

LITTLE SALMON RIVER  
**WATERSHED**  
COLLABORATIVE

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Minutes

Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative held a hybrid meeting at New Meadows Community Center and virtually through Zoom. Captured minutes are from group discussion and presentations. For a video recording of the meeting, please refer to the Little Salmon River Watershed Collaborative YouTube channel.

Attendance:

*In Person*

Adrianna Cardoso  
Dale Brown  
Dean Dryden  
Gary Thompson  
Johanna Stangland  
Keisha Miller  
Randy Fox  
Rebecca Levandowski  
Wes Keller

*Online*

Clayton Nalder  
Johnna Sandow  
Jordan Messner  
Naomi Anderson

**Field Trip Review and Updates:**

Since this is the first meeting back together at the Community Center in three months, the group reviewed July-September's field trips. To read the detailed minutes of these trips, please visit our [website](#).

July: Riparian restoration on Ed Osborn's ranch and potential projects at Hazard Creek  
August: Rapid River Hatchery  
September: Watershed Restoration Symposium at Zim's Hot Springs

Discussion

Dean: Currently has beaver in riparian planting areas.

Randy: The steering committee drafted a letter to the regional office of the BLM asking to make road improvements to reduce stream sediment load a priority along Hazard Creek. The Infrastructure Bill might provide funds to do this work. We highlighted some projects such as recrowning the road, redoing culverts and other road maintenance.

Wes: Nez Perce Tribe (NPT) sent out a team to collect data to model sediment loads from the road along Hazard Creek. Sediment delivered to streams from roads in poor condition can

impact bull trout, steelhead, and Chinook salmon eggs. The road to Hard Creek Trailhead is in need of repair. NPT will add the data to the support letter drafted by the steering committee for review.

How would a fire impact Rapid River Hatchery?

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Forest Service can work together to create a fire plan. Previously on the South Fork Salmon River, a heavy August rain event caused burned areas to blowout in the upper Stolle Meadows area releasing sediment loads that resulted in mass die off of Chinook salmon broodstock in the holding facility.

Rapid River Ecosystem Management Burn – The Forest Service is in the process of a partnership with the National Marine Fisheries Service on how to prescribe burn areas to help stabilize the ground. This plan does not include a fire suppression component but could be expanded in a fire management plan.

Is the Forest Service grazing in Rapid River?

There are cattle allotments in certain areas..

Can you monitor how fast the water table rises where Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) have been placed?

Yes, we have ongoing monitoring. Where several BDAs have been installed, we can see a rise in the water table already. BDAs are designed to last 1-5 years.

Dean: A public Forest Service Road is used to access the Dryden timber property. The road is in very poor condition and in need of repair but the Forest Service has not fixed it. If I fix it, it will deeply cut into my timber profits and is disincentivizing to me.

Wes: Brian Davis, the Forest Service/Idaho Department of Lands Shared Stewardship Coordinator, should be contacted to prioritize the road. There is currently funding available to work on these projects.

### **Photo Points**

Julie Burkhardt presented photo points from 2001 to the Collaborative a few months ago. The Nez Perce Tribe watershed team replicated the photo points at as many locations as possible. To view the presentation, please see our website.

- Big Creek and the main stem of the Little Salmon River were the priority areas
- Overall, most photos show vegetation growth in the riparian areas
- Without more information, NPT cannot determine what caused vegetation in several areas to decrease
- Walker Lane photo points have added fencing and rip rap to stabilize the bank.
- For the next time, having better GPS points with the azimuth would help relocate exact positions

### **Interactive Map**

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<https://littlesalmonriverwatershedcollaborative.com/>

An online interactive map could provide site specific information across the Little Salmon Riverwatershed. What information does the Collaborative want on the map?

- Listed fish species and distribution
- Photo points
- Department of Environmental Quality water samples
- Forest Service road plans
- Grant resources for projects
- Water temperature data
- Critical habitat and historic habitat range
- United States Geological Survey gage levels

How can we guarantee data accuracy?

- NPT will be in charge of which layers are added and rigorously verify data through multiple listed sources
- A data transparency statement could also be included on the site

Next Meeting **November 8th, 11:00am-3:00pm MST** at the Meadows Valley Community Center.

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