

Phase 1 Implementation

Priorities Data Gap Studies and Physical Works



How We Got Here: Data Gaps

- TWG recommended all “High” priority data gaps be addressed through studies in Phase 1



How We Got Here: Data Gaps

- TWG recommended all “High” priority data gaps be addressed through studies in Phase 1
- Main Table reviewed (meeting 32.5) to ID missing data gaps

Issue information			Study description(s)	Relative Cost \$ < \$50k \$\$ = \$50k-\$250k \$\$\$ > \$250k	Priority Level (Low, Moderate, High)	
#	Name	Basin			Ecological Baseline	PM
5	River Reed Canary Grass - Fish stranding	Nechako River	Field assessment to determine Reed Canary Grass distribution during growing season.	\$	High	
			Fish stranding assessment / experiment.	\$\$	High	
6	River fish side channel habitat	Nechako River	HEC-RAS DEM to determine side channel depth over range of Nechako River flows.	\$		High
			Field assessment of wetted area.	\$	High	High
			Habitat function flow relationship for side channels.	\$\$ - \$\$\$	High	High
7	River functional riparian habitat	Nechako River	HEC-RAS DEM to determine timing and duration of riparian habitat inundation over range of Nechako River flows.	\$		High

How We Got Here: Data Gaps

- TWG recommended all “High” priority data gaps be addressed through studies in Phase 1
- Main Table reviewed (meeting 32.5) to ID missing data gaps
- Resulted in **37** studies

Issue information			Study description(s)	Relative Cost \$ < \$50k \$\$ = \$50k-\$250k \$\$\$ > \$250k	Priority Level (Low, Moderate, High)	
#	Name	Basin			Ecological Baseline	PM
5	River Reed Canary Grass - Fish stranding	Nechako River	Field assessment to determine Reed Canary Grass distribution during growing season.	\$	High	
			Fish stranding assessment / experiment.	\$\$	High	
6	River fish side channel habitat	Nechako River	HEC-RAS DEM to determine side channel depth over range of Nechako River flows.	\$		High
			Field assessment of wetted area.	\$	High	High
			Habitat function flow relationship for side channels.	\$\$ - \$\$\$	High	High
7	River functional riparian habitat	Nechako River	HEC-RAS DEM to determine timing and duration of riparian habitat inundation over range of Nechako River flows.	\$		High

Data Gap Study Prioritization

- **37 studies recommended to:**
 - Address key uncertainties associated with new Flow Alternative 6A
 - Characterize potential effects (impacts and benefits)
 - Inform future water management decisions and make difficult trade-offs that improve the health of the Nechako system

Data Gap Study Prioritization

- **37 studies recommended to:**
 - Address key uncertainties associated with new Flow Alternative 6A
 - Characterize potential effects (impacts and benefits)
 - Inform future water management decisions and make difficult trade-offs that improve the health of the Nechako system
- Without confidence in PMs, unlikely we will reach agreement on flow changes with uncertain benefits and significant impacts!

Data Gap Study Prioritization

- **37 studies recommended to:**
 - Address key uncertainties associated with new Flow Alternative 6A
 - Characterize potential effects (impacts and benefits)
 - Inform future water management decisions and make difficult trade-offs that improve the health of the Nechako system
- Without confidence in PMs, unlikely we will reach agreement on flow changes with uncertain benefits and significant impacts!

How do we prioritize next steps?

How We Got Here: Physical Works

- TWG recommended **9** physical works projects
- Brought to Main Table (meeting 32.5) for comment



How We Got Here: Physical Works

- TWG recommended 9 physical works projects
- Brought to Main Table (meeting 32.5) for comment

All physical works retained

PM Theme(s)	Proposed Works #	Proposed Actions
Ungulates	1	Large woody debris (LWD) removal on calving islands
Ungulates	2	Dredge land bridges between known caribou calving islands
Osprey	3a	At risk nest relocation
Osprey	3b	Removal of at risk nesting sites (i.e., tree removal)
Cheslatta fish, River fish, Salmon	6a	In-stream woody debris structures
River fish, Salmon	8a	Scarification channels
River fish, Salmon	8b	Woody debris/fish habitat complexing
River fish, Salmon	8c	Excavate side channel inlets
Flooding (surface, groundwater, ice jam, backwatering)	9	DOV planned dyke

Prioritization Process

- Several proposed studies redundant (i.e., recommended separately for multiple issues)
 - **Consolidated by study, bringing total unique study count to 19**



Prioritization Process

- Several proposed studies redundant (i.e., recommended separately for multiple issues)
 - **Consolidated by study, bringing total unique study count to 19**

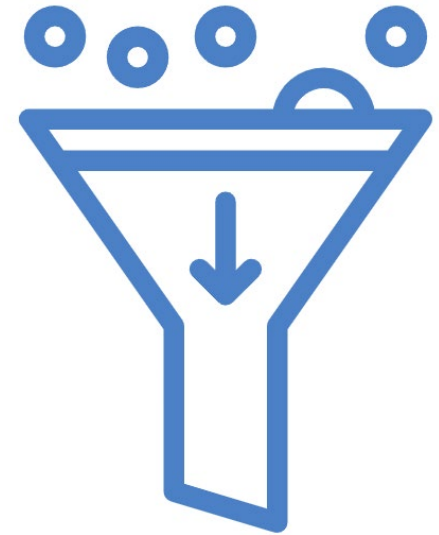
- Exploring shared opportunities
 - **Reached out to other organizations to ID study / objective overlap** (e.g., select TWG members, MOE, NFN, UNBC, etc.)



Prioritization Process

Initial prioritization considering factors including:

1. Addresses “key” Main Table concern (i.e., Pacific Salmon, White Sturgeon, Temperature, Cheslatta Archaeological Sites)
2. Requires “low water year”
3. Addresses multiple Main Table concerns



Questions and Thoughts

