

Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



November 15, 2019

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board
Attn: Matthew Curtis, Program Manager
Matthew.Curtis@dfw.wa.gov

Dear Matthew Curtis,

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) values the partnership of the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board's (FBRB) and is **requesting to change the Upper Columbia (UC) River designated priority watershed for the FBRB's 2021-23 request for proposals, and to request a one-month extension to Feb. 14, 2020 for the deadline to submit proposals within the updated Priority Watershed.**

As UCSRB staff communicated at the March 19, 2019 FBRB meeting, the UC region planned to re-evaluate its designated priority watershed in preparation for this coming biennium RFP because the eligible barriers in the Omak Creek watershed, the region's previous designated priority watershed, have been addressed with the generous support of the FBRB. The UCSRB expected to receive notification from the FBRB as to when new designations were due this calendar year. Unfortunately, it appears that the RFP was distributed with Omak Creek watershed still listed as the designated priority watershed in the UC. The UCSRB is actively following the FBRB RFP, page 1 "Note: ... to change their designated priority watersheds, they must work with their WDFW fish passage biologists to get FBRB approval."

On Nov. 8th the UC Regional Technical Team (UCRTT) workgroup met to evaluate potential watersheds in context of the FBRB criteria, the number of potential projects, species benefiting, etc. The UCRTT workgroup reviewed data throughout the region and identified three potential watersheds that meet the FBRB criteria. The workgroup is now soliciting input from the regional Watershed Action and Implementation Teams on these three:

- Wenatchee River HUC10 (Eagle, Chumstick, Derby, and Beaver Creeks),
- Peshastin HUC10 (Camas Creek)
- Lynch Coulee-Columbia River HUC10 - Colockum Creek

After reviewing information on these watersheds and input received, the full UCRTT will recommend a final designated priority watershed at its Dec. 11, 2019 meeting, and the UCSRB Directors will approve the final watershed on Dec. 12, 2019. The UCSRB will submit the new designated priority watershed to

the FBRB for review and approval at its Dec. 17, 2019 meeting. Once approved, UCSRB staff will work with Watershed Action Teams (WATs) and project sponsors to identify projects and develop proposals for the current RFP.

The Upper Columbia is implementing a very ambitious process to designate a new Priority Watershed on this shortened timeline AND work with sponsors to submit proposals before the deadline. **A one-month extension, to Feb. 14, 2020, would allow for adequate landowner outreach and project development in the selected watershed.**

As a small side note, the online link to Manual 22 Appendix A has been broken for close to two weeks and I have emailed RCO staff to obtain a copy of said manual and received no reply. It is important that the manual that guides an RFP process be readily available to project sponsors who will develop proposals.

Please feel free to contact me at 509-888-0321 if I can provide any more information in support of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Kreimes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name.

Melody Kreimes
Executive Director