

## Meeting summary: Battle Creek Watershed Working Group, January 20, 2011

Conference Room, RBFWO, 10950 Tyler Road, Red Bluff, CA 527-3043

Chair: Sharon Paquin-Gilmore, Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy

I. Attendees: Tricia Parker, Sharon Paquin-Gilmore, Steve Emershy, Kathy Bishop, Teresa Connor, Jim Smith, Scott Hamelberg, Marily Woodhouse, Virginia Phelps, Glenn Graham, Bob Folsom, Harry Rectenwald, Steve Tussing, Mike Ward, Melanie McFarland, Rick Weissenborn, Kent Perkes, Mary Marshall.

II. Reviewed July and Nov 2010 meeting summaries.

III. Reviewed and approved agenda. The agenda items were rearranged as shown below. Marily's presentation on stream monitoring was rescheduled for March 15, 2011.

### Updates:

#### Battle Creek Restoration Project (Mary Marshall, Reclamation):

Mary referenced the Restoration Project update in the November 2010 GBCWWG meeting summary. Mary reported that Wildcat dam and pipeline were removed in 2010, and that the majority of the fish ladder construction was completed at Eagle Canyon and North Battle Creek Feeder dams in 2010. Upon their completion, the new fish ladders will not open until after August 2011 to avoid impact to Mt Lassen Trout Farms Facilities. Monthly Construction updates (including photos) are posted on the Battle Creek Restoration Project Reclamation website ([www.usbr.gov/mp/battlecreek](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/battlecreek))

Currently the overall Restoration Project estimated cost is roughly \$130 M. Phase 2 (the final project phase) is estimated to cost \$28 M, and State funds associated with the Delta Fish Agreement are planned to be used for Phase 2.

Scott Hamelberg and Marily Woodhouse had questions regarding fine sediment monitoring. The CNFH ozone treatment facility has the objective of protecting fish health but high quantities of fine sediment can lower the ozone efficacy. Reclamation construction personnel (Kent Perkes and Rick Weissenborn) responded that if, at any time, there are questions on high sediment loads, to please contact them. Also, Graham Matthew Associates is monitoring sediment movement at Wildcat Dam.

Regarding the Coleman National Fish Hatchery Adaptive Management Plan (CNFH AMP), agreement was reached on the content of the scope of work in November and the contract to develop the CNFH AMP is estimated to be awarded around July or August. Mike Ward inquired about convening the Restoration Project Adaptive Management Policy Team. Harry Rectenwald asked when the policy team will begin meeting. Jim Smith and Mary (and others) referred to the 1999 MOU (Appendix A to EIR/EIS), which indicates that adaptive management begins post construction (when the dams have been removed, fish screens and ladders have been constructed and instream flows have increased). However, since the development of the 1999 MOU, the project has been split

into three phases, so beginning adaptive management upon the completion of a project phase is a consideration.

PG&E Update (Bob Folsom): Coleman Powerhouse at 100% operation (as of Jan 19, 2011) until then only 50%. Vegetation removal for BCSSRP Phase IB is underway.

BCWC/Terraqua (Steve Tussing, Mike Ward, Harry Rectenwald): Five items were brought up:

- 1) Battle Creek Conservancy wrote a letter to DFG recommending completion of the Fish Management Plan to which DFG Regional Manager responded in a letter (dated December 27, 2010) agreeing to reinstate the effort to complete the plan utilizing a subcommittee of the Greater Battle Creek Work Group. Steve passed around a sign-up sheet to identify persons interested in participating on the Fish Management Plan Subcommittee.
- 2) BCWC expressed concern with fish running through the spawning house instead of the fish ladder to upper Battle Creek because of potential delay, disease and temperature problems. BCWC expressed concern with operation of the Coleman Fish Hatchery Barrier Dam and the new fish ladder to provide fish passage to upper Battle Creek. There was discussion as to whether or not the Coleman Fish Hatchery Barrier Dam is a feature of the Coleman Fish Hatchery or the Battle Creek Restoration Project Adaptive Management Plan. Jim Smith recommended a presentation on the Hatchery Barrier Dam fish ladders be provided at the next meeting.
- 3) A request was made to have the USFWS Green Sheet updating Coleman Hatchery operations include a section identifying the open and closed status of the on the fish ladder at the Coleman Fish Hatchery Barrier Dam and the response was that it would be included.
- 4) There was discussion of the USFWS update that the Biological Assessment for the Coleman National Fish Hatchery completed in 2001 was going to be redone or supplemented and that USFWS would participate in preparation of the Biological Opinion. A question was asked about public review of the new Biological Assessment and the response was that no opportunity will be provided because it was provided in 2001.
- 5) There was further discussion on the unusual rate of occurrence of Feather River Hatchery Spring Chinook salmon in Battle Creek in 2010.

Announcements: Marily Woodhouse: provided two handouts showing the amounts of herbicides applied to timber lands in Shasta and Tehama Counties and a map of clearcuts in the headwaters of the Battle Creek watershed.

Exercise (continued from Nov 2010) Discussion & prioritization of Issue-Tracking-and-Resolution Document (Peter Jacobsen): The Issues were reviewed, the summaries were reviewed, the lead people were identified and then the issues were rated and ranked by the representatives from each of the groups. Action: Sharon will write up the process for adding text to this document. Mike Ward said that he would provide an update to the Watershed Monitoring portion of the issue tracking document. Regarding item 9 Private Land and Timber Steve Tussing stated that he was not the appropriate lead person for that item.

Much discussion about the Issue of Watershed Health Monitoring ensued. The group wants to know more about this issue. In March, Marily will present her monitoring info. SPI will provide a speaker for the May meeting. USFS wants to see the info they provided in Nov 2010 reflected in the next version (Feb 2011) of this document.

#### Presentation and status update on the California Hatchery Scientific Review (Jim Smith)

Jim presented an overview of the process, principles, status and schedule for the California Hatchery Scientific Review. A Review is a thorough analysis of populations and hatchery programs for anadromous salmonids by a group of experts. The current review is being conducted based on Congressional direction and previous hatchery reviews in the Pacific NW between 2000-2010. The Reviews that have occurred in the Pacific NW looked at Washington's Puget Sound, Washington's coast, the Columbia River watershed and federally owned hatcheries in WA, OR, ID. The principles are that hatcheries have clear goals that are scientifically defensible and that adaptive management is used. The steering committee members are NMFS, CDFG, USFWS, Hoopa Tribe and Yurok Tribe. Field visits and review of data will precede draft recommendation. The schedule for the Northern Central Valley hatcheries begins in May 2011. (a copy of the powerpoint presentation was distributed to the BCWG by email on March 4, 2011).

link to the webpage on California's hatchery reform effort  
[http://www.hatcheryreform.us/hrp/welcome\\_show.action](http://www.hatcheryreform.us/hrp/welcome_show.action)

Next meeting March 15: presentations by Marily Woodhouse and Bob Null.

May 17, meeting: tentative agenda: presentation by SPI (Cajun James) and review of MOU (Sharon)