

Meeting Summary
INTERDISCIPLINARY WORK GROUP
Wednesday July 17, 2024
MS Teams

Wednesday, July 17, 2024: 11:00 AM

Participants

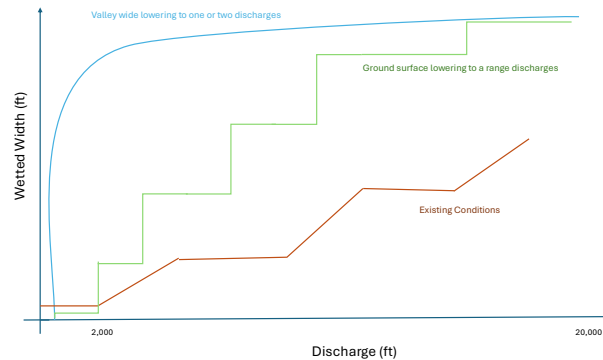
Justin Alvarez (HVT), John Bair (Appl Riv Sci), Steve Gough (USFWS), Kurt Fausch (SAB), Eric Wiseman (USFS), Ken Lindke (CDFW), John Buffington (SAB), Patrick Flynn (TC), Ty Wallin (USFWS), Karl Seitz (HVT), Eric Peterson (TRRP/USBR), Todd Buxton (TRRP/USBR), Chris Laskodi (YT), John Hayes (SAB), Brad Nissen (USFWS)

Meeting Summary

Peterson gave the purpose of the meeting (IDT support of the Riparian proposal). During the prior meeting, proponents for other proposals were allowed to field questions during IDT discussion, however proponents for this proposal were not available. The IDT deferred final discussion; this is that opportunity and Peterson noted that Bair would likely be able to respond to most questions. Peterson gave a brief overview of the proposal, then opened the floor for discussion.

- Wallin initiated discussion by raising one of the questions from the previous IDT meeting regarding control for seed dispersal and affects outside of the restoration project and channel design approach (e.g. might upstream conditions affect veg response).
 - Bair - Sites are geographically close and assumption that they are under the same physical and biological conditions. One reason that Upper Conner was removed from the final proposal was for this reason – below Canyon Creek the site might experience more different hydrology.
- Buffington- what about longer distance aerial dispersal
 - Bair - Can't control for that. More looking at success of propagation after seeds arrive if they arrive. Different nursery sites available to each site.
- Bair also added that Upper Conner was also removed due to more recent channel rehabilitation activity.
- Lindke – 3 sites, each different, means no real replication?
- Fausch- Pseudoreplication is always present at some scale (just one Earth available for sampling). Lake studies often only have a single site that are divided into treatments. Might give some guidance on how to handle this.
 - Bair presented the method of developing “replicate” samples within inundation zones and then comparing the results within zones between the study sites. There will be some pseudo replication at some scale, but what can be inferred from that is the concern.

- Bair presented conceptual graphs of wetted width as a function of site design and related this to anticipated vegetation diversity



- Peterson - Given the graphs John showed, perhaps the hypothesis could be stated to something like “Floodplain elevation diversity directly relates to the floodplain vegetation diversity”; then if within-site sampling covers a range of elevation diversity, perhaps the analysis could validly compare veg diversity to elevation diversity.
 - Bair said it was possible to restate the hypothesis but made the point that all these factors are components of hydraulic geometry and are interrelated.
- Buxton- Would it be better to modify study to secure longer term study w/ simpler measures to answer site evolution question?
 - Began discussion of leaving Oregon Gulch sampling until later.
- Buxton- substrate could affect vegetation establishment and long term recovery and wanted to understand how the proposal addressed these differences
 - Bair responded that the availability of fine sediment has not been a problem in woody riparian establishment, since there are fines in the interstitial matrix of most riparian areas.
- Peterson- If left until later, then what do we get out of the current study and report?
 - Bair: relation of vegetation to traditional design.
 - More discussion of deferral of Oregon Gulch.
- Lindke- suggest Sky Ranch may get channel rehab in near future. If it is to be a control for FY27 project too, then perhaps Evans Bar would be a better control.
- Buffington: could some sampling of Oregon Gulch be done just in case future funding of OG sampling does not happen? Even if at different stage from Chapman Ranch?
 - Bair concurred with conducting some level of sampling at Oregon Gulch and thought it could be possible.
 - Buffington emphasized that the IDT should pursue funding in FY27 to complete sampling at Oregon Gulch.
 - Lindke asked about budget flexibility to add OG sampling
 - Peterson said TMC motion is a little unclear but that the discussion in the room at the time was around giving option for a 10% increase (although the number given by the TMC motion included 10% across all proposals). Suggested keeping a 10% target.

- Bair could not commit to exact budget changes and noted that existing budget assumed development of a hydrologic model for the OG as-built. If that is done separately, then may result in cost savings.
- Buxton offered that there may be a couple of pressure transducers available to capture water stages at Oregon Gulch to help gather data that could be used to develop a SRH-2D model.

Peterson began developing a statement for IDT concurrence during these last parts of the discussion. Final wording is:

“IDT support funding the riparian project (revised proposal) with the request that PIs consult with IDT on an updated study plan prior to beginning of field sampling with an option for a 10% budget increase to accommodate Oregon Gulch sampling.”

No disagreements were noted. The IDT concurred.

Adjourned ca. 12:05