons, we would like to transfer those funds back to the Yakima Basin Lead Entity to help fund our alternate projects.

Table 7: Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Proposed Projects

Rank	Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
1	19-1518	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	Yakima County		<p>TAG Focus Action #4: Yakima River “Gap-to-Gap” Floodplain & Side Channel Restoration.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.</p>
2	19-1427	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	Kittitas County Conservation District		<p>TAG Focus Action #13: Teanaway, Swauk, and Tributaries Instream Flow.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #4: Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds. Upper Yakima #15: Restore tributary riparian areas.</p>
3	19-1424	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	Trout Unlimited		<p>No TAG Focus Action Alignment.</p> <p>Steelhead Recovery Plan Basinwide Action #2: Adequately screen all water diversions. Basinwide Action #3: Increase on-farm irrigation efficiency. Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.</p>
4	19-1447	Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4	Yakama Nation		No TAG Focus Action Alignment.

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
5	19-1524	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group		No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Basinwide Action #12: Improve recruitment of cottonwoods. Basinwide Action #13: Address forest health issues.
6	19-1446	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	Yakama Nation		TAG Focus Action #10: Ahtanum Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration. Steelhead Recovery Plan Naches Action #27: Ahtanum creek floodplain and side channel restoration. Naches Action #28: Reduce livestock impacts on Ahtanum Creek riparian areas. 2017 Bull Trout Action Plan Ahtanum #7.
7 ALT	19-1430	Spoon Full Side Channels	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group		No TAG Focus Action Alignment Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #12: Reduce confinement of Upper Yakima River. Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.
9 ALT	19-1502	Hanson Ponds Project	Kittitas Conservation Trust		No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #13: Protect and restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas, and Easton/Cle Elum reaches.

Rank	Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Primary Fish Stock Benefited	Priority in Recovery Plan or Strategy
10 ALT	19-1425	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	Trout Unlimited		No TAG Focus Action Alignment. Steelhead Recovery Plan Upper Yakima Action #11: Restore passage, separate irrigation conveyance, and screen diversions in Ellensburg-area tributaries.
Klickitat County Lead Entity Projects in the Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region					
1	19-1552	Walaluks Creek Levee Setback	Eastern Klickitat Conservation District	Steelhead,	Tier A, Priority A. Pages: 4, 95.
2	19-1550	Forest Road 80 x-ing of Piscoe Creek	Yakama Nation	Steelhead	Tier C, Priority A. Pages: 3, 91.
3	19-1549	Swale Cr Trib Confluence Restoration Design RM 11.25	Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Steelhead	Tier B, Priority A. Pages: 3, 83-84

2019 Yakima Lead Entity Ranked List

CC RANK	Project Name	TAG RANK	SRFB \$s	Cumulative
1	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	1	\$400,000	\$400,000
2	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	2	\$168,691	\$568,691
3	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	3	\$249,774	\$818,465
4	Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4	4	\$90,000	\$908,465
5	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	5	\$199,764	\$1,108,229
6	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	6	\$120,000	\$1,228,229
7	Spoon Full Side Channels	7	\$338,295	\$1,566,524
8	Teaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation	8	\$63,026	\$1,629,550
9	Hanson Ponds Project	9	\$95,818	\$1,725,368
10	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	10	\$99,039	\$1,824,407
Defer	Naches North Loop Side Channel ¹	11	\$165,984	\$1,990,391

Green = High Priority Fund

Yellow = Priority Fund

Orange = Fund

Red = Do Not Fund

CC RANK	Project Name	CC Matrix Total	SRFB \$s	Cumulative
1	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	13	\$400,000	\$400,000
2	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	11	\$168,691	\$568,691
3	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	12	\$249,774	\$818,465
4	Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4	5	\$90,000	\$908,465
5	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	2	\$199,764	\$1,108,229
6	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	4	\$120,000	\$1,228,229
7	Spoon Full Side Channels	5	\$338,295	\$1,566,524
8	Teaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation	6	\$63,026	\$1,629,550
9	Hanson Ponds Project	5	\$95,818	\$1,725,368
10	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design	2	\$99,039	\$1,824,407
Defer	Naches North Loop Side Channel ¹	-1	\$165,984	\$1,990,391

Green = High Priority Fund

Yellow = Priority Fund

Orange = Fund

Red = Do Not Fund

¹ TAG/CC have reached consensus that problems and/or questions remain regarding this project such that they do not recommend it for funding for the 2019 SRFB grant round, see specific project notes for further clarification.

Hanson Ponds Project, Kittitas Conservation Trust

Strengths	KCT is a competent organization and has engaged the right partners. The project site has good public access, high visibility, with recreation opportunities. There is a great opportunity here for outreach and coordination and KCT has done a good job of coordinating funds with the City of Cle Elum.
Weaknesses	The certainty of water quality and salmonid benefits is not clear. The project may create habitat more suited for non-native predators. Design budget is quite low—lots of work to get done in a short amount of time.
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	5
Final Rank	9

The Ranch on Swauk Creek, Kittitas County Conservation District

Strengths	There is strong landowner support and commitment to project stewardship over time. The project has a high probability of success on an important reach and may reduce need for irrigation season blockage.
Weaknesses	
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	11
Final Rank	2

Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration, Yakima County

Strengths	This project is directly improving habitat at the river, over many acres. It is an element of a well-planned community project, decades in the making, with strong multi-agency support. There are ecological benefits to reconnecting the floodplain and the project benefits fish while reducing flood risk.
Weaknesses	

Recommended Actions	Please consider adding a public outreach element. This is a highly visible project with a great opportunity for education and outreach.
CC Score	13
Final Rank	1

Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design, Trout Unlimited

Strengths	The sponsor is working with Kittitas Reclamation District to develop a way to greatly improve the fish potentials of this creek. Tucker creek is a key spawning and rearing area and this project will remove a passage barrier. The project sponsor has high organizational capacity and expertise for this type of project.
Weaknesses	The fish benefits of this project are uncertain. The future replacement/repair/upgrade of surrounding infrastructure could wipe out any engineered solution now—it is uncertain that an eloquent engineering solution exists here.
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	2
Final Rank	10

Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival, Trout Unlimited

Strengths	This project will benefit agriculture with reliable irrigation water and individual systems. It solves a long-standing issue and seems like a win-win for agricultural landowners and fish. This is a very attractive project in both its direct benefit and the benefit it provides to adjacent projects.
Weaknesses	Multiple landowners remains a risk.
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	12
Final Rank	3

Spoon Full Side Channels, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Strengths	Landowner interest, support, and commitment to assist with construction. There is a strong educational component to involve schools and the general public. A single landowner reduces the probability of complications.
Weaknesses	There is uncertainty about input of silts and long-term maintenance of channels. There is an unknown effect of groundwater elevation.
Recommended Actions	It would be beneficial to reach out to Yakama Nation’s cultural program earlier in the process.
CC Score	5
Final Rank	7

Teanaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Strengths	This project restores vegetation, supports restoration of the only valley floor connection between public lands in the area, and has a high probability of success.
Weaknesses	The direct effects on fish habitat is questionable—most of the project is upland habitat.
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	6
Final Rank	8

Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Strengths	This is not a project with immediate benefits but it has large potential benefits that could assist with cottonwood development/replacement over many miles of river.
Weaknesses	It’s expensive for an assessment on a river with so much study already done. Landowner support is unknown, which may impact staff ability to collect data. Even if data is collected, project might identify or prioritize projects on land with unwilling landowners.

Recommended Actions	Ensure that there is a distribution plan in place for products of this assessment to be made available for other natural resource managers in the Basin. If the project finds areas in which current river management is not conducive to cottonwood establishment, consider investigating other species.
CC Score	2
Final Rank	5

Naches North Loop

Strengths	If successfully implemented, the project would improve both fish habitat and landowner irrigation.
Weaknesses	There is the possibility of increased flow on landowner's property. Landowner support does not seem strong enough to warrant this level of investment and a key supporting landowner recently placed their property for sale, increasing the uncertainty of the project. CC is additionally concerned that it will be extremely difficult to control inflow at river flood stage.
Recommended Actions	
CC Score	-1
Final Rank	Defer

Ahtanum Village

Strengths	There has been a lot of research done in the area and the project proposes methods that have proven successful elsewhere. The project site is a critical area of fish migration and the CC feels confident that a project can be implemented following design.
Weaknesses	The design will be constrained to avoid flooding issues for adjacent landowners. The project budget lacks detail and CC is concerned that the project is not well enough defined.
Recommended Actions	

CC Score	4
Final Rank	6

Tieton River

Strengths	The size of the habitat created could be quite large and habitat quality is promising. The project is well laid out and will provide a spawning reach just off the main stem of a river which has lost much of that resource due to the dam, highway, and flip flop patterns. The project is consistent with present irrigation flow and recreational uses and is appropriately linked to the steelhead recovery plan.
Weaknesses	CC is concerned about the lack of budget detail. There are engineering challenges due to the dam/highway/flows constraints. Designing a self-maintaining system might be difficult within those constraints.
Recommended Actions	Ensure that any design does not unduly hinder recreation on the Tieton River Nature Trail.
CC Score	5
Final Rank	4

2019 YBFWRB TAG Summary Table

TAG RANK	Matrix	Project Name	Total	SRFB \$s	Cumulative
1	47	Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration	\$481,453	\$400,000	\$400,000
2	43	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	\$229,155	\$168,691	\$568,691
3	36	Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival	\$298,774	\$249,774	\$818,465
4	19	Tieton River Restoration Site #4 ¹	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$908,465
5	20	Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment	\$236,195	\$199,764	\$1,108,229
6	25	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$1,228,229
7	11	Spoon Full Side Channels	\$398,594	\$338,295	\$1,566,524
8	NA	Teaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation ²	\$74,154	\$63,026	\$1,629,550
9	6	Hanson Ponds Project ³	\$95,818	\$95,818	\$1,725,368
10	8	Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design ³	\$99,039	\$99,039	\$1,824,407
Defer	5	Naches North Loop Side Channel ⁴	\$171,984	\$165,984	\$1,990,391

Green = High Priority Fund

Yellow = Priority Fund

Orange = Fund

Red = Do Not Fund

¹ Tieton River Restoration Site #4 was switched with Ahtanum Village Restoration Design because the TAG feels that this is a ground-breaking project, is responsive to new biological data showing that the river is a cornerstone of the Naches steelhead population, and fits in with larger YBIP priorities that are signed onto by a broad group of stakeholders beyond just the fish community.

² Teaway RM 8 was moved below Spoon Full because TAG felt that there are more fish benefits to the Spoon Full project.

³ Hanson Ponds and Tucker Creek were switched because of the closeness of scores and low TAG certainty of biological benefits of the Tucker Creek project.

⁴ TAG has reached a consensus that problems and/or questions remain regarding this project such that they do not recommend it for funding for the 2019 SRFB grant round, see specific project notes for further clarification.

2018 Technical Advisory Group Evaluation Forms

Bookmarks:

1. [Hanson Ponds Project](#)
2. [The Ranch on Swauk Creek Project](#)
3. [Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival](#)
4. [Tucker Creek Passage – Fish Passage Design](#)
5. [Ahtanum Village Restoration Design](#)
6. [Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4](#)
7. [Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration](#)
8. [Naches North Loop Side Channel](#)
9. [Spoon Full Side Channels](#)
10. [Teaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation](#)
11. [Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment](#)

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Hanson Pond Project

Proposal #: 19-1502

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	The project has the potential to significantly improve rearing habitat quality, particularly through the reconnection of the side channel, and quantity in the mainstem Upper Yakima River. There is documented use of the ponds, at least seasonally, by salmonids.	It's not clear that LWM or nutrients are a deficiency at this location. There are potential problems with non-native fish, with documented populations in the ponds, and there is considerable uncertainty as to whether potential benefit is greater than negative effects of predation by non-native species. The TAG does not believe the goals of project are clear enough and are not convinced focusing on wood and carcasses is the right approach. Water quality data is dated and showed that that the ponds are substantially warmer than the Yakima River and would not be suitable for use year-round.
Landowner Commitment	City of Cle Elum is committed to the project as currently scoped.	It isn't clear that the city is interested in exploring a larger project that includes a levee setback with outfall relocation.
Organizational Capacity	KCT is experienced in permitting and design work.	Sounds like a lot for KCT to do in-house/with the help of partners. According to the proposal, the only thing that they plan to contract out to an engineer is the assessment of passage barriers for juvenile salmonids but a partner able to assess the biological trade-offs with this project has been not identified. The City has been very clear that it is extremely limited in capacity.

Sequencing	It's a good time to look at issues with habitat since FEMA work will occur, which should occur before alternatives development.	Seems like a tight timeline to squeeze in all the different components in the scope of work by July 2021, given that they are mostly being done in-house and by partners. It seems like a lot of the project objectives are in question, maybe this should be an assessment instead of final design.
Budget		
Design	The TAG is pleased to see the public outreach/education component of this project.	There is concern that with different components of the assessment work being done in-house/through the help of local partners (as opposed to hiring a consulting firm to do a full assessment), that the sponsor will not get a holistic view of the habitat (water temp, flow, LWD, passage, etc.) and its suitability for juvenile salmonids. These issues need to be figured out before proceeding to design phase.
Future Stewardship		
Uncertainties & Constraints		Hanson Ponds should be further evaluated for habitat suitability. Existing data shows warm temps and predatory fish. These issues should be addressed first. We deal with this throughout the entire river but have not identified the best way to evaluate pros and cons.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses		Figuring out how to ensure conditions are not more favorable for non-natives/predatory fish is critical here: the TAG does not want to see connectivity and passage between the Yakima River and ponds improved until it's clear that the habitat is really favorable for salmonids.

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- The TAG recommends that an assessment be done that would look at: predation issues, protecting infrastructure, potential for avulsion, and effects of any potential avulsion, etc. We need to figure out an answer for the predator situation, temperature, and answer the geomorphic questions, then approach specific project designs.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: The Ranch on Swauk Creek

Proposal #: 19-1427

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Cottonwood copses will help supplement the existing riparian buffer and increasing irrigation efficiency will result in more water instream for salmonids. The project will improve screen function when most smolts are present—currently they're at risk in both PODs. The project will also conserve water in low flow stream, eliminate seasonal barriers in creek, and eliminate poorly functioning screens.	
Landowner Commitment	Strong landowner commitment, as demonstrated from continued attention to diversion operation and fencing of cattle from riparian area.	
Organizational Capacity	KCCD has capacity and lots of experience to complete this type of project, plus WDFW will have O&M contract with landowner for diversions.	
Sequencing		
Budget		
Design		
Future Stewardship	Landowner and sponsor's capacities for stewardship are high.	Will require maintenance.
Uncertainties & Constraints		This site has proven to be difficult—engineering a solution may be tricky.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses	Investment in reduction of mortality is warranted.	

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Tjossem Ditch – Improving Salmonid Survival

Proposal #: 19-1424

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Will prevent fish from imminent mortality. Also will allow future restoration of side channel and/or manmade infrastructure to be removed down the line. This project will eliminate the need for a totally dysfunctional screen in a high use reach of the Yakima River, as well as facilitate future restoration of nearby properties. Project will also eliminate the need for a checkdam and yearly maintenance upstream of the ditch headgate that occurs in a side channel of the river and degrades fish habitat.	
Landowner Commitment	Seems like most landowners are on board. High commitment by public landowners around the ditch.	TU can hopefully get landowner agreements in place soon to ensure participation of all 6 landowners, which are needed to be able to discontinue use of the ditch.
Organizational Capacity	Organizational capacity is very high for this type of project.	
Sequencing	Very good. This will facilitate restoration of Schaake and improve options for restoration at Hansen Pits property.	
Budget		
Design		Does not remove abandoned infrastructure (fish screen, headgate, debris dam, channel), though it does eliminate the need for the infrastructure

Future Stewardship	Will eliminate the need for maintenance of the ditch and side channel, thereby reducing ongoing impacts.	
Uncertainties & Constraints	Project will eliminate some existing constraints on the Schaake restoration project.	
Other Strengths/Weaknesses	Could also reduce maintenance costs for water users because the ditch and infrastructure will not need to be maintained, and yearly work in the side channel upstream of the headgate (to direct water into the headgate) will cease.	

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- The TAG recommends that TU looks into incorporating a “release of interest” clause for the existing infrastructure into their landowner agreement to facilitate a future project that would remove infrastructure as needed. The TAG is concerned about ensuring the abandoned infrastructure is properly managed but understands that is outside the scope of this project.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Tucker Creek – Fish Passage Design

Proposal #: 19-1425

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Potential to restore passage to 1.5 miles of habitat. If feasible, the project would address a total barrier.	There are very low flows upstream of KRD and the TAG is unclear how vital passage is here. Steelhead adults were not tracked into Tucker Creek in either of 3 previous radio telemetry studies. Given the lack of spawning fish entering Tucker Creek and what look to be insufficient flows to support steelhead spawning upstream of the barrier, it appears the project would not provide much spawning benefit. Passage seems unlikely to be used by juveniles based on design concepts discussed at site visit, so would mainly be for steelhead adults.
Landowner Commitment	KRD is on board and committed to habitat improvement action. Unsure of other ownerships that might be impacted.	Neighboring landowners have not been contacted and the design may require coordination with them.
Organizational Capacity	High.	
Sequencing		This does not seem like the highest priority for fish passage when considering all of the KRD crossings and the current distribution of steelhead.
Budget	Reasonable.	
Design		Will probably be difficult given the extreme head differential, meaning construction cost will be very high.
Future Stewardship		

Uncertainties & Constraints		Would like to see evaluation of existing habitat conditions above the barrier and ensure there are no other barriers up or downstream of this one that will still be a problem after this is fixed. The TAG is not confident that something workable can be designed here. From hydrographs, it appears that 2 to 4 years of monitoring show insufficient water to support spawning and incubation. Given climate change trends, upper Tucker Creek may become less and less viable for steelhead spawning.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses		

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- Describe how long the siphon is intended to last without replacement. Consider incorporating passage when the siphon needs replacement or major work.
- Consider suitability of spanning Tucker Creek with a pipe instead to allow for full natural processes to occur and minimize the need for long-term maintenance.
- Evaluate flows and habitat conditions upstream of the siphon and consider their suitability for steelhead spawning and incubation.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Ahtanum Village Restoration Design
 Proposal #: 19-1446

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Multiple species will benefit, including lamprey. More LWD in channel would be helpful.	According to the 2019 report, the channel does not appear to be incised so TAG is not confident that incision correction is needed.
Landowner Commitment	High—sponsor is the landowner.	
Organizational Capacity	High.	Doing a project of this type in this location will be complex.
Sequencing		
Budget	Good—several other Ahtanum projects in the works.	Likely to be expensive to construct. The budget appears very generic without a good handle on costs.
Design		The 2019 report shows that this area is outside the historic migration zone, so there was presumably not a frequently active side channel here historically.
Future Stewardship	Yakama Nation has a good track record for stewardship, they also own the site and have field crews available for stewardship.	

Uncertainties & Constraints		The TAG isn't sure how much ecological restoration can occur, given surrounding land uses and infrastructure. What the sponsor has identified as a side channel does not appear to be a channel and appears at too high an elevation to connect at a 2 year flow without significant excavation. It is unclear why connecting this at a 2 year flow is a project goal if it is in fact already connected at a 2 year flow by runoff from upstream, as shown in the 2019 assessment.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses	Highly visible site can promote restoration.	

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- Revisit the side channel concept in light of comments above.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Tieton River Restoration Design Site #4
 Proposal #: 19-1447

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Incorporating HSI data into design. Targeted enhancements for steelhead habitat.	
Landowner Commitment		
Organizational Capacity	High.	
Sequencing	Appropriate given new understanding of Tieton steelhead.	
Budget		
Design		
Future Stewardship		
Uncertainties & Constraints		The project is within the Tieton River Nature Trail (listed on Washington Trails Association) and any alterations to the trail may have public concerns for the hiking and rock climbing communities.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses		

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Gap to Gap Ecosystem Restoration

Proposal #: 19-1518

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Overall, Gap to Gap provides numerous ecological benefits. This project will restore hydrology and habitat function to 2 miles of Blue Slough and connect 20 acres of side channel habitat. Providing off-channel habitat on this scale is valuable. Increased spawning habitat will likely be available by side channel. The project could also provide great lamprey rearing habitat.	It will likely take time to see the full ecological value of Blue Slough and be suitable habitat for salmonids.
Landowner Commitment	High, as evidenced by many years of pursuing larger Gap to Gap project.	
Organizational Capacity	Very high.	
Sequencing	Good—filling pits is a good use of spoil material from channel excavation. Years of prep work by many agencies have gone into preparing for this phase of Gap to Gap.	
Budget	Great cost share.	
Design		
Future Stewardship		
Uncertainties & Constraints		Maintenance associated with new automatic flow controlled gate on Blue Slough.

Other Strengths/Weaknesses	Gap to Gap project has visibility on a statewide scale due to its ambitious and well planned effort to protect the city from flooding and simultaneously improving aquatic habitat.	
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What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- Consider leaving felled cottonwood and LWM onsite of Sportsman Island pilot channel rather than hauling it off.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Naches North Loop Side Channel

Proposal #: 19-1429

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	High potential for fish use in the river and side channel.	Barriers and unscreened diversions are in the side channel already. The proposal will not remove all of these barriers.
Landowner Commitment		Not all landowners appear fully supportive—the “neutral” landowner is a bit worrisome, garnering solid support is necessary for a project like this. The very limited interest in riparian protection indicates a low commitment to habitat.
Organizational Capacity		
Sequencing		TAG believes this project to be out of sequence: improve the existing side channel by fixing the barriers preventing fish from coming up the outlet first and work on improved riparian fencing.
Budget		The project is likely to be very expensive to safely implement and could drive the budget higher for design, given the location of structures in the floodplain.

Design		<p>It seems very difficult to engineer an inlet that will allow perennial flow and fish passage, as well as protect the houses from flooding. This a very hydraulically and geomorphically complex project. Given the location on the meander (mid-apex), geomorphically speaking, this is an extremely difficult site to locate a sustainable ELJ to pull perennial water toward left bank. While the streambed topography is somewhat unknown at this time, the field visit made it seem that the most logical place to initiate side channel connection would be from the Nile Community Park property upstream. Otherwise, the thalweg is towards right bank (distal from the side channel) and is within a riffle where only shallow seasonal flows to peel off occur and ELJ stability would necessarily have to be more robust.</p>
Future Stewardship		<p>Some regular in-water maintenance of channel inlet may be required.</p>
Uncertainties & Constraints		<p>The project will have to be highly engineered and there is a high risk for increased flood risks for landowners. Maintenance of the inlet channel and the diversion structure in the Naches River.</p>
Other Strengths/Weaknesses		<p>Seems like a very likely project for costs to increase (and proposed benefits to decrease) as many issues come up in the hydraulic modelling process related to flooding, existing barriers, and irrigation needs.</p>

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to

- Improve the existing side channel by fixing the barriers preventing fish from coming up the outlet first, screen diversions, and work on improved riparian fencing.
- Include potential for irrigation efficiencies in tributary stream so that it may provide some perennial flow to the lower portion of the side channel.
- TAG recommends this project for deferral for the 2019 SRFB grant round because the project approach (creating an inlet from the Naches River) is unlikely to be feasible at a reasonable cost given all of the constraints.

Proposal Title: Spoon Full Side Channels

Proposal #: 19-1430

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Groundwater channels provide thermal buffer (warmer in winter/cooler in summer).	Project is highly constructed with a high amount of excavation. This is not a natural location for this channel type and will create an artificial channel type for this location. There is concern that the channel will lower the local water table and has the potential to kill cottonwoods.
Landowner Commitment	Landowner is highly supportive and is helping with construction, a huge cost savings.	
Organizational Capacity	MCF has ample experience with large wood/side channel restoration projects. Designed by Waterfall Engineering/Pat Powers who has lots of experience designing restoration projects. Definitely did the appropriate homework for groundwater information and Pat Powers has designed lots of these types of channels.	
Sequencing		
Budget		
Design		
Future Stewardship	MCF can maintain plantings using their restoration tech crew.	
Uncertainties & Constraints	The ability to monitor these channels for their stability, fish use, and longevity will be important.	Uncertain whether outlet would stay connected because there appears to be ongoing deposition. The impact on the water table is also unclear.

Other Strengths/Weaknesses		
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What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

- Consider monitoring the project (has the outlet remained open, seasonal flow, etc.) and particularly monitor the cottonwoods over 5-10 years to see if there's an impact from changing groundwater levels. Project monitoring does not need to be in-depth but TAG would like to see, if implemented, how things fare over time.

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Teaway RM 8 Floodplain Revegetation

Proposal #: 19-1525

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	This project is attempting to fully restore ecological processes in the valley bottom without just a myopic focus on immediately adjacent riparian areas. Revegetation will add roughness to the floodplain, helping to dissipate flood flows, capture fine sediment, and increase infiltration.	Will produce only minor benefits to salmon at this phase. The tie to water quality benefits is weak.
Landowner Commitment	Very high—property acquired by landowner for conservation and WDFW has proven well-invested in the project. Neighbors are also supportive because it reduces potential from future weed invasion from an unmanaged property onto their ag-land.	
Organizational Capacity	Very high—sponsor is very experienced in re-vegetation.	
Sequencing	Good—work is already underway. YBIP funded weed control and seed bed prep (2018/2019) on Teaway Valley Family Farm. This project will now go in and revegetate the site with native bunch grasses. Sequence is logical and it would be a shame to see it not happen after all the work that was already put in.	
Budget		

Design	Design is very straightforward. MCF budgeted for reseeding 10% of project in the event of localized establishment failure of bunch grasses.	
Future Stewardship	Clear multi-year commitment to steward the property. MCF has restoration tech crew on staff and summer interns that may be able to assist with this.	
Uncertainties & Constraints		
Other Strengths/Weaknesses	The project is publicly used and has high visibility (there are occasionally newspaper articles about this parcel.)	

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?

YBFWRB TAG Evaluation Form

Proposal Title: Upper Yakima River Cottonwood Assessment

Proposal #: 19-1524

What are the strengths of this proposal?

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Biological Benefits	Excellent scientific rationale. We need to better understand how to improve cottonwood seedling recruitment and resilience of existing stands in the Yakima River Basin, especially with many stands in Kittitas approaching the upper end of their lifespan. This project targets an extremely important issue across the basin— sustainability of riparian forest. The data gathered could provide basin-wide habitat/restoration applications.	
Landowner Commitment	High amongst public landowners.	Landowners are numerous—will need to perform ample outreach throughout the assessment. This could become a road block at times if landowners are unwilling to provide property access. There are numerous private parcels with varying land uses who are likely to be concerned with us looking at riparian vegetation.
Organizational Capacity		
Sequencing	Seems reasonable, except for coming up with the conceptual restoration plan just one month after field data collection ends. A lot of land is planned for restoration in the next 5+ years in this reach, so this assessment will lead to better restoration designs.	
Budget		

Design	Good use of literature to inform potential actions.	
Future Stewardship		
Uncertainties & Constraints		Eventual participation among private landowners is uncertain.
Other Strengths/Weaknesses	This assessment will inform future river management, future restoration projects, and land use actions within the shorelines of the upper Yakima.	

What are the TAG recommended actions for improvement of proposal before official submission to SRFB?