

IDAWRA Brownbag: Wed. May 8, 2013; 11:30 - 1:00 pm YANKEE FORK PS3 SIDE CHANNEL HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Speaker: Steve Clayton Ph.D. P.E. (Co-authors: Paul Drury, Mike Edmondson, Evelyn Galloway, and Jim Gregory)

Wednesday, May 8, 11:30 -1 pm (talk will start at 11:45)

Location: Washington Group Plaza Executive Dining Room
720 Park Blvd
Boise, ID 83712

Cost: Free

Lunch available in the Washington Group cafeteria, next to the Executive Dining Room


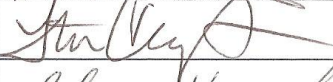
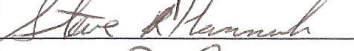
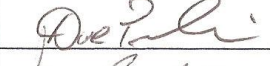
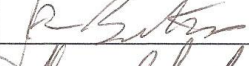

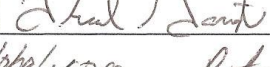
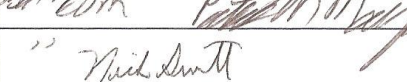

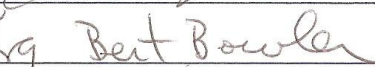
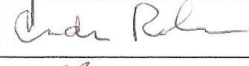
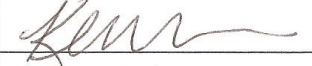
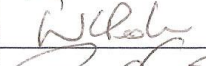

IDAWRA thanks the Corps of Engineers for providing the venue.

Land uses in the Yankee Fork watershed during the past 150 years have negatively affected physical and ecological processes and subsequently native fish populations. The channel in a 6-mile reach of the lower subwatershed is impacted by dredge piles and disconnected from some tributaries. Regardless this tributary to the Salmon River in central Idaho continues to support spring/summer Chinook salmon (*Onchorynchus tshawytscha*) steelhead (*O. mykiss*) westslope cutthroat (*O. clarkii lewisi*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and provides late-summer flow and cold water temperature two factors frequently absent in anadromous fish restoration projects. Strategic habitat improvement actions in the Yankee Fork watershed are needed to address limiting factors including riparian condition large woody material (LWM) floodplain condition bed form channel complexity and sediment quantity.

Building upon CH2M HILL's 2008 Yankee Fork Floodplain Restoration Project: Alternatives Analysis and Evaluation and the Bureau of Reclamation's 2012 Yankee Fork Tributary Assessment CH2M HILL worked in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation Shoshone-Bannock Tribes United States Forest Service Trout Unlimited and J.R. Simplot Company to design permit and construct the PS3 Side Channel project in fall 2012. By converting a series of remnant dredge ponds to a perennial side channel the project increases habitat available to juvenile salmonids and helps re-establish physical and ecological processes.

The PS3 Side Channel project was designed and permitted in ten months and constructed in two months. The 0.7-mile-long perennial side channel will convey up to 10-percent of the mainstem flow provide velocities and depths desirable to juvenile salmonids and transport fine sediment annually during high flows. Eight LWM structures were constructed in the side channel and more than 200 pieces of wood were placed on the floodplain to provide habitat complexity and floodplain roughness. Re-grading of 25,000 cubic yards of tailings created 4.5 acres of floodplain. Groundwater channels and wetlands were constructed to provide additional high-flow refugia. Approximately 16 400 live cuttings were planted in fall 2012 and 3,600 container plants will be planted in spring 2013. The project partners anticipate the project will provide immediate and sustainable habitat for ESA-listed juvenile salmonids.

Name	Organization	Email	Signature
Allan Wylie	IDWR	allan.wylie@idwr.idaho.gov	Allan Wylie
Roxanne Brown	SPF		Roxanne Brown
CHUCK Slaughter	CEN	CSLAUGL@UIDAHO.EDU	Chuck Slaughter
Mitu Murg	HDR	Mitu.Murg@hdrinc.com	Mitu Murg
CORRIE HUGABOON	HDR	corrie.hugaboon@hdrinc.com	Corrie Hugaboon
Michael Homer	GeoEngineers		Michael Homer
Sydney Sallabanks	Simplot	Sydney.Sallabanks@simplot.com	Sydney Sallabanks
Rob Richardson	USBR	r Richardson@usbr.gov	Rob Richardson
Josh Matagi	CH2M HILL	jmatagi@ch2m.com	Josh Matagi
Justin Nielsen	USBR	jhn Nielsen@usbr.gov	Justin Nielsen
Jason Paulsen	GeoEngineers	jpaulsen@geoengineers.com	Jason Paulsen
Rick Collingwood	Dept. of Water Resources	rcolling@coableone.net	Rick Collingwood
Virginia Gillerman	IGS	vgillerm@uidaho.edu	Virginia Gillerman
Erin Sours	URS	erin.sours@URS.COM	Erin Sours
Evan Miller	GeoEngineers	emiller@geoengineers.com	Evan Miller
Paul Drury	USBR	pdrury@usbr.gov	Paul Drury
Jeff Fealko	USBR	jfealko@usbr.gov	Jeff Fealko

Name	Organization	Email	Signature
Perrin Robinson	CH2M HILL	perrin.robinson@ch2m.com	
Steve Clayton	CH2M HILL	sclayton@ch2m.com	
Steve Hannula	MWH	steven.r.hannula@mwhglobal.com	
DAVE PISARSKI	IDEQ	DAVE.PISARSKI@deg.idaho.gov	
J.R. BARTOLO	USGS	jrbarth@usgs.gov	
Greg Clark	USGS	gmcclark@usgs.gov	
FRANK GARIGLIO	CH2M HILL	frank.gariglio@ch2m.com	
Pat Naylor	MWH	patrick.n.naylor@mwhglobal.com	
Nick Smith	" "	nickolas.g.smith " "	" " Nick Smith
Alan Aea	USGS	ahrea@usgs.gov	
Bert Bowler	Snake River Salmon Solutions	bbowler@snake-river-salmon-solutions.org	
Cindy Robertson	IDFG	cindy.robertson@idfg.idaho.gov	
Kerrie Weppner	IGS	kerriew@uidaho.edu	
WALT POORE	IDFG	walt.poore@idfg.idaho.gov	
Pick Raymond	IDWR		

Maine Kellner	Idaho	Casement League	
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KATTY PETER IDAURA KDPETER.H2O@GMAIL.COM