

**Meeting Summary**  
**Lake Ozette Sockeye Steering Committee**  
January 15, 2015 // 10:15 am – 3:15 pm  
Location: Sekiu Community Center

**Meeting Decisions List:**

- The Committee accepted the September 11, 2014 meeting summary.
- The Committee will review the Near-Term Priority List during the next meeting and will determine which projects should be included on the list (including adding projects from the Master List).
- The Committee agreed that an initial phase of public vetting took place at this meeting for the Lake Ozette Watershed Restoration project (related to invasive weed mapping, identification, and control, and proposed by the Makah Tribe to be included in the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative funding proposal). The Committee requested more information about the project at the next meeting.

**Introductions and Agenda Review**

Claire Turpel, the facilitator from Triangle Associates, welcomed the Lake Ozette Sockeye Steering Committee (LOSSC or “the Committee”), and LOSSC members introduced themselves (*see Attachment I*). The facilitator reviewed the agenda and noted that the agenda item “Coal Creek Culvert-to-Bridge Project Overview” would be postponed until the next meeting because the presenters were unable to attend this meeting. It was also noted that the agenda topic “update on Washington Coast Restoration Initiative funding proposal” would include a discussion regarding the topic.

**Meeting Summary Review**

The Committee reviewed the draft September 11, 2014 LOSSC meeting summary. There were no edits or suggestions from the Committee. The Committee accepted the summary as final.

**Updates and Announcements**

- A member shared that Makah fisheries recently finished hatchery broodstocking and escape monitoring in Umbrella Creek. They tagged over 500 fish between October-December 2014. They opened the weir and shut the trap, which is still partially in the water and will be pulled out in the next several weeks. They are still incubating eggs in the national hatchery. There have been some issues with warmer temperatures because the schedule is ahead due to higher temperatures.
- A member shared that they completed two days of surveys on beaches. They also finalized estimates for the Umbrella Creek spawning statement for the last 13 to 14 years, and are finalizing all of the Lake Ozette escapement into the Lake, Umbrella Creek, and Big River since 1998.
  - A member asked if surveyors noticed a difference in the lake level/hydrology, and if that had any impacts on the fish. It was noted that the fish are mostly using the middle beach for spawning, not the upper beach. It is expected that there will be more upper beach spawners next year. Last year when doing the surveys the lake was about 3.5 to 4 feet shallower.
- A member noted several updates related to Olympic National Park (ONP/the Park).
  - ONP and the Makah Tribe have been in touch about confirming who is monitoring lake levels. The Ozette Ranger is currently in training out of state for several months, so ONP

- will see if a maintenance staff member could assist with monitoring. Monitoring for November and December 2014 may have been missed.
- The National Park Service (NPS) is putting together a water quality report. NPS has long-term water quality monitoring stations, one of which is in the Ozette area (Ozette River and Umbrella Creek). An initial report will be released in February and it will be a summary of data from the stations.
  - ONP's Deputy Superintendent Todd Sues recently accepted a position at the Mojave National Preserve. It is uncertain who will fill the ONP Deputy Superintendent position. ONP is also looking to fill the Chief Ranger position.
- The Coast Saver of the Year is Rod Farley, who will be honored at a reception on January 17.
  - NOAA has a draft letter from Makah regarding their Resource Management Plan (RMP), but the representative present was uncertain of the letter's status. Since the final letter will be a public document once it is sent to NOAA, the agency can share the final letter with the Committee once NOAA receives the official version.
  - A notice regarding the 5-year status review will be posted in the Federal Register within the week. Once the notice is posted in the Federal Register, the public comment period will close three months from that date. The final announcement of updates will not be until March 2016.
    - NOAA will send government-to-government participation letters to tribes to formally solicit their engagement in the status review.
  - Since the September LOSSC meeting, there were several conversations and emails to identify what genetic data is currently available to potentially aid sockeye recovery. There have been some discussions about how these genetic samples may be used, however more discussions are needed about what questions to explore with a long history of genetic samples. A member suggested considering a problem and then seeing what genetics monitoring may do to address that issue. Another member suggested that this topic might be raised at a Predation Workgroup meeting and with experts at the Predation Workshop.
  - Pat Crain recently started working with USGS in the Elwha on environmental DNA (EDNA) analysis. EDNA analysis requires taking water samples and filtering them to look for markers of specific species. They did an experiment with this in the Elwha and found interesting hints where Chinook may have gotten to last summer. It may be possible to use this tool in the Ozette area as well (could take water samples from tributaries and see if there are sockeye signatures). Using this tool, you can test for anything you develop a marker for. It is likely that markers developed for the Elwha could be applied to other watersheds. Using this tool, it would be possible to look at the species composition in the Ozette watershed. The Committee discussed some potential issues where genetic monitoring may be useful in the Ozette basin for sockeye recovery efforts, though it was noted that EDNA tests do not differentiate between sockeye and kokanee.
  - During the September 11, 2014 LOSSC meeting a member noted that there were dry/low-flow conditions in the peninsula, and the potential impacts of this on stream hydrology. It was noted that all snow-fed systems on the peninsula currently have very little snow. Unless this changes, it will likely be a very dry summer. The Committee also discussed some questions about how timber harvests in the area could affect local hydrology.

### **Invasive Plant Presentation**

Cathy Lucero, Coordinator of the Clallam County Noxious Weed Control Program, shared a presentation about Clallam County's efforts to control noxious weeds. Her presentation provided an overview of noxious weeds and their negative impacts (both ecologic and economic), federal and state laws in place to address noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Law and the Washington State Noxious Weed Law), and the roles and responsibilities of the Clallam County Weed Board.

The Clallam County Weed Board implements the state law regarding noxious weeds at the local level, and can enforce compliance. The Weed Board exists to maximize use of property and protect natural resources. It has jurisdiction over land owners (private property, not federal property or tribal lands). The Weed Board and Noxious Weed Control Program's primary role is regulatory; however they also: provide education, assist with weed identification, provide weed control advice, loan weed removal tools/equipment, and assist with community projects. They complete this work through agency partnerships, grant funded projects, and by providing training/licensing to safely apply restricted use herbicides. They also certify rock sources and hay. Cathy emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement, education, and land owner buy-in when trying to control noxious weeds. Some of the challenges to controlling noxious weeds are: landowners may not know they have them on their property, controlling noxious weeds takes long-term commitment, and there is limited funding and experienced staff available to meet the need for controlling noxious weeds. In addition, the County's current policy prohibiting roadside spraying of herbicides inhibits controlling roadside noxious weeds.

Cathy shared information about known noxious weed issues in the area, including: scotch broom, knot weed, canary grass, herb Robert, tansy ragwort, yellow arch angel, everlasting peavine, and English holly. She also provided some suggestions for how to control and eradicate noxious weeds (*see Power Point presentation for additional details*). The Committee discussed different questions and issues related to controlling/reducing the incidence of noxious weeds locally. A member noted that the herb robert outbreak at swan landing is under control, but there is concern about children picking herb robert which would spread the species (there is an almost identical native plant). Putting up a sign would be helpful to educate people about this issue. Pat Crain will see if ONP can do this.

The Committee and Cathy also discussed potential changes to the County's policy on roadside spraying. Cathy recommends the County change its policy to allow for spraying of noxious weeds ("use any means to control noxious weeds"). She drafted a proposal for a policy change, which will be sent to the County Commission in a month. Depending on its response, it may take several more months before there is an ordinance before the Board of Commissioners. Once public hearings are announced, the public can provide written/in-person testimony regarding the change. If desired, LOSSC could provide a letter of support for the new policy. A member noted that there have been concerns about how County staff applied herbicides near roads (concerns about lack of training on how herbicides should be sprayed near water, streams, and wetlands). Cathy clarified that the first step is to change the County's policy, then to introduce an ordinance for how to safely apply herbicides near roads for noxious weed control. When available, information regarding a proposed ordinance will be shared with the Committee.

### **Review and Updates on Near-Term Priority List (NTPL)**

*PRA-5,6: Consider predation projects* and *RME-5: Investigate each predator type*

Updates on these topics were provided prior to the meeting (see NTPL updates in red). Bonnie Shorin and/or Jeff Fisher's name will be added to replace Rosemary Furfey under "potential partnerships/funding sources."

### *PRA-7: DIDSON*

A member asked if NOAA is investigating additional funding for this project. When updating the NTPL before the next meeting, Triangle will inquire about this. It was noted that there were some technology issues in 2012 and 2013 which impacted capturing underwater footage (in 2012 the hard drive and motherboard crashed, in 2013 another DVR player crashed). Most of the 2013 data was recovered, and the only issue with paired data is the time difference between units. A member noted the importance of moving beyond the initial technology glitches and continuing to collect data. It was noted that the

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding criteria is changing to fund monitoring projects related to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species.

HRA-3: CMER Study

In September 2014, the Committee decided to leave the CMER study on the NTPL to keep tracking it in the future (there currently is no study taking place in the Ozette basin). It was noted that CMER is more related to forest practices than the focus of the SRFB. A member questioned if this should remain on the NTPL. It was suggested that the note “research project; not eligible for NPCLE funding” should be removed.

HRA-8: Weed Assessment and Mapping

Updates on these topics were provided prior to the meeting (see NTPL updates in red). A member shared that the ONP’s plant management team has lost some funding and staff time has been redirected. As a result, the 2018 timeline for the plant team to consider the outlet of Lake Ozette may not be feasible. The member asked if ONP can provide another update regarding this in the future.

HRA-21: Lake Outlet Rehabilitation

A member noted that there are some hydrology issues with the Lake and would like to hear from the Park regarding this.

PEA-6:

See the Public Outreach Subcommittee update below. A member suggested the Subcommittee consider adding an additional bullet under this topic for an invasive weed demonstration/education project.

RME-18: Egg Survival Study

No action at this time.

HRA-20: Hoko-Ozette Road

A member shared that the recent road repair did not last and that the County will do another repair in the near future (the same repair as last time). A member suggested continuing to evaluate the impacts of this on fish (potentially lakeshore spawning). Another member questioned the connectivity between the road repair and sockeye. It was discussed that this action needs to return to the main issue of the road’s impacts on sockeye. It was noted that the original intent of this action was to look at the interaction of the Hoko-Ozette road and the Big River. The Committee suggested changing the description for this near-term action with language from the Master List, combining road relocation (long-term goal) and high-maintenance repair needs (near-term goal) with habitat needs.

HRA-2, HRA-10: Crooked Creek/Road 5800 bridge replacement

The bridge will be replaced at some point in the future.

HRA-10, HRA-20: Dunham Creek and Big River bridge removal/replacement

This project is complete with the exception of the sign. The sign design has been completed and approved and will be installed in the next month or so. Pictures have been taken throughout the process.

Coal Creek Culvert-to-Bridge Replacement

This project was added to the NTPL during the September 11, 2014 LOSSC meeting. The Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition provided a presentation at this meeting regarding this project, which is part of the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative (WCRI) funding proposal. The Committee agreed to add the project to the NTPL under the condition that some questions that remained regarding the project were

addressed at the next LOSSC meeting, and based on that information the action could be removed. At the time, it was presented as part of publicly vetting the project as part of the WCRI (and it was also vetted in other forums). The Committee discussed this project's connection with sockeye recovery and whether or not it should remain on the NTPL. It was noted that the connection between this project and sockeye is sediment. Harry Bell and Carl Chastain were unable to attend the meeting and provide additional information about the project, though Tom Swanson with Green Crow provided some additional background information. There was also discussion regarding the connection between Road Maintenance & Abandonment Program (RMAP) actions/projects and sockeye recovery, as well as the history of how projects from the Master List have been added to the NTPL. The Committee agreed to leave this project on the NTPL until the next LOSSC meeting, when the Committee will review and discuss which projects to keep on the NTPL.

In addition to these updates, the Committee discussed the need to re-examine the NTPL to ensure it aligns with the Recovery Plan. The Committee agreed to reassess the NTPL during the next LOSSC meeting and identify what needs to be moved from the master list to the NTPL. A member suggested that rather than expanding the NTPL that the Committee might spend more energy on fewer elements.

### **Predation Workgroup Update**

The Committee discussed updates related to the Predation Workshop:

- The Predation Workgroup had a conference call on 10/10/14 to discuss planning the Predation Workshop (see call summary for more details).
- They suggest that the Predation Workshop should be two days. Initially it was thought that the Workshop would take place in spring or summer, but now it seems more likely that it will take place in the fall (it needs to take place within the 2015 federal fiscal year).
- Workgroup members have begun reaching out to various predation experts to see if they may be interested in participating in the workshop. Those who have expressed interest include: Pat Gearin, Aaron Wirsing, Merav Ben-David (professor at the University of Wyoming), Dave Beauchamp, and Andrea Woodward.
- Mike Haggerty and Pat Crain met with Andrea Woodward to discuss taking Mike's excel spreadsheet model from the Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) and turning it into a more user-friendly model to enable looking at survival at different life histories.
- NOAA thought there was \$10,000 available for the Workshop; however, there is now only \$5,900 available. NOAA may be able to provide more in-house support for the Workshop. Once the short list of participants is identified, NOAA will see what they can do for covering additional expenses. The Park may also be able to contribute some funds to the Workshop (through year-end money). Approaching the National Park Fund outside of its regular funding cycle regarding this may also be a possibility.
- The Predation Workgroup has received cost estimates from various locations, and is still waiting to hear from Peninsula College regarding catering services.
- The Predation Workgroup will continue to work on planning the Workshop, and will likely have another meeting/call before the next LOSSC meeting.

### **NCASI Turbidity Study**

Harry Bell was unable to attend the meeting and provide an update on the current status of the NCASI turbidity study. This topic will be moved to the next LOSSC meeting agenda.

### **Public Outreach Subcommittee Update**

The Committee discussed the recent activities of the Public Outreach Subcommittee:

- The Public Outreach Subcommittee had a call on 11/19/14 (see call summary for more details).

- The fall salmon viewing event was very successful. There were eight displays and Joe Hinton provided a demonstration at Umbrella Creek. There was better attendance than the previous year, and multiple avenues were used for public awareness, including Facebook. Committee members should provide any feedback regarding the event to Claire Turpel, Bonnie Shorin, or Roy Morris.
- A member suggested the Public Outreach Subcommittee consider looking into an invasive weed demonstration project, potentially as part of the SRFB sponsored land acquisition project, co-managed with the land trust and the Makah. The Committee is supportive of looking into this idea. Ed Bowen will send information to Bonnie Shorin regarding this.

### **Funding Sources Update**

- Bonnie Shorin plans to attend a Floodplains by Design workshop in February and will provide an update regarding potential Floodplains by Design funding at the next LOSSC meeting.
- The National Park Service will have some competitive funding available beginning in fiscal year 2018 (NRPP funding). Proposals for this funding source must be submitted by October 15, 2015. Restoration, monitoring, and data gathering projects are all eligible. Funding requests can be up to \$150,000 over a three-year period. This is a nationally competitive process, but projects related to endangered species typically rank high for receiving funding.
- SRFB round sixteen is now open for project applications through WRIA 20. The SRFB deadline for applications is not until August 14, 2015. However, in order for the lead entity to process the applications, they must be submitted by March 1, 2015 for this round of SRFB funding.
- The Committee discussed the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative funding proposal (WCRI) funding proposal. The WCRI funding proposal is a \$15 million proposal to the state legislature for funding for a suite of restoration projects in watersheds that drain into the Pacific (funding would come from the capital budget). There are two projects included in the proposal within the Ozette basin, including 1) Coal Creek Project (vetted through the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity and proposed by the Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition); and 2) Lake Ozette Watershed Restoration (related to invasive weed mapping, identification, and control, and proposed by the Makah Tribe). If funded, funds will go through WDFW and will be paid in the form of contracts to project sponsors.

There was some discussion about how the Lake Ozette Watershed Restoration project will be publicly vetted. Some questions were also raised about how the project will be implemented in the community. A member suggested that Clallam County should be a co-sponsor for this project along with the Makah Tribe. The roles of the Tribe and the County for implementing this project were discussed. Makah is the project sponsor and Clallam County is the technical support. It's uncertain if the funding request (\$195,000) includes co-sponsorship costs.

Cathy Lucero agreed to speak with Makah about what support from the County they may need for this project. The Committee agreed that this discussion served as an initial phase of public vetting for this aspect of the WCRI legislative proposal package, and also requested more information about this project at the next LOSSC meeting.

### **Proposed Agenda Topics for Next Meeting (March)**

- Update on the NCASI turbidity study
- Overhaul of NTPL
- Consider projects to apply for NPS (NRPP) funding
- Review Makah's proposal for WCRI (Lake Ozette Watershed Restoration project)

**Attachment 1: Meeting Participants**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
1	Miles Batchelder	Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	360-532-9113	<a href="mailto:milesb@wcssp.org">milesb@wcssp.org</a>
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5	Mike Haggerty	Mike Haggerty Consulting	928-0124	
6	Joe Hinton	Makah	360-963-2784	<a href="mailto:mtchoko@olypen.com">mtchoko@olypen.com</a>
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8	Mike Libera	Friends of Lake Ozette	360-457-5662	<a href="mailto:mikelibera@tfon.com">mikelibera@tfon.com</a>
9	Cathy Lucero	Clallam County		
10	John Mahan	Quileute Tribe	360-374-5696	<a href="mailto:John.mahan@quileutenation.org">John.mahan@quileutenation.org</a>
11	Roy Morris	Clallam Bay/Sekiu Lions	360-963-2442	<a href="mailto:able@olypen.com">able@olypen.com</a>
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14	Bonnie Shorin	NMFS	360-753-9578	<a href="mailto:Bonnie.shorin@noaa.gov">Bonnie.shorin@noaa.gov</a>
15	Tim Saskowsky	NPS- Olympic National Park		
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