

# TAG Focus Projects

*January, 2023*

The Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board's Focus Project List is a tool developed by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to help 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 is used to:

- Give the TAG a way to proactively guide Yakima Basin SRFB funding towards high priority and/or urgent projects
- 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
- Award 10 extra points in the scoring matrix to projects consistent with the list

Using the list as a guide, a project proposal will receive 10 bonus points if it is clearly a Focus Project. If a proposal is not a Focus Project, zero bonus points are awarded. It is important to emphasize that the TAG uses this approach as a way to recognize and reward proposals that implement identified Focus Projects, but not as a way to exclude other SRFB proposals. Projects that are Focus Projects, but have other significant weaknesses will have their score brought down by other elements in the TAG review process. Projects that do a strong job of addressing real needs, even if not identified as a Focus Project, will still have an opportunity to compete for funding based on all of the other TAG scoring criteria.

The Focus Project List is to be updated annually in the fall, following the SRFB grant review. Any modifications to the list will be communicated to project partners once the annual review is complete.

The following 25 projects and the associated next steps comprise the Focus Project List:

#	Focus Project	Alignment with Yakima Basin Steelhead Recovery Plan/Bull Trout Action Plan	Location/Geographic Scope
1	<p><b>Yakima Delta Temperature and Flow</b></p> <p>Projects to restore natural flow patterns and fish passage in the Yakima Delta.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action 7</b></p> <p>Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.</p> <p>Pg. 157</p>	<p>SR 240 Bridge at Richland to the confluence with the Columbia River.</p>
2	<p><b>Lower Yakima River Projects</b></p> <p>Improve thermal refugia for adults.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action 7</b></p> <p>Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.</p> <p>Pg. 157</p>	<p>Prosser Dam to the confluence with the Columbia River.</p>
3	<p><b>Reducing Smolt Entrainment</b></p> <p>Projects that result in the reduction of diversion related mortality of smolts.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action #3</b></p> <p>Reconfigure infrastructure to improve smolt survival rates.</p> <p><b>Basinwide Action #2</b></p> <p>Adequately screen all water diversions.</p>	<p>Roza, Wapato, Chandler, and Sunnyside Dams; as well as entrainment on Toppenish Creek below the forks.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p><b>Toppenish Floodplain and Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Toppenish Action 1</b></p> <p>Rehabilitate alluvial fan and downstream floodplain of Toppenish Creek.</p> <p>Pg. 184</p>	<p>Toppenish Creek up to and including areas with known anadromous fish distribution.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Wapato Reach Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action 7</b></p> <p>Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.</p> <p>Pg. 157</p>	<p>Locations that align with those described in the Wapato Reach Assessment.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Wapato Reach Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action 7</b></p> <p>Protect and restore mainstem and floodplain habitats below Sunnyside Dam.</p> <p>Pg. 157</p>	<p>Locations that align with those described in the Wapato Reach Assessment.</p>

<p>7</p>	<p><b>Yakima River “Gap-to-Gap” Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Lower Mainstem Action 6</b></p> <p>Restore mainstem and side channel habitats in the Union Gap-to-Selah Gap reach.</p> <p>Pg. 156</p>	<p>Mainstem Yakima River; Union Gap-to-Selah Gap reach.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Naches Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 5</b></p> <p>Restore lower Naches River floodplain.</p> <p>Pg. 163</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Naches FMO Action #3</p> <p>Pg. 29</p>	<p>Tieton River to Mouth.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Naches Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 5</b></p> <p>Restore lower Naches River floodplain.</p> <p>Pg. 163</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Naches FMO Action #3</p> <p>Pg. 29</p>	<p>Wapatox Dam to Nelson Dam.</p>

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Little Naches Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 11</b></p> <p>Restore side channels and floodplain of Little Naches River.</p> <p>Pg. 167</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Crow Action #2</p> <p>Pg. 118</p>	<p>Little Naches River up to and including areas with known anadromous fish distribution.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>Upper Naches Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 7</b></p> <p>Protect habitats in Naches River mainstem above Tieton confluence.</p> <p>Pg. 178</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Naches FMO Action #3</p> <p>Pg. 29</p>	<p>Within the potential meander zone of the Naches River upstream of the Tieton River confluence.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Upper Naches Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 31</b></p> <p>Restore Naches side channels and floodplains above the Tieton River confluence.</p> <p>Pg. 178</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Naches FMO Action #3</p> <p>Pg. 29</p>	<p>Within the potential meander zone of the Naches River upstream of the Tieton River confluence.</p>

<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>Improve Cowiche Creek Instream Flow</b></p> <p>Projects that create quantifiable improvements to instream flows in Cowiche Creek.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 21</b></p> <p>Reduce irrigation diversions from Cowiche Creek.</p> <p>Pg. 173</p>	<p>South Fork of Cowiche Creek.</p>
<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>Ahtanum Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 27</b></p> <p>Ahtanum Creek floodplain and side channel restoration.</p> <p>Pg. 176</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Ahtanum Action #7</p> <p>Pg. 60</p>	<p>From the mouth of Ahtanum Creek up to and including areas with known bull trout distribution.</p>
<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>Ahtanum Floodplain Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection. Work in Bachelor and Hatton Creek is not a current focused action due to unresolved flow and fish screening issues.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 28</b></p> <p>Protect Ahtanum Creek riparian areas to lessen development impacts.</p> <p>Pg. 176</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Ahtanum Action #7</p> <p>Pg. 60</p>	<p>From the mouth of Ahtanum Creek up to and including areas with known bull trout distribution.</p>

<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>Ahtanum Instream Flow</b></p> <p>Projects that result in permanent and quantifiable increases of instream flow in Ahtanum Creek and its forks. Proposals will only receive points if the cfs added can be protected.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 24</b></p> <p>Protect instream flow improvements in Ahtanum Creek.</p> <p>Pg. 176</p> <p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Ahtanum Action #6</p> <p>Pg. 59</p>	<p>From the mouth of Ahtanum Creek up to and including areas with known bull trout distribution.</p>
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>Teanaway, Swauk &amp; Tributaries Instream Flow</b></p> <p>Projects that result in permanent and quantifiable increases in stream flows in the Teanaway, its forks and Swauk Creek by reducing water diversions or acquisitions of water rights.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 4</b></p> <p>Improve instream flows in Swauk Creek and Teanaway watersheds.</p> <p>Pg. 191</p>	<p>Teanaway River (all forks) and Swauk Creek upstream to and including areas with known anadromous fish distribution.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>Teanaway, Swauk, &amp; Taneum Floodplain and Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 14</b></p> <p>Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum rivers.</p> <p>Pg. 197</p>	<p>Teanaway River (all forks), Swauk Creek, and Taneum Creek upstream to and including areas of known anadromous fish distribution.</p>

<p>19</p>	<p><b>Teanaway, Swauk, &amp; Taneum Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain and side channel habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 14</b></p> <p>Restore instream and floodplain habitat complexity in Swauk and Taneum creeks and Teanaway and lower Cle Elum rivers.</p> <p>Pg. 197</p>	<p>Teanaway River, Swauk Creek, and Taneum Creek upstream to and including areas of known anadromous fish distribution.</p>
<p>20</p>	<p><b>Manastash Instream Flow</b></p> <p>Projects that create quantifiable improvements to instream flows in Manastash Creek.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 5</b></p> <p>Provide passage and instream flows in lower Manastash Creek.</p> <p>Pg. 192</p>	<p>Manastash Creek upstream to and including areas of known anadromous fish distribution.</p>
<p>21</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Restoration</b></p> <p>Dike setbacks and other projects that increase connectivity between the channel and its floodplain or between the channel and existing off-channel habitat. Does not include digging artificial channels or the installation of large woody debris that does not significantly reconnect specific side channels as demonstrated in the proposal.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 13</b></p> <p>Protect &amp; restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.</p> <p>Pg. 197</p>	<p>Yakima River from Keechelus Dam to one mile downstream of Wilson Creek confluence.</p>
<p>22</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Floodplain &amp; Side Channel Protection</b></p> <p>Acquisition projects that protect high quality floodplain and side channel habitat and/or allow for significant future floodplain reconnection.</p>	<p><b>Upper Yakima Action 13</b></p> <p>Protect &amp; restore floodplain, riparian and in-channel habitats in Upper Yakima, Kittitas and Easton/Cle Elum Reaches.</p> <p>Pg. 197</p>	<p>Yakima River from Keechelus Dam to one mile downstream of Wilson Creek confluence.</p>



<p>23</p>	<p><b>Bull Trout Stranding and Passage</b></p> <p>Assessment, design, and restoration projects that reduce bull trout mortality, and/or address passage impairments associated with stream dewatering for critical populations.</p>	<p><b>Bull Trout Action Plan</b></p> <p>Low Abundance, Passage and/or Dewatering are identified as significant and high priority threats for the Box Canyon, Kachess River, Deep Creek and Gold Creek Bull Trout Populations.</p> <p>Box Canyon Action #1: Pg. 89  Gold Actions #2, #3, and #5: Pgs. 140, 144, 149  Indian Action #3: Pg. 166  Deep Creek Actions #1 and #2: Pgs. 129 and 135</p>	<p>Reaches from reservoirs up to and including known spawning distribution in the following tributaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Creek</li> <li>• Box Canyon Creek</li> <li>• Kachess River/Mineral Creek</li> <li>• Deep Creek</li> </ul>
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<p>24</p>	<p><b>Riparian Reforestation to Protect Stream Temperature (does not apply to stewardship projects)</b></p> <p>Re-establishment of at least 1 acre of native forest within 75 feet of selected streams.</p>	<p><b>Naches Action 10</b></p> <p>Improve habitat in Lower Bumping.</p> <p>Pg. 166</p> <p><b>Naches Action 22</b></p> <p>Improve riparian, floodplain, and temperature conditions in Cowiche Creek.</p> <p>Pg. 174</p> <p><b>Naches Action 23</b></p> <p>Restore Oak Creek habitat.</p> <p>Pg. 174</p> <p><b>Upper Yakima Action 15</b></p> <p>Restore tributary riparian areas.</p> <p>Pg. 199</p>	<p>Teanaway Forks, Swauk, Taneum, Manastash, Cowiche, Ahtanum, Oak creeks, and tributaries to the Naches River above the Tieton (including Little Naches) from the mouth upstream to the extent of anadromy. Also, tributaries of these streams upstream to the extent of anadromy. Only applies to public lands to be permanently managed for native riparian forest.</p>
<p>25</p>	<p><b>Cold Creek Fish Passage Assessment</b></p> <p>Assessment and design of fish passage alternatives to address an artificial barrier at the confluence of Cold Creek with Keechelus Lake that makes the creek inaccessible to priority species including bull trout.</p>		<p>Cold Creek to the confluence with Keechelus Lake up to and including areas with potential bull trout habitat.</p>