

Priest River Watershed Group  
Steering Committee Meeting  
December 4th, 2025  
4:30-6:30pm

Sandpoint Library, Community Room A  
1407 Cedar Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864



Virtually: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3359824895?pwd=K7SMk4yH2OgliOvjm43NbA8VwWjgbi.1>

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### **Members' Present**

Amy Anderson, Selkirk Conservation Alliance\*  
Allan Songstad, Stop the Priest Lake Siphon\*  
Cathy Gidley, Trout Unlimited, Proxy  
Erin Plue, Trout Unlimited  
Eric Berntsen, Kalispel Tribe, Proxy  
Jennifer Ekstrom, Idaho Conservation League\*  
Jon Quinn-Hurst, Selkirk Conservation Alliance,  
Proxy

Kyle Maki, Idaho Wildlife Federation\*  
Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe  
Sean Stash, Boating Access on Priest River

### **Facilitators**

Hannah Anderson, Lead Facilitator  
Tracy Ortiz, Facilitation Support

*\* Indicate online attendance.*

### **Goals:**

- Collaborate to assign draft weights and rank descriptions to the PRWG Matrix, to be applied with a focus on the East River.
- Use the completed matrix to evaluate and rank a proposed project.
- Review housekeeping and routine agenda items.

## **Meeting Minutes**

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

Hannah welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda and the goals for the meeting.

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

Hannah reviewed the optimistic timeline for creation of the matrix, explaining that the goal is to be able to complete the matrix by January in order to identify projects that could be included in the 2026 PRWG Work Plan. She provided a recap of the work completed during the November Meeting and the items left to be completed. Each member received a copy of the draft matrix with the November work incorporated, and the remaining comments left by steering committee members.

The group reviewed the prioritization categorization starting where they left off during the November meeting, at "Aquatic Species to Benefit".

Through thorough discussion the group was able to finalize the remaining prioritization criteria and rankings. With this portion complete, the group ran an example project (provided by Eric Bernsten) through the matrix as a trial run. The goal of the trial run was to understand how each criteria would be discussed when considering a real-life project, and to identify any areas that needed to be refined or clarified.

*PRWG Steering Committee meetings are open for public observation. To ensure efficiency of agenda items, discussion will be reserved for PRWG steering committee members with priority.*

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**Example Project: RO-9 - Riparian Fencing**

*The 2008 Addendum to the Priest River TMDL specially lists approximately 3,000 feet of fencing being needed in the East River to prevent bank erosion from cattle. The reasoning for this is to reduce sediment inputs into the river. The land on which this fencing is proposed is private land. It is very likely that this fencing, and thus project, has already been done, given the time that has elapsed since it was proposed. A simple site visit would verify whether it has been completed or not. This project would be a relatively simple project to complete and likely at a much lower cost than others on the list.*

Satisfied with how the prioritization criteria performed during the trial run, the group added a weighted category and collaborated to assign a weight to each of the prioritization criteria.

A copy of the updated draft-matrix can be found attached to the meeting minutes.

**Housekeeping**

Because of time constraints housekeeping items were pushed to the January 2026 meeting. The group briefly discussed the goal for the next meeting, noting that technical experts should be invited to help refine the matrix further.

**Adjourn**