

**Grande Ronde Model Watershed  
Board of Directors' Planning Session  
December 11, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Ascension School Conference Room in Cove OR**

**Introductions:** Mike Hayward gave an update on Steve McClure and the reason for his absence. Steve is currently experiencing some medical problems and is not sure when he will be back in the office. Introductions followed.

**Update on BPA:** Bill Maslin gave an update on BPA's current status, history, obligations, and budget. There was a PowerPoint presentation to go along with this update. Maslin gave a brief background of BPA's history and focus on Hydro systems, Hatcheries, Habitat and Harvest of anadromous species. Maslin talked about letters BPA sent out to project partners stating that BPA overspent the budget for the fiscal year 2012. The 2012 budget was over spent by approximately \$3 Million. Maslin said because of over spending the fish program budget will have to be that same amount under budget for the 2013 fiscal year. Long-term goals for BPA now are: making sure this type of budget mistake doesn't occur again, more rigorous contracting, acquiring land acquisitions, creating a contingency reserve, assessing a quarterly budget, better results in reporting, tightening the linkage between the project and BiOp credits, and bench marking and standardizing projects.

The Atlas will be a tool that will help in the prioritization of projects, and more detail will be discussed about The Atlas later in the meeting. Over all for the Upper Grande Ronde and Catherine Creek, BPA has the goal of increasing habitat to 23%. Right now, the Grande Ronde is at about 5% and Catherine Creek is at about 15%. Maslin then made a comparison between what is occurring in the Grande Ronde Basin and what occurred in the Estuary of the Columbia River.

Larry Cribbs asked how far has the GRMW and partners come to closing the gap in the last 20 years. Maslin said it is hard to tell because tracking has changed. At the current time, there is not the option to replace one population with another. There may come a time in the future that it can be demonstrated that getting to 23% is not possible, and then there can be a focus shift to other lower priority populations.

Norm Cimon asked if the basin would be divided by reach or evaluated as a whole. Maslin answered, it would be divided in to reaches. After 2014 the restoration process needs to change, per Judge Reddin's orders, to create more products, so this will be a new way to get to BPA's objectives.

Allen Childs asked if any analysis has been done on the projects already completed, weighing cost verse the benefit? Maslin said those specific calculations have not been done, but there is more money available to the GRMW then what is in their budget if a high priority project comes about. Rosy Mazaika commented in answer to Childs question that some bench marking has been done for cost per unit or services provided and what is being delivered.

Cribbs asked who keeps score when or if we make it to the 23%. Maslin answered that it is NOAA.

**Update on OWEB:** Karen Leiendecker let the Board know that the region review team was meeting on 12/12/12 in Ontario, Oregon and there were four applications from the Grande Ronde

Basin. There may be some budget reductions this year in OWEB (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board) funds. The projects from the Grande Ronde Basin are 6-Ranch II, Beaver Creek Dam, Whiskey Creek, Grande Ronde River Irrigation Project. The listening session on the 12<sup>th</sup> will go over council support and investment strategies (attachments to file). OWEB can no longer fund all councils, and there are plans to combine some of the councils in the state, but none in our region. The listening session will talk about how OWEB can best spend funds.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from Tuesday October 23, 2012.** Norm Cimon moved to approve the meeting minutes, Larry Cribbs seconded and the motion carried. The agenda for the planning session was also approved.

**Project Proposal Reviews and Staff Recommendations:** A handout of the project map and table of projects was included in Board folders (attachments to file). Also, there was a PowerPoint showing pictures of the proposed projects.

Coby Menton started summarizing 6-Ranch II Project and the funders being BPA and OWEB. Chinook, steelhead and bull trout will be addressed in this project. The tech team's comments on the project were also summarized. Recommendation of the staff is to fund contingent on the acquisition of OWEB funds.

Bruce Eddy asked if Sean Welch helped engineer this project for rearing habitat. Menton answered yes. Daryl Hawes asked if there would be the possibility of managed grazing on this project. Oveson said there could be the possibility to control reed canary grass.

Lyle Kuchenbecker moved on to discuss the Ladd Creek Bridge Project. It will finish a prior project (Ladd Rechannel), the project requires a bridge to be built on HWY 203. This project ranked number three, the staff recommendation is to fund contingent on the OWEB funds.

The next project was North Fork Catherine Creek Ford Replacement. This project benefits steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout. Oveson gave some details on the project and said the tech team suggested funding this project, but the staff did not have a recommendation. There was some discussion about the cost of the project and the travel management plan. Some Board members were concerned about the possibility of the road closing in the future. Joe Platz mentioned that there are about 3.5 miles of road above this ford and about 7.5 miles of closed road beyond that. Platz also said the road will not be closed as part of the travel management plan.

Next was the Meadow Creek II Project which will benefit Chinook and steelhead. A brief summary was provided and some of the tech comments were read. Staff recommended funding this project.

Sheep Creek Large Wood Placement followed with the project summary. The tech team and staff recommended funding this project contingent on an ODFW biologist looking over the project.

Jordan Creek Fish Passage Culvert Replacement was the next project. A summary of the project was given and its location. Staff recommendation is to not fund.

Corral Creek followed after Kuchenbecker gave the project summary, the tech team and staff recommended to not fund. Platz clarified aspects of this project and the sediment problems because of the current culvert.

Beaver Creek Dam was the last project, the staff and tech team liked this project, but it was not formulated enough so the tech team and staff recommended to not fund.

Then the discussion was opened to the Board to ask further questions. Troy Abercrombie asked about the funding for monitoring on the 6-Ranch project and was concerned that there was no money allocated for monitoring. Abercrombie wondered who would do the monitoring. Menton answered that it would be a mix of himself, ODFW and contractors as the budget allowed to continue monitoring on the project.

Larry Nall asked if the North Fork Catherine Creek project would come back at a later date if it was not approved at this meeting. Platz answered that he was not sure if the Forest Service (FS) would reallocate the money to a different project. This may be the only opportunity to complete the project with the FS being the primary funder. Cimon stated this project would grant public access for limited road mileage. Bruce Eddy asked the Board if we should wait because this road could be closed in the near future due to the travel management plan. Eddy said we should wait until the plan is finalized before making a decision. Platz restated that the money allocated for this project could be spent elsewhere if not used now.

Timmie Mandish said, the NF Catherine Creek Ford project did pass through the tech review and received high rating for fish benefits.

Hayward asked to move on the motions and approval process so the meeting could move forward.

Eddy moved to accept the 6-Ranch project dependent on OWEB fund, Cribbs seconded and motion carried.

Eddy moved to approve the Ladd Creek Bridge project, Cribbs seconded and motion carried.

Eddy moved to accept the FS to coordinate with the Union County Travel Management and table the Ford project until the next meeting. Ted Taylor seconded and the motion carried.

Eddy moved to accept the Meadow Creek project, Cribbs seconded and motion carried.

Eddy moved to approve, with staff recommendations, the Sheep Creek Large Woody Debris and Planting Project, Cribbs seconded and motion carried.

Eddy moved to decline approval of Jordan Creek Culvert Replacement Project, Cribbs seconded and motion carried.

Eddy moved to decline the approval of Corral Creek Restoration Project, Hawes seconded and motion carried.

No action was made on Beaver Creek.

**Atlas Update:** A PowerPoint was provided for this presentation by Timmie Mandish. The goal of the Atlas will be to understand where the most beneficial places to do projects in the Grande Ronde Basin are located. The Atlas will be accomplished with the help of the action agencies (BPA, BOR, and Army COR). Between now and when the atlas is completed, all existing data will be gathered and displayed to the project sponsors. The data will incorporate feasibility of each project as well.

Larry Cribbs asked what the goal is for the Atlas, is it to replace the members at the GRMW? Mandish answered that this is a tool that will provide a “road map” of opportunities, that will allow the Board to be presented with more refined projects that BPA already knows will be in their interests. All projects within the Atlas will already be approved by stakeholders, which will be part of the projects feasibility rating. The Atlas should take out some of the leg work at the fruition of a project.

Hayward asked when the Atlas will be done. Mandish replied the first science TAC meeting is in January. The Atlas should give sponsors an idea of the type of projects we are looking for to get us to the 23% mark.

Maslin explained that BPA has a set budget for the next few years and dollars are not limited, but we are trying to be clear on what we want.

Cribbs asked what is 23%. Mandish answered that 23% is the goal for habitat improvement. Maslin then further explained saying 23% came from NOAA as necessary to avoid jeopardy and if we prove we are doing the best we can then we can try a replacement population if we can't get the Grande Ronde or Catherine Creek to 23%.

Hayward asked how fast this will come on board. Mandish said it is a collaborative process and it will take some time.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Upper Grande Ronde Tributary Assessment:** Rob McAfee gave a PowerPoint Presentation for this update.

McAfee first gave a quick summary on the Catherine Creek Tributary Assessment, then a summary of the work to be done for the Upper Grande Ronde TA. The draft report should be done late spring or early summer of 2013.

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council:** Jeff Oveson talked about the upcoming review by the NW Power Council. Oveson talked about the history of the council and the importance of the evaluation.

**Audit Report:** Yvonne Roberts gave a summary of the two audits and explained a little about how GRMW functions. The audit looked at internal controls and made some suggestions, but overall the audit went well.

**Board Open Discussion:** Joe McCormack asked about the TNC ditch off Camp Creek. Menton said the project is still in the planning phases.

Cribbs said he appreciated the thought and emails sent by Jeff Oveson because it helps keep the Board engaged.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. at the Wallowa Community Center in Wallowa. If you have any questions or comments, please call (541) 663-0570 or write GRMW, 1114 "J" Avenue, La Grande OR 97850. To reach us on our website go to <http://www.grmw.org>. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

The mission of the Board of Directors' of the Grande Ronde Model Watershed is "to develop and oversee the implementation, maintenance and monitoring of coordinated resource management that will enhance the natural resources of the Grande Ronde River Basin."

**Meeting Attendance:**

**Board Members and Alternates:** Bruce Eddy, Troy Abercrombie, Dave Yost, Larry Nall, Joe McCormack, Katie Frenyea, Norm Cimon, Allen Childs, Larry Cribbs, Daryl Hawes, Ted Taylor, Mike Hayward, Bill Howell, and Jim Lauman.

**Others:** Karen Liendecker, Bill Maslin, Rosy Mazaika, Timmie Mandish, Joe Platz, Leslie Naylar, Jesse Lien, Jason Lewis, Rob McAfee, Sean Welch, Chuck Simpson, Yvonne Roberts and Lyle Kuchenbecker.

**Staff:** Leigh Collins, Coby Menton, Jesse Steele, Jeff Oveson, Mason Bailie, Lacey Moore, and Mary Estes.