Copper River Watershed Habitat Enhancement Project

Kick-off Planning Meeting Notes

October 2, 2018 9:30-10:30am

Purpose of meeting: Kick off multi-agency partnership effort to restore fish passage at 13 sites on the Copper River Delta. Specific goals were to:

- Clarify roles of partners
- Review overall project timeline
- Identify strategies for facilitating partner communication and information sharing
- Discuss process and next steps for design of Cop 43, 44 and 45

Attended By:

Dan Adamczak, ADOT&PF
Luke Boles, ADOT&PF
Katrina Lemeiux
Jeff Stutzke, ADOT&PF

Gillian O'Doherty, ADF&G
Megan Marie, ADF&G

Tanya Bratslavsky, BCE
Egor Esipov, BCE

George Uligan, BCE

Chantel Adelfio, CRWP
Kristin Carpenter, CRWP
Kirsti Jurica, CRWP
Kate Morse, CRWP

Bill Spencer, HDR
Kyle Walker, HDR

Erika Ammann, NOAA

Theresa Tanner, USFS

Franklin Dekker, USFWS
Trent Liebich, USFWS
Heather Hanson, USFWS

"To-do list":

√ create listserv (CRWP)
√ create website for file sharing (CRWP)
√ get ADOT funding transfer mechanism in place (USFWS, ADOT, CRWP)
√ Site visit October 10, 9am at Cop 43, 44, 45

Meeting notes (compiled by CRWP and BCE, submit changes to kate@copperriver.org or chantel@copperriver.org)

I. Welcome/Introductions

II. Review roles of project partners
   a. Discussion notes: (*See updated document: DRAFTtasklists20181008.xlsx*)
      - Pre-Project monitoring:
        - Topographical survey: BCE and Leo/Mark need to touch base
        - Photographs: Want to have good pre/during/post photos that all agencies/organizations can access. CRWP will make sure that photos are taken from the same location throughout the processes. Share via project webpage.
      - Culvert design:

    - 65% design: All major design changes to design should be submitted during this period. More streambed information will be incorporated earlier.
    - 95% design: No large changes should be made at this point
    - Geotech work is being done by BCE for 11 sites where new culverts will be installed.
    - BCE will be using ADOT guidelines for design
- Permits:
    - BCE working on permits for survey work. Has been working with Dan Jordan in FBKs on lane closure and special use permits. All permits go through FBKs office (vs. Cordova).
    - NEPA: All culverts will need NEPA, they all fall under a category 18 exclusion (CE)
        - Can one NEPA be done for all of the culverts? Likely. But need separate USFWS and USFS.
        - Need to be mindful of nesting waterfowl (April-July)
            - A wildlife specialist will identify specific areas in the CE
        - CE 18 may give restrictions on timing for construction
    - Resource permit: needs to be held during construction for minnow trapping so contractor should submit
    - US Army Corps of Engineers determination of nationwide permit applicability
    - DOT/PF special use permit: BCE is applying for planning portion of project. Permit needs to be detailed (cover design and data collection) during construction phase, CRWP will handle this portion of the permit process.
    - Land owner use permit: CRWP, but BCE would like a list of landowners/contact for each culvert. Kate will provide.
    - DNR Temporary water use permit: check on the requirements of this permit – we may not need this if water is being returned to the same creek as it was removed.
        - All DNR permits can have more than one crossing on one permit. Since these permits cost roughly $100 to submit, it is recommended to extend construction window in order to cover any delays.
- Construction:
    - CRWP will issue and manage the contract. Details will be discussed as this time approaches.
- Post-construction monitoring:
    - USFS will implement. See Appendix 2 Inspection Plan created by Luca Adelfio (USFS) and submitted with original proposal.
    - Good “after” photos will be important!
- Grant Management
    - CRWP (quarterly progress reports) will work with USFWS and NOAA (financials) to submit

III. Communication & Information sharing tools

a. Develop project listserv? (1 email address to reach all current partners)

- email address to reach everyone on the listserv is copperriverculverts@lists.copperriver.org. *See attachment "20181008llstervcontacts" for list of current participants*. Send updates to the list to Kate or Chantel (kate@copperriver.org, chantel@copperriver.org)

b. Site for sharing files? (design files, data, photographs/media files, etc.)

- CRWP website will set up a page on our website that the CR EVOS group can access and share documents and photos. Meeting documents will be shared to test this platform.
    - will include a GIS layers folder too.

IV. Review overall project timeline

a. original document: CopperRiverEnhancementTimelinedraft20181002.xlsx

- Goal to create a visual to help organize the overall project progress over the next 7 years.
- COP 43, 44, and 45 will be addressed first as the system is groundwater influenced and therefore more stable (less pre-monitoring required).
    - Design for this is scheduled to be done in December 2019.
- Will revisit overall timeline in November or December. Will re-distribute map from original proposal that shows where culverts are located on CR Highway.

V. Design process check-in

a. Target review timeline for designs of Cop 43, 44, 45 (complete in 2019, goal to go to construction in 2020).

- A minimum of 3 weeks will be given to review each stage of culvert design (25%, 65%, 95%). Time for review can be adjusted depending on time of year (holiday, field season, etc).
- If you require more than 3 weeks please let the group know within the first week.

b. Review team

- Due to the challenge of coordinating partner check-ins that everyone can attend, it is ideal to have a lead contact for each agency. If someone can't attend the meeting but has input, they can transfer their input via their agency point of contact.
    - ADFG: Megan Marie
    - ADOT: Dan Adamczak
- There are funds for DOT for review process. Heather, CRWP, and Dan will touch base to discuss funding arrangement.

VI. On the ground updates

a. Hydrology update (Franklin)

- Discharge measurements collected at each site and 8 data loggers were deployed. Discharge measurements will aid in the design of the culverts.

    - More discharge measurements will be collected next week. CRWP may assist in the collection of discharge (ideally will be collected once a month and/or high/low flow).
  - Franklin, Luca, and Kirsti will be onsite next week to discuss hydrology of the sites.

b. Site visit on 10/10
  - Group will meet at COP43 and visit all 3 sites to give feedback, local expertise, and updates on recent work.

VII. Wrap-up/next steps
  - distribute notes, BCE will send their notes so CRWP can compile
  - create listserv (CRWP)
  - create website for file sharing (CRWP)
  - ADOT funding transfer mechanism in place (CRWP)
  - Site visit October 10, 9am at Cop 43, 44, 45

The following participants stayed on for a brief hydrology check-in regarding Cop 43, 44, and 45: Heather Hanson, Gillian O'Doherty, Theresa Tanner, Franklin Dekker, Luke Boles, Jeff Stutzke, Chantel Adelfio, Bill Spencer, Kyle Walker, Tanya Bratslavsky, Egor Esipov, George Uligan

Discussion notes from BCE:

- Franklin started the discussion by saying that he will share his maps.
- All sites are hydrology connected. Luca and Franklin took measurements at sites 42, 44 & 45. Nothing has been done at site 43.
- Culverts will be inter-connected. There is a lot of beaver activity in this area.
- These are glacial streams.
- Heather: The goal for the pre-project measurements is to obtain better hydrologic information on these channels. We do not have the geomorphic information. Gauging's done to collect and understand fish passage flows, as well as fluctuation of flows. Hope to get better data than normally provided to designers.
- Bill: Should we consider mitigation for beavers? What if all three sites are eventually all blocked? What are the chances for changes in hydrology? How do we size for that? There are risks… As far as beavers are concerned, they impound water behind dams. Do we still design larger structures? How do we assign flows for larger structures?
- Heather: We can determine the bank-full and ordinary high water for fish passage flows.
- Franklin noted again that he will email the map.
- Bill: We also created some maps.
- Heather: Improvement will be done by the road. My (HH) preference is to design for normal conditions (whether there are beavers or not). One more culvert may need to be replaced due to inter-connectivity of the streams. There are existing gravel pits near site 42.

- Luke (DOT in Fairbanks): This is a good discussion. I reviewed many designs in this neighborhood, and it is easy to kick the design to bridge instead of culvert.
- Gillian disagreed.
- Luke: Wide passage is required, but the height is limited.
- Bill: Maybe concrete culverts? If there is gravel.
- Luke: Not sure about gravel.
- Gillian: OHW changes 2-3 felt in elevation due to beavers.
- Luke: We need to ensure that adjacent culverts can contribute some redundancy and resiliency.
- Theresa: This ability for changes is appreciated. Good to have that resiliency if conditions change.
- Bill: Lower elevation reinforced concrete box may offer this.
- Luke: Near the airport we used something like that. However, we don't like the public driving through water (lots of ponding on the road).
- Gillian: DOT surveyed 44 and 45 in 2012, interesting to see the changes that have occurred.
- Bill: Are there any old pipes there?
- Luke: Some of the old culverts are still there.
- Chantel: We will be compiling the notes.
- Heather: Who will at the meeting on site next week?
- Luke: Please contact DOT in Cordova, Robert Dunning and Robbie Matson.

Copper River EVOS listerv names

Listserv email: **copperriverevos@lists.copperriver.org**

The following are the names and email addresses for everyone currently on the listserv. Use the listserv email in bold above to reach everyone on the list below. Send updates to Kate@copperriver.org or Chantel@copperriver.org. Last update 20181008

Gillian O'Doherty/ADFG	gillian.odoherty@alaska.gov
Megan Marie/ADFG	megan.marie@alaska.gov
Jeff Stutzke/ADOT	jeff.stutzke@alaska.gov
Robbie Mattson/ADOT	robert.mattson@alaska.gov
Dan Adamsczk/ADOT	daniel.adamczak@alaska.gov
Luke Boles/ADOT	luke.boles@alaska.gov
Egor Esipov/BCE	egor@bce-ak.com
Tanya Bratslavsky/BCE	tanya@bce-ak.com
George Uligan/BCE	george@bce-ak.com
Betty/BCE	mail@bce_ak.com
Kate Morse/CRWP	kate@copperriver.org
Chantel Adelfio/CRWP	chantel@copperriver.org
Kristin Carpenter/CRWP	kristin@copperriver.org
Kirsti Jurica/CRWP	juricaka@gmail.com
Kyle Walker/HDR	kyle.walker@hdrinc.com
Bill Spencer/HDR	bill.spencer@hdrinc.com
Erika Ammann/NOAA	erika.ammann@noaa.gov
Mark St Denny/St Denny Surveying	stdenny@gci.net
Luca Adelfio/USFS	ladelfio@fs.fed.us
Theresa Tanner/USFS	theresatanner@fs.fed.us
Neil Stichert/USFWS	neil.stichert@fws.gov
Trent Liebich/USFWS	trent_liebich@fws.gov
Heather Hanson/USFWS	heather_hanson@fws.gov
Franklin Dekker/USFWS	franklin_dekker@fws.gov

Copper River EVOS Major Task List	
Pre-project monitoring	USFWS, USFS
Hydraulic and hydrology analysis	
Topographical survey (Leo Americus and Mark Saint James coordinating with BCE)	BCE
Photographs?	CRWP
Photographs?	
Culvert Design	USFWS w/contractor
Coordinate partnership reviews	
25% concept design: determine type and length of structure, basic road adjustment	Heather is lead and will coordinate with BCE; CRWP will assist with partner communication
65% design: structure alignment, road prism design, stream bank, stream bed and culvert cross section details	
95% design: includes all plans and details required for construction. Should require only minor changes.	
Permits	Coordinated by CRWP
NEPA analysis	USFS AND USFWS with CRWP
Fish Habitat permit, ADF&G	
Resource permit, ADF&G	Contractor
US Army Corps of Engineers determination of Nationwide permit applicability	
AK DOT/PF Special Use Permit for CRWP to conduct work in State right of way	planning = BCE, construction phase = CRWP
Land owner use permit	
Eyak Corporation	
ADOT Aviation Leasing (building permit, coordinate with Dan Adamczyk, copy of ADOT approved construction plans and other departmental approvals (ADEC, NEPA, Corp of Engineers, etc.)	
USFS	USFS
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (usually assembled by the contractor)	
Temporary Water Use (dewatering, DNR)	
Other site conditions that affect culvert replacements:	
Utilities	
Recreational, residential or commercial use in the area	
Construction	CRWP w/contractor
issue request for bids	
issue request for quotes for purchasing culvert (if not being purchased by Contractor)	
identify construction inspector	
identify service for compaction testing	
Re-vegetation of streambanks (contractor, involve volunteers if/when possible for stewardship education purposes)	
Photographs--time lapse? (USFWS assistance)	
Post-construction monitoring	USFS
See Appendix 2 Inspection Plan created by Luca Adelfio	
Photographs	
Grant management	NOAA and CRWP
Quarterly reports	

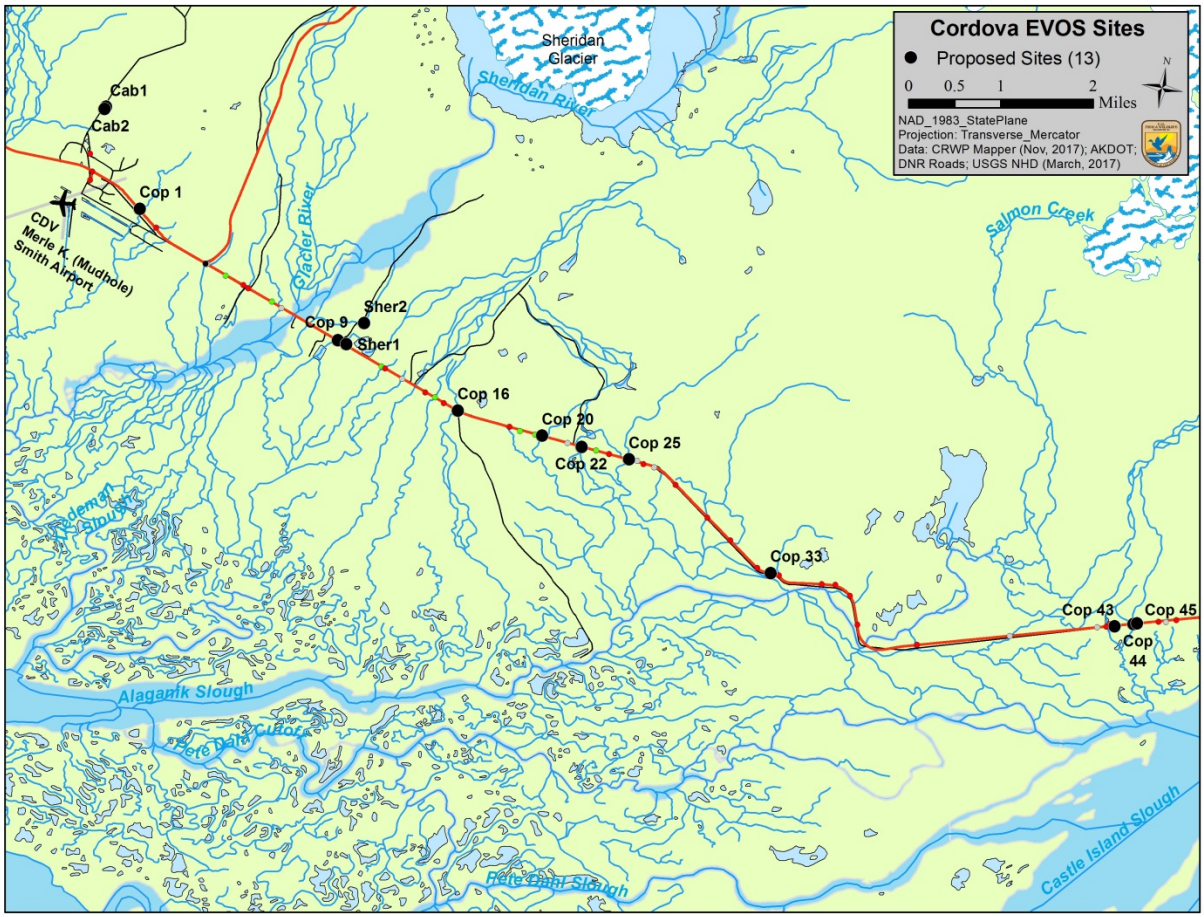
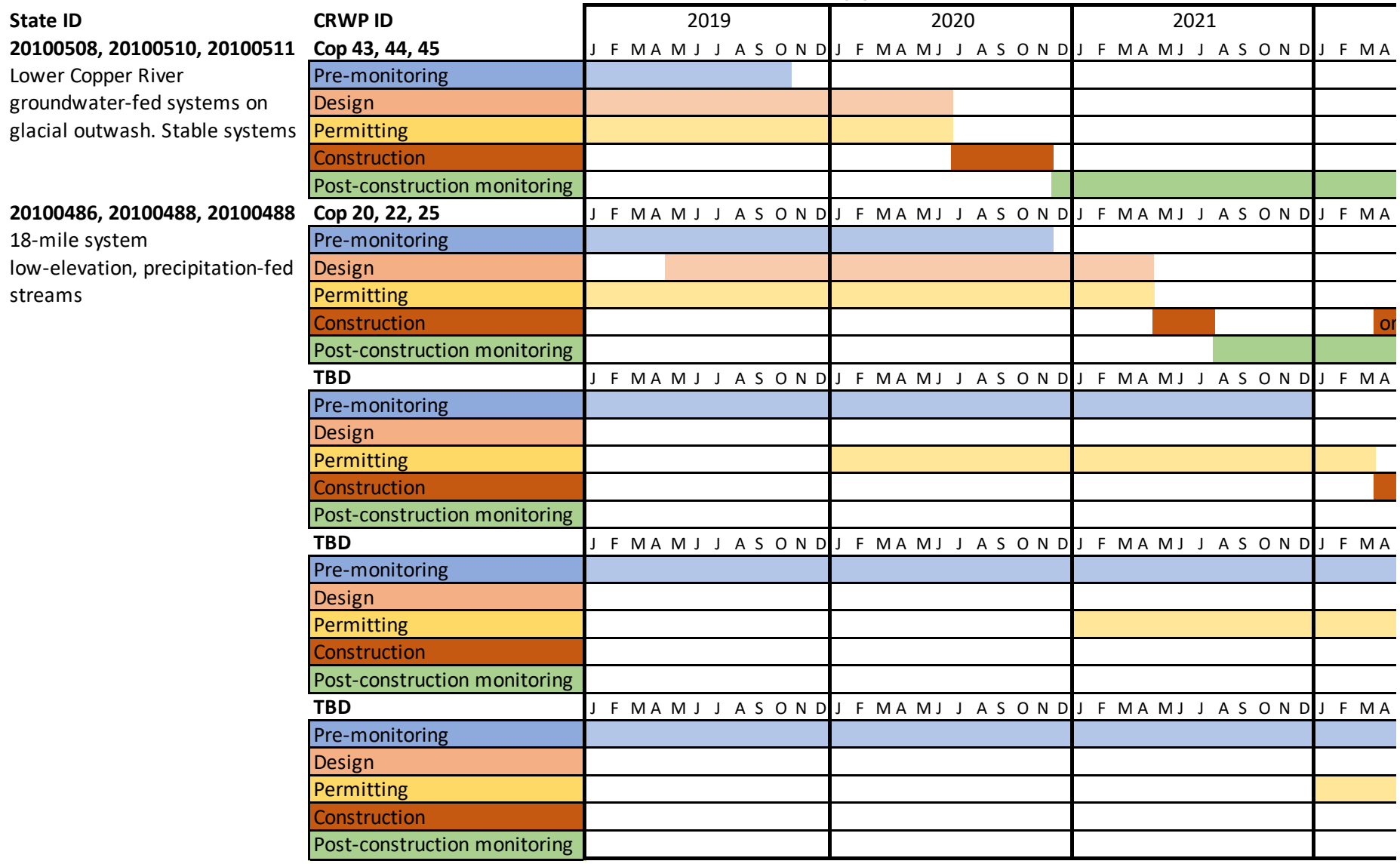


Figure 2. *The 13 priority culverts identified for replacement within the EVOS affected area during a 5-yr project period, given the current capacity to conduct this type of work in the Cordova area. Additionally the culvert to be addressed by project partner ADOT/PF, Cop16, is shown.*

Table 1: *The following table provides a description of the ecological benefits to Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) affected species and services that are expected to occur at each project location as a direct result of this effort to improve ecological function and fish access to more than 22 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.*

CRWP ID	State of Alaska culvert ID	Ecological Benefits to EVOS Affected Species and Services	Benefit to EVOS Injured Resources and Services	Stream Miles
Cab 1 Cab 2	20101904 20101905	**Elsner River Tributaries:** A failing culvert on a tributary to Elsner creek is blocking upstream fish passage to 0.1 miles of habitat where a second culvert on an abandoned road is blocking access to an additional 0.2 miles of upstream habitat. Both culverts should be removed to achieve full ecological benefits.	Dolly Varden; Recreation and Tourism; Commercial Fishing	0.3
Cop 45 Cop 43 Cop 44	20100511 20100508 20100510	**Lower Copper River:** Culverts present in this cluster of projects affecting a complex of interconnected channels that feed into the lower copper river. In order to provide fish passage and correct drainage problems in this area, these culverts need to be replaced at the same time. Due to these undersized culverts, drainage in this area has been a recurring problem for fish and human use.	Recreation and Tourism; Commercial Fishing	2.4
Cop 22 Cop 25 Cop 20	20100488 20100491 20100486	**18-Mile System:** The three project sites in this system represent a watershed scale restoration. The first project sites is a barrier on the West Fork of Milepost 18 stream that impedes upstream access to 2.3 miles of high quality habitat. The site at the middle fork of Milepost 18 creek is considered a barrier to upstream fish passage into 5.6 miles of high quality habitat. The third site is on the east fork of Mile 18 Creek and blocks access to 2.5 miles of upstream habitat	Cutthroat Trout; Recreation and Tourism; Commercial Fishing	10.4
Sher 2 Cop 9 Sher 1 Cop 1	20101902 20100475 20101903 20100467	**Sheridan River Tributaries:** The primary site at the Sheridan Tributary is a severely undersized culvert. The upstream channel width is approximately 10 feet whereas the existing culvert is only 1.5 feet diameter. Downstream lies another undersized culvert that is 4 feet in diameter. The third culvert on a Sheridan Tributary is located on Goat Camp Road and can be replaced with a ford to minimize cost. The fourth culvert blocks access to 3.2 miles of ecologically productive tributary that drains a large wetland channel complex feeding into the Sheridan River.	Recreation and Tourism; Commercial Fishing	5.5
Cop 33	20100499	**Black Hole Creek:** This culvert is undersized and impeding access to 3.2 miles of known spawning and rearing habitat.	Cutthroat Trout; Dolly Varden; Recreation and Tourism; Commercial Fishing	3.2

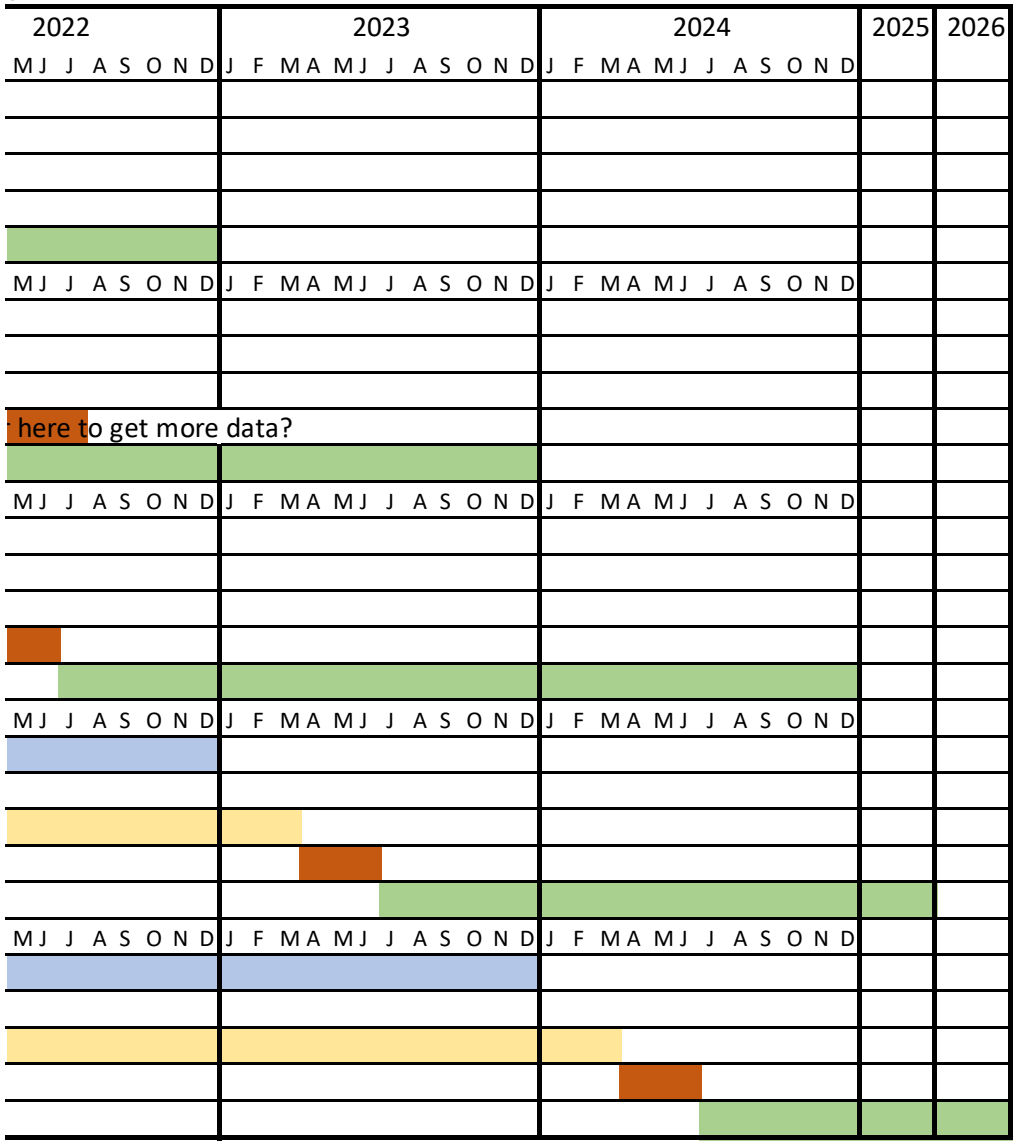
DRAFT timeline for Copper River Watershed Enhancement Pro



Remaining "sets"

20101903, 20101902, 20100475	Sher 1, Sher 2, Cop 9	Sheridan River tributaries, Sher 2 can be replaced with a ford vs culvert, Sher 1/2 most like
20100467, 20100499	Cop 1, Cop 33	Cop 1 is Sheridan river tributaries draining large wetland channel complex feeding into She
20101904, 20101905	Cab 1, Cab 2	Elsner River Tributaries, Cab 1 just removal, low elevation precipitation-fed streams

ject (created 9/28/18)



ely to have glacier flows in forseeable future (LA)

eridan River, Cop 33 is Black Hole Creek, a low-elevation precipitation-fed stream