



## PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

### Meeting/Conference Call

Douglas PUD Auditorium,  
 East Wenatchee, WA

Thursday, 13 July 2023  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Meeting Minutes

#### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

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Kate Terrell, Shelby Fowler (alt), USFWS	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Amanda Barg (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator

#### Meeting Attendees

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Brandon Rogers, YN	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Justin Yeager, NMFS <sup>1</sup>	Shelby Fowler, USFWS
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

#### Action Items:

- Chris Fisher will send the Enloe Dam Removal Feasibility Proviso Report to Tracy Hillman, who will share it with the PRCC HabSC.

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<sup>1</sup> Justin Yeager was unable to attend the meeting but provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

## Decision Items<sup>2</sup>:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$142,326.40 to the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project. Funding will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to extend the contract period for the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project from 30 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

### II. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the July agenda with the following additions: Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project Time Extension, Grant PUD presentation to the Policy Committee, Enloe Dam update, and 2023 Okanagan Tour.

### III. Approve May Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 11 May 2023 meeting notes on 8 June 2023.

### IV. Review Action Items

The PRCC HabSC reviewed the following action items from the May meeting:

- PRCC HabSC will review and provide Dave Duvall with comments on the Grant PUD presentation to the PRCC Policy Committee. Comments are due by 9 June. **Complete.**
- Tracy Hillman will discuss the possibility of joint PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs meetings with the HCP TCs during their June meeting. **Complete.**

### V. Project Updates

Members of the PRCC HabSC provided the following updates on funded projects:

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell stated that Trout Unlimited (sponsor) signed the agreement with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company. They are now finalizing the Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program application.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that this project will be completed this year and is currently operational.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – This project is tabled until the PRCC HabSC receives Ecology's responses to comments on the updated draft Report of Examination.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher said that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA; sponsor) completed two back-watering riffles last year. ONA indicated that spawning occurred on the constructed riffles. The sponsor will construct the remaining three riffles in 2023. These constructed riffles are associated with vertical drop structures 14-17.

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<sup>2</sup> All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – Chris Fisher reported that Phase I is complete and implementation of Phase II will begin in August 2023. Chris reminded the PRCC HabSC that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) has planted Sockeye Salmon fry in Trout Creek.
- **Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project** – Kate Terrell reported that Cascade Fisheries (sponsor) indicated that construction is underway and should be completed by 20 July.

## VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

**Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – The PRCC HabSC received a Specification Sheet from the Okanagan Nation Alliance titled, *Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project*. The purpose of the project is to complete the design for the eastside fish passage structure at Okanagan Dam. Once completed, the fishway will provide volitional access of salmon into Okanagan Lake. The total cost of the project was \$234,231.65. The sponsor requested \$142,326.40 from the PRCC HabSC. Funding will be used to complete the final design.

Although the PRCC HabSC supports improved fish passage into Okanagan Lake, they did identify a few clarifying questions for the sponsor. Once ONA responds to these questions, the PRCC HabSC will make a funding decision.

- Members have some concerns with a 46-cm jump in the fishway. The application indicates the jump is needed to prevent access of invasive species into the lake; however, members understand invasive species are already in the lake. Therefore, please explain why a jump is needed to prevent access of invasives when invasives are already within the lake.
- Please explain why the proposed design was selected over, say, a more natural channel design.
- Please describe how you derived the cost estimate of \$1M for construction and implementation.
- Please describe whether there is a desire to improve passage through the west-side fishway. For example, are you considering increasing pool depths within the lower portion of the west-side fishway?

Following the meeting, ONA responded to the PRCC HabSC questions. Responses to questions are provided below.

- Members have some concerns with a 46-cm jump in the fishway. The application indicates that the jump is needed to prevent access of invasive species into the lake; however, members understand invasive species are already in the lake. Therefore, please explain why a jump is needed to prevent access of invasives when invasives are already within the lake.  
*Yes, the same invasives are below and above Okanagan Dam, however the density is lower above the dam, so in effort to not increase invasive populations in Okanagan Lake and tributaries, this jump was included in the design criteria.*
- Please explain why the proposed design was selected over, say, a more natural channel design.  
*We have gone through several design options (all included Bob Newbury). The initial conceptual design was a more natural channel design, but we had a few considerations/restrictions that led us to the current design. 1) The PIB parcel is quite small and is of high economic value to PIB. Chief and Council of course wanted to support fish passage of, but having it more natural required us to use almost the entire parcel. PIB wish to use the rest of the parcel in the future. Without PIB support, the east fish passage wouldn't be an option. 2) Further into engineer study and design, there was a concern with seepage and slipping long-term within the design. A few structures (culverts, etc) are required to keep walkways and vehicle dam access. There was concern of instability of these over time. In summary: As a result of the confined usable land area*

*and the engineer and province concerns re. slippage and seepage, it was decided the sheet-pile design would be the best for the project. Please note however, that a 'natural' pool-riffle sequence will occur at the downstream end of the fishway to attract salmonids into the fishway. I am happy to go further into the previous designs and details if you wish.*

- Please describe how you derived the cost estimate of \$1M for construction and implementation. *The 1 million estimation was a ballpark estimate from our engineer. We asked if he could give us something so we knew..." if we propose this much for planning and design, what could PRCC/other funders expect for construction". Are we looking at 1 million or 10 million???* So yes, definitely an estimate. A more detailed cost would come with further design, however we have a ballpark at least and to date have ruled out some of the unknowns (Geotech work).
- Please describe whether there is a desire to improve passage through the west-side fishway. For example, are you considering increasing pool depths within the lower portion of the west-side fishway?

*Yes, there is desire to improve the west passage, however it would likely be a similar cost due to the amount of work required. It basically has to be completely redone and is attached to the dam so logistics are more complicated but doable. Also, another factor is that the ministry has to replace the dam in the next decade or two, but they are not ready anytime soon. So, do we redo the west passage and then it is impacted/removed or has to be redone again with the dam? Other notes are 1) that the required land on the west side is not available for an external west passage (unlike the east side), and 2) The east passage would be owned and operated by the bands. Discussion is on-going.*

Based on the responses from ONA, the PRCC HabSC agreed to help fund the final design for the fish passage structure on the eastside of Okanagan Dam.

***Decision:*** *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$142,326.40 to the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project. Funding will come from Fund 602.*

**Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project** – The PRCC HabSC received a time extension request from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation on the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. Because of an unusual water year and other unanticipated issues, the sponsor requested a six-month time extension. Following discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to extend the contract from 30 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.

***Decision:*** *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to extend the contract period for the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project from 30 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.*

## **VII. Administration**

**Grant PUD Presentation to the PRCC Policy Committee** – Tracy Hillman reported that Grant PUD will host a PRCC Policy Committee meeting on 20 July 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to provide new Policy Committee members with an overview of Grant PUD's programs. This is basically a meet-and-greet gathering. Grant PUD staff will provide presentations to the Policy Committee that describe the purpose, objectives, and accomplishments of each technical group. During the May meeting, Dave Duvall shared with the PRCC HabSC the draft slides he prepared for the Policy Committee. Members suggested adding slides that show a map of the Upper Columbia and each major subbasin. Members recommended that Dave show on each map the locations and types of projects funded by the PRCC HabSC.

Following the May meeting, Dave updated the slides based on feedback from the PRCC HabSC. He shared those slides with the PRCC HabSC. Members appreciated the addition of subbasin maps and provided Dave with additional photographs that may be useful to include in the presentation.

**Joint Meetings with the HCP Tributary Committees** – During the May meeting, the PRCC HabSC discussed the possibility of combining the PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs meetings. The PRCC HabSC directed Tracy Hillman to discuss this possibility with the HCP Tributary Committees. Tracy said he shared the request with the HCP Tributary Committees and they indicated that they believe the groups already hold joint meetings when agenda items overlap. The Tributary Committees indicated that they would like to maintain the status quo. That is, the Tributary Committees agreed to continue holding joint meetings when agenda items overlap. They also recommended that Dave Duvall join the HCP Tributary Committees' meetings as he once did. This will help reduce redundancy and increase efficiency during the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meetings. Dave said he will try to join the HCP Tributary Committees meetings.

## **VIII. Information Updates**

**HARP Model** – Tracy Hillman reported that the NOAA Science Center is developing a life cycle (Habitat Assessment and Restoration Planning; HARP) model for a large portion of the Columbia River Basin. The model will be used to evaluate tributary habitat restoration scenarios. The Science Center will develop the Columbia Basin model starting in the upper Columbia. They will discuss the model with the habitat and hatchery technical folks and implementers in the upper Columbia and answer any questions participants may have regarding the HARP model. In addition, they will be asking for data or information that can be used to populate the model with local information. Tracy said this will be a combined meeting with the Tributary Committees, Habitat Subcommittee, Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team, the Hatchery Committees, and implementers. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9 August and will be held in the Douglas PUD Auditorium.

**Okanagan Tour** – Chris Fisher reported that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is willing to host a tour of potential projects in the Okanagan Basin on 11-12 October. Most of the tour will focus on potential projects in tributaries to Okanagan Lake. This includes but is not limited to Trout Creek, Trepanier Creek, Mill Creek, Equis Creek, and Mission Creek. Members that are able to attend the tour indicated that 11-12 October works for them.

**Enloe Dam Update** – Chris Fisher stated that Trout Unlimited (TU) and WDFW recently completed the Enloe Dam Removal Feasibility Proviso. The Proviso Report provides an overview of the four assessments conducted to analyze the steps required for the potential removal of Enloe Dam. The Proviso consists of (1) the development of a dam removal plan that lays out the phases of dam removal and decision timelines, (2) recommendations for a collaborative engagement framework to ensure Tribes and interested parties are engaged throughout the phases of dam removal, (3) an assessment of potential Dam Removal Entities who can undertake the liability, fundraising, and dam removal implementation, and (4) a review of management options for sediment removal. Chris said he will share the report with the PRCC HabSC.

Chris also reported that they submitted a request for proposals to conduct a feasibility study to remove Enloe Dam. He said they received four responses and all but one had similar qualifications. After additional responses from the three candidates, they selected Stantec to complete the feasibility study. A contract for the work will be issued in August with a completion date of February 2025.

**PIT-Tag Arrays in Icicle Creek** – Jeremy Cram indicated that the PIT-tag arrays in the middle (upstream from Hatchery) and upper (upstream from boulder field) Icicle Creek are dead. They were able to

resurrect the middle array but not the upper array. Jeremy asked whether the PRCC HabSC would be interested in a specification sheet seeking funding to replace the arrays. Members indicated that because habitat restoration work is likely to happen upstream from the boulder field, they would review an application. Tracy Hillman also recommended that WDFW contact the Bureau of Reclamation, because they have funding for monitoring work.

#### **IX. Adjourn**

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

#### **X. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 10 August 2023.