CUSTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Locally Elected Board of Supervisors

Wayne Baker, Chairman Julia Moss, Vice Chairman Jimmie L. Dowton, Treasurer Dale Olson, Secretary Tori ONeal, Member Karma Bragg, Project Manager

Idaho Watershed Habitat Restoration 2007-268-00

Pahsimeroi Restoration via OSC 2008-603-00

THE GOAL

Historically, spawning and rearing habitat has been supported within the basin for federally-listed anadromous fish species: Spring and summer Snake River Chinook salmon, and Summer Snake River Steelhead.

Limiting Factors:

- Inadequate fish habitat and habitat complexity
- Limited flows/dewatering
- Passage barriers and entrainment

We strive to address these limiting factors while at the same time maintaining the delicate balance between fish recovery and agricultural production.

INTER-RELATED PROJECTS



- Idaho Department of Fish and Game- 1994-015-00 Screening Improvement & 2007-399-00 Upper Salmon Screen Tributary Passage
- Idaho Department of Water Resources 2008-608-00 Idaho MOA/Fish Accord Water Transactions
- Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation USBWP-2007-394-00

CRITICAL PARTNERS



- Private Landowners
- Custer County Commissioners
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USFS- Sawtooth National Recreation Area
- Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bonneville Power Administration
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- NOAA Fisheries.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION 2013-2021

Upper Salmon-15 Projects

- In-stream water savings of approximately 26 cfs.
- Addressing 12 passage barriers by closing or modifying irrigation diversions or removing culverts

Pahsimeroi - 25 Projects

- In stream water savings of approximately 68.5 cfs
- Addressing 23 passage barriers by closing or modifying irrigation diversions or removing culverts

Through these contracts the Custer SWCD has completed stream restoration projects throughout the basin to improve approximately 105 miles of stream.

POLE CREEK – A SUCCESS STORY





8 Pole Creek Diversions





Old Hydro Plant Used 6cfs



MILES OF IMPLEMENTATION



- Reconstruct/relocate POD
- Reconfigure pivots
- Replace culverts
- Replace fences
- Develop off-site livestock water

IMPROVED IRRIGATION

- Improve Irrigation Efficiencies
- Drill wells
- Develop system to accommodate source switch to address flows.





- Reconstruct/relocate POD
- Reconfigure pivots
- Replace culverts
- Replace fences
- Develop off-site livestock water

PHYSICAL BARRIER REMOVED - PASSAGE IS RESTORED

Old Diversion Before Project



Fish Passage Restored



New Diversion



IDFG Criteria Fish Screen



Pole Creek - Average Daily Flow



Pole Meadow - Before and After



Pole Meadow Historic Channel Before and After



PARTNERS

Salmon Falls Land and Livestock Office of Species Conservation - USBWP Sawtooth National Recreation Area Shoshone-Bannock Tribes U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Natural Resources Conservation Service Custer Soil and Water Conservation District Idaho Department of Fish and Game Idaho Department of Water Resources Idaho Transportation Department **NOAA** Fisheries US Fish and Wildlife Service Bonneville Power Administration Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funding



POST PROJECT RECOVERY ON POLE CREEK

Year	Chinook/100m ²
2013	129
2014	10
2015	151

THE GOAL FOR POLE CREEK

With an increase in flows additional efforts will encourage adult spawners to move up the creek. Our goal is to:

- Increase the hydraulic connectivity
- Improve the structural diversity
- Increase the channel complexity of Pole Creek.

Results:

This project has the ability to improve the stream to support recolonization and fish numbers in Pole Creek.

P-16/FUREY LANE DIVERSION MODIFICATION AND STREAM RECONNECT



FUREY LANE – P-16 DIVERSION

Before at Furey/P16 Project:

- 29.52 cfs is decreed at this Point of Diversion
- P-16 was unscreened.
- Sulphur Creek Ranch A"re-divert and was also unscreened
- Big Creek Irrigation Diversion 23.8 cfs

After Furey Lane/P-16:

- 1 new "fish passable" POD at Furey for 8 cfs
- Permanent Closure P15/converted to well for Sulphur Creek
- One criteria fish screen at new POD
- Permanent Closure of P-14 Dversion
- Permanent Closure of Big Creek/Hamilton Ditch Diversion





PAHSIMEROI HABITAT COMPLEXITY



MUDDY SPRINGS HABITAT PROJECT

QUESTIONS?



Photo Credit: IDFG, Screen Shop Brian Hamilton, USBOR Steve Stubner, Life on the Range Mark Moulton , SNRA

- Our role: PLANNING, PERMITTING, COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
- Landowner Relations Willing landowners is KEY!
- IDFG and the Office of Species Conservation - USBWP have worked to identify priorities for each of the subbasins we are work in. We use the established priorities to identify and develop project goals.
- We rely heavily on IDFG, IDWR and the USBWP to assist with monitoring and provide monitoring results to direct fish priorities for new projects.
- We have implemented 98% of all projects noted in our last proposal plus some additional projects

https://idrange.org/range-stories/central-idaho/pole-creek-conservation-success-story

Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District Upper Salmon Basin



Figure 1-1. Snake River Spring/Summer-Run Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit, historical habitat, and migration corridor.



Figure 1-2. Snake River Basin Steelhead Distinct Population Segment, historical habitat, and migration corridor.

- 2,700 Square miles
- 92% Public Land
- 8% Private Land
- Occupied salmon habitat
 - 90% private



The LSWCD Board of Supervisors



Rusty Hamilton, Thayne Kauer, Jane Sandstrom, Mike Kossler , Curtis BeyelerSecretaryTreasurerChairVice-ChairContract Officer





Big and Little Timber Creek8.Canyon Creek9.Big Eight Mile Creek10.Hayden Creek11.Agency Creek12.

Withington Creek
 Wimpey Creek
 Kirtley Creek

There are no photographs available of the creeks, listed above, that were taken by our members for your review.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact me at 238–3807 or leave a message.

Sincerely,

SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

Teit.

Keith Tinno, Member Fort Hall Business Council

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Lemhi Watershed Disconnected Tributaries and Spawning Grounds

- Disconnected Tributaries
- 2019 Lemhi River Chinook Redds
- 2019 Hayden Creek Chinook Redds





Typical culvert/partial fish barrier.



Typical bridge replacing culvert.

- Collaborating with partners
- Water efficiency projects
- Fish passage barrier removal
- Points of irrigation diversion consolidation and screening
- Stream rehabilitation projects

Results (2013-2020):

- 21 passage barriers removed
- 29 miles of protected/enhanced flow
- 42 miles of tributary habitat now accessible

Project Objectives:

- Remove a fish passage barrier
- Reconstruct Indian Springs
 to a natural channel
- Improve the riparian habitat
- Create a self-sustaining, stable stream channel that maximizes habitat values for Chinook and steelhead
- Remove and relocate corrals off stream
- Remove cattle from stream with fence and stockwater

Little Sawmill Creek Restoration Project



Project Partners:



Project funded by: Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, DEQ 319 & Natural Resources Conservation Service



Aerial view of the project area as construction on new stream channel begins.



Project area after stream rehabilitation.



Beginning construction on bypass road for culvert replacement.

Eighteenmile Creek Habitat Improvement Project

Project Objectives:

- Remove a seasonal fish passage barrier
- Reconnect 0.34 mile of historic channel with perennial flows
- Improve the surrounding wetland and riparian habitat
- Create a self-sustaining, stable stream channel that maximizes habitat values for Chinook and steelhead
- Improve irrigation efficiency and decrease headgate maintenance

Install three Current pipe Intake stockwatertroughs Hawley Creet Rd Remove current point of diversion & fish passage barrier Abandon & revegetate current Eighteenmile Install Creek channel pipeline Relocate Eighteenmile Creek to historic channel nstall fish screen Plant native vegetation throughout project area & Install install riparian fencing For more information contact: Bob Minton, 208-756-3211 ext. 105 Engineer: Intermoutain Aquatics Inc. 0.05 Contractor: Boyd Foster Backhoe Service Adair Muth, 208-332-1559

Project Partners:



Project funded by: Bonneville Power Administration, Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, & Natural Resources Conservation Service



A Google Earth image of the project site before project implementation.



The push up dam on the old creek alignment. This picture shows the overly slow, deep pool created. This water would get extremely warm and flow right downstream to spawning grounds.



Picture showing the creek after realignment, rehabilitation and new fencing to exclude livestock.

Hawley Creek Reconnect

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The Future

- Improve water quality in Lemhi River headwaters above production ground.
- Establish functional connection of Texas Creek.
- Improve rearing habitat in the upper Lemhi River; enhance spring systems.
- Improve rearing habitat for transition area of upper/lower Lemhi River and Hayden Creek.
- Improve rearing habitat in lower Lemhi, particularly for over-wintering juveniles (slow water habitat).
- Improve rearing habitat in Hayden Creek; some years accounts for half of Lemhi Chinook production.

















Questions?





- Potlatch River Watershed Restoration -Latah SWCD Project Development

Presented by

Latah Soil and Water Conservation District *Ken Stinson, District Manager* Brenda Erhardt, Resource Conservation Planner Aven Julye, Field Crew Manager George Zamora, Field Crew Manager August 10, 2021





2002 and 2008 (Idaho Accord) Projects



** Structure for Latah SWCD planning and implementation as suggested by BPA

2002-061-00 Project Purpose – to identify, evaluate, plan and seek funding to achieve stated goals and objectives through process-based habitat restoration strategies



Goal 1.) Improve fish passage to suitable habitat.

Goal 2.) Provide suitable habitat for steelhead spawning and/or rearing.

Goal 3.) Improve instream water flows to support spawning and rearing habitat.

- Summer Base Flow
- Summer Stream Temperature



Funding Sources to Secure \$8,000,000: 125 + Latah SWCD Projects Since 2004



<u>Local</u>

- Private Landowners/Entities
- Latah County
- North Latah County Highway District

<u>State</u>

- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality/ EPA Clean Water Act
- Idaho Department of Lands
- Idaho Department of Transportation
- Idaho Office of Species Conservation/Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Idaho Office of Species Conservation/Snake River Basin Adjudication
- Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Federal

- Bonneville Power Administration
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Latah SWCD Progress to Date (2004 – 2020)

- 125 + projects summary data
- Removal of 30 migration barriers opening ~37 stream miles
- Floodplain reconnection 450 acres
- Stream restoration 28 miles
- Native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and grasslikes planted 269,410
- Native seed applied TONS (literally...)











Progress to Date – 125 + Projects



Goal 1.) Improve fish passage to suitable habitat.

- 30 passage barriers removed, opening 37 stream miles
- Goal 2.) Provide suitable habitat for steelhead spawning and/or rearing.
 - Treated 170 acres and 19 stream miles
 - 40 miles road rocking to reduce sedimentation
 - 71 acres protected through livestock fencing
 - 12 off-site water ponds
 - Planted 128,760 native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and grasslikes

Goal 3.) Improve instream water flows to support spawning and rearing habitat.

 Meadow restoration - 280 acres, 9 stream miles, 140,650 native trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses and grasslikes

Project Examples – Goal 1, Passage Barrier



Dutch Flat Dam – West Fork Little Bear Creek, opened 14 stream miles







Project Examples – Goal 2, Habitat

Corduroy Creek, East Fork Potlatch River



Project Examples – Goal 3, Meadow Restoration



Two Mile Meadow, East Fork Potlatch River



Project Examples – Goal 3, Meadow Restoration

Note: Changes to Flow Velocity and Floodplain Access



Racetrack, Corral Creek



Racetrack April 2018 Treated Acres: 7.5

Effects of Meadow Restoration

Pilos Never Pilos Never Pilos Never Pilos Never Pilos Pilos

Corral Creek – Racetrack Meadow/Constructed 2013

Highlights from Latah SWCD Monitoring – Stream and Groundwater

- Full Access to Floodplain
 - Water levels in all monitoring wells at surface in winter/early spring by 2015
- No Flow Interval Reduced
 - 2009 2013 Flow ceased by July 13 and the dry period of 116 to 171 days
 - 2014 2019 Flow 9 to 51 days longer into summer and returns two weeks earlier
 - 2016 Dry period ~ 71 days
 - 2017 Dry period ~ 57 days
 - 2018 Dry period ~ 79 days
 - 2019 Dry period ~ 28 days 🔶
- Erosion nearly eliminated
 - 2012 ~ 161 tons per mile/year
 - 2017 Negligible

<u>Racetrack Project Metrics:</u> Stream length – 0.25 miles Floodplain area – 7.5 acres



Looking forward –



Potlatch River Focus – Wild Steelhead Habitat

- "The Potlatch River likely has the strongest component of wild steelhead present within the Clearwater River Lower Mainstem population"
- "...the Potlatch River drainage comprises 25% of the historic intrinsic potential of the Clearwater River Lower Mainstem steelhead population..."
- "Potlatch River steelhead are genetically distinct from other Clearwater River steelhead groups..."

IDFG/Bowersox (2011)





Guidance/Direction – Who?

- Northwest Power and Conservation Council Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (NWPCC 2014)
- Clearwater Subbasin Management Plan (Ecovista 2003)
- ESA Recovery Plan for Snake River Steelhead (NMFS 2017)
- IDFG Fisheries Management Plan (IDFG 2019)
- IDFG Potlatch River Steelhead Monitoring Programs
- Potlatch River Watershed Assessment and TMDL (IDEQ 2008 and 2017)
- Latah SWCD Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan (2007) <u>and</u> Amendment to Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan (2019)
 - Potlatch Implementation Group Managed by IOSC

2007 – Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan

- Goal "to specify restoration and protection strategies that help restore steelhead to a robust, self-sustaining population"
- General priorities
- Limiting factors

2019 – Amendment

- Designates Top Tier priority watersheds
- Restoration plans/multiple agencies

Potlatch River Watershed Management Plan - 2019 Amendment Wild Steelhead Recovery Guidance 4 November 2019



Sponsored by

Latah Soil and Water Conservation District 220 East 5th Street Moscow, Idaho Prepared by

Potlatch Implementation Group

Guidance/Direction – What?



Primary Limiting Factors – Recommended Restoration Methods

- Elevated Water Temperature Restore wetlands and increase floodplain storage
- Reduced Flow during Critical Periods Restore wetlands
- Flow timing extreme flow variation Restore wetlands to reduce extreme peak flows, increase soil storage, and increase base flows.
- Excess Sediment Systematically reduce sediment
- Floodplain Connectivity/Riparian Vegetation Restore incised channels
- Habitat Complexity Restore wetlands and riparian vegetation
- Migration Barriers Replace passage impediments

NMFS – 2017 ESA Recovery Plan for Snake River Idaho Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Populations – Chapter 6

Guidance/Direction – How? Habitat Actions

- 1. Restore hydrologic processes
- 2. Reestablish floodplains
 - Address channel incision
- 3. Reestablish riparian vegetation
 - Shade
 - Future LWD recruitment
- 4. Reduce fine sediment delivery
- 5. Eliminate fish migration barriers



NMFS – 2017 ESA Recovery Plan for Snake River Idaho Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Populations – Chapter 6

Climate Change – Building Natural System Resiliency

- Climate vulnerability assessment for Pacific salmon and steelhead (Crozier et al. 2019)
 - Correlation between habitat loss and climate stress
 - Habitat restoration strategies shown for climate change
 - Reconnecting habitats longitudinally AND laterally (floodplains). "Reconnected habitats restore natural processes and provide refuges from extremes in both temperature and flow."
 - 2. Ameliorating temperature and flow constraints through riparian restoration and other techniques designed to reduce climate stress
 - 3. Improve access to food-rich environments
 - 4. Follow habitat restoration guidelines developed to have climate benefit (Beechie 2013)



Latah SWCD Planning Process





Process Based Habitat Restoration

- Site Review/Evaluation
 - Internal review first- project rejections common
- Engineering designs/plans
- Seek funding multiple sources
- Implementation
 - Permitting
 - Revegetation plans
 - Construction
- Adaptive Management
 - Adjust project
 - Long-term commitment to landowners

			Section 7.	Timeline	wict				
Latan Soil and Water Conservation District Potlatch River Watershed Restoration									
			2002-0	061-00					
Project Development: Initial site review/ev/		ew/evaluation	Initial project plans/design		Seek funding		Implementation/Monitoring*		
Fiscal Year Timeline									
2023	2024		2025		2026		2027		
		Potlatch Imple	ementation Group -	Project coordinat	tion and review	1			
	·	East For	k Potlatch River (El	FPR) subwatershe	d - Tier 1		·		
EFPR, passage barrier evaluat	ion and implement	ation ¹							
Two-Mile Phase 3, meadow restoration ^{2,3}									
	EFPR, DS county lir	ne, habitat restora	tion ²						
Big Bear Creek subwatershed - Tier 1									
West Fork Little Bear Creek, p	assage barrier eval	uation and implen	nentation ¹						
Upper Big Bear Creek, passa	ige barrier evaluation	on and implement	ation ¹						
Middle Fork Big Bear Cree									
	West Fork Litt	tle Bear Creek, hat	oitat assesssment a	nd project develop	pment ^{2,3}				
			Corral Creek subw	vatershed - Tier 1					
Corral Creek, passage barrier	evaluation and imp	lementation ¹							
USFS - meadow restoration	, Leanna, Smith and	d Wet meadows ^{2,3}							
	·	Cedar Cre	eek subwatershed -	Tier 2, fish presei	nce noted		· · · · · ·		
Cedar Creek habitat and stream evaluation and implementation ²									
	<u> </u>	West Fork Po	otlatch subwatersh	ed - Tier 2, fish pro	esence noted		<u> </u>		
	Purdue Creek habitat restoration ^{2,3}								
	USFS - meac	dow restoration, N	at Brown and othe	rs ^{2,3}					
	<u> </u> _		Hog Meadow sub	watershed - Tier 2		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		
			Hog Meadov	<mark>v - meadow restor</mark>	ation ²				
* Implementation/Monitoring fu	Inding to be secure	d beyond the 2002	2-061-00 project						
¹ - Goal 1, improve fish passage	_								
² - Goal 2, provide suitable habita	at for spawning and	d rearing ²				ee nage 2	28 of proj	ect nronosa	
³ - Goal 3, improve instream water flows					•	cc page 2		cer proposa	





Upcoming Projects

Corral Creek, IDL





Corral Creek – Livestock Exclusion Project





"Cheap and Cheerful" Restoration – Using Beaver Dam Analogs













Thank You!

Lapwai Creek Riparian Restoration



Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District

Project 2002-070-00 August 2021 NWPPC





Overview





Focal Species - Steelhead



Spawn	Lapwai	Lapwai main-	Mission	Sweetwater
Year	Total	stem	Creek	Creek
2010	636	408	224	- (-)
2011	248	92	46	107
2012	- (-)	- (-)	60	123
2013	370	171	58	138
2014	374	108	115	145
2015	679	305	208	160
2016	595	267	158	167
2017	233	115	63	53
2018	226	98	79	47
2019	176	92	54	30



Limiting Factors

Elevated Water Temperatures

Passage Barriers

Excess Sediment

Riparian Condition

Floodplain Connectivity

Altered Hydrology

Instream Habitat Complexity

Reduced Summer Flow








Table 3: Riparian Condition Data Summary

	Rating	Number Value	Miles	% of Total
R	Excellent	≥ 20	23.83	5
	Good	15-19	91.26	21
	Fair	9-14	126.81	29
	Poor	<9	196.04	45

Stream Temperature

- Long term data set
- Coordination
- Trend
- Project Effectiveness
- Exceedances



Project Selection

- Watershed Plan
- Geographic Priority Areas
- Reach Level / Planning Unit
- Landowner Participation
- Biological Review and prioritization



Landowner Strategy

- 1,988 landowners
- 983 with riparian areas identified in the poor, fair range
- Sweetwater Creek
 Mission Creek

- Marketing Plan
- Newsletter
- Twitter
- Local Events
- Direct Mailings
- One-on-one meetings
- Tours
- Annual Meetings





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Data:

- BOR/UI
- NOAA
- LiDar
- Temperature Data
- Floodplain Analysis
- Flow Gauges













Questions?

Spawning Steelhead at Lapwai-Rock Creek Confluence

