

Priest River Watershed Group  
Steering Committee Meeting  
September 4, 2025  
4:30-6:30pm  
West Bonner Library



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### **Members Present**

Allan Songstad, Stop the Priest Lake Siphon  
Eric Berntsen, Kalispel Tribe  
Eric Johnson, Priest Lake Cabin Association  
Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe  
Erin Plue, Trout Unlimited  
Cathy Gidley Trout Unlimited  
Jennifer Ekstrom, Idaho Conservation League  
Amy Anderson, Selkirk Conservation Alliance\*  
Kyle Maki, Idaho Wildlife Federation\*

### **Members of the Public**

Madeline Mazzio  
Terry Windsberg  
Shelia Kurn  
Barbra Gillespie  
Dave Gillespie  
Dan Brown  
Joel Clark, IDL  
Brandon Glaza, USFS

### **Facilitation Support**

Hannah Anderson, TLG  
Tracy Ortiz, TLG

### **Meeting Goals:**

- Learn from the Kalispel Tribe how the East-River Situation Assessment was conducted and discuss key findings from the study, to inform the PRWG Matrix creation process.
- Collaborate to assign draft weights and rank descriptions to the PRWG Matrix prioritization criteria, to be applied with a focus on the East River.
- Review housekeeping and routine agenda items.

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **PRWG Steering Committee Meeting - Welcome and Overview**

Hannah Anderson, facilitator, began the meeting by welcoming the group. She went over the agenda, set expectations for the meeting and provided an overview of the rules of the room.

### **Watershed Assessment Presentation, Eric B.**

Eric Berntsen, Kalispell Tribe, shared an overview of a watershed assessment he had conducted in the past which used a matrix formula to identify priority projects. This presentation served as background and context for the development and use of a matrix and would help the group understand how projects are ranked.

Eric focused on answering the following questions for the group:

- Why a situation assessment might be conducted.
- How a situation assessment is conducted, and key methods.

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Eric reflected on key findings, including the process, rating and reasoning for conducting a situation assessment. The group was then provided with ample time to discuss and ask questions about the situation assessment to help understand how they might develop their matrix. The group did not have any questions for Erik on the development of the Matrix.

For a full recap of Eric's presentations on the process and development of the Matrix please see meeting notes from July to Now.

### **PRWG Matrix - Collaborative Discussion & Workshop**

Prior to the September meeting the group was sent a survey that asked them to rank and provide feedback on the criteria that they came up with in August. Hannah shared a version of the matrix structure that TLG created based on the discussion from the August meeting and the group reviewed the results of the survey together.

The group reviewed the descriptions of the criteria and the draft ranks assigned to them. As a large group they went over the descriptions of each of the criteria. They fleshed out the general descriptions of each one and agreed that it would be easier to understand ranks if each rank (1, 2, and 3) had a description that correlated to the specific criteria. This would help to determine the appropriate weight for each of the

Erin and Eric agreed that they would work together to create the description of each of the ranks for each individual criteria. They would then present this at the next PRWG meeting and have the group weigh each criteria.

### **Housekeeping**

- Sub-Committee & Task Force Updates
  - Education and Outreach
    - PRWG Pamphlets were passed around for people to look through and share with their networks.
    - Members discussed purchasing a pop-up tent for the group to use at outreach events
- October Meeting Planning
  - The draft rank descriptions will be reviewed.

### **Adjourn**

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