Workshop participants shared their thoughts regarding moving forward in Olympic mudminnow conservation by considering four questions and writing answers on flip charts throughout the day and/or speaking up during the facilitated discussion at the end of the workshop. In looking back at the flip chart notes, Doug and I noted these ideas fell into two broad categories: “Science Needs” and “Education and Outreach.”

Each thought, or group of thoughts, is listed here under its appropriate category. A parenthetical phrase was added where there was direct overlap with a comment made from the other category. All told, this represents a summary of participants’ thinking as it was collected on the day of the workshop.

**SCIENCE NEEDS**

- Identify a lead entity to host information site/clearinghouse, including database, for scientists (and the public).

- Scientists (and the public) should be able to submit data online; maintain open-source data management.

- Agree on sampling protocol.

- Training needed for agency staff, citizens and academia.

- Coordinate survey efforts between National Wildlife Refuges and those state or government biologists doing surveys for other species, e.g. Oregon spotted frog, the Zoological Society frog surveys.

- Collect and publish better habitat identification, including essential elements, seasonal movements, and species’ preferences in range of habitat.

- Need better maps, especially off-channel maps, ground truth for accuracy and publish same.

- Expand geographical range of surveys, also expand to survey effects of predation and effects of fish passage restoration, i.e. Are we saving salmon at the expense of mudminnows?

- Need greater protection of wetlands, i.e. bigger and/or better buffers.
Clarify who is responsible for enforcing current regulations, especially in “non-fish-bearing” streams.

--Define “better buffers”

--Discover creative incentives for landowners to protect their wetlands (maybe an outreach task after science is done 😊)

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Messages should answer the questions: Why should we/I care about the Olympic mudminnow? What is the cultural significance, tribal and non-tribal?

- Form an agency/citizen coalition for mudminnow conservation to engage high schools, NWR system, NGOs.

- Use hatchery facilities (like Cook Creek) and other visitor centers to do outreach.

- Build attractive, informative kiosks in key public recreation sites telling them what is there and why it is important/cool!

- Teach broad biological themes to tie mudminnow life history to salmon and other previously taught/known/surveyed species.

- Make the Olympic mudminnow our State fish!

- Develop outreach tools for planners, public and elected officials, real estate and other professionals (consult WSU extension or county Conservation Districts for expertise)

- Form a Procession of the Species mudminnow group and parade in the streets of Olympia (3rd weekend in April usually)

- Develop website** with information, fact sheets and photos. Use social media to link to this site.** (Receive scientific and public observations, responses and info via this same site.**)

**The WDFW Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) website is currently the most foundational and up-to-date website on Olympic mudminnows. Many expressed their desire for an interface with the State; i.e., Lori Salzer at Lori.salzer@dfw.wa.gov, to continue developing ideas and actions for sustaining and expanding function of this clearinghouse of mudminnow information.**