



Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board Update

Presented by
Alex Conley, Executive Director

Origin of the Board

- Created in 2006
- Consolidated two existing groups
- Formed via an Interlocal Agreement signed by:
 - *The Yakama Nation*
 - *Kittitas, Yakima and Benton Counties*
 - *18 Cities Governments*

INCLUDING THE CITY OF YAKIMA

Mission of the Board

To restore sustainable and harvestable populations of salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other at-risk fish and wildlife species through collaborative, economically sound efforts that bring together diverse resources to promote wise resource management of the Yakima River Basin.

Organization of the Board

- Incorporated as an independent 501(c3) non-profit organization
- Governed by a 10-member Board of Directors
 - Selected from member governments
 - Primary representative must be an elected official
 - Staff alternates may be appointed
- Consensus decision making
- Funded by Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board & the federal Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund

Membership of the Board

KITTITAS COUNTY

Brett Wachsmith, Kittitas County

Arden Thomas, Alternate

Nancy Lillquist, City of Ellensburg

Jay McGowan, City of Cle Elum

BENTON COUNTY

Michael Alvarez, Benton County

Adam Fyall, Alternate

Steve Becken, City of Prosser

Richard Bloom, City of West Richland

YAKIMA COUNTY

Amanda McKinney, Yakima County

Troy Havens, Alternate

Patricia Byers, City of Yakima

Dave Brown, Alternate

Vacant, City of Union Gap

YAKAMA NATION

Terry Heemsah

Kelsey Harbick, alternate

What We Do:

1. Act as Lead Entity for the Yakima Basin
2. Develop & Implement Recovery Plans
3. Coordinate Monitoring
4. Conduct Outreach

The SRFB Funding Process

- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds salmon recovery projects in Washington
- The funding comes from a mix of state funds (40%) and federal funds (60%)
- Projects are recommended to the SRFB for funding by local Lead Entities
- We are the Yakima Basin Lead Entity

As the Lead Entity, we:

- Advertise for and accept applications for SRFB funding
- Work with applicants to ensure strong proposals are submitted
- Convene a Technical Advisory Group to review the biological & technical merits of proposed projects
- Convene a Citizen's Committee to review the projects' merits (including economic, social and cultural aspects) and develop a ranked list of proposed projects
- Submit the final ranked list to the SRFB

Our Planning Role

- Subbasin Planning
- Endangered Species Act Recovery Planning
 - 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan
 - 2012 Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan

2009 YAKIMA STEELHEAD RECOVERY PLAN

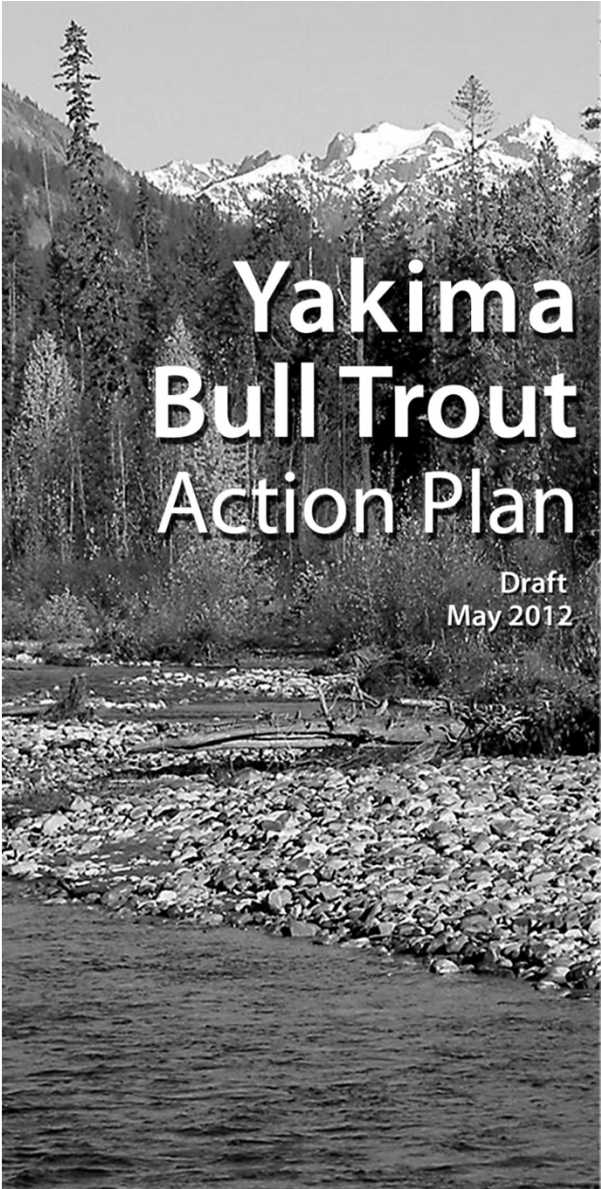
Extracted from the
2005 Yakima Subbasin Salmon Recovery Plan
With Updates

Final
August 2009



What does this plan do?

- Sets objective criteria for Endangered Species Act delisting and recovery
- Identifies actions needed for recovery with more specificity than other plans
- Covers the full breadth of habitat issues in the Yakima Basin



Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan

Draft
May 2012



Implementing the Plans

- We do not do on-the-ground projects ourselves;
- We do work to help secure funds and political support for those that do
- We work hard to ensure available resources are used to implement priorities in our plans
- We work with partners to update priorities as needed



Monitoring



- Are we doing the actions we should?
- Are they working?
- Are the fish responding?
- Are there other things we need to pay attention to?
- Do we need to change course?

Outreach



- Website & Facebook
- Presentations
- Educational Events
- Project Tours
- Legislative outreach

Links to the City of Yakima

- Cowiche Creek habitat, trail and flood management projects
- Nelson Dam and the Naches River
- Gap to Gap and the Wastewater Management Plan

Work with the City of Yakima







Huge thanks to:

- The City of Yakima for its ongoing support
- David Brown for all his work on behalf of the City, the Board and water resources in the Yakima Basin
- Patricia Byers for her positive engagement in our recent legislative outreach efforts!

QUESTIONS?