Habitat Committee Meeting Notes

12-6-2023

* Discuss mission statement and guidance for group
* Potential Range of overall Goals (Art and Anthony)
  + Fish/wildlife population
    - Mainstem- reduce fine sediment input by helping roads/trails and recreation committees, increase overwinter habitat quality/quantity with riparian plantings and investigating feasibility of side channel creation.
    - Tributaries- increase base flows, decrease fine sediment input, lower temperatures with beaver dam analogs (BDAs), riparian planting and invasive species management
  + Water Quality
    - Sediment management- BDAs, riparian planning and invasive species management along with assisting other committees on their projects
    - Investigate potential water quality issues in river/reservoir transition as Arrowrock water level changes. Important migration zone.
  + Water Temperature- riparian planting and BDAs
  + Water Quantity- BDAs can increase summer base flows
* BDAs
  + Potential educational presentation at next quarterly meeting
    - Water rights and permitting
    - Suitability criteria/models
    - Feasibility in roadless areas
    - Alternatives if habitat is not suitable for beaver expansion
    - Potential options for compensation to farmers if potential failed dams impact land/infrastructure
* Mainstem Side Channels and other habitat improvements
  + Potential quarterly meeting presentation from Green River staff conducting work in a similar below dam tailwater
  + Potential mapping/visualization of which side channels are connected at winter 300cfs flows
* Float and get flow measurements at all “large” tribs during high and low flow periods in 2024 to help prioritize future project locations
* Investigate water rights and permitting for short term hand watering or solar pumps after riparian planting
* A model exists to identify most successful planting locations on mainstem river but may need post fire update. Investigate best practices for tributary planting and associated watering needs.
* Reach out to Idaho Department of Agriculture for invasive species management ideas
  + Does any of the remote sensing allow vegetation ID? Cheat Grass mapping/management options?