

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– Fish Benefits (Task 7) - Habitat Subcommittee

Meeting Notes, September 9, 2010, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board office in Yakima, Washington

### Introductions

Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA and meeting facilitator, led introductions and reviewed the agenda with the subcommittee.

### EDT Modeling Results

Joel Hubble with support from Yuki Reiss presented preliminary EDT results, including modeling assumptions, scenarios and outputs. EDT outputs will be used in All H's Analyzer (AHA model) to show combined effect for natural and hatchery populations. Scenario results presented for spring, fall and summer Chinook, and for coho and steelhead included 1) Restoration Only (without harvest) and 2) Restoration plus 100% passage (without harvest). Spring Chinook and steelhead results were also compared with the Reclamation 2008 storage study results for illustrative purposes. (See <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2010workgroup/meetings/index.html> for this 16-page powerpoint presentation). Subcommittee comments:

- Confirm in Integrated Plan Phase I that Rimrock, Keechelus and Kachess fish passage are not included. (NOTE: This is correct)
- How is flow being accounted for in EDT? Did not adjust flow attributes. Flow will be more qualitatively accounted for based upon assumed improvements in model habitat conditions.
- Flow improvements in the Keechelus to Easton Reach may be improved more through the Integrated Plan than accounted for in the model. Double-check assumed improvements for this reach.
- Identify and estimate benefits in water short years for doubling winter flows due to Wymer, as flows released from upper reservoirs to fill Wymer.
- How are ocean conditions factored in? “High and low ocean survival conditions, plus outmigration”
- Is predation accounted for? No – would require more information and modeling adjustments beyond current scope.
- Are mainstem floodplain improvements accounted for? Yes.
- Expected Sockeye abundance is addressed in Grabowski report with reported range. Large sockeye population not insignificant.
- How were passage improvements accounted for in tributaries from flow enhancement? Not directly addressed. WDFW (Johnathon Kohr) has information on Manastash.



- One potential approach for evaluating flow improvements: Isolate a reach and look at the level 2 habitat attributes and use these to evaluate flow benefits.
- What peer review will results go through? Nothing planned at this time beyond the subcommittee review. Consider outside peer review. Discussed a couple of options (ISAB, ISRP) and pros and cons.

### **Mainstem Floodplain Restoration Next Steps**

Alex Conley and Ben Floyd also shared an update on the mainstem floodplain restoration effort to develop more detailed objectives and rough improvement plans to improve proposed program cost estimate and direction. Ben to work with smaller subgroup to schedule meeting time to identify upper and middle Yakima mainstem and Naches River floodplain improvements.

### **Bull Trout Habitat**

The group discussed how to address and account for benefits and impacts to bull trout populations. Drainages into Bumping and Kachess reservoirs discussed. Need to consult with Jeff Thomas once he returns from the Gulf of Mexico.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Habitat Subcommittee meeting will be held October 15, 9 AM at the Recovery Board office.

### **Attendance**

Dale Bambrick, NMFS  
 David Child, Yakima Basin Joint Board  
 Alex Conley, YBFWRB  
 Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA  
 Michael Garrity (phone), American Rivers  
 Sean Gross, NMFS  
 Perry Harvester, WDFW  
 Joel Hubble, Reclamation  
 Gerald Kelso, Reclamation consultant  
 John Marvin, YKFP  
 Steve Malloch (phone), National Wildlife Federation  
 Yuki Reiss, YBFWRB  
 Keith Underwood, HDR