

**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 19, 2010, Sea Foam Conference Room at the Ecology office in
Yakima, Washington**

March 2 Meeting Notes Comments

Discussed instream flow study information sources. See the Yakima Watershed Plan assessment for a compilation of previous instream flow studies.

Add John Easterbrooks to attendance.

Instream Flow Needs Assessment Objectives

The subcommittee had several changes made to the draft objectives. The revised draft objectives are attached, with changes tracked (Attachment 1). Ben Floyd will coordinate with individual subcommittee members to provide an updated draft objectives document for the subcommittee to review at their next meeting. In addition to the tracked edits, the following comments were also offered:

- Consider establishing an Operating Rules subcommittee to develop how new supply would be managed to meet in and out of stream needs

Instream Flow Needs/Flow Improvements Matrix and Scenarios

Discussed the March 18 version of the matrix and made a few edits and clarifications. Changes are tracked in the attached file (Attachment 2). In addition to the tracked edits, the following comments were also offered:

- Need to coordinate with Habitat Subcommittee to establish flow versus habitat relationships.
- The DSS model takes RiverWare output and uses rating curves from the 2D hydraulics model to estimate habitat changes, which feeds EDT or other habitat assessments to derive benefits.
- EDT does not produce #s of fish, although it could be used in the tributaries for identifying habitat improvements.

Bob Montgomery also presented a few different scenarios he had developed showing how new water from the Integrated Plan actions could be used to meet flow objectives. The two examples he shared were for the Keechelus Reach and are provided as Attachment 3.

The subcommittee members generally liked how the new supply was characterized to improve flow conditions.

The following comments were offered:



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation



- Add the Runoff forecast/snowpack information into the scenario analysis
- Come up with a one-page narrative summary that accompanies the scenarios that summarizes reach objectives, source of supply/operational regime and quantities, time periods, duration of flow enhancements and other key facts.
- Still need to pick the years to operate RiverWare. Bob Montgomery will provide a recommendation to the subcommittee.
- Develop an understanding of the risk/reward relationship. Use this to develop rule curves.
- Closely coordinate scenarios development with the subcommittee.
- Use RiverWare results with the Decision-support system model, which provides summary outputs for communicating with the Workgroup on supply and flow benefits

Action Items

HDR and Anchor QEA will prepare notes and distribute to subcommittee prior to next meeting.

Attendance

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation
 Derek Sandison, Ecology
 Jeff Thomas, USFWS
 Steve Malloch (by phone)
 Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County
 Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation
 Tom Ring, Yakama Nation – Natural Resources
 Alex Conley, YBFWRB
 David Fast, Yakama Nation
 Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries
 Jonathon Kohr, WDFW
 Jim Cummins, WDFW

John Easterbrooks, WDFW
 Jim Milton, Yakima Basin Water Resources Agency
 Charlie de La Chapelle, YBSA
 Rick Dieker, YTID
 Don Gatchalian, Yak. Co.
 Jim Milton, YBWRA
 Scott Revell, KID
 Theresa Scott, USFS
 Jim Davenport, JH Davenport LLC
 Ben Floyd, HDR
 Steve Thurin, HDR
 Bob Montgomery, Anchor QEA (by phone)

Next Subcommittee Meeting

Not scheduled at this time. A meeting schedule will be shared with the YRBWEP Workgroup in April or May 2010.

- Attachment 1 – Draft Instream Needs Flow Objectives
- Attachment 2 – Flow Improvement Matrix
- Attachment 3 – Easton Reach Scenarios (2)