CBWP Critical Issue + Strategy Suggestion Form - Surface Water
Ecological Working Group - Rivers and Streams

Place-based Planning requires that the Collaborative come up with a list of issues, based on the Step 2 and 3 work, that can be addressed with strategies in the surface water plan. When appropriate, Working Groups will fill out this form with the issues that have been identified during their research, explain why it should be addressed with the surface water plan, propose a possible strategy or solution to the issue, and provide expectations on the outcome of strategy implementation. Then, the project manager will compile the information in a spreadsheet and review with the Collaborative.

Definition of a Critical Issue: A significant concern regarding instream or out-of-stream surface water flows/management/resources that is impacting the Harney basin ecology, economy, and/or community.

Proposed Issue:
Lack of fish screens on irrigation diversions harms fish.

Source of the Issue:
Has this information been developed in a Step 2 or 3 document? If so, which one?
Yes, Rivers and Streams Step 2

Does the issue impact the ecology, economy, or community?:
Yes, it affects all three. It directly impacts the ecology. Addressing the issue would impact the economy and community by supporting healthy fish populations. It would also help potentially avoid an Endangered Species Act listing of the redband trout.

Why should this issue be addressed with the CBWP surface water plan?:
Screening of irrigation diversions is an important part of reducing impacts of water use on instream uses of water.

If issue is not addressed, what will the situation be?:
Movement of fish impacted and fish and other aquatic organisms injured and killed when diverted into ditches or other structures.

Suggestions for strategies to address issue:
(Note many of these would also need to include securing funding, or capacity, to accomplish the task)
1. Prioritize which of the 99 Harney Basin unscreened diversions on the Priority Unscreened Diversion Inventory to work to address first.
2. Design and implement a plan that translates the list into action.
3. Seek state legislative funds for screening work.
4. Work with the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to see what technical and financial support may be available for screening work.
5. Research other federal funds that may be available or attainable for screening work.
6. Create a process to identify diversions in need of fish screens that are not currently included in inventories.

Expected outcome once strategy is implemented:
Healthier populations of fish and other aquatic organisms that are affected by unscreened diversions.

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