

Basin Study Work Group Steering Committee (BSC) Meeting

November 3, 2015, 10:00 pm - 12:00 pm

DeArmond, Deschutes Services Building, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, OR 97701

MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Shawn Gerdes, Arnold Irrigation District
Mark Reinecke, Avion Water Company
Betty Roppe, Central Oregon Cities Org.
Dave Dunahay, Central Oregon Fly Fishers
Adam Sussman, City of Bend
Betty Roppe, City of Prineville
Jon Treasure, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation
Alan Unger, Deschutes County
Tod Heisler, Deschutes River Conservancy
Terry Smith, Lone Pine Irrigation District
Tom Davis, Native Reintroduction Network
Mike Kasberger, Ochoco Irrigation District
Margaret Matter, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Jennifer O'Reilly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bridget Moran, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Theresa DeBardelaben, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Bonnie Lamb, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Paul Lipscomb, Oregon Land and Water Alliance
Kyle Gorman, Oregon Water Resources Department
Jeremy Giffin, Oregon Water Resources Department
Bob Spateholts, Portland General Electric
Pamela Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District
Mike Tripp, Trout Unlimited
Jennifer O'Reilly, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Peter Lickwar, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jason Gritzner, United States Forest Service
Bonnie Lamb, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

MEMBER ATTENDANCE BY PHONE

Chris Gannon, Crooked River Watershed Council

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS NOT PRESENT

- Bend Paddle Trail Alliance
- Central Oregon Irrigation District
- City of Madras
- City of Redmond
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- North Unit Irrigation
- Swalley Irrigation District
- Tumalo Irrigation District
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Upper Deschutes River Coalition
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Water for Life
- WaterWatch of Oregon

Guest Attendance:

- Steve Shropshire, **Jordan Ramis** (by phone)
- Harmony Burrigh, **Oregon Water Resources Department** (by phone)
- Brandon Mahon, **Anderson Perry Associates**
- Jim Powell, **Citizen**

In addition, Mike Relf, Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study Project Manager and Niklas Christensen, Water Professionals Network Technical Director attended. Kate Fitzpatrick, Deschutes River Conservancy, attended as Coordinator. Kelsey Wymore, Deschutes River Conservancy, attended and took meeting minutes.

AGENDA

TIME (approximate)	TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
10:00 (:05)	1. Welcome, introductions, and minutes Approval of minutes of October 6, 2015 meeting (distributed via email on October 9)	Welcome attendees, introductions of those in the room, approval of minutes.
10:05 (0:15)	2. Points of Clarification: HCP and Basin Study Scopes People expressed varying understandings of the scopes of the HCP and the Basin Study at the October 6 th BSC meeting. A common foundation of information will be useful to continue to communicate productively about these two processes as we try to keep the BSWG as open and collaborative as possible. Please see Memo (Attachment 2) for clarifying information.	Common understanding of HCP and Basin Study scopes

TIME (approximate)	TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
10:20-10:55 (0:30)	3. Overview of Basin Study Schedule and Study Element Updates: Niklas Christensen/Mike Relf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water Conservation Assessment ▪ Water Rights, Legal, Policy and Socio-Econ Assess ▪ Upper Deschutes Ecological Assessment ▪ Temperature-Flow Assessments ▪ Reclamation Tasks 	Common understanding of where we are in the Basin Study process and with each Study Element
10:55-11:15 (0:20)	4. BSC Schedule and Structure: Kate/Niklas/Craig <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Schedule b. Technical Working Groups (Attachment 3) 	Common understanding of BSWG schedule and structure moving forward.
11:15-11:35 (:20)	5. Communications Update: Kate <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presentation on subgroup work-to-date b. Review of key messages (Attachment 4) 	Common understanding of communications approach and tools. Discussion and approval of key messages.
11:35 (:15)	4. Public Comment: Kate We will do our best to accommodate everyone in the room who wishes to speak.	BSC members hear and understand the public's concerns.
11:50 (:10)	5. Next steps: Kate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Action items and parking lot ▪ Agenda items for next meeting ▪ Meeting evaluation: Please fill out the evaluation sheets at your places on the tables. 	Agreement on next steps, meeting evaluation to enable continuous improvement.
12:00	ADJOURN	

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND MINUTES

Kate opened the meeting by explaining that BSWG Chair, Craig Horrell, is in Portland at a meeting concerning the Oregon spotted frog with several other Steering Committee members and interested parties, and that she will be running the meeting today.

Approval of October Minutes – **ALL GREEN CARDS**

POINTS OF CLARIFICATION: HCP AND BASIN STUDY SCOPES

Kate relayed that Craig thought the facilitated discussion at the October 6th meeting went very well, that he appreciated people sharing their perspectives in a thoughtful and respectful way, and that he is committed to keeping this group communicating and successful.

Kate explained that she included a brief memo with today's agenda (Attachment 2) to help clarify the scopes of the Basin Study and HCP. A common foundation of understanding of these two processes should help the group move forward with future discussions and managing associated risks. Bridget Morgan with USFWS provided additional clarification on the HCP process, and helped answer questions. She and Nancy Gilbert discussed this topic previous to the meeting with

Mike Britton and Craig Horrell, and all parties are on the same page and wanted to provide some clarity. Discussion included:

- The Basin Study is generating information to help meet instream, agricultural and municipal water needs over the next 50 years. No management decisions will be made in the Basin Study, but the information can be used by stakeholders to guide management solutions into the future.
- The HCP was initiated voluntarily by the applicants (DBBC and City of Prineville). Its purpose is to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the USFWS and NMFS (the Services) that reduces liability under the Endangered Species Act, related to “covered activities” (management activities by these entities), in the geographic area of the “covered lands” that impact the “covered species.” In this case, this includes impacts of management activities, including altered flows, on Oregon spotted frog habitat in the upper Deschutes. The applicants and the Services will negotiate conservation measures to form the basis of a Habitat Conservation Plan. A successful HCP will result in an ITP. The HCP also covers the Crooked River and Whychus Creek, where a focus species is summer steelhead.
- Conservation measures can be a suite of tools. The applicants and Services are actively negotiating these now.
- HCPs have different time durations and that is part of the negotiation. The longer ones are typically timber-related permits. Things that are dynamic like water are usually shorter in duration.
- Bull trout is a covered species. There are no active bull trout reintroduction efforts in the upper Deschutes River.
- Terry Smith from Lone Pine ID said the irrigation districts are considering conservation measures, costs and options to work together. They would like to use information from the BSWG studies to help guide and assist them.
- Bridget added that ideally the goal is to have measures agreed to this year. Adaptive management is built into the permit, to enable science to inform the HCP over its duration, but it is balanced with the “no surprises” principle that gives permittees some assurances as far as protections according to what was originally negotiated.
- There are “early action items” associated with Section 7 Consultation under the ESA, and which will be part of the HCP, which may affect ‘baseline conditions’ and might need to be captured in the Basin Study modeling. Niklas and Mike Relf will work to track these issues and will keep this group in the loop. There will be some decision points they can help map out as the modeling moves forward.
- The Study Team will continue to work with BSWG and the HCP parties to best integrate these processes (i.e. share information) where possible.

OVERVIEW OF BASIN CONTEXT AND SCHEDULE UPDATE (PRESENTATION ATTACHED)

Kate said she and Craig are working through final contract/invoicing issues with the State. Niklas provided an overview of progress/status of each non-federal work element. Highlights include:

- Tasks are on schedule
- Anderson-Perry is doing a literature review as Step 1 of the Water Conservation Assessment
- Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) met with DBBC and most contracts are signed

- Niklas expects the FCA will hire consultants to do much of the water conservation assessment work.
- Significant progress has made on the Upper Deschutes Ecological Assessment- there will be a January 12th workshop on habitat suitability criteria for redband trout, Oregon spotted frog and riparian vegetation that will be open to BSWG.
- Kate reminded everyone that she is using a dropbox folder to keep BSWG information available to BSWG members. She will add in the scopes of work for all of the contracts.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE

- The GS flow model is on track. The calibrated version will be ready in March. The USGS will develop their scope of work to make sure this flow model gets finished.
- Reclamation is getting its Storage Assessment team together. The assessment in the Deschutes will use \$40,000 to do a high-level reconnaissance, and then is expected to analyze in more depth a potential off-channel reservoir near Madras (deemed “Monner Reservoir” in a 1972 Reclamation assessment.) The Crooked River has \$25,000 to look at storage assessments, and Reclamation will be working with BSWG to get more specific about this scope.
- The Bureau of Reclamation’s website for BSWG has been redesigned to make it mobile device friendly.
- There is an internal Bureau of Reclamation study being done on the Crooked River. It will supply guidance for adapting day-to-day reservoir operations to future climate change. The Crooked River was selected as a pilot study. It will overlap with the basin study, but its primary purpose is guidance for Bureau of Reclamation and internal management. The relevant results will most likely be shared, but sensitive information will remain internal.

A member asked if Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is involved with BSWG anymore. Kate explained that they are willing to participate in an advisory capacity. They do participate in some instream-focused discussions. They have expressed capacity and resource restraints as reasoning, as well as the opinion that an advisory role is more appropriate.

Kate, Niklas and Mike have worked up a monthly email status update that they will send out the Friday before each BSC meeting. They sent the first one last week and are open to input from this group on how to improve it.

BSC SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE

Kate shared that it may become appropriate to meet bi-monthly in the future, but for now BSC will retain its schedule of meeting the first Tuesday of each month, 10-Noon. The Planning Team meets bi-monthly and the Communications Subgroup meets every 2 or 4 weeks, as needed.

Kate shared the Planning Team’s recommendation, sent out with the agenda, that Technical Working Groups be formed for each Study Element (Attachment 3). The Team recommended these groups be focused on bringing together technical expertise. Other BSWG members could come to meetings, but would be there largely to listen in order to keep meetings efficient. The group

discussed the balance of being transparent and inclusive, while remaining efficient and letting technical experts do the work they need to do. To reach this balance, Kate asked anyone interested in attending technical meetings to email her so she can compile a list of who to notify of specific tech group meetings. Members can reference the included attachment for a list of groups.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Kate gave a short presentation on the Communications Subgroup progress and development.

- The group is targeting outreach to community leaders right now (City Councils etc...) and will target larger public meetings throughout the Basin at Basin Study milestones where there is significant information to share. They will be working on a schedule for this that can be shared with the public.
- A group representing diverse interests on BSWG met with the Bulletin Editorial board a month or so ago, which resulted in a Letter from the Editor supporting the collaborative process. Communication with the media will continue.
- The subgroup will share meetings and information with BSWG.
- Key messages and PowerPoints will be utilized.
- Balanced representation is important at each outreach meeting.
- A member asked the communications subgroup to consider outreach to County Planning Commissions.
- Some members expressed that they would like to see public outreach circle back around to inform BSWG throughout the process instead of being an afterthought.
- A member commented that the challenge to the communication of BSWG is what the media will pick up. It's going to be important to manage a strong message so it doesn't get lost in the more dramatic issues that may be picked up by public outlets and media.

Kate asked the group to take action on the key messages today (Attachment 4). She walked through each one and asked the group to speak up if they see any red flags so they can be addressed and resolved.

- A member asked that the word "collaborative" be substituted for another word. No suggestions. Others thought it important to keep the word collaborative to educate skeptics about what collaboration is.
- Change the word "major" to "important" on #3. **ALL GREEN CARDS**
- Acknowledge how FCA information (and other parallel studies) work with BSWG by adding "and leveraging additional studies" to the end of the paragraph on #6. **ALL GREEN CARDS**

Kate noted that as we go forward, the communications subgroup will be refining messages. Any substantive information will be brought to the Steering Committee for approval.

Key messages were accepted with the two "Green Card changes" noted above.

Kate continued with updating the group with communications progress

- A logo is being developed.
- The goal is to have one main website for the study (BOR). Bureau of Reclamation's website will post work done by consultants.

- OWRD is putting a webpage with broader context about the basin that will link to BOR’s website. Other websites reference BSWG and will work on keeping messaging consistent (DBBC, DRC).
- There is an email address, and will be a listserv developed that anyone can join to receive Basin Study information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Powell said there will be a challenge with multiple website hosts having their own agency and organization agendas, and to be careful with this. He thanked the group for working together and being a great example of collaboration. He expressed that the public needs BSWG to do this work and expressed gratitude.

NEXT STEPS

Niklas suggested having FCA come give an overview of their work. A member requested reporting feedback from public outreach at the next meeting.

It was suggested that The Source or another media outlet advertise the BSWG website.

Niklas asked anyone to call or email him if they have any further questions about Study elements.

EVALUATIONS

+	Δ
+ Important to have these updates – good job	Δ Missing key parties was and is
+ The group can speak and interact freely among members to air concerns and thoughts about our studies.	disappointing. Updates were a little confusing at times because details on how/when/why things are proceeding were left out.
+ Updates on the aspects of the study	

ATTACHMENT 1: BSC ACTIVE MEMBERS LIST

From Section 3.a of the Charter: “If a member organization does not participate in decision-making at two consecutive meetings by attendance or by email (see 4.a.vi), that organization cannot participate in decision-making until after it participates at two of the prior four meetings.”

(P=present at meeting, O=participated in decisions by email after meeting)

Organization	7/7/15	8/4/15	10/6/15	11/3/15
Arnold Irrigation District	P	P	P	P
Avion Water Company	P	P	P	P
Bend Paddle Trail Alliance				
Central Oregon Cities Organization	P	P	P	P
Central Oregon Flyfishers	P	P	P	P
Central Oregon Irrigation District	P	P	P	
City of Bend	P	P	P	P
City of Madras		O	P	O
City of Prineville	P	P	P	P
City of Redmond	P		O	O
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs			P	P
Crooked River Watershed Council	P	P	O	P
Deschutes County	P	P	P	P
Deschutes River Conservancy	P	P	P	P
Lone Pine Irrigation District	P	P	P	P
Native Reintroduction Network	P	P	P	P
Natural Resources Conservation Service		P	P	OUpper D
North Unit Irrigation District	P		P	
Ochoco Irrigation District	P	P	P	P
Oregon Department of Agriculture			P	P
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	O		O	P
Oregon Land and Water Alliance	P	O	P	P
Oregon Water Resources Department	P	O	P	P
Portland General Electric	P		P	P
Swalley Irrigation District	P	P	O	O
Three Sisters Irrigation District	P	P	P	P
Trout Unlimited	P		P	P
Tumalo Irrigation District	P	P	P	
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	P	P	P	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	P		P	P
U.S. Forest Service	P	P	P	P
Upper Deschutes River Coalition	P	P	P	O
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	P	P	P	O
Water for Life	P	P	P	O

WaterWatch of Oregon			P	O
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ATTACHMENT 2

MEMORANDUM

From: Kate Fitzpatrick, Basin Study Work Group Coordinator
To: Basin Study Work Group Steering Committee
Date: October 27, 2015
RE: Clarification on HCP and Basin Study Scopes

The purpose of this memo is to provide basic information on the scopes of the HCP and the Basin Study to provide common information to the group. It is not meant to interpret how these two processes may affect each or relate to each other in the future.

Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) and the City of Prineville (the applicants) are undertaking a Habitat Conservation Planning Process with the US Fish and Wildlife Services and National Marine Fisheries Service. The goal of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is to secure an Incidental Take Permit from Federal regulatory agencies that exempts them from potential liabilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The main species of concern in the HCP process are recently-reintroduced summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA, the Oregon spotted frog (listed as threatened under the ESA) and bull trout (listed as threatened under the ESA) as well as other covered species. The applicants seek protection to continue their water management activities in the presence of these listed (or proposed to be listed) species. The HCP considers impacts of specific “covered actions” (the applicants’ management activities); on “covered lands,” including the Upper Deschutes River, and “covered species,” which includes steelhead, bull trout, and the Oregon spotted frog.

Habitat conservation plans vary to some degree in content; however, there are certain elements that are universally required. Inclusion of the following is required of every HCP:

1. Analysis of impacts that are likely to occur as a result of the proposed taking of a threatened or endangered species;
2. Steps to be taken by the applicant to “...monitor, minimize, and mitigate for such impacts;”
3. Sufficient funding for implementing these steps;
4. A plan of action for handling any changed circumstances;
5. A discussion of potential alternative actions taken into consideration by the applicant and basis for not choosing these alternatives.

The HCP process began in 2010. The USFWS has contributed \$1.9 million to-date (with an additional grant forthcoming) in Section 6 Grant funding, and the HCP parties have provided an equal match to these funds, in the form of their own funds and in-kind work. The applicants have contracted with Biota Pacific to produce fifteen priority studies. The applicants submitted proposed conservation measures in August 2014 and have been working on additional measures that more

fully integrate information on impacts to the Oregon spotted frog. Conservation measures are negotiated between the applicants and the Services, but they can also incorporate input from a Working Group of broader stakeholders.

Upper Deschutes River Basin Study

The Basin Study is a \$1.5 Million study, funded by Reclamation and the Oregon Water Resources Department. The study is co-managed by Reclamation and the Basin Study Work Group (with Deschutes Basin Board of Control as fiscal agent). The study period is May 2015 through July 2018 and covers the Upper Deschutes River basin, including the Deschutes River, Crooked River, and Whychus Creek systems.

The objectives of the Basin Study are to:

- Build off the solid foundation of prior studies to develop a comprehensive analysis of water supply and demand, integrating and updating the analyses to account for climate change.
- Analyze how existing operations and infrastructure will perform under the projected future water supply conditions and demands.
- Collaboratively develop and evaluate options for addressing identified water imbalances, providing a common understanding of the interconnected effects of options that may move water between uses and users.
- Complete a tradeoff analysis to compare relative cost, environmental impact, risk, stakeholder response, and other common attributes of identified options. While the study will not propose any specific project, program, or plan, it will provide a current and broadly-shared basis for future water management in the basin.

The Study will generate information and a range of solutions to address water imbalances. Management decisions will not be made within the study. Basin stakeholders will be able to use the information to guide management decisions into the future. The information will be available to inform other processes as well, including the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan at strategic points if timing allows.

ATTACHMENT 3

Draft Technical Working Groups

Recommended by Planning Team October 20, 2015

***BSC agreed 11/3/15 that anyone interested in receiving information about particular group meetings should email Kate.**

The Planning Team recommends having Working Groups for each major study element to provide connectivity between BSWG, BOR and contractors around technical issues. Working Group members would be technical in nature, yet meetings can be open to other BSC members who are interested in keeping abreast of the work. Each Working Group would coordinate with Project Management to map out the process/check-in points that make the most sense as the Study is underway. This calendar will be kept updated and made available to the Basin Study Work Group. The following Working Groups and potential members were identified.

Climate Change/Modeling

Study Lead: Reclamation (Jennifer Johnson)

- Marshall Gannett
- Jonathon LaMarche
- Niklas Christensen
- Mike Relf

Upper Deschutes Ecological Assessment

Study Lead: River Design Group/HDR (Troy Brandt)

- Ryan Houston/Lauren Mork
- Jason Gritzner
- Jennifer O'Reilly
- Tim Hardin
- Niklas Christensen
- Scott Willey (Reclamation)
- Chris Pearle (as available)
- Marty Vaughn, Biota Pacific

Water Conservation Assessment

Study Lead: Anderson Perry (Brandon Mahon)

- Craig Horrell
- Marc Thalacker
- Mike Britton
- Niklas Christensen
- FCA (staff and contractor)
- Kevin Crew

- Jennifer Johnson
- Tod Heisler

Water Rights, Legal, Policy and Socio-Economic Assessment (LPE)

Study Leads: GSI (Adam Sussman) and Ecosystem Economics LLC (Ray Hartwell)

- Planning Team will serve as Working Group to work closely with EE/GSI.
- Doug DeFlicht

Storage Assessment

Study Lead: Reclamation or IDIQ leads

- Mike Relf
- Niklas Christensen
- Adam Sussman (representing GSI)

Flow-Temperature Assessments

Study Leads: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Crooked River Watershed Council/WPN

- Ryan Houston/Lauren Mork
- Bonnie Lamb
- Jason Gritzner/Mike Riehle
- Niklas Christensen
- Chris Gannon
- Reclamation representative

ATTACHMENT 4

Key Messages for the Upper Deschutes Basin Study

Revised 10/23/15

Reviewed by Planning Team and Communications Subgroup

1. The Upper Deschutes Basin Study will extend, refine and add additional information to identify specific options for resolving water supply and demand imbalances in the Deschutes Basin.
2. The study builds on over a decade of collaborative water planning efforts.
3. The Study focuses on developing options for responding to the imbalances in water supply and demand for three important water uses over the next 50 years:
 - Instream flows for ecological health
 - Reliable water supply for agriculture
 - Secure municipal supplies
4. The Study includes projected impacts of climate change.
5. The Study covers the Upper Deschutes River basin, which includes the Deschutes River, Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek, and the Little Deschutes; the Crooked River, including McKay and Ochoco Creeks; and the Whychus Creek systems.
6. The Study is a three-year, \$1.5 million study funded by the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Oregon Water Resources Department, in addition to in-kind support from many local partners, and leverages additional studies.
7. Options being evaluated include operational and on-farm conservation and efficiencies, reservoir optimization, enhanced or new storage, and moving water between uses and users through voluntary short-term and long-term actions.
8. Information from the study provides the base from which basin stakeholders can develop a long-term basin water management plan to guide sustainable water management actions into the future.

The Basin Study is co-managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Basin Study Work Group (BSWG) Steering Committee, a 30-plus member group of diverse interests.

The Basin Study Work Group strives to be inclusive, transparent, and collaborative by reaching consensus-based decisions, and communicating with and seeking input from the public.