

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

## Meeting Notes

**June 20, 2012**

**Yakima Arboretum, Yakima WA**

## **Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Workgroup**

### **Welcome/Introductions and Agenda Overview** *by Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA*

Ben Floyd, meeting facilitator, welcomed the Workgroup members and public, led introductions, and provided an overview of the agenda. US Forest Service (USFS) representative Stuart Woolley, Resources and Planning Staff officer for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, was introduced. He was attending as an alternate for Clint Kyhl, Acting Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Jerry Kelso was also introduced as the new Area Manager for Reclamation's Columbia-Cascades Area Office.

### **Early Action Items Status** *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation and Derek Sandison, Ecology*

Wendy updated the Workgroup on early actions progress. The Cle Elum fish passage multilevel intake structure physical model construction at the Reclamation Technical Service Center in Denver, Colorado, is nearly finished. Modeling is expected to start in July 2012 and run through August 2012.

Additionally, geologic explorations will be conducted later this year for Wymer and Bumping proposed dam sites, the Keechelus-to-Kachess conveyance route, and for the Kachess Inactive storage project. This will provide more detailed information on subsurface rock conditions to inform the project designs. *(For Workgroup meeting notes and information on topics discussed at the June meeting, please see <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/2011integratedplan/2012meetings/index.html>).*

Derek updated the Workgroup on the state supplemental capital budget, including \$2.5 million for the Keechelus-to-Kachess pipeline I-90 crossing. Derek noted that this project may change from a pipeline to a tunnel to help avoid surface impacts to a wetland complex downstream of Keechelus Dam and other forest habitat. In regard to another early action item, the Habitat/Watershed Protection and Enhancement Element, appraisals for some of the potential properties included in the watershed land acquisition targets are also being conducted.

### **Framework for Implementation Report Update** *by Andrew Graham, HDR*

Andrew discussed with the Workgroup a handout on the Framework for Implementation report. The handout includes information on cost/risk analysis, cost allocation, economics, and the report outline.



The handout is intended to provide information to support a request to Congress for project authorizations.

Costs for the Integrated Plan have been updated to 2012, reflecting inflation in construction costs since 2010. Thorp Pump Station has been removed, saving approximately \$250 million; however, estimated costs for Bumping Dam have increased from \$430 million to approximately \$570 million. The Integrated Plan total cost is still approximately \$4 billion.

A preliminary cost allocation is underway, and will identify how costs would be allocated to ecological restoration, irrigated agriculture, and municipal/domestic water supply. A financial feasibility analysis will also be conducted. Work is beginning on the “four accounts analysis” per the Federal Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies (Principles and Guidelines). Sid Morrison noted that the Federal Principles and Guidelines are being updated. Andrew and others pointed out that the Integrated Plan analysis is relying upon the existing (1983) Principles and Guidelines, as the newer guidelines are still being developed. A question was raised about whether the Federal guidelines are different or the same for Federal agencies, e.g., US Army Corps of Engineers? Wendy Christensen and Jerry Kelso said they are Federal guidelines that apply to both Reclamation and the Corps.

The Framework for Implementation report will be completed by September 1, 2012. No review period will be provided, as this is more of an internal Reclamation technical report. However, Workgroup members may provide comments to Reclamation on the report content and those comments will be considered as implementation continues.

In response to Sid Morrison’s question on where economic analysis results will be in the report, Andrew noted that Section 3 will contain this information, including national and regional economic effects, environmental quality and social effects. Wendy pointed out that regional economic development analysis will include the four-county area covered by the Yakima basin. All economic information in the report will be in 2012 dollars, so it will be higher than the 2010 dollars reported in the Integrated Plan and related documents.

**Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Travel Management Plan and Forest Plan Revision Process/Schedule** *by Stuart Woolley and Scott Lynn, US Forest Service*

Stuart identified four areas of the watershed lands protection actions in the Integrated Plan that directly involve the USFS--National Recreation Areas (NRA), Wilderness Area designations, Wild & Scenic River designations, and land acquisitions. Stuart then shared that the USFS joint planning for the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee Forest Plan Revisions, motorized travel management planning, and land acquisition processes, which may address some elements of the Integrated Plan. He provided an overview of the forest planning and travel management planning, and Scott Lynn provided an overview

of land acquisitions. Handouts were provided in the Workgroup meeting packet addressing each of these topics.

USFS planning efforts over the next few years could potentially address refinements to the watershed land protection actions in the Integrated Plan. Reclamation and Ecology have coordinated with the USFS and this coordination will continue and be enhanced by their participation on both the Workgroup and the Workgroup's Watershed Land Conservation subcommittee.

#### Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Plan Revisions

This joint forest planning effort began in June 2011, with a proposed action and several public scoping meetings. Nearly 30,000 public comments were made, and the USFS summarized these into 170 Public Concern Statements. Issues raised included riparian areas, wildlife/habitat connectivity, grazing, wilderness designations, road access/density, motorized recreation and trails, and old forest/Northwest (NW) forest plan reserves. The public provided a full spectrum of comments on these topics. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be released in spring 2013, with a final EIS to be released in spring 2014, and record of decision (ROD) released by the end of 2014. In the forest plan revisions, USFS will make recommendations to Congress on proposed Wilderness and Wild & Scenic designations. Only Congress can establish Wilderness areas and Wild & Scenic Rivers.

#### National Recreation Areas

The proposed NRAs in the Integrated Plan have stimulated serious discussions as it relates to motorized vehicles. The USFS has been evaluating unmanaged recreation, including off-highway vehicle use since 2005. Input has been received through public meetings, a comment period and stakeholder meetings. A draft EIS is being prepared by USFS with analysis on environmental effects for various alternatives. The draft EIS will be released for public comment in fall 2012, with a final EIS and ROD in winter/spring 2013. In the summer/fall of 2013, a motor vehicle use map (MVUM) will be established identifying where motor vehicle access is allowed. This MVUM will be updated annually thereafter. This USFS process of establishing the MVUM is where a determination will be made of off-road vehicle use areas in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Only Congress has the authority to establish a National Recreation Area.

#### Forest Service Land Acquisitions

Scott Lynn shared information on the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Appropriated funding is competed on nationally, based upon ranking criteria. Current Yakima basin land acquisitions being sought in Federal fiscal year 2014 through LWCF funding are depicted on a map distributed at today's meeting. Future requests will be coordinated with the Workgroup for acquisition lands identified in the Integrated Plan.

Regarding acquisitions, Jeff Tayer noted that regional interests are starting to work together more closely to leverage collective goals and opportunities and strengthen the competitiveness of acquisition

proposals. Acquisition efforts for the Integrated Plan can be coordinated with others working through existing Federal and state programs. Jeff also acknowledged the efforts of the TAPASH Collaborative are consistent with the actions in the Integrated Plan. Phil Rigdon concurred, noting that the efforts of the TAPASH collaborative is to balance economic, cultural, social and ecological values (*Note: The TAPASH collaborative is a group comprised of Federal and State agencies and nongovernmental groups working to enhance the resiliency, diversity and productivity of native forest ecosystems in eastern Central Washington*). Forest health and local economic needs, including Yakama Nation timber economy needs, are intertwined.

Michael Garrity emphasized the need to be able to seize on acquisition opportunities when they arise.

Paul Jewell wants to see more discussion occur regarding NRAs, and noted his surprise with USFS comments on the Integrated Plan PEIS regarding NRAs. Wendy Christensen noted the USFS does not receive additional funding for managing new NRAs. Continued dialogue with USFS and engagement in their planning processes is needed as land use is addressed in the forest plan updates, along with coordination efforts through the Workgroup's Watershed Lands Protection subcommittee. Stuart Woolley also noted that the USFS is not required to make recommendations to Congress on new NRAs, but they will be identifying land uses through their forest plan and through the MVUM where motorized off-road vehicle (ORV) usage will be allowed.

Sid Morrison asked what is the national importance of the lands identified in the Integrated Plan? Stuart noted they are of national importance and the USFS Chief (Tom Tidwell) supports protecting the lands identified for the eastern Cascades, and is tracking this effort. The Workgroup's support of protecting these lands improves the likelihood of receiving Federal funding for acquisition.

**Implementation Subcommittee Update** by Derek Sandison, Ecology, Implementation Subcommittee members/alternates (Urban Eberhart, Phil Rigdon, Mike Leita and Michael Garrity), and Mike Schwisow, communications consultant

In April, members of the subcommittee along with Ruth Jim from the Yakama Nation and legislative advisors for the respective organizations, visited congressional delegates and officials in Reclamation, US Department of Interior (Interior), USFS, US Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Office of Management and Budget, and congressional committee staffs in Washington, DC. Implementation Subcommittee members made the following observations:

- The Workgroup representatives were well received and many of those individuals they met with knew they were coming, were aware of the Integrated Plan, and provided feedback that the united front was impressive.
- Budget realities in Congress exist.
- It is important to get information out about the plan.

- Important to solidify the Federal part of the implementation partnership.
- Implementation will be funded with discretionary funding for the next few years; having the strong and diverse support coalition working together will improve the Yakima basin as a national priority to hopefully receive more of the limited discretionary funding.
- Support for land acquisition will be helped by the meetings held with USFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Interior.
- In seeking to set up a Federal task force to help with coordination Integrated Plan implementation, the Workgroup was cautioned to not “federalize” the process. Keep it a Yakima basin, grass-roots led process coordinated with the Federal agencies.
- Work with the congressional delegation and committee staffs on how best to seek authorization and appropriations for implementing the Integrated Plan.

Meetings were recently held with Senator Cantwell’s staff in Yakima, along with Democrat and Republican gubernatorial candidates Jay Inslee and Rob McKenna. Senator Cantwell and Congressman Hastings staff members are leading efforts to advance the plan and are coordinating their efforts. The gubernatorial candidates were both well-informed on the plan and supportive. Jay Inslee has a good handle on the plan elements from the work he did in the early 1990s to sponsor the YRBWEP Phase 2 legislation.

Other presentations have been made to the Deschutes Water Alliance, Oregon, and the Idaho Water Board.

Derek noted that several communities and public interest groups have provided letters of support for the Integrated Plan (Cities of Ellensburg and Cle Elum, and Kittitas Chamber of Commerce). Cynthia Wilkerson from the Wilderness Society has been making contact with a number of groups.

#### Education and outreach

Derek Sandison introduced Mike Schwisow as the public outreach consultant to assist with education and broadening support for the plan. Mike and Vicky Scharlau will be helping with requests for information responses, consistent messaging, and coordinating communications with civic organizations and other groups. For example, Mike is working with the Yakima League of Women Voters to schedule a meeting on the Integrated Plan this fall. Ben Floyd will circulate Mike’s contact information to the Workgroup interested parties distribution list so that others can contact Mike if they would like information or are seeking an Integrated Plan presentation for a particular group.

#### 2012 American Water Resources Association Integrated Water Resources Management Award

Derek announced that the YRBWEP Workgroup is receiving the inaugural American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Integrated Water Resources Management award in 2012 for the Integrated Plan. Andrew Graham with HDR was acknowledged for his efforts in working with Ecology to develop the award application. Per the AWRA notification letter, the Workgroup “exemplifies the coordinated

development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare without compromising the sustainability of ecosystems and the environment.” The award will be presented later this year.

**Watershed Lands Protection – Proposed Approach for Additional Refinements** *by Andrew Graham, HDR*

Andrew reviewed the history on how the watershed lands protection actions were developed, starting with a proposal from a group of environmental organizations including Michael Garrity and Steve Malloch, and refinements made through the Watershed Lands Conservation subcommittee. Several comments were received on NRAs through the Integrated Plan PEIS, relating how it will affect lands and access. Michael and Steve have suggested the environmental organizations re-convene to discuss these comments. Bill Ross, facilitator, will assist in facilitating this discussion. Results from these facilitated discussions will then be discussed by the subcommittee. Any resulting revisions proposed for the watershed lands protection element will be brought to the Workgroup for consideration. An update on this effort will be provided at the September 26, 2012, Workgroup meeting.

Michael Garrity noted those not directly participating in the facilitated environmental groups discussion can provide their input to the process through him. Recreation interests will also be involved, including mountain bikers and ORV users. Refinements will also be made to more clearly identify environmental restoration benefits.

Jeff Tayer indicated broad support for the watershed lands protection proposal will be needed to have Congress take action.

**Yakima Integrated Plan – Programmatic EIS Update** *by Wendy Christensen, Reclamation*

Wendy provided the latest information on the PEIS. Reclamation has continued discussions with the USFS on related Integrated Plan elements. Reclamation received several comments on the final PEIS that will be considered when the Record of Decision (ROD) is issued later this fall. The ROD will be issued after the Framework for Implementation report is completed.

Sid Morrison asked a general question about how the Integrated Plan affects surface water quality, which will likely become worse under climate change. Derek Sandison responded that water quality is addressed in many ways through the Integrated Plan, and specific projects such as Wymer and others will undergo water quality reviews as part of project permitting. Tom Tebb added that mitigation will be determined on a project-by-project basis in working toward project implementation. Other Workgroup members noted that water quality would be improved through watershed protections, mainstem floodplain restoration, groundwater infiltration and other measures in the plan. Derek also pointed out that a lower Yakima Groundwater Management Area (GWMA) is also being formed, and includes a broad-based advisory committee. Mike Leita noted parallel efforts are ongoing concurrent

with the Integrated Plan, and that the Workgroup should keep focused on the actions in the plan. Sid wants to make sure the Integrated Plan process generates new water supply.

**Public Comment:**

- Chris Maykut provided Friends of Bumping Lake comments opposing the proposed Bumping Lake expansion (see attached comments to these notes).
- Elaine Packard requested a response from Reclamation and Ecology on a March 30, 2012, letter with comments on the Integrated Plan Final PEIS, signed by several organizations (see attached letter to these notes).
- Chuck Klarich suggested the Workgroup review the four accounts analysis completed for the Yakima River Basin Water Storage Feasibility Study for comparison with the four accounts analysis being conducted for the water storage and other elements of the Integrated Plan.
- David Ortman requested the winter and spring 2012 issues of The Wild Cascades publication be included in the public record.

**Workgroup Members in Attendance**

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board

Kirk Cook, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Rick Dieker, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District

Urban Eberhart, Kittitas Reclamation District

Michael Garrity, American Rivers

Paul Jewell, Kittitas County

Mike Leita, Yakima County

Sid Morrison, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance

Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation

Derek Sandison, Washington State Department of Ecology

Jeff Thomas, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jim Trull, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District

Ron VanGundy, Roza Irrigation District

Dawn Wiedmeier, Bureau of Reclamation

Stuart Woolley, U.S. Forest Service

**Other Attendees**

Mary Baechler

Dave Brown, City of Yakima

David Child, Yakima Basin Join Board

Wendy Christensen, Bureau of Reclamation

Dan Church, Bureau of Reclamation

Marie Cobb, Intern

Stuart Crane, Yakama Nation  
Charity Davidson, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Charlie de la Chapelle, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Beneitta Eaton, Rancher  
Jack Eaton, Rancher  
Bill Ferry, Bureau of Reclamation  
Ben Floyd, Anchor QEA  
Joel Freudenthal, Yakima County  
Adam Fyall, Benton County  
Chuck Garner, Bureau of Reclamation  
Don Gatchalian, Yakima County  
Andrew Graham, HDR Engineering, Inc.  
Sean Gross, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Judy Hallisey, U.S. Forest Service  
Justin Harter, Naches Selah Irrigation District  
Carron Helberg, Bureau of Reclamation  
Lynn Holt, Bureau of Reclamation  
Joel Hubble, Bureau of Reclamation  
Eleanor Hungate  
Jerry Kelso, Bureau of Reclamation  
Chuck Klarich, Yakima Basin Storage Alliance  
Paul La Riviere, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Walt Larrick, Bureau of Reclamation  
David Lester, Yakima Herald  
Barb Lisk, Office of Representative Doc Hastings  
Steve Malloch, National Wildlife Federation  
Larry Martin, Velikanje Halvorson  
Chris Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Samantha Maykut, Friends of Bumping Lake  
Tim McCoy, Bureau of Reclamation  
Keith McGowan, Bureau of Reclamation  
Jim Milton, Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District  
Tom Monroe, Roza Irrigation District  
Bryan Myre, Yakama Reservation Irrigation District  
David Ortman, Sierra Club  
Elaine Packard, Sierra Club  
Kelly Reed, Anderson Perry  
Tom Ring, Yakama Nation  
Mike Schwisow, Schwisow & Associates  
Lynn Scott, US Forest Service

Elaine Smith, League of Women Voters  
Rob Swedo, Bonneville Power Administration  
David Taylor  
Tom Tebb, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Cynthia Wilkerson, The Wilderness Society

### **Next Workgroup Meeting**

The next meeting will be held September 12, 2012, at 9:30 AM at the Yakima Arboretum. A meeting notice and agenda will be distributed in advance of the meeting.

### **Where to Find Workgroup Information**

Meeting materials, notes, and presentations from the Workgroup meetings will be posted on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/yrbwep/index.html>). A bibliography of information sources, many of which are available online, is also posted on the website. If anyone needs help finding an information source, contact those listed at the top of page 1 or Ben Floyd at Anchor QEA, Richland office, (509) 392-4548, or [bfloyd@anchoragea.com](mailto:bfloyd@anchoragea.com).