

2014 HABITAT PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY

A draft set of habitat project proposals is currently being reviewed by the Fish Habitat Subcommittee. The goal is to identify priority aquatic habitat actions to be funded under the Fish Habitat element of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. The draft proposal can support state budget requests for the 2015-17 budget and federal funding requests for the initial 10-year development plan for the Integrated Plan. In developing this draft, the Subcommittee focused on identifying habitat actions that are consistent with the following overarching principles:

- First and foremost they help the overall plan, especially phase one balanced package to be successful (example; the bull trout package intends to help make the K projects successful, South Fork Tieton helps make the CleElum Fish Passage easier to keep functional)
- The projects can't easily or foreseeably be done with existing programs (doesn't mean projects funded by existing programs aren't important)
- Creates the kind of budgetary and environmental balance that will allow the fisheries and environmental part of the workgroup to speak to elected officials, staff, agencies, media and the public confidently about the environmental and fisheries benefits of the plan.

Additional Filters

- 1) Are scientifically defensible, biologically sound and then look for synergies with other projects and funding sources.
- 2) Build upon and are anchored in Yakama Nation, Kittitas and Yakima County floodplain restoration and management efforts (the centerpiece of the document already adopted by the IC and Workgroup)
- 3) Implement priority actions identified in previous strategic planning efforts but that are also game changers and on a similar scale to water supply projects and that can attract support and take the basin's restoration efforts to the next level. (we envision an RFP process developed between budget submittal and appropriation to address fairness questions and deal with an unpredictable appropriation amounts)
- 4) Enhance bull trout habitat in major ways, and that also supported the Keechelus to Kachess pipeline and Kachess Drought Response Pumping Plant projects.
- 5) Strengthen the partnership with the U.S. Forest Service for watershed protections and enhancements to provide fish habitat and water supply benefits resilient to potential climate change effects
- 6) Support other elements of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (e.g. realizing the full potential of the recent acquisition of the Teanaway Community Forest). (We will also consider synergies between other committees such as water conservation)

Projects

Projects are presented in geographic order, from downstream to upstream. No priorities have been assigned to individual projects or the component activities within them.

- Yakima Delta Project
- Wapato Reach Project
- Satus and Toppenish Creek Project
- Gap to Gap Floodplain Project
- Ahtanum Creek Project
- Naches River Floodplain Project
- Nelson Dam and Fish Ladder Replacement
- Little Naches/Oak Creek Project
- Thorp to Yakima Canyon Floodplain Project
- Wilson-Naneum Watershed Project
- Swauk and Taneum Creeks Project
- Upper Yakima Floodplain Project
- Teanaway Watershed Restoration Project
- Tributary Passage and Restoration above Reservoirs Project
- Basin-wide Projects

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