

**Contact: Wendy Christensen, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, (509) 575-5848, ext. 203
Derek Sandison, Washington Department of Ecology, (509) 457-7120**

Yakima River Basin Study– Instream Needs (Task 3) Subcommittee

**Meeting Notes, March 2, 2010, Sea Foam Conference Room at the Ecology office in
Yakima, Washington**

Status of 2010 Basin Study and Subcommittee role

Wendy Christensen, Reclamation, provided an overview of initial efforts in getting the Basin study underway. Reclamation and Ecology have a signed intergovernmental agreement now. HDR and Anchor QEA are supporting Reclamation for the Basin Study. A

Two Out of Stream Needs (Task 2) Subcommittee and two Instream Flow Needs (Task 3) Subcommittee meetings are planned, along with the March 24 Workgroup meeting at the Arboretum. At the initial meetings, the Subcommittee will provide input to the approaches for completing the Task 2 and 3 work identified in the Basin Study work plan. Later meetings will also be scheduled to review and comment on draft work products. The full YRBWEP Workgroup will also have opportunity to comment on work plan elements and work products.

Discuss Reach Priorities and Needs

The tables attached to these notes reflect the summary of the reaches discussion. This is focused on identifying where, when, how much and why flow enhancements are needed.

- In addition to this, several other comments were shared/discussed: How will potentially significant effects from flow enhancement within reaches be characterized, when benefits or impacts might not necessarily be shown through the RiverWare model reaches structure (e.g., gains and losses such as at the Town of Naches)?
- Will operational optimizations be part of the analysis?
- What type of water years will be considered? Average, dry, climate change effects?
- What will be the baseline conditions? With conservation projects planned or under construction, or without?
- How will the lakes be treated?
- What will be the triggers for determining water availability in winter months for recharge?
- Will the subcommittee be able to recommend changed operating rules, in light of potential improvements from the Preliminary Integrated Plan projects?
- How will project benefits be allocated and measured? Will it be based on population response?
- Need to consider balancing annual improvements with longer-term channel forming flows (e.g. occur every 5 years) that can modify channels and wet riparian areas, stimulating cottonwood regeneration, .
- Need to integrate flow enhancement with habitat enhancement program activities, e.g. side channel connection and resoration, on a reach basis to maximize benefits



- Spring flow enhancement (freshet) primarily a dry year issue

Suggested Information Sources to Review and Reference

- Yakima Basin Interim Operating Plan
- IFTAG Report and various instream flow study reports (IFIM/PhabSIM)
- Biological Assessment meeting notes (from Scott Willey)

Wymer Project Discussion

The subcommittee members discussed how the Wymer off-stream storage supply could be used to enhance flows.

- 162 KAF storage volume,(filled with skimmed water released from Cle Elum reservoir?)
- Consider 80 KAF for instream flow enhancement
- Develop rules for dry year scenario
 - 40 KAF supply for instream flows
 - 40 KAF supply for out of stream needs
 - 15 – 20 KAF in Year 1
 - 15 – 20 KAF in Year 2
- 15 – 20 KAF annually
- Question was raised about how inter-year operations would work?

Action Items

HDR and Anchor QEA will prepare notes and distribute to subcommittee.

Next meeting scheduled for March 19, 9:30 AM at the same location.

Attendance

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation

Jeff Thomas, USFWS

Michael Garrity, American Rivers (by phone)

Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County

Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation

Charlie De la Chappelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Tom Ring, Yakama Nation – Natural Resources

Tom Elliott, Yakama Nation

Alex Conley, YBFWRB

David Fast, Yakama Nation

David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board

Jonathon Kohr, WDFW

Jim Cummins, WDFW

Jim Milton, Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency

Ben Floyd, HDR Engineering
Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA

Next Subcommittee Meeting

The next meeting will be held March 19, 2010, 9:30 AM at the Ecology Yakima Office, Sea Foam Conference Room.at the address above.