

**Clark Fork Settlement Agreement
Management Committee Meeting Record
Noxon Emergency Services Building
September 25, 2018
10:00 a.m.–2:45 p.m. (MST)**

Management Committee Representatives in Attendance

Avista: Nate Hall

Bull River Watershed Council: Kathy Ferguson

Cabinet Resource Group: Jim Nash

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT): Les Evarts

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): Tom Herron

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG): Chip Corsi

Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club: Ryan Roslak

Montana Department of Environmental Quality: Jason Garber

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP): Mike Hensler (Alternate)

Noxon-Cabinet Shoreline Coalition: Rick Robinson

Panhandle Chapter Trout Unlimited (TU): Bill Love (Alternate)

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Ben Conard

United States Forest Service, Cabinet Ranger District (USFS): John Gubel

Interested Parties in Attendance

Avista–Bruce Howard, Heide Evans, Patty Shea, Mary Tyrie, Jason Pignanelli, Paul Kusnierz, Shana Bernall, Eric Oldenburg, Sean Moran, and Lisa Vollertsen; Avista Grant Writer–Susan Drumheller; IDFG–Andy Dux (arrived at 12:00) and Ken Bouwens; Kaniksu Land Trust–Regan Plumb (departed at 12:30); Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group–Brita Olson; Montana DEQ–Eric Sivers; MFWP–Ryan Kreiner (departed at 1400) and Jason Blakney; USFWS–Kevin Aceituno

Welcome and introductions

- A quorum was recognized for this 49th meeting of the Management Committee

Agenda review and approval

- The March 13, 2018 MC meeting record will be sent out next week to MC members.

Consent Mail update

- Crow Creek LiDAR survey and Prospect Creek passive integrated transponder (PIT) array funding requests approved by the MC on 8/27/2018.

FERC update

- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the 2017 Annual Report and 2018 Annual Implementation Plans.
- A correction to the 2017 Annual Report budget table was discussed (related to the transfer of Appendix F5 funds to Appendix C for implementation of the Clark Fork River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Experimental Transport Program).

Cultural Resources Management Group (CRMG) update

- 34 projects with proposed ground disturbance activities were reviewed by CRMG.
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes performed annual monitoring.

Kaniksu Land Trust update

- Completed 5 conservation projects including: closing a conservation easement on 86 acres on the East Fork Bull River; future conservation easement project on Bull River; a landowner donated 66 acres on the Pack River for a conservation easement; completed capital campaign to purchase 160 acres west of Sandpoint for recreation and conservation called the Pine Street Woods (Avista grant writing contributions); and Kaniksu Land Trust now has an outside educator on staff.

2019 Annual Implementation Plans

- Project Plans are due to Avista by November 1. Contact Avista staff or Program Leaders for guidelines and template.

Terrestrial Resources Technical Advisory Committee (TRTAC) update

Appendix G: Implementation of Land Use Management Plan

- 212 Private Recreation Permits were issued in 2018, up one from last year and two additional permits were approved at the September TRTAC meeting.
- Update of the Land Use Management Plan is underway; a draft will be sent to the subcommittee in the next few weeks.
- Relatively quiet year as far as trespass and other issues
 - Thanks to MFWP and IDFG Enforcement Personnel.

Appendix H: Implementation of the Recreation Resource Management Plan (RRMP)

- Continue to see increased use of recreation areas, even with poor air quality and fire restrictions.
- Have data coming in on 20 counters at recreation sites and will look at the data and have annual report by January TRTAC meeting.
- Ongoing maintenance at all Avista, MFWP, and USFS sites.
- Electronic monitoring sheet has been developed to evaluate sites (developed as part of the RRMP update).
- Facility Development Program—20 of the 31 projects listed will be completed by end of 2018.
 - Day use area completed at Quinn's Cut; new sprinkler system at Pilgrim Creek Park; Thompson Falls State Park—replacing picnic shelters on site once permits in place; Removed trees at Noxon Viewpoint; Vermilion Recreation site—extended boat dock and provided restroom; acquiring bear proof trash bins in conjunction with the USFS.

Appendix I: Aesthetics Management Plan

- 5-year review and update of photo points is happening this year and report will be completed by the end of the year.

Appendix J: Implementation of the Wildlife, Botanical and Wetland Management Plan

- One of the goals of this Appendix is to track habitat purchases through time. A packet was sent to the MC on 9/17/18 that listed parcels that were purchased using CFSA dollars in 2008 (10 year review, Prospect Creek) and 2003 (5 year review, Granite Creek parcels), and are still in Avista ownership.

The MC approved maintaining the status quo of the Prospect Creek frontage parcel and the two Granite Creek parcels ownership and management for a minimum of five years, recognizing that any action requires MC review and approval. The next status review by the MC will occur no later than 2023.

Appendix K: Wildlife Habitat Acquisition, Enhancement and Management Program

- 136 acres on the East Fork Bull River were transferred to a conservation solitude, and a conservation easement was placed on an adjacent 86 acre property in the East Fork Bull River.
- Trestle Creek Timber Management (appendices A and K)
 - Estimated 28 acres of helicopter and 70 acres of ground-based harvesting.
 - This winter a unit around 30 acres will be harvested.
 - Estimated \$250 - \$300k in net revenue returned to appendices A and K, and will try to use funds in the future for projects in the Trestle Creek drainage.
- Twin Creek Public Assess Site
 - Signs were installed. Assistance from IDFG Enforcement resolved misuse issues.
- Bear Trust Conservation Easement: A proposal for property on the Bull River was sent to the MC on 9/17/18.
 - 126 acres of undeveloped land on the mainstem Bull River.
 - Conservation easement does not allow public access and no development will be allowed.
 - Appraised at \$700 to \$950k.
 - Reached verbal agreement at \$650k, asking up to \$700k (the memo that was mailed out stated (\$800k).
 - Discussion ensued on whether or not timber management was allowed on the parcel and if the price was similar to other lands in the area. The responses were yes, timber harvest is allowed and since the easement is restrictive the price is similar to other parcels in the area.
 - All MC members present approved the purchase and Bill Love provided some disclosure that he works for a company that is assisting with the timber management plan, but he was present at the MC meeting representing TU and TU fully supports the purchase.

The MC approved spending up to \$700,000 (split evenly between Appendix B and K), to purchase a conservation easement to be held by Kaniksu Land Trust on 126 acres of undeveloped land along the mainstem Bull River.

Appendix L: Black Cottonwood Protection and Enhancement

- Constructed an 80' x 80' enclosure fence around the Hereford Slough black cottonwood stand in 2015.
- Based on the regeneration success within the fence the plan is to construct two more 80' x 80' enclosure fences in October (or may do just one larger one).

Appendix M: Wetland Protection and Enhancement Program

- Meeting with Ducks Unlimited engineer to discuss opportunities for additional enhancement for the wetland areas.

Water Resources Technical Advisory Committee update

- Review of 2018 Aquatic Annual Implementation Plan efforts: Oldenburg provided a summary of the highlights and all known variances from appendices A, B, C, D, E, F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, and T Project Plans.

Appendix A: Idaho Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Fishery Enhancement Program

- Habitat Restoration Scoping Allocation
 - Scoping in-channel work in lower Johnson Creek to maintain connectivity throughout the year. Currently, surface flows are lost when streamflow and lake elevations are low, which is particularly bad since that occurs this time of year when adult Bull Trout are trying to get to spawning areas. The thought is to really simplify the channel with a goal of increasing velocities and keeping unconsolidated materials flushed-out, which should lead to sustained surface flows throughout the year. Working with IDFG engineers and should see a proposal in 2019.
- Lightning Creek Rootwad Salvage
 - This project was delayed last year due to concerns about getting these trees out of the roadless area and then they were set to get in there this year, but the site was burned-over by the Cougar wildfire.
 - Currently assessing whether or not the wood would still serve its purpose which will determine whether or not the project will move forward or be dropped.
- Habitat Prioritization Evaluation for Trestle Creek
 - Things are going well, contracts have been awarded for both this and a similar project looking at Caribou and Hellroaring creeks.
 - Ken is getting involved in the planning process for paving the Trestle Creek Road, which allows input at the ground level and will hopefully allow him to help steer things in the interest of the creek, and second, may be able to identify opportunities to collaborate on this project and go above and beyond what would otherwise occur in the interest of protecting or enhancing Trestle Creek and its habitat. There will be areas near the stream that will be hardened with rip rap, so the plan is to investigate using “softer” so treatments.

- Lightning Creek Large Woody Debris and Recruitment Project
 - Struggling to find a contractor to work on this project due to the relatively small scope and budget.
 - Working on getting bids now and the best case would be for construction to occur in November, but more likely will carry over to a 2019 project.

Appendix B: Montana Tributary Habitat Acquisition and Recreational Fishery Enhancement Program

- Habitat Restoration Monitoring and Native Salmonid Abundance Monitoring Plan
 - Rescue electrofishing occurring annually in upper Prospect Creek in the fall during dewatering of the stream.
 - 22 Bull Trout rescued and relocated to Crow Creek.
 - 59 Westslope Cutthroat Trout rescued and relocated to the lower perennial portion of Prospect Creek.
 - Prospect PIT array installed over the summer and running
 - Noise is intermittently being generated on the same frequency utilized by full-duplex PIT tags. Currently working to identify the source of the noise to see if it is something we can eliminate. The site is operational and detecting fish; reducing or eliminating the noise will enhance detection probabilities.
- Graves Creek Pilot Habitat Enhancement Project
 - The NEPA for this was done through the project plan prior to this one and we should have a decision within the next couple of months.
 - On-site visit in May necessitated new design considerations; therefore, construction is delayed until 2019.
 - Looking into utilizing TU engineers as well as supplementing funding with a BOR grant to the LCFWG.
- Dry Creek Sediment Reduction, NEPA Compliance
 - Nothing will happen this year. There has been substantial pushback from a local snowmobile group. The Forest Service has been looking for alternatives with this group.
- Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group Project Coordination
 - The Appendix E funding is intended to help with bigger picture and more administrative tasks associated with the group, things like engaging stakeholders, developing outreach opportunities, and leveraging CFSA dollars to bring in additional resources. The Appendix B portion is more about on-the-ground implementation, planning, coordinating, and maintaining specific projects.
 - The Bull River revegetation work is largely wrapped-up and maintenance will continue into the foreseeable future
 - Brita and others have been working on grants for the Vermilion River (Sims project) and Graves Creek projects.

- Brita has a part-time employee helping to update the Clark Fork River Watershed Restoration Plan (Sarah Bowen out of Kalispell). Sarah helped complete the Thompson River watershed plan.
- Brita will finish up an updated summary of past restoration projects and update the lower Clark Fork River watershed plan will be completed next year.
- Habitat Restoration, Property Acquisition, and Conservation Easement Allocation
 - The Bear Trust conservation easement that was approved in Appendix K was developed partially through this project.
 - The other potential property we have been evaluating the potential to acquire or otherwise protect is on the lower Thompson River between the highway and forest boundary. MFWP identified this as an opportunity to offer additional protections in the interest of native salmonids and potentially to enhance recreational access. The other big draw to this property is that it is heavily used by bighorn sheep. Along those lines, Kreiner and Blakney put in a proposal and got a commitment of 10% of the purchase price from the Habitat Montana fund which is funded through bighorn sheep auction dollars. MFWP, NorthWestern Energy, Avista, and the American Public Land Exchange have been in discussion trying to determine if there is a path forward.
 - Hall noted that the property has been on the market for two years, and there may be an offer on two of the lots; the group is working to determine what the status is.
- Clark Fork River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Experimental Transport Program
 - Only 24 of the target of 40 fish were moved to Montana this year.
 - Capture efficiency was reduced due to high sustained flows (over 100,000 cubic feet per second) and revising the night electrofishing shifts (replaced night with day shifts) due to personnel safety concerns.
 - On top of the low sample size, some radio transmitters malfunctioned where the frequency they are transmitting on drifted through time. Biologists worked with the vendor and believe they identified and eliminated the problem. The plan for next year is to conduct an additional year of transport.
 - The lower mainstem Bull River PIT array was installed and is and functioning.
- Crow Creek Restoration Design
 - The design proposal was submitted to both the NorthWestern Energy TAC as well as this group with the CFSA proposal being a contingency in case the work couldn't be conducted through the NorthWestern Energy process.
 - NorthWestern Energy did fund the work, thus the project proposal was not implemented.
 - The MC approved a recent consent mail to complete the LiDAR survey that will inform the restoration design.
 - Final design of the restoration work will be submitted to Avista and NorthWestern Energy for 2019.
 - MFWP future fisheries money will also be applied for this project.

- Lower Bull River Day Use Boat Access Plan and Final Design
 - Following discussions among interested parties, MFWP engineers produced the design that was sent out to the MC with the meeting information.
 - Management of the property, we are proposing that it remains under Avista ownership and is managed as a day-use boat access site and fisheries monitoring equipment, and keep the house and shop onsite for the time being to house CFSA staff and equipment. The staff member living there would take care of utilities and then in lieu of rent would have some level of responsibilities with regard to oversight and maintenance of the site.

The MC approved utilizing up to \$100,000 from Appendix B to improve the lower Bull River property and to manage as a day-use boat access site owned by Avista and to utilize existing facilities to house Clark Fork Settlement Agreement staff and equipment, as described in the 9/17/18 MC memo.

- Noxon Reservoir Boat Ramp Improvements
 - It is very unlikely that construction will occur during 2018. The group is working through challenges associated with site selection, liability, and feasibility. The current goal is to work through those things, develop design, and start securing permits this year so that construction can occur during 2019.
 - Hall noted that if permits are in place, and there is a drawdown of the Noxon Reservoir sediment can be excavated, if needed.

Appendix C: Fish Passage/Native Salmonid Restoration Plan

- Native Salmonid Restoration Plan 5-Year Plan
 - Appendix C and components of appendices A, B, and F5 are guided by the Native Salmonid Restoration Plan and associated 5-year plan. The last 5-year plan was for the 2011 through 2015 period. The MC made a decision to not update the next 5-year plan until the Amendment No. 1 to the CFSA (Amendment) was completed.
 - With the Amendment in place the Aquatic Implementation Team (AIT) developed the updated 5-year plan that was sent to the MC with the meeting information.

The MC approved the Native Salmonid Restoration Plan Five-Year Plan, as written.

- Upstream Fish Passage Program
 - 43 adult Bull Trout have been captured downstream of Cabinet Gorge Dam to date, 35 of which were transported to Montana. This is right around the average for this time of year although there are a couple of nuances (high spring flows).
 - The AIT agreed to revise the upstream transport protocol this year. If the crew captures adult Bull Trout that genetically assign to the Lightning Creek drainage during a time that the mouth of Lightning Creek is dry, those fish will be transported to the East Fork Bull River. This concept was first suggested by the

USFWS last year which kicked off discussions among USFWS, MFWP, and IDFG.

- Tributary Trapping and Downstream Juvenile Bull Trout Transport Program
 - Right about average with the number of juvenile Bull Trout transports to date. Captures are just taking off now, because catch rates are associated with fall rain events. It is looking to be a particularly good year in Graves Creek, as many of the transports have been larger/older fish which have high expected adult return rates.
 - A new protocol for releasing half of Graves Creek post-spawn adult recaptures on site as opposed to transporting all of them back to Lake Pend Oreille is in place for this fall.
 - Working with engineering firm, on a design for permanent weir enhancements. This is the firm that originally designed the weir. The goal is to have design for the new drop height pipe and box and permitting in place for construction next August.
 - East Fork Bull River PIT array installed, waiting on power and fiber optic connections.
 - 2018 is the last year that a proposal will be submitted to trap and transport Bull Trout from Rock Creek.
 - The question was asked if this change of protocol was related to intermittency changes over time. The previous USGS work concluded that the same area is going dry annually in Rock Creek and has probably been happening for years.
 - The group discussed past capture and transport numbers in various locations in the drainage.
- Fish Abundance Monitoring
 - Working with implementers on a methodical and deliberate approach with stream abundance monitoring in Montana.
 - Revisions will be proposed in 2019. The first proposed change will be a more strategic and standardized schedule with regard to what streams and sites are sampled and the frequency. Abundance monitoring (stream electrofishing) in Montana will be proposed through Appendix B.
- Online Digital Bull Trout Library
 - Biologists associated with the Salvelinus Confluentus Curiosity Society are heading up an effort to develop an online digital library to house, organize, and make available literature related to Bull Trout. The platform they will use is freeware called Zotero. This group is trying to raise \$7,000 to fund the effort. This database will be very useful to CFSA efforts and will certainly make it easier to obtain pertinent Bull Trout literature.
 - The WRTAC recommends the MC approve the project plan and cost-share of \$2,000, split equally among appendices A, B, C, and F5.

The MC approved the Online Digital Bull Trout Library project plan as presented.

- Fish Capture Facilities Operation, Development, and Testing
 - License Amendment is undergoing FERC review.
 - Avista is working with Idaho DEQ on a 401 water quality certification. Avista received a waiver from Montana DEQ for a 401 water quality certification in Montana.
 - Joint aquatic resource permit application was submitted.
 - 100% design for the Cabinet Gorge Dam Fishway was complete.
 - Slayden is the contractor that has been selected for construction of the project and Avista is working on finalizing a contract.
 - Mobilization onsite will start March 2019 and initiation of construction of the cofferdam will occur following spill.
 - Aceituno provided an update on the Biological Opinion (BO). A draft BO is almost ready for interagency review and will be sent to state agencies and tribes in the near future.
 - Discussions ensued on the final cost for the project. Hall noted the overall project cost is a moving target based on the cost of steel, there are costs associated with the project outside of just the contractor.

Appendix D: Bull Trout Protection and Public Education Project

- Idaho Fish and Game
 - 1,800 education contacts so far this year.
 - The number of Bull Trout mistakenly harvested and turned in through the Lake Trout Angler Incentive Program continues to be low.
- Panhandle Chapter Trout Unlimited
 - Film festival at Panida Theater and fly fishing film tour to the Thompson Falls Theater as well. It was a very popular and well attended event which also highlighted the Bull River and Vermilion River restoration project videos.
 - Unfortunately, Trout and About Festival was cancelled due to venue and band cancellations.
- Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks
 - Two kids fishing day events were hosted this year at Triangle Pond and Thompson Falls State Park.
 - MFWP released a press release on small dams in small creeks, which has been a growing concern.
 - On the enforcement side there have been no Bull Trout violations so far this year.
- Lake Pend Oreille Boater's Guide
 - 10,000 copies were printed and distributed.
- Interpretive Signs and Kiosk Component for Trestle Creek Education Center
 - This project is ongoing and will be a carryover project. One of the things that may be looked at is whether some of the messaging needs to be updated as fisheries issues evolve.

- Anticipated budget shortfall for 2019
 - Appendix D group will be discussing this at their October coordination meeting to prioritize projects and keep the program within the annual allocated budget.

Appendix E: Watershed Councils Program

- Pack River Watershed Council, Bonner Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Work included communication and facilitation, assisting with restoration projects, coordinating volunteers, water quality monitoring, education and outreach, and a newsletter.
 - Jessica Erickson is the group coordinator and has been taking a larger role in working with Bouwens on restoration projects in the Pack River watershed and they are hoping to develop her role into one similar to Brita's with the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group.

Appendix F1: Clark Fork River Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Sampling has occurred once each month since March and six peak flow samples were collected in May and June. Two sampling events remain for the year.
- The data analysis for the 5-year report is almost complete.
- The Clark Fork Coalition is taking over some of the monitoring on the upper river and the group is looking for a new lab to do the water quality analysis.

Appendix F2: Monitoring of Noxon Reservoir Stratification and Mobilization of Sediment Nutrients/Metals

- Sampling was not conducted this year because the flow trigger was not met by the cutoff date of August 7—the flow trigger was not reached until September 3.

Appendix F3: Aquatic Organism Tissue Analysis

- No work was scheduled for this year under this appendix.

Appendix F4: Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan for Maintenance, Construction, and Emergency Activities

- Avista has operated both Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge dams within the general operating limits and there has been no need to initiate the Water Quality Protection and Monitoring Plan.

Appendix F5: Dissolved Gas Supersaturation Control, Mitigation, and Monitoring

- Spill Protocols, Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) Monitoring, and Gas Supersaturation Control Plan Alternative
 - Gates 1 and 3 were added to the spill protocol this year; flows peaked over 120,000 cfs in mid-May and TDG levels were close to 140%; TDG levels for 66 days were over 110%; and for 47 days TDG levels were over 120%.
 - Modified spillways 1 and 3 were tested this year prior, during, and following spill.

- At lower river flows the modified spillways are much better at reducing TDG levels; at higher spill the modified spillways perform similar to the unmodified spillways on the shallow side of the splitter wall.
- Performance is good up to what the spillway modifications were designed for; performance decreases at flows above what they were designed for.
- Lost one of the TDG monitoring float boats at the hatchery; pulled the other monitoring station out afterwards. A protocol will be developed by the Gas Supersaturation Subcommittee for monitoring equipment during high flows.
- Overview of UC3
 - Kusnierz is the hydropower committee member for the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission; goal to enhance aquatic invasive species detection and response; group is making recommendations to other organizations; examples of efforts include: eDNA scientific advisory panel, training for DNRC fire operations, and working on a geographic response plan.
- Lake Pend Oreille/Clark Fork River Walleye Population Assessment
 - The goal of this project is to identify Walleye spawning locations and determine the best approach to net fish; used radio telemetry to locate fish and tried to net Walleye from mid-April through May (1,200 Walleye were captured and provided to food banks and IDFG was able to identify two spawning aggregations near the mouth of the Clark Fork and Pack rivers).
 - Netting more effective near the mouth of the Pack River; spawning appears to be occurring in the lake near the mouth (easier to net, less obstacles); Walleye are also staging at the mouth of the Clark Fork River and then moving up the river to spawn – more challenging area to net (other fish species including Rainbow Trout are in the area that are moving into the Clark Fork River to spawn); less effective at netting the Clark Fork delta area; pretty successful at minimizing bycatch with short net sets.
 - IDFG would like to continue limited netting next year and use telemetry to better identify Walleye movements. A new proposal will be submitted in the near future to get anglers involved in the control of Walleye; it is a pilot project to see if incentivized angling could help reduce the Walleye population.
 - Dux noted that the State Management Plan is out for review and will get approved by the commission in the fall and take effect in January of 2019. The new management plan outlines IDFG strategy for Walleye.
 - Discussion ensued on how much money has been expended to implement the Lake Trout angler incentive program The question was asked regarding how long the experiment would take place to determine what is needed to stop the growth of the Walleye population. The response was it is yet to be determined.
- LPO/Lower Clark Fork Strontium Isotope Baseline Collection
 - Bouwens is analyzing the data and is finalizing the project report.

- Bouwens, Kusnierz, and Oldenburg are working on developing a proposal for the first applied CFSA study utilizing this technology. Want to have a better understanding of where the Lake Pend Oreille Walleye population production is coming from. The group is working on a proposal to develop markers that will allow us to distinguish Walleye that were produced in Montana versus Idaho, and potentially have the ability to distinguish between the two reservoirs and even parts of Lake Pend Oreille. A proposal will be developed for 2019.
- Lake Pend Oreille Nearshore Index Netting
 - This plan will carryover to 2019 to get it off cycle with fall abundance monitoring in the river.
- Two additional new projects likely to be proposed in March
 - Kusnierz is putting together a proposal for temperature monitoring coordination and database development. The idea behind this proposal will be to do a better job in being deliberate with our temperature monitoring efforts, do a better job of standardizing and coordinating those efforts, and most importantly creating a central database so the information is readily available to everyone.
 - Idaho DEQ requested additional temperature monitoring in the lower river associated with the new minimum flow. The primary purpose of this project plan will be to evaluate whether the reduced minimum flow requirements changes the thermograph of the lower river but the information will also be useful from a broader fisheries prospective. Kusnierz will be working with Idaho DEQ and IDFG to develop a proposal for 2019.

Appendix T: Project Operations Package

- Project Operations and Coordination
 - We have operated within the general operating limits all year.
- Priest River Coldwater Bypass Preliminary Design
 - A contractor has been selected and things are going as planned.
 - Corsi noted that a kickoff meeting occurred with the contractor a few weeks ago and another meeting is coming up soon. They are looking at options and feasibility of how to get cold water to the tailrace (should have four options available soon that are tied to a cost estimate). The plan is to have those options figured out by early spring and IDFG has proposed the idea to the public through the Lakes Commission and held a public scoping meeting at Priest Lake.
- Cabinet Gorge Fish Hatchery Spring Collection System Upgrade
 - Still evaluating exactly what the need is and will likely implement an upgrade measure to increase the water supply.
 - At a minimum a backup pump will be needed.
 - This project will likely carryover to 2019.

Grant writer update

- Drumheller provided an update on grants received to date. : received Army Corp of Engineers grant this year for \$200,000 for Sanders County for milfoil control and a

similar grant for \$200,000 is pending from Army Corp of Engineers that would also be used for invasive watermilfoil control. Received a grant for \$100,000 for Pine Street Woods in Sandpoint and assisted Brita in obtaining a \$100,000 grant request from Bureau of Reclamation of which some of the money could go toward the Graves Creek habitat restoration project. Pending Montana DEQ 319 NPS Program grant to help with Simms Meander restoration work for \$200,000.

- Drumheller and Watkins are available to assist with grant writing and project plan proposals. Think about upcoming projects and strategize, so you can get grant writers involved early since some of the grant cycles take a few years.
- Nash thanked Drumheller for assisting with grant writing for the Cabinet Resource Group.

Other

- **IDFG and BPA Agreement**
 - Signing ceremony with BPA that settles wildlife mitigation at Albeni Falls project (including operational mitigation); about a 24million dollar agreement for 30 years; 6.7 million goes toward stewardship programs to maintain currents lands being managed; rest of the funds will be used for restoration which will help with the second phase of the Clark Fork River delta project; erosion near the mouth of the Priest River and Pack River delta; BPA has its own responsibilities, but there may be opportunities to combine funds from BPA and the CFSA to stretch projects; good opportunities for black cottonwood restoration on the delta.
 - Roslak noted the results of the first phase of the Clark Fork Delta restoration are promising.
- **Hydro One Merger**
 - Howard provided an update on the merger. The acquisition has been put on hold as the 5 State Public Utility Commissions want to wait and see what the new board and CEO look like. Following the acquisition the Avista board will be separate from the Hydro One board. This doesn't change how we operate or how we do business.
 - Contact Hall or Howard with any additional questions.
- **Meeting Feedback**
 - Hall asked the group if they want to see more or less detail on project plans and welcomed feedback on the meeting to ensure we are meeting everyone's expectations for this meeting.
 - Ferguson noted it is much quieter than it used to be and appreciates the shorter meeting format.
- **Spring meeting date:** March 12 and 13, 2019, in Sandpoint, Idaho

Appendix J – Land Acquisition Spreadsheet

Request consensus approval of maintaining the status quo of the Prospect Creek frontage parcel and the two Granite Creek parcels ownership and management for a minimum of five years, recognizing that any action requires MC review and approval. The next status review by the MC will occur no later than 2023.

| Seeking MC Consensus Approval | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| First Name | Last Name | Approve | Abstain | Do Not Approve |
| Ben | Conard | X | | |
| Chip | Corsi | X | | |
| Les | Evarts | X | | |
| Kathy | Ferguson | X | | |
| Jason | Garber | X | | |
| John | Gubel | X | | |
| Nate | Hall | X | | |
| Mike | Hensler (Alt.) | X | | |
| Tom | Herron | X | | |
| Bill | Love (Alt.) | X | | |
| Jim | Nash | X | | |
| Rick | Robinson | X | | |
| Ryan | Roslak | X | | |

Appendix B & K – Conservation Easement

Request consensus approval of spending up to \$700,000 (split evenly between Appendix B and K), to purchase a conservation easement to be held by Kaniksu Land Trust on 126 acres of undeveloped land along the mainstem Bull River.

| Seeking MC Consensus Approval | | | | |
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| Kathy | Ferguson | X | | |
| Jason | Garber | X | | |
| John | Gubel | X | | |
| Nate | Hall | X | | |
| Mike | Hensler (Alt.) | X | | |
| Tom | Herron | X | | |
| Bill | Love (Alt.) | X | | |
| Jim | Nash | X | | |
| Rick | Robinson | X | | |
| Ryan | Roslak | X | | |

Appendix B – Lower Bull River Public Day-Use Boat Access Plan and Final Design

Request consensus approval to utilize up to \$100,000 from Appendix B to improve the lower Bull River property and to manage as a day-use boat access site owned by Avista and to utilize existing facilities to house Clark Fork Settlement Agreement staff and equipment, as described in the 9/17/18 MC memo.

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| Chip | Corsi | X | | |
| Les | Evarts | X | | |
| Kathy | Ferguson | X | | |
| Jason | Garber | X | | |
| John | Gubel | X | | |
| Nate | Hall | X | | |
| Mike | Hensler (Alt.) | X | | |
| Tom | Herron | X | | |
| Bill | Love (Alt.) | X | | |
| Jim | Nash | X | | |
| Rick | Robinson | X | | |
| Ryan | Roslak | X | | |

Appendix C – Native Salmonid Restoration Plan Five-Year Plan

Request consensus approval of the Native Salmonid Restoration Plan Five-Year Plan, as written.

| Seeking MC Consensus Approval | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| First Name | Last Name | Approve | Abstain | Do Not Approve |
| Ben | Conard | X | | |
| Chip | Corsi | X | | |
| Les | Evarts | X | | |
| Kathy | Ferguson | X | | |
| Jason | Garber | X | | |
| John | Gubel | X | | |
| Nate | Hall | X | | |
| Mike | Hensler (Alt.) | X | | |
| Tom | Herron | X | | |
| Bill | Love (Alt.) | X | | |
| Jim | Nash | X | | |
| Rick | Robinson | X | | |
| Ryan | Roslak | X | | |

Appendices A, B, C, and F5 – Online Digital Bull Trout Library Project Plan

Request consensus approval of the Online Digital Bull Trout Library project plan as presented.

| Seeking MC Consensus Approval | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| First Name | Last Name | Approve | Abstain | Do Not Approve |
| Ben | Conard | X | | |
| Chip | Corsi | X | | |
| Les | Everts | X | | |
| Kathy | Ferguson | X | | |
| Jason | Garber | X | | |
| John | Gubel | X | | |
| Nate | Hall | X | | |
| Mike | Hensler (Alt.) | X | | |
| Tom | Herron | X | | |
| Bill | Love (Alt.) | X | | |
| Jim | Nash | X | | |
| Rick | Robinson | X | | |
| Ryan | Roslak | X | | |

2018 PROJECT PLAN

Online Digital Bull Trout Library

Project Contact

Shana Bernall, Avista, (406) 847-1293, Shana.Bernall@avistacorp.com

Project History

This is a new project for 2018.

Background

There is an increasing volume of literature related to research on Bull Trout. A large portion of this literature has not been published in scientific journals, and; therefore, is not readily accessible. Biologists that are part of a group that meets annually to discuss Bull Trout research (*Salvelinus confluentus* Curiosity Society) are teaming up to develop an online digital library for Bull Trout. This online library would be a site where publications, reports, and other information on Bull Trout can be uploaded, searched, read, and downloaded by interested biologists. While search tools, such as Google Scholar, have greatly increased biologist's ability to find published information, much of the formally published information is scattered among various journals, which can still require considerable effort to find, and "gray literature" is often not available online or in digital form and may be difficult to locate and obtain. Also, it is challenging for many biologists to keep up with the literature because of increasingly limited time and because they may not be aware of its existence. The library would centralize information on Bull Trout making it easier to find and readily available on the web. The biologists working on this project selected an online program (Zotero) that offers unlimited space for storage of documents that costs \$120/year; although the development of the database is estimated to cost \$7,000. They have received a small grant from the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society for \$1,000 and are asking for additional contributions from other organizations. The use of this funding is contingent on the project moving forward. If the total allotted funds are not achieved and the project does not get implemented, this funding would not be spent.

Objectives

1. Provide funding to assist with the development of an online Bull Trout digital library.

Task

1. If adequate funding is available from other sources to complete the project, Avista will provide \$2,000 to assist in the development of an online Bull Trout digital library.

Work Products

- Internet link to the online Bull Trout digital library (December 2019)

Permitting Requirements

No permits are required for implementation of this project.

Cultural Resource Survey Needs

The proposed project does not involve any ground disturbing activities or impact historic resources.

Relation to the CFSA and Benefit to the Resource

The aquatic protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures that are part of Avista’s Clark Fork Settlement Agreement are aimed at improving native salmonid populations in the Clark Fork Project area. Bull Trout are one of the primary target species for these efforts as they are “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. The proposed Bull Trout digital library will be a valuable resource for biologists implementing projects under the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement.

Budget

| Task | Item | 2018 Budget Request |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Objective 1 | Funding for Bull Trout digital library | \$2,000 |
| Total budget requested from Appendices A, B, C, and F5 | | \$2,000 |

Funding for this project will be split evenly between Appendices A, B, C and F5.