

South Fork Palouse River

Advisory Group Meeting

July 12, 2011

Agenda

- Housekeeping
- Implementation Updates
- Review & Discuss Draft Implementation Plan
- Overview of SFPR Bioassessment
- Next Steps
- Adjourn

Review Ground Rules

- Same rules as from 2008/2009
- Added WA Dept of Transportation to the list of interests to be counted toward a quorum
 - Have a stormwater permit that was given actions due to TMDL
- Any other changes?

Bacteria TMDL Timeline

- Study May 2006-May 2007
- Advisory Group formed June 2008
- Last Advisory Group meeting June 2009
- Public Comment Period on Draft TMDL Aug-Sept 2009.
- EPA approval January 2010
- Pending: Complete Implementation Plan

Implementation Updates

- Colfax Pigeon Project
- Pullman Stormwater Monitoring
- WSU Stormwater Monitoring
- Moscow Stormwater Permit
- Palouse Conservation District
- Whitman Health Department
- WA Dept of Transportation
- Others

Review Draft Implementation Plan

- Follows similar format to the TMDL
- Builds off of what we included in the Implementation Strategy
- Most language for actions were developed after consultation with the organization
- What else needs to be included?

Overview of SFPR Bio-Assessment

- Applied to EPA in Fall 2009 to fund bio-assessment to help with temp., DO, pH TMDL.
- Needed to better understand the beneficial uses to apply the standards and develop the TMDL.
- EPA, Ecology, & WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife oversaw objectives, data quality, study design, and results.
- Hired Tetra Tech Inc in Spring 2010 to conduct a literature review and stream survey.
- Conducted stream survey late September 2010.
- Final report April 2011 (on website).

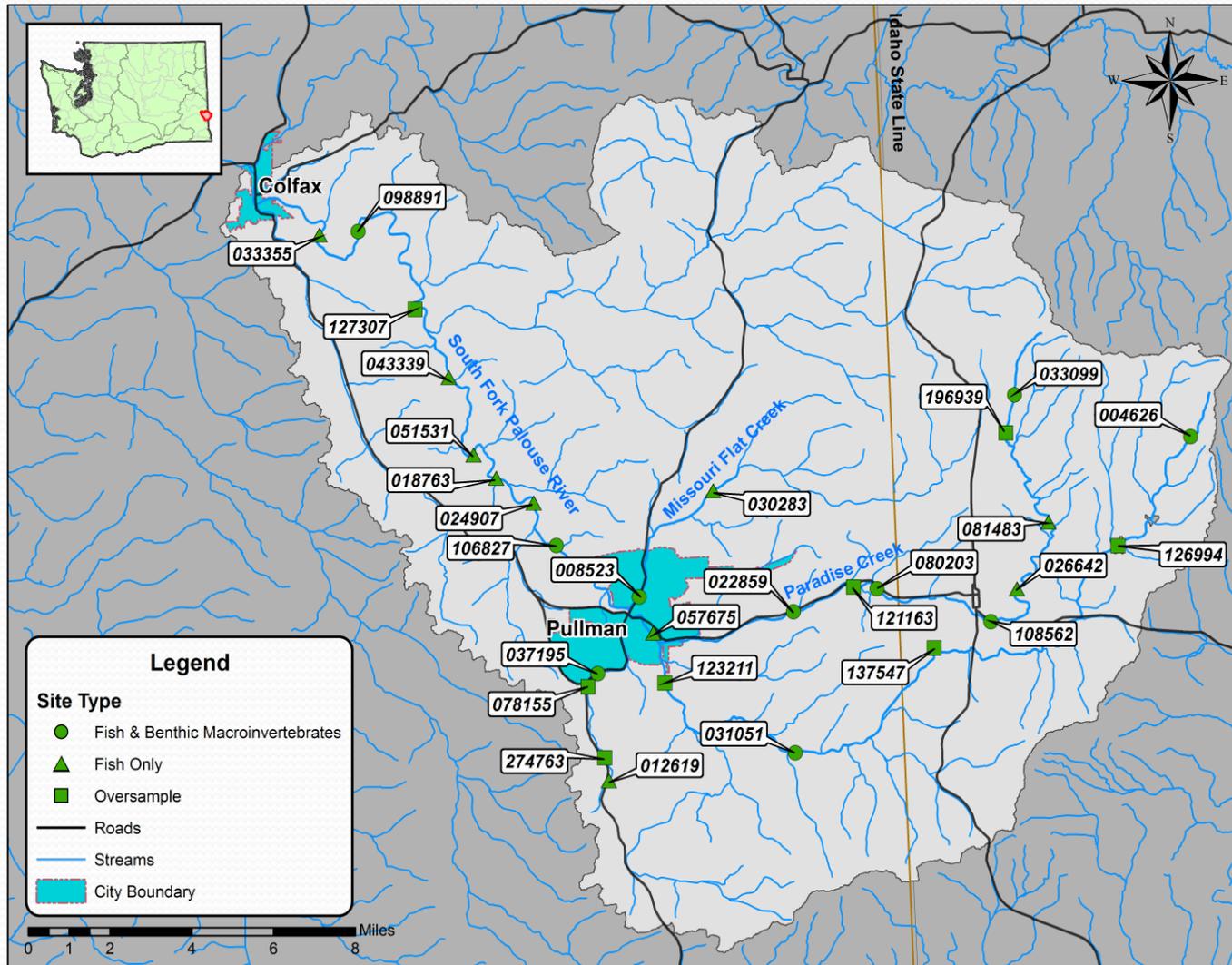
Overview of SFPR Bio-Assessment

- Literature review to find evidence to help us understand historical fish usage.
- Three timeframes: pre-European, 1975 to current, current
- Bio-survey of the streams (fish and macroinvertebrates)
 - SFPR, Paradise, Missouri Flat, Dry Fork creeks
 - 20 sites surveyed for fish (10 surveyed for invertebrates)
 - Electro-backpack shocking
 - Identified and quantified species

Historical findings

- One account of a possible occurrence of cut-throat trout before European settlement.
- Evidence of stocked trout and successful reproduction.
- Primarily native fish are warm water species.

Survey locations



Current findings

	Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Min. Length (mm)	Max. Length (mm)	CPUE Fish/1000 sec
SFPR	Bridgelip Sucker	334	7.9	98	170	17.3
	Chiselmouth	304	7.2	111	155	19.8
	Fathead Minnow	3	0.1	77	77	1.1
	Largescale Sucker	258	6.1	121	176	11.4
	Northern Pikeminnow	263	6.2	94	211	11.0
	Pumpkinseed	1	0.0	92		0.4
	Rainbow Trout	4	0.1	83	182	2.7
	Redside Shiner	1572	37.2	55	126	64.8
	Speckled Dace	1490	35.2	51	81	53.5
	Total/number per site	4229/384.5				
MFC	Bridgelip Sucker	1	1.1	74		0.8
	Largescale Sucker	2	2.1	132	173	1.5
	Northern Pikeminnow	31	33.0	91	216	23.6
	Redside Shiner	21	22.3	58	96	16.0
	Speckled Dace	39	41.5	39	81	16.1
	Total/number per site	94/47.0				
PC	Bridgelip Sucker	121	16.1	79	146	17.0
	Largescale Sucker	24	3.2	99	165	4.5
	Northern Pikeminnow	6	0.8	155	215	1.5
	Redside Shiner	201	26.7	61	113	31.5
	Speckled Dace	400	53.2	45	75	50.0
Total/number per site	752/125.3					
DFC	No fish					

Conclusions

- Primarily a warm water fishery
- Native fish species have been lost due to declining conditions in the watershed
- Flow changes may be a big factor in species decline and changes.
- Based on this study Ecology and EPA feel the salmonid spawning, rearing, & migration use can be removed.
- Difficultly will be determining the highest attainable aquatic life use that should apply to this watershed.

Next Steps

- Complete the Bacteria Implementation Plan
 - Advisory group review, feedback, additions, etc.
 - Additional meetings?
 - Internal review and formatting
 - 30-day public comment period
- Temperature, DO, pH TMDL/Use change
 - Will likely be concurrent process
 - Jim has been working on understanding how current flows compare to historical flows
 - Final model development and calibration