

# Yakima Bull Trout Work Group Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2021

9:02 AM

**Attendees:** Alex Conley (YBFWRB), Emily Smith, Kelsey Martin (MCFEG), Mitch Long (KCT), Paul James (CWU), Scott Kline, William Meyer, Marc Divens (WDFW), Russ Byington, Shubha Panit, Andrew Matala (YN), Eric Merten, Gary Toretta, Kathryn Furr (USFS), Joel Freudenthal (Yakima County) Craig Haskell, Jose Vazquez, Cynthia Raekes (USFWS), Pat Monk, Joel Hubble, Richard Visser (BOR), Michael Callahan (ECY), Robert Mecklenburg (Gold Creek Homeowners)

## **Updates and Announcements:**

Emily reminded the group that ScCS is August 17-19, Emily and Alex have asked for a time slot to present during the conference. IF anyone would like to join our presentation or have one of your own, they are still taking speakers. William Meyer spoke to the NF Teanaway road placement. The working group has spoke about Teanaway a lot in recent and although the NF road is not a high priority project in the current funding round, there was still a place holder put in for it.

## **2021 Field Season Calendar:**

Scott Kline spoke to the collective field work calendar for the 2021 field season. It includes night rescues, night demographic surveys, day surveys and redd surveys. The latest version is posted on the bull trout work group webpage on the YBFWRB website. Please fill in any blanks that you are wanting to help on. If you have other work that you will need assistance on and would like it to be added to the calendar, please let Emily know and we can update it. It was also noted that can have volunteers assist in our work this summer as well, as COVID policies allow.

## **Peek-a-Boo Falls Passage:**

Scott Kline spoke to the group about getting volitional passage at Peek-a-Boo falls. Scott has been working on a trap and haul proposal and it may be the most beneficial to have passage prior to trap and haul. The group agreed on the need for passage, and it was noted that engineering and conceptual design should start as soon as possible. There will be the need for ground survey data collection, ideally this season. Data should include up and down stream flow, topo survey and bathymetry. Mitch offered to run the idea by interfluve to see if they could look at the site while they are at Kachess this summer. There will be a need to find a funding source. Leavenworth USFWS office may have equipment and resources to assist in surveying. We should also look to WDFW. Salmon falls on the Little Naches River, Lyle Creek, Castile, and Sarah Creek are possible examples of potential passage, or possibly creating step pools. Cynthia and Alex would like to be kept in the loop for site visits, conceptual design, and engineering.

## **Sediment Analysis:**

Richard Visser spoke to the reservoir delta fish passage project that looks at long term solutions to fish passage. The project is part of a 3-year modeling effort and based off feedback it will be broken up into 2 phases. Possible solutions include excavation, reducing delta seepage, and pool management strategies, they will also finish up a literary review and data analysis. The project was originally on the list for BTWG YBIP funded projects but was taken off. They are not looking for BTWG funds but would like BTWG support of the project. They are using in kind match.

## **eDNA:**

Jose with USFWS displayed the results of the 2020 Naneum eDNA samples. 54 samples were taken 1 km apart in July 2020 and were analyzed by the Rocky Mountain Research lab. Zero bull trout were detected. 1 km sampling sites are not definitive for presence, but strong for detecting sustainable populations. The samples are archived at the lab for future analysis. There is spot temperature data that was taken at each sample site as well. Jose also noted that the 2012 fire damage around the upper 1/3 of the creek was very prevalent and is causing almost zero shade on the creek. eDNA maps can be found on

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6d5597b2755c4c00a35613b7a1849760> but the 2020 data has not been entered in yet.

The group then opened for a broader discussion is eDNA sampling needs and remaining gaps. Teanaway was mentioned as we have taken samples and had them analyzed for bull trout and brook trout for the North Fork but we should look at the other forks of the Teanaway. The tributaries above Keechelus lake were mentioned as well, along with Cowiche, which may have existing samples archived, and Topponish Creek.

#### **Steep Pass Update:**

Craig Haskell updated the group on steep pass passage for bull trout. McMillen Jacobs is doing the design. They have funding and are working on contracting. The plan is to fabricate over the winter and test at Clear Creek next summer, then test at the Kachess narrows.

#### **La Salle bull trout Release:**

Russ Byington presented of the bull trout release from the La Salle raised bull trout. This year they were able to release 61 bull trout averaging 217 mm into Gold Creek at the mouth of the lake and 531 fish averaging 161mm into Lake Kachess. Survival rate for Gold Creek was 95% and survival rate for Kachess fish was 89%. Having lower densities in the tank, rescuing them in the span on 1-week, increased tank habitat, and delayed fry feeding was thought to be the reason this year had much higher success than last year.

#### **YBIP Funding:**

Alex displayed the 2020 YBIP funding recommendations that the group agreed upon. \$1.7 million will be allocated for bull trout work. Ecology programmatic support will be raised to 5.3%. Some projects will need to decrease their funding amount. The Yakama Nation bull trout restoration and SF Tieton bridge replacement will still get their original funding amounts, meaning the rest of the projects will need to reassess their budgets. The next YBIP habitat meeting is scheduled for early July, so our recommendations will need to be complete before that. It is understood that with less funding projects are going to lose out on some aspects, the group agreed that an additional meeting in the following weeks, once overall funding amounts are finalized, will be needed before we can agree on new funding levels.

#### **Temperature Update:**

Emily displayed the shiny app map that will be used for Yakima Basin temperature storage. Please send Emily any temperature logger locations and data throughout the season. Emily also pitched the idea that the working group all use the same protocol for temperature monitoring. The loggers that we all use have the capacity to be kept in the water all winter with proper placement. Collecting year-round data will be beneficial when planning bull trout reintroductions and give us a better picture of the current water temperature status in the basin.