

Summary of notes from the Lower Basin Project Focus Team (PFT) meeting 5/27/09

Notes taken by: Rebecca Stevens- Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Introductions started the meeting and presentations/discussions followed.

Update on Enhanced Conceptual Site Model (ECSM)

-Steve Clayton (CH2MHill) and Ed Moreen (EPA) provided an update that they had received four comments on the ESCM overview technical memo (A) that was sent out a month ago.

-The following tech memos will be provided to the PFT and TLG for review starting with an Executive Summary,

- Goals, Objectives, and performance criteria (B)
- Hydrology (C)
- Hydraulics (D)
- Geomorphology and aerial photography (E)
- Geochemistry (F)
- Contaminant Sources (G)
- Modeling Selection Criteria and Process (H)
- GIS and mapping/vegetation data (I)
- Data requirements and data gaps (J)
- Related Elements (K)
- Executive Summary (new)

-They will look into loading the memos on an ftp site and will inform the PFT if they encounter any problems. They will also be including NAS comments and remedies that have been identified in the OU-3 ROD.

-Next steps: Over the course of the 2009 summer, they will prioritize work and pilot projects and utilize the "wheel" model that was passed out at the meeting. They will work with the PFT to try and set up a meeting for early August to go over the next tech memo together.

-The LIDAR flight was flown in May of this year and covered the area from Harrison to Mullan including Ninemile and Canyon Creeks.

Biological Monitoring in the Coeur d'Alene Basin

-Brian Spears (USFWS) provided data from 2006-2008 and some preliminary tundra swan data from 2009.

-Brian provided new results on waterfowl blood and fecal metals data collected during the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivability (MAPS) studies.

-05-08' surveys (12 surveys/yr, once per week) in the Basin Environmental Monitoring Program (BEMP) included weekly records of waterfowl by species per wetland.

-The highest use areas identified are: Harrison Slough, Thompson/Canyon/and Strobl Marshes.

-Lane Marsh and Thompson Lake were identified as remedial areas in the OU-3 ROD to protect water fowl.

-Mortality numbers differ amongst years due to several factors especially high water events and colder climates (ice stays longer, reduced feeding time). 2009 appears to be one of the worst lower Basin tundra swan mortality events ever recorded.

-USFWS will continue to finalize their 2009 sampling effort and keep the PFT and TLG updated.

Bank Stabilization panel

- Rebecca opened up this session to those regulatory permitting authorities to get an overview of what they have been receiving as applications for bank stabilization projects.

- Scott Clark (Kootenai County) informed the PFT that the County has been updating their comprehensive plan and that current stormwater and/or site disturbance ordinances could potentially change in the future due to the new plan.

-Scott also mentioned that the County has been working closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on some recent applications that may have required site specific exemptions on set-back limitations.

-Mark Addy (NRCS) reported that 9 Farm Bill program applications were received in 2008 to utilize the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

-Mark is hopeful that the NRCS will have the ability to work with some ranchers along the Coeur d'Alene River system to protect portions of the levee and install cattle exclusion fencing and more structurally sound access points.

-Discussion followed on what lands qualify for Farm Bill programs and Mark told the group that any lands that are not Federal or State could qualify for the programs under Farm Bill. He also reminded the group that there is a team of agencies that applicants must work with during the application process. They are; USFWS, IDF&G, IDEQ, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, IDL, IDWR, ACOE, Counties, and perhaps cities. Beth Reinhart (ACOE) handed out the Department of Army Nationwide Permit 13 Bank Stabilization-terms and conditions that were updated in March 2007. (As per email communication with Rebecca, Beth would have reported to the group that the Nationwide Permits expire March 2012).

-Scott Fields (Coeur d'Alene Tribe-Water Resources) suggested that an accumulative watershed effect study be conducted on bank stabilization. He recommended that everyone look at the Bruce Stoker report that was written in regards to erosion

assessment. Rebecca said that she will get it electronically and have it posted on the BEIPC website under the Lower Basin PFT link.

-As per email communication with Rebecca, June would like the following added into the notes:

Once the PFT figures out what bank stabilization methods they support, they, EPA and USFWS can comment on permit applications through the IDL public process. They can also suggest regional conditions to the Corps or certification conditions to DEQ for nationwide 13 during the nationwide permit renewal process in 2012. For the current nationwide 13, among other items, DEQ requires: "Any projects involving bank Stabilization must incorporate, wherever practicable, bioengineering techniques (using root wads and vegetation) in the bank stabilization design."

Future Project Identification for Funding PFT

-Due to the nature of time Rebecca made the announcement that the Funding PFT has requested that each PFT provide 3 projects to the Funding PFT to see if alternative funding could be obtained for implementation. Rebecca will follow up with details in an email to the PFT members.

The report that Scott Fields was referring to during his discussion can be found at http://www.basincommission.com/TLG_PFT_LowerBasin.asp. It is entitled: Spokane River Hydroelectric Project Phase 2 Erosion Assessment.

Meeting attendees: Bill Rust (Shoshone Co.), Rusty Sheppard (Kootenai County), Terry Harwood (BEIPC), Nick Zilka (DEQ), Tom Herron (DEQ), Kristin Keith (DEQ), Rog Hardy (Benewah Co.), Toni Hardy (CCC), Dave George (WADOE), Ed Moreen (EPA), Rebecca Stevens (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Sandra Raskell (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Brian Spears (USFWS), Bob Flagor (KSSWCD), Steve Clayton (CH2MHill), Randy Connelly (Spokane Tribe), June Bergquist (DEQ), Glen Rothrock (DEQ), Scott Clark (Kootenai County), Scott Fields (Coeur d'Alene Tribe), Mary Terra-Berns (IDFG), David Fortier (BLM), Mark Addy (NRCS), Beth Reinhart (ACOE), and Dave LePard (IDWR).