

Design Team Meeting Minutes

February 6th, 2020

In attendance: Justin Alvarez, Kyle, Sipes & Fred Meyer (HVT), Mark Smelser (CDFW), Aaron Martin, Dave Gaeuman (YTF), Conor Shea (USFWS), Brandt Gutermuth, Todd Buxton (TRRP), on the phone: Ken Lindke & Trevor Morgan (CDFW), Seth Naman (NMFS), Paul Petros & John Bair (HVT)

Action Items

1. Review Shea memo on uncertainty and send comments by March 2.
2. Shea to finalize memo.
3. Aaron to coordinate with State Team to assist them getting tools to run habitat capacity analysis for Dutch Creek.
4. Aaron and Justin to arrange boats for Design Team float.

Meeting Topics

Uncertainty Discussion – Shea

This arose as a topic because we need to be better at defining uncertainties and be clear about areas where we expect change, Conor drafted a memo to address this issue and suggested a path forward.

Logan wanted uncertainties incorporated into the site description

Project risk screening matrix could be a valuable analysis tool to help identify features that need attention re: uncertainties.

In the past we generally hope for and describe the best possible action but we need to incorporate items that are at a mid to high risk of a different outcome

Mark- Where does design life come in?

Conor-that is the wrong approach. Design life is good for bridges but with restoration we want them to persist through a certain flood event but need to balance building habitat and setting up dynamic processes that create habitat.

Brandt- we want the features to persist for at least some period and that would be the “design life”.

Conor- a caveat to previous statement is we may have a design life for some features, ie. Huge rootwad upstream of a bridge.

Fred- We can tie expectations to flow and set predictions of possible changes based on feature and feature location, MS vs SC.

Aaron- We need to make sure impacts beyond the ESL are incorporated in the risk analysis.

Conor- This is more of a mental exercise to guide what elements need more discussion.

Todd- How does this play into the use of a landscape artist?

Others- Landscape artist is still useful but is better served at a large aerial view scale so that expectations are realistic.

We also need to ensure that the effects of intermediate steps of multi-year construction is clarified.

The path forward is to comment on the memo, and Conor will finalize it. Afterward it will be distributed to the design groups as an addendum to the Design Report Guidelines. In the review process the design work group will self-check to ensure compliance. Once an Implementation Director is hired they can incorporate the memo more officially into the Design Report Guidelines.

Yurok Tribe Design Team Updates:

Oregon Gulch:

Yurok Tribe submitted documents to Brandt Gutermuth to start permitting.

Yurok Tribe completed purchase of private parcel in Oregon Gulch.

Developing 90% design - issues:

Plug will be scaled down from current design.

Allow overtopping at 11,000 cfs and create more floodplain.

Identified lower floodplain lowering may generate undesirable deposition and backwaters. Will confine floodplain to reduce deposition potential.

Discussion of design phasing.

Hoopa Valley Tribe Design Team (HVT) Updates:

Upper Conor Creek

HVT proposing modifying Environmental Study Limits (ESL) to include areas upstream and downstream of current ESL.

ESL contains multiple private parcels and a mining claim.

ESL contains Junction City campground and river access.

Bank protection present on right bank along CA-299.

Lower bend actively moving towards right bank.

HVT gage presentation of site investigations and results.

Federal Design Team:

Implementation Branch Chief will be hired first.

Hire approved by Sacramento, but needs to go to DC for secretarial review and approval.

Lunch

State Design Team:

Dutch Creek

Aaron Martin recommends analyzing Dutch Creek with habitat capacity rather than WUA for final design.

Discussion on how to implement habitat capacity analysis using R scripts or ARC-MAP tool

No Issues on CLOMR.

Construction this summer by Hoopa Valley Tribe/Yurok Tribe team.

Chapman Ranch Phase A

Delivery of as-built topography imminent.

HVT/McBain will update design plans for Chapman B with as-built Chapman A data.

Other Issues:

Meeting Dates for Remainder of Year:

Float Trip Mar 24

May 6, Arcata Meeting

Aug 4, Dutch Creek Meeting

Nov 10, Arcata or Lower Trinity Meeting