

**Draft Agenda**  
**Lake Ozette Steering Committee Meeting**  
 February 2, 2012, 10:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Location: Sekiu Community Center

**Meeting Purpose:** To discuss Near Term Projects, Steering Committee public involvement activities, predation, project funding sources, and next steps for Steering Committee.

Time	Item	Materials
10:00 a.m.	<b>Optional “Meet &amp; Greet” with snacks (for those who can arrive early)</b>	
10:15 a.m.	<b>Welcome/Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review agenda and materials</li> <li>• Review Oct 26 meeting summary—any changes?</li> </ul>	-Draft agenda -October 26, 2011 draft meeting summary
10:30 a.m.	<b>Review &amp; Updates on Near-Term Priority List</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DIDSON update               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Field testing—Mike Haggerty</li> <li>○ Funding next steps</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Project leads give updates—<i>round-robin of what folks working on, ideas/plans/opportunities</i></li> <li>• Fill in gaps on Near-Term Priority List</li> <li>• Long-term goals</li> </ul>	-Near-Term Priority List
12:00 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:30 p.m.	<b>Presentation on Predation from Rosemary Furfey and Jonathan Scordino (Makah river otter predation researcher)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation</li> <li>• Q and A</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul>	
1:30 p.m.	<b>Public Outreach Subcommittee Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conference call recap               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scenic Highway funding overview</li> <li>○ Preserve America oral history grant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Action items &amp; next steps</li> </ul>	-Subcommittee conference call summary -Draft brochure (2 versions)
2:15 p.m.	<b>Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications submitted? New sources? Other updates?</li> <li>• Form funding subcommittee? Who will participate?</li> <li>• NOAA funding request to support beach spawner research + facilitation of Lake Ozette Steering Committee</li> </ul>	
3:00 p.m.	<b>Committee Updates and Next Steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Announcements               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5-year status review summary</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summary of action items</li> <li>• Next meeting dates (late March/April and June/July) &amp; agenda topics</li> </ul>	
3:15 p.m.	<b>Adjourn</b>	

**Meeting Summary**  
**Lake Ozette Steering Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, February 2, 2012  
10:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.  
Sekiu Community Hall

**Meeting Decisions List:**

- Pending noted revisions, the Steering Committee approved the October 26, 2011 meeting summary by consensus.
- Triangle will put new projects proposed for the Near-Term Priority List in a separate section titled “Other Proposed Projects”, which must be approved by the Lake Ozette Steering Committee before getting added to the Near-Term Priority List.
- The Steering Committee decided by consensus to add Makah’s Big River bridge project to the Near-Term Priority List.

**Meeting Purposes:**

- Receive updates on the status of Near-Term Projects
- Discuss Steering Committee public outreach activities
- Learn about predation in Lake Ozette basin
- Discuss funding sources for projects
- Discuss updates and next steps for the Steering Committee

**Introductions, Agenda Review, and Meeting Summary Review**

The meeting Facilitator, Chris Page from Triangle Associates, welcomed the Lake Ozette Steering Committee (LOSC or “The Committee”) and LOSC members introduced themselves (*see Attachment 1 for a list of attendees*). The Facilitator reviewed the meeting agenda, and there were no requested changes. The Committee then reviewed the October 26 meeting summary and requested several revisions. Pending the noted modifications, the Steering Committee approved the summary by consensus.

The Facilitator mentioned getting a phone call from someone that saw an advertisement for the meeting in the newspaper. This individual shared his knowledge about Cook Inlet in Alaska—when salmon runs were in danger, commercial fishing was banned three miles from the mouth of the inlet until salmon numbers improved. One Steering Committee member noted that as we continue to increase public outreach, we will likely receive more comments like this. There was a request to evaluate if our current method of dealing with public input is effective. This topic was tabled until the next meeting.

**Near-Term Priority List**

The Near-Term Priority List has been updated since the October 26 meeting, and the Facilitator reviewed what changes have been made. Changes included: (1) a table of funding sources was added; (2) the DIDSON project was moved to the top of the project list (as it is a project we’re actively working on/pursuing funding for); (3) a new column for long-term goals was added; and (4) additional funding sources and long-term goals were added to the DIDSON project based on input from the October meeting.

One Committee member expressed concern that two new projects were added to the list since the last meeting without Steering Committee consensus. It was noted that a protocol should be established for how to deal with new projects proposed for the Near-Term list. The Steering Committee agreed by consensus that Triangle will put new proposed projects in a separate section titled “Other Proposed Projects”, which must be approved by the Lake Ozette Steering Committee before getting added to the Near-Term Priority List.

A NMFS representative reviewed the purpose of the Near-Term Priority List for a new meeting participant. It was also noted that having a concentrated list of priority projects looks more attractive to funders. One attendee suggested writing support letters to help projects get funding; in response, it was noted that the Steering Committee does not have the authority to write letters. However, members can write support letters as a member of an organization, tribe, agency, etc. for projects the Committee supports, which Steering Committee members could sign. It was also suggested that we develop endorsement letters to have on the back burner that are ready to send, since quarterly meetings do not allow prompt consideration and potential agreement on Committee endorsement or support of specific funding proposals.

Project leads took turns providing updates on their projects. Refer to Near-Term Priority List for additional information on priority projects.

#### Dual Frequency Identification Sonar (DIDSON)

Mike Haggerty gave a presentation on the preliminary results of field testing. A PDF of the presentation can be found at: [http://mhaggertyconsulting.com/uploads/LOSSC\\_DIDSON\\_Presentation\\_Feb\\_2012\\_V2.pdf](http://mhaggertyconsulting.com/uploads/LOSSC_DIDSON_Presentation_Feb_2012_V2.pdf) and videos in the presentation can be found at: [http://mhaggertyconsulting.com/Lake\\_Ozette\\_Sockeye.php](http://mhaggertyconsulting.com/Lake_Ozette_Sockeye.php).

Two survey methods were used to count sockeye salmon numbers—the station method, which counted numbers from an anchored boat, and the slow pass method, which counts numbers while slowly driving the boat parallel to the spawning beach. The quality of the slow moving study was much better than the stationary study. 190 live sockeye were found in 3 high density concentrations. Several fish spawned above the brush line, which is undetectable by the DIDSON. The data was collected over a one-day period.

Committee members asked many questions about the study and DIDSON technology. The maximum range of visibility with a DIDSON is 80 meters. There was concern that the DIDSON would pick up information on other varieties of fish, but it was noted that one can measure the rate of tail movement, the length of fish, etc. to distinguish among fish. To prevent counting the same fish twice, DIDSON operators only calculated fish moving from right to left; if a fish doubles back, it is not counted twice. There was question as to why shadows are not directly behind the fish; it was noted that this is due to the slope of the beaches and other angles. One Steering Committee member asked if methods of counting fish (scuba, foot, snorkel, DIDSON, etc.) get mixed when an entity is tracking trends; it was noted that if one is comparing numbers across several years, one should look at the same method, but there is no standard protocol. In response to a question, it was noted that fish can be at risk if spawning close enough to water level and the water level goes down. Salmon, especially Coho salmon, will often go above brush level to avoid predation.

A Committee member asked if we should consider looking for fish in regions of the lake not included in this study. A Makah representative and other Committee members indicated the regions included are where the fish have always been found. It was noted that methods and protocols could be developed to train citizen scientists to do field work, though concern was expressed about the quality of data collected by citizens.

The Committee discussed how the DIDSON would be applied to Lake Ozette. The primary use would be to count fish at the weir, but it could be used later on beaches. Though the instrument is expensive, a DIDSON would reduce long-term costs, as it will require fewer hours of reviewing data. It was recommended that a slightly different, shorter-range model than that used in the study be purchased for Lake Ozette.

Though even with the DIDSON it is impossible to get an exact count of fish, the DIDSON will show trends in sockeye numbers, which is what's important. Accuracy is different than consistency. A protocol can be established so that we are consistent from year to year, but we will not be accurate in terms of actual numbers. The DIDSON subcommittee agreed to follow up on this if further clarification is necessary.

Road 5800 (aka Crooked Creek): A preliminary funding application has been submitted through Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board for the bridge on Road 5800. Project leads are also planning to submit a proposal for ~\$260,000 of North Pacific Coast Lead Entity SRF Funding for Crooked Creek.

Cooperative Monitoring & Evaluation Research (CMER)<sup>1</sup> “Type N Soft Rock Study”: Four locations have been identified for potential study sites. The goal is to monitor sites for several years and monitor change. Next step is to look for how much stream is perennial to determine where spawning habitat ends.

Road Maintenance & Abandonment Plans (RMAP): Project leads reviewed a handout titled “Green Crow RMAP Activities 4Q 2011.” Green Crow is trying to minimize road use in winter. There is potential to apply for extension of the RMAP time, so they’re looking at this.

Dunham Creek: This project is likely a couple of years down the road. The Steering Committee briefly discussed dropping the project off the Near-Term Priority List, but no decisions were made.

National Parks Service (NPS) Projects listed under Habitat Recovery Actions (HRA)-21:

The facilitator suggested consolidating the bullets under “Project Title” on the Near-Term Priority List with the title “Olympic National Park Lake Outlet Redesign.” The Project Lead announced that the Park still plans to remove the house at the lake outlet. Olympic National Park (ONP) received a letter from the Friends of Lake Ozette requesting that, as ONP plans to remove the cabin, it provide an opportunity to discuss the lake outlet in a broader way. The project lead thought this project is planned for this summer, but was not sure.

Research, Monitoring & Evaluation (RME)-5: There was no report on projects to monitor and evaluate predator-prey interactions in Lake Ozette and the Ozette River; it is still something ONP is considering. A Committee member noted that the U.S. Congress are naïve on the predation issue in the North Coast. Another Committee member said a lot of information is going to Congress; it was suggested the Committee consider other ways to raise awareness within Congress

Public Education Action (PEA)-6: For information on public education and outreach projects, see below.

RME-18: The project lead submitted this project to the Park-Oriented Biological Support (POBS) program. One other project submitted a proposal, which would investigate mercury levels in high elevations of the Park. The program decided to pursue the other project given the human health factor and will look into this project next year. (It’s a 1-year review, so we would not see the money until 2014 if we are successful.)

Road relocation: There are no new updates on this project. At the October meeting, there was consensus to leave this project on the list regardless of whether or not action is being taken on it.

HRA-20: A Makah representative provided background on the new Big River project. When the bridge at Big River was removed, the bridge abutment was not removed because the state Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was worried about high levels of sediment that could result from removal. Now flow is restricted. This project proposes removing the abutment fill and restoring the floodplain, including re-vegetation. The project will cost approximately \$75,000, and Makah plans to apply for SRF Board funds with Merrill & Ring. The project is on the NPCLE list to recommend for SRF funding. The Steering Committee discussed adding this project to the priority list; there were no objections. The Committee therefore decided by consensus to add the Big River bridge project to the Near-Term Priority List.

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<sup>1</sup> “a monitoring, evaluation, and research program established by the Forest Practices Board to ensure effective implementation of the recommendations contained in the Forests and Fish Report”

### **River Otter Predation Presentation**

Jonathan Scordino, Makah Fisheries Marine Mammal Program, gave a presentation on the study of river otter food habits in Lake Ozette and the Ozette River, funded by the North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee. The study, an analysis of data collected from 1998-2003, used visual and genetic identification to identify the prey of river otters in both Lake Ozette and the Ozette River. *[NOTE: while the following information was not available at the time of this meeting, after additional data analysis, the study concluded that river otters have high prevalence of adult sockeye in their diet, especially when river flow is low.]*

The full impact of otters cannot be determined because there are no population estimates of otters living and feeding in the Lake Ozette watershed and no samples were collected after August within the lake. Future otter research is needed on 1) food habits within the lake post-August, 2) the number of otters in the Lake Ozette watershed, and 3) if mitigation efforts could reduce otter predation on adult sockeye. Research is also needed on harbor seal use of the watershed. One tool to test is the ability to track the use of the watershed by individuals using photo-identification of identifying patterns in seal spots.

Since Ozette landowners have objected to data collection in the past because of trespassing, it is important to request land owner permission. ONP is interested in restoring sockeye and addressing limiting factors such as predation, National Parks Service policies prevent any actions that might harm species considered endangered as the river otter is (under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). There was a request for Jonathan to give this presentation to ONP employees.

A National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) representative then discussed the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). This information was requested by the Committee to provide background on marine mammal protection, NMFS' role with the MMPA, and possible options to address potential marine mammal predation of sockeye. The MMPA was enacted in 1972. Amendments enacted in 1994 authorized studies to look at marine mammals that threaten species of salmon. Earlier studies began to document the impacts mammals are having on salmon throughout the West Coast. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manages pinnipeds (sea lions and seals), while the US Fish and Wildlife Service manages walruses, manatees, sea otters, and polar bears.

The Steering Committee then discussed appropriate next steps since data has not been collected since 2003 and NMFS is not aware of new research funds. It was suggested that citizen science volunteers be trained to collect information (date, time, photos, identification, etc.) on the impact mammals have on salmon. Citizen science can be a great resource if citizens are well trained. One Committee member was strongly in favor of citizen science. Others expressed concerns about data quality and staff efforts for sufficient training and supervision. One Committee member was concerned about the privacy of landowners and opening research to the public; another felt citizen science is possible if landowners are properly notified. Another individual expressed that the MMPA is a barrier and that people should not collect data just to have more data.

The Steering Committee discussed that it needs to figure out which predators it wants to prioritize in studying survival because there will be a lot of regulatory hoops. One hypothesis is that predation has increased due to lack of structure in the Ozette River and past removal of woody debris. A potential goal would be to increase structure, but this would require a Park permit, would be controversial among property owners since it might raise lake levels. While there was desire to see definitive action on the issue, the topic of predation research was tabled until the next meeting due to time restraints.

### **Public Outreach Subcommittee Update**

A representative from the Public Outreach Subcommittee summarized the outcomes of the January 19, 2012 conference call. Discussion topics included:

Brochure(s): NMFS Communications staff has identified two distinct audiences for the brochure, so they are producing two brochures: one for the general public/visitors and one for local citizens. NMFS was hoping to

have mockups of both brochures for this meeting, but its staff works on all NMFS issues, so this was not possible. Once a mockup is available, NMFS will email it to the Steering Committee.

Articles for Publication (West End Natural Resource News, January 2012 and the Bugler, April 2012):

An article has been submitted to the West End Natural Resource News. This will serve as a template for the Bugler article. It will hopefully be posted on websites of Tribes, WCSSP, etc. One Committee member mentioned a display being created for the North Pacific Library to house brochures of current projects. It was suggested that the title of the display be changed from “Who Cares?” to “Natural Resources” or a similar title, as “Who Cares?” implies that we do not care. Another Committee member strongly requested that numbers on what is improving in Lake Ozette be added to the West End Natural Resource News article and future articles; it is important to show the beneficial impact of the Committee’s actions.

Oral Histories Project: A NMFS representative discussed a funding request under the NOAA “Preserve America” grant, to inspire and empower youth to learn about their home, become involved, and have a voice. If awarded the \$12,000 grant, local high school students can conduct oral histories by interviewing community elders about Lake Ozette sockeye. We can provide kids with the resources (video cameras, tools, etc.) to go talk to elders and start a conversation. NMFS is partnering with the Marine Sanctuary, the Northwest Pacific Science Center, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. NMFS will hear if it won the grant at the end of February or beginning of March and will inform the Steering Committee. NMFS is also working on a needs assessment to help determine what environmental education is available in the Lake Ozette region.

One Committee member suggested bringing students to Umbrella Creek when the salmon are spawning and including experts at the meeting to demonstrate that “science does not come from a kit.” It was also noted that Nature Bridge has funding and is looking for specific projects that involve kids in citizen science projects and enable kids to participate in field work. Even though Nature Bridge often includes kids from other regions, one Committee member thought it would be possible to fund kids from the Lake Ozette region.

Kiosk in Olympic National Park: A subcommittee member described the kiosk as a “long-term project.” The Scenic Highways project has funding, so the subcommittee is exploring if the kiosk qualifies for a grant. One committee member suggested putting a link to the WCSSP Lake Ozette sockeye site on the Scenic Highways website. The subcommittee is also exploring including signage on sockeye in the kiosk being developed for Hoko River State Park. It was also suggested that the subcommittee consider funds through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

An ONP representative reported that the Park is developing “hot point sites” where visitors can access virtual interpretive information on their smart phone (as long as they have cell phone coverage). It was suggested that the Subcommittee explore having “hot point sites” in the Park, Sekiu, and/or other locations that link to information on Lake Ozette sockeye. Documents could be posted using Google docs or Wikilinks.

**Funding Updates**

The facilitator briefly suggested the Steering Committee consider a Funding Workgroup to organize opportunities, track deadlines, and coordinate support for proposals. Steering Committee members would bring funding ideas to the Workgroup, whose members would track and follow up on opportunities. This idea will be discussed further at the next Lake Ozette Steering Committee meeting in April.

**Steering Committee Updates and Next Steps**

The Steering Committee briefly discussed scheduling for its next meeting and agreed to meet in late March or in April. There will be a field trip tied to a Steering Committee meeting in June/July. There was a request to establish a consistent day of the week and time of month for future Steering Committee meetings.

There are funds for at least four more facilitated meetings, with a request submitted to fund facilitation of an additional two meetings.

Requested future meeting topics include:

- 1) Presentation that provides an update on status of sockeye population.
  - How do population counts vary between various methods (snorkeling, DIDSON, etc.)?
  - Compare population counts from various locations (weir, tributaries, beaches, etc.)
- 2) Next steps on proposed Funding Workgroup
- 3) Update on knotweed from Cathy Lucero. What are the next steps to maintain current trends?

### Attachment 1: Meeting Participants

	Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
1.	Adrienne Akmajian	Makah Fisheries Marine Mammal Program	360-640-0569	<a href="mailto:makahstrandingnetwork@hotmail.com">makahstrandingnetwork@hotmail.com</a>
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4.	Ed Bowen	Ozette Citizen		<a href="mailto:rockypt@olypen.com">rockypt@olypen.com</a>
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