

WRIA 10/12 CAC/TAG

Meeting Summary

January 7, 2010, 4:00 to 6:00pm
Tacoma Mall Office Building

Attendees: Tom Kantz, Keith Underwood, Bill Anderson, Al Schmauder, Dave Seabrook, Russ Ladley, Jennifer Shih, Donnelle Nicaise, Ken Wolfe, Ron Larson, Ted Hill, Karen Chang, Bob Burkle, Sarah McCarthy, Hans Berge, Mark Palmer, Scott Hansen, Tom Nelson

- 1) Meeting notes from 11-5-09 were approved.
- 2) Updates and Information Sharing
 - a. The deadline for using the Habitat Engineering Technical Assistance (HETA) fund allocation has been extended to June 2011. There are 98.9 unused hours in our Lead Entity allocation. After discussion the group decided that Tom Kantz would call project sponsors to see if they still intend to use their hours. Any hours that will not be used can be available for other projects to use, and the LE will conduct another review of projects to allocate the unused hours.
 - b. Tom Kantz handed out a press release announcing a total of \$3.4 million in 2009 SRFB projects funded in Pierce County.
- 3) Guest Presentations
 - a. Russ Ladley of the Puyallup Tribe provided an update on steelhead stock status in the White and Puyallup Rivers. In the White River steelhead stocks have declined dramatically from about 5000-10,000 in the 1980s to less than 500 currently. The Buckley trap allows a very good escapement estimate, and only unmarked steelhead are allowed to migrate upstream. Over the last four years 15 pairs of unmarked fish have been captured annually for broodstock. On the Puyallup River, screw trap data show that there has also been a marked decline in wild steelhead. The decline has occurred in all tributaries, including those in developed watersheds and in forest land. South Prairie Creek was always very productive, but the number of redds/mile has declined drastically. The age ratio of steelhead in the Puyallup suggests that there are a large number of Voights Creek hatchery steelhead escapees. Acoustic tagging studies show that at best only 3-10% of juvenile steelhead make it past the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It is not known why there has been such a strong decline in abundance, but restoration has not resulted in much improvement. Some previous research suggests there is a positive relationship between pink and steelhead populations. So it is possible that the major increases in

pink runs may result in increases in steelhead populations over the next few years.

4) Tasks and Schedule for 2010

- a. The RCO/SRFB 2010 schedule has not been finalized, but it will likely be similar to the 2009 schedule. We have identified many tasks we would like to accomplish in 2010. The priorities in the spring are to update our LE Strategy and the 3-year project list. Adaptive Management and Marketing the Recovery Plan are priorities for later in the fall. Tom Kantz requested volunteers for a Strategy Update sub-committee. Dave Seabrook, Ron Larson, and Karen Chang volunteered to serve. Tom will send an email solicitation with a description of the tasks and the time requirements for serving on the sub-committee.

5) Brief Updates

- a. Ted Hill provided an update on the 24th Street Levee Setback. There is a possibility that the City of Sumner may want to open a mitigation bank at the setback levee site. This would complicate the feasibility study portion of the grant, and could potentially impact the amount of funding available for the design, and could slow the schedule. Ted wanted direction on whether he should proceed with the project. The general feeling of the group was for him to proceed and include the mitigation bank with the feasibility and design.

6) Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 4, 2010, 4-6pm at the Tacoma Mall Office Building.