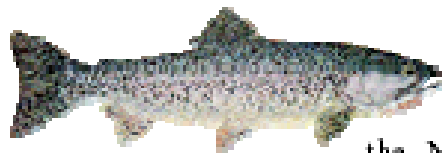


Help Plan the Future of Fish and Wildlife in the Upper Snake Province

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) is asking for your help in developing a plan to protect and enhance fish and wildlife in the Upper Snake Province of the Columbia River Basin.



Created in 1980 by the Northwest Power Act, and formerly known as the Northwest Power Planning Council, the NPCC performs planning associated with the Columbia River Basin hydropower system. The Council is charged with maximizing energy conservation while providing electricity to Washington, Oregon, western Montana, and Idaho at the lowest possible cost. The Council is also charged with protecting and enhancing the fisheries resources of the Columbia River Basin and for mitigating the effects of the hydropower system on fish and wildlife populations and habitat.

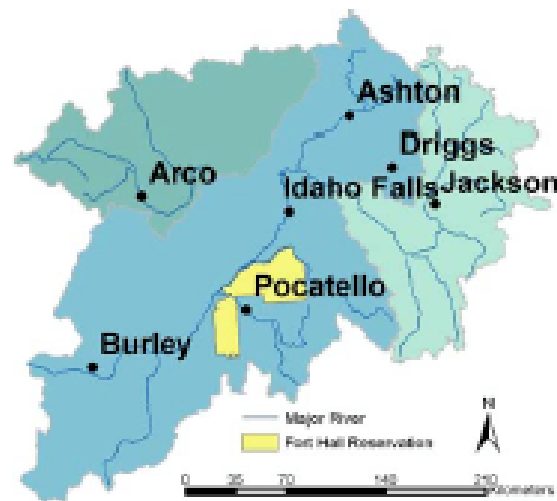
In accordance with the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, the NPCC is currently developing management plans for 62 subbasins located in 11 provinces within the basin. These plans will provide a basis for evaluating and prioritizing hundreds of fish and wildlife mitigation and enhancement projects that will be proposed to the Council for funding over the next 15 years. Projects that meet the goals and objectives of the management plans will be implemented using funds administered by the BPA.

From 1978 to 2000, BPA directed approximately \$2.6 billion toward anadromous fish such as salmon and steelhead, and approximately \$875 million toward resident fish and wildlife. More than \$13 million has been obligated by BPA for fish and wildlife enhancement in the Upper Snake Province since 1992.



Upper Snake Province Subbasins

- Snake Headwaters
- Upper Snake
- Upper Snake Closed

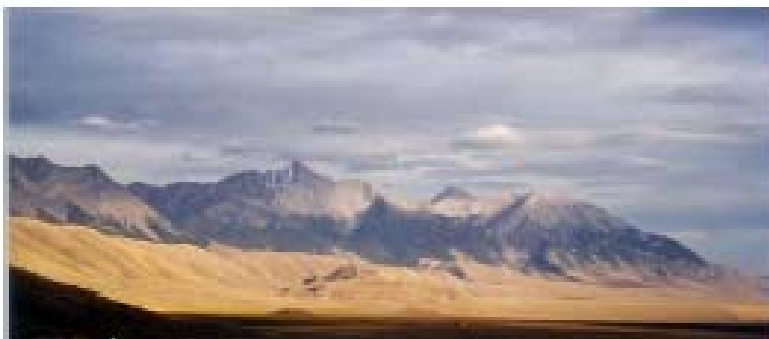


Three Subbasins in Western Wyoming and Southeastern Idaho Comprise the Upper Snake Province



The **Snake Headwaters Subbasin** encompasses the headwater streams of the Snake River in Wyoming downstream to Palisades Dam in Idaho. Not far from its origins in Yellowstone National Park, the Snake River is dammed in Grand Teton National Park to form Jackson Lake. Before flowing into Palisades Reservoir in Idaho, the Snake River receives the Gros Ventre, Hoback, Greys, and Salt rivers.

The **Upper Snake Subbasin** includes the watersheds of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, the South Fork of the Snake River from Palisades Dam to the Henry's Fork, the Blackfoot and Portneuf rivers, and the main stem of the Snake River to Shoshone Falls.



The **Upper Snake Closed Subbasin** is comprised of the closed drainages of the Big and Little Lost rivers and of Birch, Beaver-Camas, and Medicine Lodge creeks.

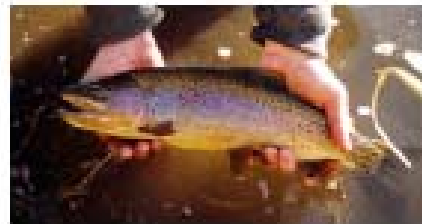
The Planning Process

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) encourages planning at the local level using technical teams, planning teams, and stakeholders.

The technical team is comprised of fish and wildlife professionals and resource managers. Planning teams will be created for each subbasin and will consist of a variety of stakeholders. Stakeholders are individuals or groups with an interest in the subbasin, and include individual members of the public, sporting groups, public lands users, conservation organizations, local government agencies, tribal government agencies, and state and federal natural resource management agencies.

The plan is being prepared by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in coordination with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and Bannock Technologies, Inc.

IDFG is responsible for writing an assessment of natural resources and an inventory of current fish and wildlife enhancement projects. Bannock Technologies, Inc. will be facilitating public meetings to gather information from local stakeholders to incorporate into the management plan.



The assessment will provide the scientific foundation for the management plan

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Bannock Technologies, Inc. will submit the plan in May 2004.

The Product

The **Upper Snake Province Plan** will be a document consisting of three sections:

1. An **assessment** of existing information and scientific data. The assessment is the foundation of the management plan.
2. An **inventory** of current projects and past accomplishments.
3. The **management plan**, which will document a vision of the future condition of fish and wildlife populations and habitat in the province, biological objectives based on the assessment and vision, and specific strategies for achieving the vision and implementing the biological objectives.





Your participation is essential to ensure that your opinions are represented in the management plan.

How You Can Participate

 **Attend a public meeting** in your subbasin:

Burley	Burley Inn	Tuesday - March 16
Pocatello	Ramada Inn and Convention Center	Wednesday - March 17
Jackson, WY	County Commissioners Building	Monday - March 22
Idaho Falls	Public Library	Tuesday - March 23
Driggs	Driggs High School	Thursday - March 25
Ashton	Ashton Community Center	Tuesday - March 30
Arco	Business Satellite Center	Wednesday - March 31

Meetings will be held from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

-  **Complete and mail the enclosed form.** You may also submit your comments electronically at <http://www.portageenv.net/usmp>.
-  **Volunteer to participate on a planning team.** Team members will 1) ensure that the biological objectives for each subbasin is consistent with the overall vision for the province, 2) prioritize strategies for achieving the biological objectives, and 3) read and review the final document.
-  **Visit the NPCC website** at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/program/Default.htm> to learn more about the Council, subbasin and province planning, and fish and wildlife population and habitat improvement projects.
-  **Contact Karen Haskett or Kyle Babbitt**, Bannock Technologies, Inc., at (208) 522-5007 or bannocktech@qwest.net.



Bannock Technologies, Inc.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX A-3

Comment Sheet and Summary of Comments Submitted

**Upper Snake Province Plan
Public Comment Sheet**

Name* _____ Today's Date _____

**You do not have to give your name. Your comments will be considered even if your name is not provided.*

Meeting Location (if applicable) _____

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is asking for your help in developing a plan to protect and enhance fish and wildlife in the Upper Snake Province. The plan will be the basis for determining how funds administered by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) could be spent during the next 15 years to mitigate the effects of the Columbia River basin hydropower system.

**Your responses to the following questions will be used to write
a vision for the province and to develop objectives to achieve the vision.**

What is your vision for the future condition of fish and wildlife in the Upper Snake Province? For example, the vision developed by stakeholders for the Clearwater Subbasin is *a healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities.*

Please list specific goals that would help achieve your vision. For example, one of your goals might be *to have self-sustaining populations of wild native trout in 75% of the streams where they occurred historically.*

Area (s) of Interest and/or Concern _____

Additional Comments _____

How did you hear about this public comment opportunity? _____

For additional questions or comments, please contact Karen Haskett or Kyle Babbitt at Bannock Technologies, 208-522-5007; fax: 208-522-5010; or bannocktech@qwest.net.

If you want to be on a planning team or would like to receive a copy of the plan to review, please provide your

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Summary of Comments Submitted

Eleven of the comment sheets that were included in the brochures were returned to Bannock Technologies, Inc. (BTI). Four were returned by mail with postage paid by the respondents, four were submitted at public meetings, and three were delivered personally to BTI staff. Five respondents attended a public meeting and/or participated in a Planning Team meeting, whereas six did not. Comments submitted by the respondents in response to specific questions are listed below. In some cases, comments have been paraphrased to make them more easily understood by readers unfamiliar with specific issues in the Upper Snake Province.

What is your vision for the future of fish and wildlife in the Upper Snake Province?

- Fewer drift boats operated by guides and outfitters. Deal with species that currently exist before re-introducing any others.
- A healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities while providing electricity at the lowest possible price.
- Healthy ecosystems, healthy economics that are created with sustainable industries; restored fisheries and watersheds; workable management plans; cooperative, fair, and progressive strategies toward larger landscape sustainability and health.
- I think the most pressing priority for the Upper Snake Province is to address the intense growth in land development through the protection of key wetlands and riparian areas through easements, IDFG land purchases.
- To have healthy populations of native fish and wildlife in their historic ranges. Healthy populations of native and wild fish are the best indications of watershed health. These populations need to be ecologically sustainable.
- Use Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Vision statement (i.e., *The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will pursue, promote, and where necessary, initiate efforts to restore the Snake River system and affected unoccupied lands to a natural condition*). It is relatively simple, yet clear and concise.
- A healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities. Sustainable activities should include hunting, a variety of fishing methods, and recreation-oriented interactions with fish and animals, i.e., birdwatching, wildlife photography.
- Widespread viable populations of native aquatic and terrestrial species in the full complement of historic ecotypes.
- Healthy systems with self-sustaining fish populations.

- The Clearwater Subbasin vision is a good start. *A healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support resource-based activities.* This vision is equally valid for the Upper Snake Province. However, in my opinion, the single most critical factor in meeting this vision is water. By law the Upper Snake Province, its water and waterways, are nothing more than a water delivery system for agricultural and power generation purposes. Fish and wildlife are a by-product. As such, no vision would be complete without a strategic plan that would create a mechanism that would provide sufficient water flows to protect, maintain, or enhance critical habitat. Specifically, *quality flows at critical times.*

On the Henry's Fork, it is my understanding that biologically the single most significant factor affecting fish mortality is too low of flows during critical winter months. Low flows also limit the effects of the spring spawn and degrade aquatic habitat critical to the river ecosystem. Since the 2000 fishing season, we have seen a steady decline in the quality of the fishing experience on the Henry's Fork. This time period coincides with low winter flows as a result of current drought management practices. This trend can be validated by Fish and Game studies correlating low (winter) flows with declining adult trout populations.

Ideally, the outcome of a successful Fish and Wildlife management plan would include an improved water sharing process resulting in an enhanced trout fishery.

Please list specific goals that would help achieve your vision.

- Stop trying to re-introduce Yellowstone cutthroat trout to Thurman Creek in the Upper Henry's Fork watershed; there are better watersheds in which to restore cutthroat.
- 1. Provide self-sustaining, balanced populations of wild native and sport fisheries.
2. Provide historic levels of hydroelectricity.
- Protect land surrounding viable fisheries.
- I think we should target all key wetlands and riparian areas for protection from development. Conservation easement acquisition could be a key tool here.
- Have quantities of cold, clean water sufficient to sustain healthy fish populations and to enable watershed restoration and wise fisheries management.
- Recovery of all threatened and endangered species, special attention to plants that are nearly extinct. At least 75% of the streams and lakes should have self-sustaining native trout.
- 1. Maintain/restore viable populations of all historic life history forms (adfluvial, fluvial, resident) of native trout in several subwatersheds.
2. Maintain/restore winter range and migration routes for ungulates.
3. Maintain/restore functioning riparian areas along all streams where such areas existed historically.
- Restore native fish populations to their traditional streams.

- A water management plan that would better balance the use of water for fish and wildlife with other resource-based activities (agriculture, power generation, etc.). Projects to achieve this goal include:
 1. A water management study that would determine the best practices to get more water for fish and wildlife.
 2. A socio-economic study that would place a monetary value to an enhanced fishery. If, through this plan, a monetary value could be assigned to fish (and the associated tourism/recreation dollars), a dialog could be started that could result in a more favorable allocation of water to trout, necessary to sustain a more economically viable fishery. As demonstrated by its fame, an improved fishery on the Henry's Fork would result in a sustained economic boom to the region based on fishing and tourism.

Areas of Interest and/or Concern

- Henry's Fork and Fall River.
- Rural economics; western way of life; a mix of sport and native wild fish streams on the landscape.
- Bonneville Power Administration's history of being unprofessional and unreliable in delivering already "allocated" funding.
- Land conservation.
- Watershed health, sustainable native fish populations.
- Education. In recent months, I have attended two forums where the need was expressed for a college or university that focuses on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including sustainable business development.
- Water management and hydrologic alteration, native trout conservation, open space.

Additional Comments

- Fishing guides routinely take clients to Fall River, in violation of regulations.
- What is the connection between this effort and Forest/ BLM plans?
- There is currently no recognition of minimum in-stream flows as important for fish/wildlife. In-stream flows are not recognized by the Idaho Department of Water Resources as a water right; this needs to be changed.
- As stewards for future generations, we need to employ sound science and work cooperatively with a broad spectrum of interests in defending and advocating for our natural resource legacy.

- More attention to teaching the value of natural resources conservation should be given to the development of educational curricula at all levels, from elementary and up.
- Although water management issues are important, the single biggest threat to fish and wildlife habitat in the Upper Snake is development of open space.

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX A-4
Home Page for the Upper Snake
Province Internet Web Site,
Available from March 18 Through September 2004 at
<http://www.portageenv.net/usmp/>

Planning for the Upper Snake Province of the Columbia River Basin

Help Plan the Future of Fish and Wildlife in the Upper Snake Province

[The Planning Process](#)
[The Product](#)
[Public Meetings](#)
[The Upper Snake Province](#)
[Comments](#)
[Contact Us](#)



Bannock Technologies, Inc.



[Upper Snake Province](#) | [PDF](#)
Subbasins:
[Snake Headwaters](#) | [PDF](#)
[Upper Snake](#) | [PDF](#)
[Upper Snake Closed](#) | [PDF](#)

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Requires Adobe Reader



[The Planning Process](#) | [The Product](#) | [Public Meetings](#) | [Upper Snake Province](#) | [Comments](#) | [Contact Us](#)

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX A-5
Press Release

Press Release

From: Bannock Technologies, Inc.
Date: February 26, 2004
Publication: Immediate
Contacts: Karen Haskett or Kyle Babbitt, at Bannock Technologies, Inc.,
(208) 522-5007, Bannockkinc@aol.com

Help Plan the Future of Fish and Wildlife in the Upper Snake River Basin

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council is asking for your help in developing a plan to protect fish and wildlife in the upper Snake River basin.

This plan will be used to determine how funds administered by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) should be spent to mitigate the effects of the Columbia River basin hydropower system. More than \$13 million has been spent by BPA on fish and wildlife enhancement projects in the upper Snake River basin since 1992.

Bannock Technologies, Inc. is conducting public meetings to obtain information about the desired future condition of fish and wildlife in the basin upstream of Shoshone Falls. This area includes the Gros Ventre, Hoback, Greys, Salt, and Snake river drainages in Wyoming and the Henry's Fork, South Fork, Snake, Blackfoot, Portneuf, Big Lost, and Little Lost river drainages in Idaho. The Beaver-Camas, Medicine Lodge, and Birch creek drainages are also part of the planning area.

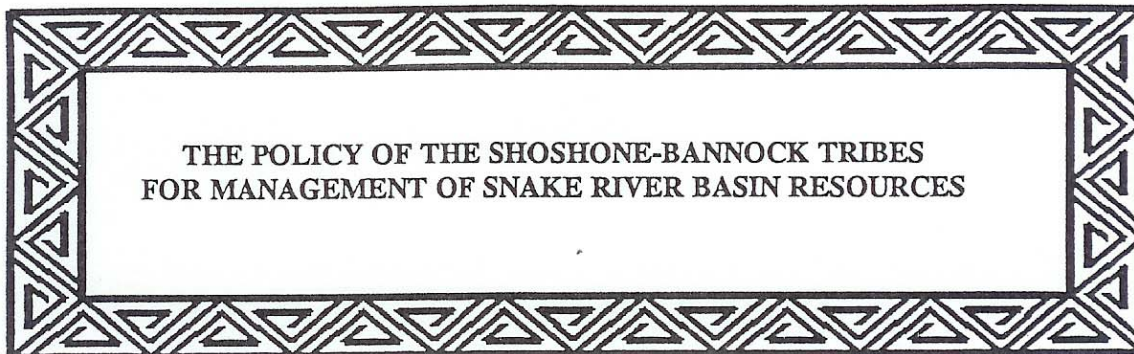
Meetings will begin at 7 pm at the following locations: Burley Inn, Burley, on Tuesday, March 16; Chubbuck Ramada Inn, Pocatello, on Wednesday, March 17; County Commissioners Building, Jackson, WY, on Monday, March 22; Idaho Falls Public Library, Idaho Falls, on Tuesday, March 23; Driggs High School, Driggs, on Thursday, March 25; Ashton Community Center, Ashton, on Tuesday, March 30; and Arco Business Satellite Center, Arco, on Wednesday, March 31.

For more information, contact Karen Haskett or Kyle Babbitt at (208) 522-5007 or by e-mail at Bannockkinc@aol.com. Additional information regarding the NPCC and the planning process is available at <http://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/Default.htm>.

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DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX A-6

**Policy of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes for Management of
Snake River Basin Resources**



ISSUE DEFINITION

Beginning in 1989 and continuing through 2008, many non-Federal hydroelectric projects (Projects) within the Snake River Basin (Basin) will be reviewed under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing process. In addition, subsequent to the listing of various salmon and snail species under the Endangered Species Act as well as the initiation of other conservation efforts, the Basin is being viewed, as never before, as a valuable resource contributing to the overall Pacific Northwest regional conservation framework. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes support efforts to conserve, protect, and enhance natural and cultural resources within the Basin and therefore establish this policy to re-emphasize previous policy statements and provide new direction with regards to recently initiated Basin actions.

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

Since time immemorial, the Snake River Basin has provided substantial resources that sustain the diverse uses of the native Indian Tribes including the Shoshone-Bannock. The significance of these uses is partially reflected in the contemporary values associated with the many culturally sensitive species and geographic areas within the Basin. Various land management practices, such as the construction and operation of hydroelectric projects have contributed extensively to the loss of these crucial resources and reduced the productive capabilities of many resource systems. These losses have never been comprehensively identified or addressed as is the desire of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes reserved guaranteed continuous use Rights to utilize resources within the region that encompasses and includes lands of the Snake River Basin. The Fort Hall Business Council has recognized the contemporary importance of these Rights and resources by advocating certain resource protection and restoration programs and by preserving a harvest opportunity on culturally significant resources necessary to fulfill inherent, contemporary and traditional Treaty Rights. However, certain resource utilization activities including the operation of federal and non-federal hydroelectric projects effect these resources and consequently, Tribal reserved Rights.

It has always been the intent and action of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to promote the conservation, protection, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources during the processes that consider the operation and management of Federal projects and during the land management activities of other entities.

This Policy re-emphasizes the Tribes' previous policies with regards to these processes and activities. However, the formal relicensing process for non-federal projects (Projects) as well as other recent undertakings that will consider the overall management of the Basin represent previously unavailable opportunities to comprehensively identify and address impacts to and losses of, resources affected by these Projects.

The importance of considering Tribal goals and objectives for affected resources is specifically recognized in the regulations outlining the federal relicensing process. The Fort Hall Business Council has established the following policy for the Basin in order to provide guidance in determining these goals and objectives. This direction is intended to be consistent with existing Tribal policy for participating in processes dealing with other land and water management activities.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) will pursue, promote, and where necessary, initiate efforts to restore the Snake River system and affected unoccupied lands to a natural condition. This includes the restoration of component resources to conditions which most closely represent the ecological features associated with a natural riverine ecosystem. In addition, the Tribes will work to ensure the protection, preservation, and where appropriate—the enhancement of Rights reserved by the Tribes under the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868 (Treaty) and any inherent aboriginal rights.

CONCLUSION

In addition to the ongoing efforts of the Tribes and its cooperating agencies, the relicensing process as well as recently initiated Basin recovery efforts provide a firm basis for striving to meet Tribal needs regarding resource conservation, protection, and enhancement. This Policy will provide direction to Tribal staff for participating in regional processes as well as for the future development of resource and process specific Tribal plans and guidelines.

Tribal participation in the Project relicensing efforts will be used to identify the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects attributable to the construction, operation, and any proposed modifications of Project facilities. The Tribes expect the license applicant(s) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in consultation with the Tribes and agencies during the relicensing process, to identify alternative management strategies and develop mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the identified impacts consistent with this Policy.

In combination with existing policy and direction, other natural and cultural resource management activities (typically those undertaken by the Tribes' cooperating agencies) will be utilized to identify additional land management impacts within the Snake River Basin and will similarly identify alternative management strategies and apply mitigation measures consistent with this Policy.

All cooperating agencies will be expected to utilize all available means, consistent with their respective trust responsibility mandates, to protect Treaty rights and Tribal interests consistent with this Policy.

SWR/swr/b:ipc\policy\policy

DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN APPENDIX A-7

**Minutes of Public Meetings Conducted to
Introduce the Upper Snake Province Planning Process**



Upper Snake Province Plan

Minutes of Public Meetings Conducted on

March 16, 2004 at the Best Western Inn, Burley, Idaho
March 17, 2004 at the Ramada Inn, Pocatello, Idaho
March 22, 2004 at the Teton County Commissioners Office, Jackson, Wyoming
March 23, 2004 at the Idaho Falls Public Library, Idaho Falls, Idaho
March 25, 2004 at Teton County High School, Driggs, Idaho
March 30, 2004 at the Ashton Community Center, Ashton, Idaho
and
March 31, 2004 at the Arco/Butte Business Incubation Center, Arco, Idaho

Participants of Meetings in the Upper Snake Subbasin ¹

Burley: Clyde Lay, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Jack Peterson, West Cassia Soil and Water Conservation District; Earl J Christansen; Alicia Boyd, US Bureau of Reclamation

Pocatello: Roy Fowler, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Greg Mladenka, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Andrew Ray, citizen and Idaho State University student; Heather Ray, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Keith Kutchins, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Allen Rollins, Intermountain Land Exchange, Inc.; Jason Watson, citizen; Sona'e Watson, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Mayo Haskett, Southeast Idaho Mule Deer Foundation; Hunter Osborne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Idaho Falls: Chad Colter, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Matt Woodard, Trout Unlimited; Kathy Weaver, Soil Conservation Commission; Jim Mathias, Snake River Cutthroat Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Jim Gerber, citizen; Annie Kelley, Brigham Young University-Idaho student; Gary Dixon, Willow Creek Watershed Advisory Group; Rick Passey, Willow Creek Watershed Advisory Group; Hunter Osborne, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Russell Haskett, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; Babette Thorpe, Teton Regional Land Trust; Kim Goodman, Teton Regional Land Trust

Driggs: John Rice, Friends of the Teton River; Michael Whitfield, Teton Regional Land Trust

¹The organizational affiliation or profession of a participant is shown only if it was listed by the participant on the meeting registration form.

Ashton: Robert Wood, Brigham Young University-Idaho student; Janette Wood, Brigham Young University-Idaho student; Susan Baker, Ashton Area Development Committee; Dick Baker, rancher; Philip Chavez, Hyde Outfitters; Kim Goodman, Teton Regional Land Trust

Participants of the Meeting in the Headwaters Subbasin

Jackson: Rob Gipson, Wyoming Department of Game and Fish; Scott Bosse, Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Dick Bauman, Bureau of Reclamation; Dave Fogle, US Forest Service; Rick Stuck, Trout Unlimited; Lane Allgood; Randy Morris, North Wind Environmental, Inc.; Bill Wotkyns, Trout Unlimited; Tom Darin, Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance

Participants of the Meeting in the Closed Subbasin

Arco: Tip Harwood; Chuck McKee; Kenton L. Harwood, Big Lost Irrigation District; Jim Gregory

Facilitation Staff and Presenters: Karen Haskett, Kyle Babbitt, and Sheryl Hill, Bannock Technologies, Inc.; Tom Dayley, Northwest Power and Conservation Council; and John Fred, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Introduction to the Minutes: These minutes are intended to provide a record of the objectives and operational format that were common to each of seven public meetings conducted to initiate the public participation portion of the Upper Snake Province planning process. Although the agendas for the meetings were almost identical, each meeting was unique in what occurred during the portion of the meeting described under the heading, *Vision, Goals, Concerns, and Opportunities*. Separate records of information collected during this portion of the meetings are appended to the minutes as Attachments A through G. All meetings occurred in the evening from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and generally began at approximately 7:15 pm.

Objectives: The objectives of each public meeting were to 1) introduce the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's planning process, 2) begin creating a vision statement for the Upper Snake Province that emphasized fish and wildlife populations and habitat, 3) identify potential planning team members to assist with development of the management portion of the Upper Snake Province Plan, and 4) gather ideas for incorporation into the management portion of the Upper Snake Province Plan.

Introductions and Presentations: Participants of each meeting were welcomed by Karen Haskett, who explained the role of Bannock Technologies, Inc. in the planning process and introduced the presenters and facilitator.

The first presentation at each meeting consisted of an explanation of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, a description of the geographic region that comprises the Upper Snake Province and its three subbasins, and a brief summary of the planning process. This presentation was given on March 16 by Tom Dayley of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) and all other dates by Sheryl Hill of Bannock Technologies, Inc.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council, which has requested the Upper Snake Province Plan, was authorized in 1980 by the Northwest Power Act. The Council, which was known as the Northwest Power Planning Council until 2003, is an interstate compact with representatives from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon. The responsibilities of the Council are to 1) develop regional programs to “protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife resources” of the Columbia River Basin affected by the construction and operation of hydroelectric dams, and 2) assure the “Pacific Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply.”

The Council is also responsible for involving the public and tribal, state, and federal fish and wildlife agencies in the planning process, and for ensuring that the Council’s measures are consistent with the legal rights of the thirteen sovereign Northwest Indian Nations located within the Columbia River Basin.

The Upper Snake Province Plan will be considered by the Council as an amendment to its *2000 Fish and Wildlife Program*. If the plan is approved and amended, it will provide the Council with a basis for making decisions regarding distribution of mitigation funds available from the Bonneville Power Administration. Because the Council is mandated to ensure public involvement in the planning and decision-making processes, it has contracted with state and tribal fish and wildlife departments to conduct local planning in 62 subbasins that have been combined into 11 ecologically defined provinces within the Columbia River Basin. The Upper Snake Province is somewhat unique because it includes portions of Wyoming, a state that does not have representation on the Council.

The Upper Snake Province Plan will consist of the following three sections: an assessment of the biological potential of the province and opportunities for restoration; an inventory of fish, wildlife, and habitat protection, enhancement, and mitigation projects in the past five years; and a 1 to 15-year management plan and budget. The assessment and inventory portions of the plan are being prepared by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game with assistance from technical specialists representing a variety of state, federal and tribal agencies. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes are responsible for submitting the completed plan to the Council, and have contracted with Bannock Technologies to conduct public meetings, encourage public participation, and write the management section of the plan. Elements of the management plan include 1) a vision for the desired future condition of the province, 2) biological objectives that describe the ecological conditions necessary to achieve the vision, 3) implementation strategies, procedures, and guidelines that describe the actions leading to the vision, 4) a research, monitoring, and evaluation program to evaluate progress toward the vision, and 5) requirements of the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act. The plan will be submitted to the Council by May 28 although the public will have opportunities to review and provide comments on the plan through approximately September 2004.

The second presentation of each meeting was given by John Fred of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, except on March 25, when it was given by Karen Haskett. John’s presentation focused on the role of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in the planning process. John reiterated that the biological assessment and project inventory portions of the plan are being developed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game with technical support from local,

state, federal, and tribal agencies. Based on these portions of the plan, a management plan will be developed using information gathered at public meetings and during meetings of planning teams comprised of interested members of the public. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and its contractor, Bannock Technologies, Inc., are responsible for developing the management section of the plan, for integrating the assessment, inventory, and management sections of the plan into a comprehensive document, and for submitting the final plan to the Council.

The interests of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in fish and wildlife management in the Upper Snake Province derive from two documents. The first is Article IV of the Fort Bridger Treaty, which grants hunting and fishing rights to Tribal members on all unoccupied lands of the United States. The second is the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes' policy for management of the Snake River Basin, which specifies that the Tribes will promote "the restoration of resources to conditions that most closely represent the ecological features of natural riverine ecosystems."

The Soda Springs Hills habitat project was presented by John as an example of the fish and wildlife mitigation projects that have been funded through the Council in the Upper Snake Subbasin. This project provides winter habitat for mule deer and elk, is managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and is open and accessible to the public.

Vision, Goals, Concerns and Opportunities: Following the introductory presentations, Karen introduced Kyle Babbitt, facilitator for the public participation portion of the meeting. Kyle reviewed the agenda for the meeting, reiterated the elements of the management portion of the Upper Snake Province Plan, and explained that the primary objective of the meeting was to develop a vision for the province for inclusion in the management portion of the plan. Kyle then showed examples of vision statements that had been developed for the Council's *2000 Fish and Wildlife Program*, the Salmon Subbasin, and when possible, for the Upper Snake Province at other meetings.

Kyle began the process by asking all participants to introduce themselves and to briefly discuss their interests and reasons for participating in the meeting. As participants spoke, Kyle captured their thoughts in writing. Words, thoughts and phrases that were intended for inclusion in the vision were displayed on a screen using an overhead projector. All other comments were written on pieces of paper that were placed on the wall for all to read and consider. These comments were categorized as *goals*, *problems/projects*, or *concerns*, and included specific goals consistent with the vision, existing problems that are inconsistent with the vision, projects that could be implemented to help achieve the vision, and concerns regarding the current status fish and wildlife within the subbasin. Questions and concerns specifically related to the Council's planning process were also encouraged and recorded. The vision statements and comments recorded at meetings in the Upper Snake Subbasin are shown in Attachments A through E, the vision and comments recorded at the meeting in the Headwaters Subbasin are shown in Attachment F, and the vision and comments recorded at the meeting in the Closed Subbasin are shown in Attachment G.

During closing comments, Karen thanked all participants for their involvement, asked them to share information with whoever might be interested, and invited all participants to

continue their involvement in the planning process by participating in meetings of the planning teams that will be scheduled for April. One planning team will be organized for each subbasin, and each planning team will meet twice. Karen explained that everyone attending the public meetings would receive copies of the meeting minutes and additional information regarding the dates, times and locations of the planning team meetings. Karen also asked all participants to submit information regarding protection, enhancement, and/or mitigation projects begun or completed within the past five years to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for inclusion in the inventory section of the plan. The following contact information for the Department was provided to participants either at the meeting or after the meeting via e-mail messages:

The URL for submitting projects is <http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame/subbasin/>.
If you have questions about the inventory or need help submitting projects, contact Jeff

Semmens of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at 208-287-2796 or

jsemmens@idfg.state.id.us

Attachment A. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Burley public meeting on March 16, 2004

Vision

The Upper Snake Province is a productive and sustainable ecosystem in which impaired watersheds have been restored, watersheds with high biological diversity have been protected, and which provides for future growth.

Goals

- Protect stream banks
- Provide for economic growth
- Minimize impacts of growth on fish and wildlife
- Maintain biodiversity in areas where it still exists
- Outcomes of projects must affect positive change
- Reduce power rates

Problems/Projects

- Dams are limiting factors that cause changes in timing and amount of water flow
- Biological diversity is being lost *because* of emphasis on species protected by the Endangered Species Act
- Identify watersheds that have potential for improvement (for example, Rock Creek watershed in Power County once contained Yellowstone cutthroat trout and they could be restored; lower Goose Creek can probably not be improved; Almo and Edwards creeks are good examples of restoration projects that have been implemented)
- Implement the Lake Walcott total maximum daily load (TMDL)
- Implement the Raft River TMDL
- Implement the Goose Creek TMDL
- Identify watersheds where positive change can occur
- Identify areas of high biodiversity
- Determine the reasons that flows in Raft River and Goose Creek are intermittent

Concerns

- What type of growth will occur?
- Agricultural lands should be protected
- What is the status of leatherside chub?
- Water users are concerned that protection of fish and wildlife will increase public pressure to remove dams
- Some rivers go dry naturally or because of legal water rights
- Focus on conditions "now" and recognize that conditions are always changing
- How do we define "restored?" Can possibly use the goals of the Clean Water Act (fishable, swimmable, and drinkable) to guide restoration efforts
- Intermittent streams need to be identified as such, and should not be shown on maps used by the Council or by planners as discharging to the Snake River
- Why is "Province" (a term used to describe Canadian political boundaries) used? Why not use "watershed" or "subbasin?"
- Financial costs of projects - can we really expect to receive money from the Council?
- Planning efforts among agencies are disconnected (for example, subbasin assessments by DEQ, US Forest Service planning, Bureau of Reclamation planning)
- Agency personnel did not have enough information about the planning process to justify their participation or to obtain authorization to participate
- The Council should do more to inform agencies of the planning process and encourage participation

- Use existing committees and working groups to share information and collect data
- People and agencies that have information but are not participating should be identified in the plan as data gaps
- Why was attendance at this meeting so poor? Scheduling? Lack of interest? Timing? Do a survey later to find out how to encourage participation.
- The comment sheet should have contained specific questions so responders could give more specific responses regarding a vision and goals
- Projects must be prioritized to achieve best results

Attachment B. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Pocatello public meeting on March 17, 2004

Vision

A commitment to protect, enhance, and restore native species and their ecosystems and to plan for sustainable resource use in the Upper Snake Province.

Goals

- Meet water quality criteria in and below reservoirs, dams, and hydroelectric generating facilities
- Meet water quality criteria in all other areas
- Identify the fish and wildlife resources that were lost when projects were constructed (currently a data gap)
- Identify data gaps in the *lower* portion of the upper Snake River Province
- Do not sacrifice resident fish in the upper Snake River in order to meet biological objectives for anadromous fish in the lower Snake River
- Amount of water withdrawn from streams and rivers needs to be limited; establish in-stream flows
- Encourage “smart growth” practices to reduce the impacts of growth on fish and wildlife
- Achieve minimum stream flows
- Where possible, quantify and specifically address the impacts of hydroelectric projects
- Encourage reintroduction of beaver

Problems/Projects

- Good projects- bitterbrush and deer counts in Rudeen area
- Enforcement on lands acquired and protected as wildlife habitat is inadequate; wildlife and habitat that were protected when privately owned are now open to abuse by the public (Rudeen property an example)
- Funds are required to improve and maintain lands that have been acquired to protect habitat (Example: Soda Springs Hills)
- An “operation and maintenance” funding category is needed for projects already implemented
- Invasive species are competing with native species
- BPA and Council need to adhere to project funding recommendations of scientific review panel
- BPA and Council need to adhere to open and transparent project review and selection processes
- Mitigation funds and proposed funding increases are insufficient
- Implement total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)

Concerns

- BPA needs to honor its commitment to provide funding in Upper Snake Province (emphasize comment)
- As the Rolling Review process reached the upper Snake, the amount of money available got smaller and smaller
- Mitigation responsibilities in this area have not been met - Some areas of the Columbia River basin have received mitigation funds in excess of 100% of habitat units, and yet mitigation has not been completed in the Upper Snake
- Proposal writers need to know exactly how much money they are competing for in each cycle
- Are non-game, as well as game, species addressed by mitigation efforts?
- Plan should include assessments and inventories for nongame species
- What was the habitat like before reservoirs were constructed?
- Complete the adjudication of water rights
- Cattle ranching and its effects on streams
- Portneuf River in Pocatello
- When will funding be available again in the Upper Snake Province?

- Other areas in the Columbia River Basin have received more than 100% mitigation
- Need to know potential level of funding available through the Council
- Water quality
- Direct impacts of American Falls on Snake River, particularly annual sediment discharges
- Upper Blackfoot River, Marsh Creek, Portneuf River watershed
- What was "historical" habitat?
- Development in habitat areas/winter range
- Beaver and otter populations
- Cultural resources

Attachment C. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Idaho Falls public meeting on March 23, 2004

Vision (working draft - not completed by the group)

A healthy ecosystem characterized by abundant, productive, and diverse aquatic and terrestrial species, which support sustainable resource-based activities.

Goals

- Provide self-sustaining, balanced populations of wild, native, and sport fisheries
- Provide historic levels of hydroelectric power
- Fish and wildlife management that will provide abundant opportunities for fishing and hunting
- Protect and enhance resident fish and wildlife (emphasis on protection)
- Protect and restore riparian habitat
- Restore all types of habitats, wherever feasible
- Preserve open spaces, wildlife corridors, and the variety of habitat types required by species throughout their life cycles (i.e., shouldn't focus only on winter habitat for big game)
- Provide a mosaic of habitat types for a variety of species
- Protect native fish gene pool by reducing hybridization of Yellowstone cutthroat with rainbow trout
- Protect cottonwood riparian forests where they still exist
- Manage/shape water flows below reservoirs and dams to more closely resemble natural hydrographs and to achieve maximum benefits to both fisheries and other water users (example - current management of the South Fork Snake River below Palisades Dam)
- Balance of fish species -YCT, Brook, and Rainbow trout - habitats
- Prioritize areas for project implementation using well-defined criteria
- Protect habitats of all native species (fish, birds, game and non-game animals, plants)
- Keep healthy places healthy; don't allow additional degradation to occur
- Protect working agricultural land on private lands
- Protect component resources
- Increase populations of native species
- Do not attempt to re-establish Yellowstone cutthroat trout in artificial fisheries dominated by rainbow trout (for example, the Henry's Fork below Island Park Dam is a world-class rainbow trout fishery and it is not practical or desirable to alter it in order to re-establish Yellowstone cutthroat trout)
- Allow stocking of non-native, recreational fishes, but only in closed systems (for example, Birch Creek) or systems already dominated by non-natives (for example, Henry's Fork below IP Dam)
- Eliminate stocking of fish in flowing streams that are connected to other water bodies except in cases of native species recovery/re-introduction projects
- Decrease numbers of rainbow trout in the South Fork and other locations, where appropriate
- Protect Yellowstone cutthroat trout habitat from further degradation
- Re-establish healthy populations of native trout (i.e., Yellowstone cutthroat)
- Utilize adaptive management
- Educate the public regarding the importance of native species and other fish and wildlife issues
- Provide habitat that encourages development of self-sustaining populations of fish and wildlife
- Don't establish a time limit on efforts; process of fish and wildlife protection and enhancement must be self-perpetuating and on-going
- Use the presence of healthy populations of Yellowstone cutthroat trout as an indicator of watershed health

Problems/Projects:

- Law enforcement staff and services are inadequate to protect current and new land and resource acquisition and restoration projects
- A funding category for law enforcement should be created
- Willow Creek and Upper Snake Basin are good locations for water quality and land conservation projects
- South Fork – current efforts are to re-establish Yellowstone cutthroat trout populations
- Chesterfield Reservoir may be a good place for stocking Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- Riparian restoration projects by private landowners are currently underway throughout the subbasin
- Identify invasive and introduced species and their impacts (through competition and otherwise) on populations of native species
- Evaluate and identify areas where focus should be on best for YCT vs. another species (rainbows, browns, etc)
- Increase coordination of projects among state and federal agencies (BLM, FS, Idaho Department of Lands, F&G), non-governmental organizations (Trout Unlimited, Mule Deer Foundation) and private land owners
- Evaluate and identify potential ranges of wildlife and plants
- Develop criteria to use for prioritizing projects
- Identify, compile, distribute, and collect public feedback on wildlife corridor maps
- Need to evaluate the effects of “shrinking” and/or “diminishing” habitats on populations

Concerns

- What is the Council’s and Bonneville Power Administration’s commitment to spending funds in the Upper Snake Province? Some projects have not been funded as promised.
- Fisheries losses have not been as well characterized as wildlife losses
- A method for mitigating fish losses that is comparable to wildlife losses (i.e., habitat units) has not been developed
- What is the timeline for this management plan? Perpetual? Enduring? If hydroelectric projects have permanently altered habitat (for example, permanent loss of habitat when reservoirs fill); then mitigation and protection of mitigation projects should also be permanent.
- Protection of agricultural, as well as, natural resources
- Willow Creek subbasin
- How do we define “restore?”
- Lands management issues
- Tribal treaty rights are not well understood by the public and agencies
- Ensure that the plan inventory section includes projects implemented by soil and water conservation districts
- Ensure that the plan inventory includes the Yellowstone cutthroat trout presence/absence survey performed on the Caribou-Targhee Forest and lands managed by Bureau of Land Management
- What does the Council’s vision of “providing for electricity at the lowest possible cost?” really mean? Does this refer only to economic costs, or does it include costs to fish, wildlife and habitat? Does this statement allow for the possibility that additional costs will be incurred by fish and wildlife?
- The true costs of generating hydroelectric power, including monies spent for fish and wildlife mitigation, should be shared with the public

Attachment D. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Driggs public meeting on March 25, 2004

Vision (working draft - not completed by the group)

Protect, restore, and sustain native species and their habitats in order to recognize the key ecological and economic aspects of the Upper Snake Province.

Other key concepts that should be included in the vision:

- Long-term commitment
- Landscape-wide or landscape-level approach
- Long-term viability of key assets of the Province
- Public education
- *Stewardship*: awareness of resources and commitment to protect them

Goals:

- Educated public
- Protect and restore wetlands
- Protect Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT)
- Protect and restore riparian corridors
- Ensure long-term protection of intact riparian system
- Protect/keep healthy sections viable
- Protect and restore all habitats used seasonally during various stages of the life cycle of wildlife (for example, winter range, calving areas, nesting areas, fish spawning areas, fish rearing areas) and protect critical areas when known
- Protect and enhance two remaining cottonwood forests on South Leigh and Badger Creeks.
- Mitigate for loss of wetlands due to development and decreased water in historic wetlands.
- Restore connectivity among streams and rivers to enhance YCT
- Identify and control invasive and non-native species and their impacts, with particular focus on invasive reange plants

Problems/Projects

- Need research to elucidate the factors that limit fish and wildlife populations and habitats (for example, there is great concern over declining populations of YCT in the upper Teton, but little is known about the causes of the decline)
- The most important concern in the upper Teton watershed is water availability, opportunities to better utilize water, the relationship between ground and surface water, and the effects of major hydrologic alteration
- Teton regional Land Trust has developed conservation plans that can be included in the plan inventory
- Threats to habitats – growth in wrong areas and barriers to wildlife utilization and movement
- Need protection and to pursue opportunities for restoration of cottonwood forest on South Leigh and Badger creeks
- Need to study age structure of existing cottonwood forests and identify locations where hydrology supports regeneration
- Relationship between surface and ground water and effects of hydrologic modification
- An aquifer recharge and spring flood waters retention project is currently being sponsored by Friends of the Teton river
- There is a diminishing supply of ground water but it may be possible to mitigate the effects – need to study
- High population turnover due to popularity of area among second-home buyers requires a continuous effort to re-educate Teton Valley residents regarding resource issues
- Conservation easements a widely used tool to protect open land that provides wildlife benefits

Study how surface and groundwater hydrology has been altered historically

Concerns:

- Mule deer populations in decline relative to white-tailed deer; white-tailed deer are severely impacting cottonwood forests
- Riparian areas that historically served as migration corridors throughout Teton Valley are highly altered and badly degraded

Attachment E. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Ashton public meeting on March 30, 2004

Vision

Key concepts that should be included in the vision:

- Sustainable resource use that is economically beneficial
- Agriculture co-existing with fish and wildlife uses
- Maintain wildlife populations as they are currently
- Provide for future growth but at the same time, protect the quality of life (including fish and wildlife values) that are the reasons people want to move to this area
- Provide for future growth without impacting fish and wildlife
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat

Goals:

- Maintain the "most desirable" species
- Maintain healthy fish populations because they draw anglers, tourists, and other visitors to the area and are therefore economically important
- Maintain native species in order to maintain the ecosystem in a condition that is as close to a natural as possible
- Plan for future growth
- Establish minimum stream flows to protect fisheries and riparian areas
- Increase the numbers of Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) in headwater streams to avoid Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing and alleviate concerns about rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork
- Protect water rights; protection of species should not threaten water rights
- Protect private property rights
- Preserve access to streams and rivers by the public
- Inform landowners and the public that the Upper Snake Province Plan cannot and will not affect water rights or private property rights and uses
- Increase public awareness and respect for the rights of landowners

Projects/Problems:

- Study and monitor the effects of whirling disease on fisheries populations
- Trumpeter swan populations and related issues
- Decreased numbers of sage grouse leks
- A management plan for sage grouse has been completed and should be included in the inventory section of plan
- Increase sage grouse numbers to prevent ESA listing
- Add provisions to conservation easement contracts that would allow owner to address problems caused by public use
- Humans are more important than fish and wildlife; the human element needs to be included in the process
- Can more be done in the upper Snake to help salmon?
- Study whether water used from the Henry's Fork basin to "flush" salmon smolts produces more fish or more hydroelectric power
- Moose and white-tailed deer seem to be losing fear of humans and spend more time in the vicinity of homes; creates problems due to human-wildlife interactions
- Determine the baseline populations of white-tailed deer and moose
- Study habitat requirements of all species
- Study how white-tailed deer populations are affecting mule deer populations
- Study the socioeconomics of water use in the area

- River access needs to be preserved (example, secure the boat ramp at the confluence of Warm and Henry's Fork rivers)
- Improve the reputation of sportspersons among land owners
- Increase public awareness of private property rights; support the "Ask First" program
- Minimum stream flows are ideal, but more can be gained from "water sharing"

Concerns:

- Why is there so much emphasis on native species?
- If hybrid fish are healthier, and fishermen want more fish, shouldn't the focus be on healthy fish, regardless of the species?
- Maintenance of adequate water in the Henry's Fork River and its tributaries
- More people are using the Henry's Fork area, so there is more pressure on it and local residents and landowners feel threatened
- Landowners fear that despite owning their land and paying taxes on it, *everyone* must be allowed on their land and owner loses ability to make choices
- Landowners fear they may be forced to sell their land for wildlife habitat; there is a need to inform landowners that properties are only purchased from willing sellers
- Access to rivers and streams by anglers is being lost because landowners are increasingly unwilling to allow the public to cross their property
- The public increasingly abuses private property, making it necessary for private landowners to prevent access (includes problems with anglers, hunters, snowmobile users, ATV users)
- Lands purchased by the Tribes to protect wildlife habitat using BPA funds are actually lands purchased by rate payers because BPA funds are from rate payer fees
- Sand Creek moose population is unique because it moves as a migrating herd (only other moose herd is in Alaska); ensure this information is in the plan (contact Dennis Aslett at IDFG)
- Moose, white-tailed deer, and cougars are more prevalent and seem to co-exist well with humans in the area
- Salmon and water policy
- Salmon "flush" using 427,000 acre-feet of upper Snake water just a way to take farmer's water; success of salmon more dependent on ocean conditions
- Do not create more wilderness areas
- Trumpeter swans
- Economic development in Ashton area, especially infrastructure
- Perception and fear that landowners will be forced to use their land in certain ways and that they will lose control of their land
- Humans are more important than fish and wildlife, but that seems to be left out of the planning process; this is threatening to people; the human element needs to be acknowledged
- Protect working landscapes

Attachment F. Vision statement and comments recorded at the Jackson public meeting on March 22, 2004

Vision: Working draft- not completed by the group.

- A healthy ecosystem including **connected habitats**.
- More natural ecological processes are allowed to occur which restore native species and healthy cottonwood forests
- A public that appreciates the value of these resources
- A commitment to protect, enhance, and restore native fish, wildlife, and vegetation species, and their ecosystems, including the natural processes on which they depend.

Goals:

- Educate public on recreational and/or resource use.
- Protect and enhance riparian cottonwood forests below Palisades and Jackson Lake dams
- More ecosystem processes, including river access to flood plains, natural hydrographs
- Healthy quaking aspens stands for mule deer and other species
- Regeneration of cottonwood forests through flooding
- Connected habitats
- Enhance &/or return adfluvial cutthroat populations in Jackson Lake to historic levels
- Protect and enhance fine-spotted Yellowstone cutthroat trout (YCT) populations and other native species
- Reduce hybridization of YCT and rainbows in the lower Salt River
- Restore native species and spawning areas below Palisades Dam
- Restore natural processes below dams
- Enhance public awareness of the value of native species and issues related to native species

Problems/Projects:

- Conduct research on how flow regimes below the dams vary from natural regimes
- Good example of an enhancement project: South Fork YCT project, which includes multiple components such as streambank restoration, in-stream habitat, fisheries management to enhance YCT and reduce rainbow numbers, entrainment projects
- Determine minimum and optimal in-stream flow for fisheries in Headwaters streams and especially in the Salt River
- New location for funding on the Lower Salt area
- Salt and Hoback rivers are good candidates for multi-component project.
- Educational program on the impacts of non-native species on native species
- Enhance and protect Snake River CT spawning areas, particularly spring streams
- Issue: Getting public support for YCT. Native vs. non-native issues.
- Need more funding for projects, especially from the Council
- Flat Creek is a good example of a stream enhancement project

Concerns/Interests:

- The management planning process
- River management
- Habitat protection
- Restoring natural hydrograph
- Wildlife and fish in areas managed by the Forest Service
- In-stream flows
- Funding

Attachment G: Vision statement and comments recorded at the Arco public meeting on March 31, 2004

Vision:

Enhance the quality of life for people, fish, and wildlife by becoming better stewards of the water available in the Closed Subbasin

Goals:

- Fair and equitable management of water in the Big Lost drainage
- Increase the amount of water in the Big Lost River as far downstream as possible for fish and wildlife and aesthetics
- Enforce water rights
- Allow willing individuals to sell or donate their water rights to in-stream flow
- Improve downstream flow of water in the Big Lost by improving the river bed
- Take marginal farm land out of production through conservation purchases
- Obtain better information about groundwater aquifers
- Domestic water use should receive higher priority than livestock watering
- Find a means to implement a proposal by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to put land into dry land pasture to conserve water (may require special legislation)
- To have BPA money allocated to projects in the Closed Subbasin
- Enact water legislation that would make it possible to conserve water without losing the associated water right
- Increase the priority of beneficial use of water for aquifer recharge
- Reduce amount of land being irrigated

Projects/Problems:

- Water is over-appropriated in the Big Lost drainage
- What is the connection between surface water in the Big Lost drainage and ground water that emerges at Thousand Springs? Is Big Lost water ultimately being used for power generation on the lower Snake?
- Wells are going dry because there is no recharge of the aquifer
- Surface water in Big Lost does not flow past Leslie where it goes subsurface
- Study of sage grouse loss (working group information for inventory)
- Study loss of sandhill crane
- Study relationship between surface and groundwater and behavior of water in groundwater aquifers
- Water trading and/or water banking needed
- Need to study mountain whitefish to increase understanding of habitat requirements (this fish has not been well-studied although it is known to be a genetically unique population)
- Too many beaver in Antelope Valley and Alder Creek, which causes retention of water and spreading of water high in the drainage
- Need monitoring of ATV trails to protect private property, wildlife, and wildlife habitats
- Channelize water to improve stream flow beyond Leslie sinks
- Bull trout draft recovery plan should be in inventory
- Study of Antelope population decline in closed subbasin
- Establish minimum flows
- Coalition for Water, has been established locally to enhance research through INEEL and University of Idaho Water Resources Institute
- Install pipes to reduce evaporative loss of irrigation water during transmission
- Junior water rights are being filled before senior rights
- Projects are being implemented as part of bull trout recovery plan

- Cottonwood regeneration limited to upstream of Leslie; forest dying below Leslie
- Management, monitoring, and enforcement of ATV use

Concerns:

- Can funds obtained through the Council's process be used to mitigate problems not associated with hydropower?
- Idaho Department of Water Resources is "letting the water manage itself"
- More land was opened to irrigation when practices changed from flood to pressure irrigation; now water is spread too thin and more evaporates instead of percolating into the aquifer
- Water is being used on marginal farm land
- Poor understanding of ground and surface water
- Likelihood of allocation of BPA money to Closed Subbasin
- Frustrated by paying taxes on water rights that are never filled
- Many springs have dried up but not solely because of drought
- Arco is dying, more water in the Big Lost as far downstream as Arco will increase tourism and local economy
- Native fish in Big Lost is the mountain whitefish
- Native fish in Beaver, Camas, and Medicine Lodge creeks is Yellowstone cutthroat trout
- Native fish in Little Lost is bull trout