

## **November 14<sup>th</sup> Bull Trout Working Group Meeting**

Start: 1:00 PM

Attendees: Emily Smith, Connor Parrish, Aimee Taylor, Kelsey Martin (MCFEG), Alex Conley (YBFWRB), Russ Byington, Todd Newsome, Andrew Matala (YN), Kevin Haydon (WWT), Eric Merten (USFS), Josh Rogala, Scott Kline (WDFW), Mitch Long, Melissa Speeg (KCT), Sierra Franks, Craig Haskell, Jose Vazquez, Victoria Reiners, Jason Romine (USFWS), Michael Callahan (Ecology), Richard Visser, Pat Monk (USBR), Stu Watson (Forterra), Robert Kope (Gold Creek Landowner)

On phone: Sue Mecklenburg (Gold Creek Landowner)

### **1. Updates and Announcements**

Emily led a discussion of updates and announcements. She mentioned that the USFWS Species Recovery Project Proposal grant application is due December 31<sup>st</sup> and could be applicable to some of the attending agencies projects for next year. The latest Clackamas bull trout reintroduction report is out and will be distributed to the group in the follow up email. Eric Merten described the Stage-0 training that happened in Wenatchee in October and noted that Gary Torretta is interested in holding one in the Naches area in the near future.

Todd and Russ with the Yakama Nation gave the group a quick update of the morning session, which was a tour of the La Salle Hatchery where the bull trout that were rescued this summer from Gold Creek and the Upper Kachess River are being reared. Todd noted that they would have a draft feasibility assessment for review before Christmas. The group agreed to move the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to early January so the group could go over the draft feasibility assessment and provide feedback at the meeting.

### **2. YBIP/ BOR updates**

Richard Visser gave an update on Reclamation activities related to Bull trout. He noted that there is still a need for lead on the Box Canyon passage project. The BOR is putting a lot of resources into the YN bull trout rearing project and look forward to watching it continue to unfold. Pat Monk noted that there is a new project manager for the Clear Creek Dam passage project, which will allow that project to move forward. There is enough funding to design passage, and the project manager will create a funding plan for moving forward to construction.

### **3. Box Canyon Update**

Mitch Long presented a slide show to the group to show the recent large wood placement project and how it has been rearranged by a large flow event in October. The wood implementation happened in August and all in 2 days. The heavy flow event brought up the idea of possibly anchoring a few pieces in future projects. The possibility of opening up fish passage above Peek-a-Boos falls was mentioned by the group a few times. Members noted that finding documentation of the historic presence of bull trout above the falls would help build the case for bull trout reintroduction above the falls.

### **4. Flume/ Passage Update**

Josh Rogala gave a recap of passage conditions on Box Canyon Creek this season and the construction of the flume construction. The flows were low enough in Box Canyon creek that over 600 feet of flume needed to be constructed. There were 2 sections of flume and without the flume there would have been 30-50 impassible feet of stream section. The other streams where monitoring was taking place did not need intervention. He noted that with the help of so many volunteers the job was able to be done much more efficiently. Thank you to those who helped!

#### **5. 2019 Rescue Update:**

Scott Kline led a conversation on the 2019 update rescue. 15 rescue events where held at Upper Kachess River and 8 at Gold Creek. There were 2,464 YOY rescued in Kachess and 108 in Gold Creek. All of the rescued Gold Creek fish went to the hatchery and 1169 of the Kachess fish went to the hatchery. 38 sub adult bull trout were tagged and released upstream in the Kachess River, and 8 sub adults were tagged and released in Gold Creek. Scott noted that despite multiple trials the smolt traps did not work. Rescues were done with dip nets and electroshocking where needed.

#### **6. BTTF season recap**

Kelsey Martin and Aimee Taylor recapped the Bull Trout Task Force's 2019 field season. They posted 135 closed water, rock dam, and bull trout ID signs, removed 212 rock damns, educated 450 people during campground presentations and individual interactions, rescued over 2,000 bull trout with the YN and WDFW, assisted in 38 redd surveys, collected 19 eDNA samples, and helped install 2 PIT tag antennas. The whole group noted the importance of the BTTF and the work it accomplishes.

#### **7. Demographic survey update**

Scott Kline gave a quick update on the 2019 demographic surveys. He led surveys of the upper Kachess River and Box Canyon Creek. In Box canyon he noted that most of the YOY bull trout again ended up below big pool falls in higher gradient sections of stream. In the Kachess system there was a higher density of bull trout than Box Canyon. He will give a more detailed report at the next meeting.

#### **8. BTWG Work Plan**

Alex presented the draft work plan for the Bull Trout Work Group for 2020-2021 that he is preparing as part of extending the agreement between the YBFWRB and Ecology that pays for convening the work group. The group reviewed the plan and went over what aspects they want to maintain, such as keeping the regular meeting goings and maintaining a bull trout library. The group talked about new additions to the work plan as well, like coordinating temperature data management and supporting YBFWRB and MCFEG time to assist in field work when needed. The group expressed support for the work plan, and also highlighted the need to coordinate with the Yakama Nation, WDFW and others to ensure that tasks and roles of each party are clearly understood.

#### **9. Temperature Map**

Emily presented the group with an ArcGIS map of current and past temperature logger locations that shows their status and the season for which they are active. The goal for the online map is to have multiple layers with different data that the group can utilize, such as temperature loggers, PIT antennas, redd locations, and bull trout sightings.

#### **10. Upper Basin USFWS Work Update:**

Jason Romine informed the group that the USFWS captured 15 Bull Trout from below Keechelus Dam. 14 of these fish were genetically identified Gold Creek Creek fish and were moved upstream of the dam. Of the 14 fish 2 Bull Trout were full siblings and several other pairs were potential half siblings. Of the 15 fish captured one Bull Trout was identified as a Kachess River fish. This fish was tagged with a PIT tag and an acoustic tag then transported to Kachess Reservoir and released upstream of the Narrows in Kachess Reservoir. This fish was subsequently detected at the YN PIT tag antennas in Kachess River.

Five fish within Kachess Reservoir that were captured at the mouth of Box Canyon Creek were tagged with acoustic tags and PIT tags as part of the FWS Bull Trout acoustic telemetry project. Acoustic receivers will be deployed in spring of 2020.

#### **11. Brook Trout in Teanaway**

Connor Parrish presented the grant proposal he submitted to the USFWS Bring Back the Natives program to help determine the location of brook trout in the Teanaway. It would fund analysis of existing eDNA samples for brook trout presence, and collection and analysis of additional samples in the Middle and South Forks of the Teanaway. The goal would be to help develop a proposal for bull trout suppression that could be put in place prior to reintroducing bull trout into the Teanaway watershed.

The meeting adjourned 4:30 PM