

## **Snake River Salmon Recovery Region Regional Technical Team (RTT)**

The RTT was formed to provide technical support to salmon recovery efforts in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region. The RTT meets on the third Wednesday of every month. Meetings are usually in Dayton, WA at the Best Western Hotel starting at 9:30 a.m. The RTT is made up of two representatives, a primary and an alternate, from each of the participating agencies;

### **Representative Organizations**

The RTT will be comprised of individuals from the following organizations:

1. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
2. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
3. Natural Resource and Conservation Service
4. United States Forest Service
5. Army Corps of Engineers
6. Department of Ecology
7. Nez Perce Tribe
8. National Marine Fisheries Service
9. US Fish and Wildlife Service

Each organization designates their own primary and alternate representatives. In addition to the listed state, Tribal and federal agencies, the RTT will benefit from the perspectives of representatives from the Conservation Districts, watershed planning organizations, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, SRSRB staff and others.

### **Decision Making**

The RTT will strive to be a consensus based, advisory group. Decisions will be made by those listed representatives in attendance at a meeting when a decision needs to be made in the presence of a quorum. Decisions will be by consensus defined as 80% or more of those present supporting an action. A quorum is defined as five or more of the nine listed organizations (not individuals) in attendance. In the case that a consensus cannot be reach, a majority vote will be required to reach a decision. Membership will be notified when a decision item will be on the agenda two weeks prior to the meeting date so that representatives can work to reach an interagency decision when necessary.

### **Roles**

Identify issues of concern and raise awareness to SRSRB, state agencies, federal agencies and others. Recommend solutions to existing, emerging and incipient management and policy decisions (recreational fishery management, hatchery management, non-native fish harvest, etc) and respond to requests for information (Expert Panel, bull trout genetics, preferred alternative for Mill Creek fish passage, etc).

The RTT currently plays a key role in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant process for the Snake Region in determining the threat level for certain projects as well as evaluating and providing technical feedback for project proposals. The RTT may also be asked to provide habitat project design review and evaluation following funding.

If a project addresses an imminent threat, the RTT is asked to determine if the threat is on a local or population scale. An imminent threat is defined in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region Provisional 3-5 Year Work Plan as a fish barrier, unscreened diversion & seasonal dewatering creating significant fish passage limitations.

Population and local scale criteria:

A population-scale effect must meet all of the following criteria:

- The limiting factor addressed by a restoration activity exists at a population scale as defined as a major spawning area (MSA) as identified by the Snake Regional Technical Team in the Recovery Plan (Table 3-4, pg. 98).
- The restoration action must either fix the problem at the population scale, or be an incremental step needed as part of a larger strategy and/or prioritized plan to fix a problem at a population scale.
- All or most fish in the drainage have a significant risk of encountering the problem being addressed by a restoration activity.

Projects that do meet the population-scale criteria above would be local-scale activities.

Population-scale ranking:

Projects that meet population-scale criteria would be categorized on the severity of the problem.

Severity categories:

- high severity - a circumstance that is potentially lethal to all or most fish in the population, or would reduce carrying capacity to an extent that recovery goals/population viability criteria would not likely be met;
- Moderate severity - all or most fish have a significant risk of encountering habitat conditions that are likely to cause injury, or reduced growth or survival of individual fish.
- Low severity - all or most fish have a significant risk of encountering habitat conditions that are likely to cause minor adverse effects that do not significantly reduce growth or survival of individual fish

Process and Timeline for RTT determination on imminent threat and for specific feedback on SRFB proposals:

The RTT will seek to provide technical feedback on SRFB pre-applications (typically at the March RTT meeting), draft applications and at the project tour (typically in May and June), and for final applications (typically in July). To do this, the RTT will meet between the time that draft applications are due and the draft LE Committee scoring meeting.

Additionally, the RTT will seek to provide a population level determination for imminent threat projects at the March and April RTT meetings, or prior to the draft scoring and ranking Lead Entity Committee meeting. To make this determination, RTT voting members will meet as required, depending on the number of imminent threat projects, to reach a decision.

**RTT Membership:**

Member	Representing Agency
Gary James (primary)	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Kris Fischer and Mike Lambert (alternates)	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Bob Reis (Primary)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Diane Driscoll or Jennifer Gatzke (alternates)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Sean Taylor	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Heidi McRoberts (primary)	Nez Perce Tribe
Kathryn Frenyea (alt.)	Nez Perce Tribe
Chris Pinney	United States Army Corp of Engineers
Erin Kuttle	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Dowdy	United States Forest Service
Jeremy Trump (primary)	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mark Grandstaff, Ethan Crawford, Joe Bumgarner, Dave Karl (alternates)	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vacant	Department of Ecology

As of June 2017