



## Jesse Steele - Accountability Report

April - May 2020

### **Reporting Guidelines (questions to consider as you prepare your report)**

*Describe what you did, when and how you are supporting your partners? What was the end product? How did you share the product with local and external basin partners? How would those partners describe the value and their satisfaction of the services provided? Please list specific examples as outlined below.*

The Executive Director supervises and directs all activities of the GRMWP staff including accomplishment of all of the work elements delegated to various staff. The Director accomplishes Work Element "Regional Coordination" which includes coordination, committee participation, task force participation, recovery planning and other participation. Agencies, groups and processes the Director is involved in include the OWEB Rules Advisory Committee, OWEB Outreach Program Committee, Title II Resource Advisory Committee, the Oregon Governor's office, regulatory agencies, NPCC and NPCC staff.

**Narrative Summary:** ( Describe how GRMW as an organization is meeting its contractual milestones & deliverables including watershed coordination, Atlas development, project review & selection, etc in collaboration with Basin Partners and BPA)

GRMW coordination efforts for this time period largely focused on preparing for the 2020 Fall Proposal Solicitation, preparing RFPs and contracts for Wallowa River McDaniel 3 and UGR Bowman Offsite Water Project, contracting with several entities under the Technical Assessments and Planning contract #79905 REL 7 and completing habitat stream surveys on Spring Creek (UGR12) and Catherine Creek from Pyles Creek to the forks. GRMW also assisted with stage loggers installation on the CC Hall Ranch project. GRMW expects the following proposals this fall: 1) Middle Fly Creek Restoration (USFS) 2) UGR Headwaters Hand Crew Projects (USFS) 3) UGR Longley Meadows Planting (USFS) 4) UGR Bowman Restoration (ODFW) 5) Elmer Dam Fish Passage Design 30-100% (USWCD/TU) 6) CC Kinsley Campground Correction (USWCD) 7) Little Creek Diversion 5 & 6 Passage Design (USWCD) 8) Green Valley Ranch Fish Passage Design (ODFW) 9.) Lostine River Wolfe Weltand Restoration (NPT) Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions we plan to conduct site visits and review remotely. The Upper Grande Ronde Initiative FIP will be ending June 30, 2021. The partnership is not prepared to apply for another FIP currently and OWEB does not intend to open for another round of applications until they recover financially from the COVID-19 shutdown. I believe the partnership should be prepared to submit another FIP applicaitons as soon as it opens with the focus geography being the Grande Ronde Valley and addressing mortality.

**Challenges/Risks:** (Identify any major challenges/risks, how you are addressing them and if you need BPA assistance)

Remote Site Visits and meetings continue to be both a challenge and a risk to the partnerships. Although attendance at coordination meetings continues to be high,

participation in the meetings is very low. Tim Bailey retired as of September 30 from the ODFW District Fish Biologist position. This poses a risk to the technical review of projects. Tim's experience was very valuable on the Implementation Team and will be hard to replace. OWEB FIP is set to expire on June 30, 2021. The partnership is currently exploring additional projects that may help spend out the remaining biennium 3 dollars. We plan to have USFS submit the UGR Longley Planting request for OWEB funds.

**Lessons Learned:** (Describe organizational successes and/or opportunities for improving GRMW performance including support of your partners)

USFS project planning continues to be challenging. One major challenge is that it takes a couple years to complete the environmental compliance process and often times by the time a project proposal is submitted to the IT for review it has had little input from the partners and there is not a lot of flexibility to change the project at that time because NEPA has already been completed for a set of actions. It would help if the USFS staff could better coordinate with the IT prior to completing NEPA.

**List Monthly Training & Travel:**

N/A



## **Staff - Accountability Report**

**April - May 2020**

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## **Staff**