



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
 Conference Call**

Thursday, 9 September 2021
 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Ben Truscott (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator	

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Brandon Rogers, YN	Kate Terrell, USFWS
Dave Duvall, GPUD	Jeremy Cram, WDFW
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. The Operating Procedures will include definitions for abstention and recusal.
- Tracy Hillman and Dave Duvall will estimate the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and HCP Tributary Committees will meet jointly with Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) and Western Rivers Conservation to discuss the Nason Ridge Acquisition Project. Following that discussion, the PRCC will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC Habitat Subcommittee items.

II. Nason Ridge Acquisition Discussion (Joint Discussion with HCP Tributary Committees)

Representatives from CCNRD, Western Rivers Conservation, and the HCP Tributary Committees joined the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for a discussion on the Nason Ridge Acquisition Project. Mike Kaputa (CCNRD) indicated that they are actively looking for funding to secure the remaining \$250,000 needed to acquire the property (the total cost of the acquisition is \$5,400,000; PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed to contribute \$500,000 and Rock Island Tributary Committee agreed to contribute \$500,000 to the project). Mike said there are possible federal funds available, but they are on long time frames, and he is worried the timing to secure those funds would require a new appraisal. Given the rising value of property, Mike believes the cost of the property would increase and they would be left with a larger financial gap to fill. To avoid this delay and potential increase in property value, Mike indicated that they may be able to take \$250,000 from the Nason Ridge Management Fund, which is money set aside to manage the property once it is purchased, and apply it to the purchase of the property. For that to happen, the County Commissioners would need some assurance that funds would be available to support the management of the property. Mike asked whether the Committees would be willing to support up to \$250,000 worth of work on the property. The funds would be used to decommission and stormproof roads. Specifically, \$125,000 would be used for road decommissioning and \$125,000 would be used to stormproof the blow-out on the perimeter road. Mike indicated that they have about \$100,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to help with road decommissioning and stormproofing.

Members of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee indicated that this is consistent with their decision to withhold \$250,000 from the \$750,000 that was requested from them to help purchase the property. That is, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed to provide \$500,000 for the purchase of the property and the remainder of the request (\$250,000) could possibly be used to help restore habitat conditions on the property. However, the sponsor would need to submit applications (specification sheets to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee) to acquire funds for restoration work on the project. The applications would need to demonstrate benefits to target fish species (e.g., reducing fine sediment recruitment to Nason Creek and its tributaries).

Chris Fisher asked whether CCNRD has considered how road issues will be addressed. Mike and Erin McKay (CCNRD) responded that it depends on the condition of the roads. Treatments would include decommissioning, removing structures (piping), recontouring, and addressing erosion issues. Efforts would focus first on areas where water (streams and gullies) and roads interact (Erin showed a map identifying those locations). Erin indicated that some roads are already vegetated, and they do not want to disturb the vegetation on those roads; however, they will remove any piping on those roads. She added that several roads are closed but will nevertheless need treatments to reduce erosion.

Chris asked whether the \$250,000 requested for restoration work would achieve a road density of 2 miles per square mile. Erin responded that she is not sure that amount of funding would achieve the target density. They believe they can decommission 3-4 miles of road on the property and should be able to achieve the target density within the Salmon Area. Erin indicated she will provide a map of the project area showing the roads and the different types of actions proposed to treat roads.

Chris asked about the use of roads that will not be decommissioned. Mike responded that the property is a non-motorized area with the exception of roads needed for forest management. The perimeter road and loop road will be accessible for grooming (for cross-country skiing). Other roads will be used for fire response, forest management, and disease and health management.

Mike Kaputa asked whether the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and HCP Tributary Committees have a long-term interest in road decommissioning and treatments in the project area. The Committees indicated that they are generally interested in decommissioning roads and reducing fine sediment recruitment to Nason Creek and its tributaries. The groups would like CCNRD to engage the groups early in the development of actions. This will allow the groups to provide feedback on proposed actions on the property.

III. Lunch Break

IV. Agenda Review

Justin Yeager asked that the Barkley Irrigation Company agenda item under Restoration/Protection Projects be removed. He indicated that this project is ongoing, and he will provide updates when necessary.

V. Approve August Meeting Notes

Habitat Subcommittee members approve the 12 August 2021 meeting minutes.

VI. Review Action Items

The Subcommittee reviewed the following action items from the August meeting:

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. The Operating Procedures will include definitions for abstention and recusal. **In Progress. Dave shared that he discussed this with Denny a week ago and offered to help Denny write the document. Tracy also offered to help write the document.**
- Dave Duvall will work with Grant PUD staff to determine the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring. **In Progress. Tracy will work with Dave on this action item.**
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members will discuss the geographic boundary for eligible projects funded under the Habitat Plan. **Completed. The Subcommittee agreed that the focal area is upstream from Priest Rapids Dam but will review proposed projects located outside the focal area on a case-by-case basis.**
- Dave Duvall will provide Tracy Hillman with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee logo. The logo will be used on letters to project sponsors. **Completed.**
- Kate Terrell will share the newspaper article indicating the purchase of the Weyco Mill Creek parcel. Jeremy Cram will secure additional information on the status of the parcel from Mickey Fleming. **Completed. Jeremy and Kate confirmed the property has been sold.**
- Chris Fisher will request the sampling data on the Pentiction Channel Culvert Project and share them with the Habitat Subcommittee. **Completed.**
- Chris Fisher will forward the email he received from Mickey Fleming regarding the Jawa property to the Habitat Subcommittee. **Completed.**

VII. Project Updates

Members of the Habitat Subcommittee provided the following updates on funded projects:

- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor is working on a gate operation configuration to improve fish passage. To reduce fish jumping height, they are experimenting with all flow going through the middle gate. Having all flow go through the middle gate will minimize or reduce the risk of bank erosion.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Project** – No update at this time.

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited) is keeping interested parties up to date on project progress. The sponsor continues to have monthly check-ins with Shotwell to see if there are any questions or concerns regarding the Conservation Commission IEGP Application. In short, the sponsor is still in a holding pattern on this project.
- **Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion Project** – Kate Terrell reported there was little construction work on this project in August. However, the team continues to work on the individual well and DOT/FAA easements along with the cleanup of the Meredith Gap. In addition, they are working on a few small clean-up details along the BIC/MVID pipeline easement and are addressing a few landowner issues. The Little Barkley Removal is scheduled to occur this fall but has hit a few bumps. The FAA has requested more information and details regarding the 7460 application and DOT is requesting a cultural Section 106 compliance letter to go along with their general permit. The team is working on both these items. Both Barkley and the MVID new irrigation systems have been running as designed throughout the summer. The team is also working on individual wells, the FAA easement, and cleanup of Meredith Gap. Kate said she has requested additional information from DOT on the cultural resource consultation.
- **Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project** – Chris Fisher said this project is complete and can be removed from the update list. As a side note, Chris provided an update on Okanagan Lake Dam. He shared that he spoke with Tara White, who indicated they intend to tag 100 adult sockeye salmon with telemetry tags. The purpose is to track the fish and determine which tributaries the fish use and then determine what restoration actions may be needed within those tributaries.
- **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding/Final Acquisition Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that the land parcel was sold to another party. He said the sponsor is waiting to see if there is any interest by the current owner to sell the property or a portion of the property.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – No new update at this time.
- **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Project** – Chris Fisher said this item can be removed from the update list as the project has entered the O&M phase.
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported that this project is moving forward with habitat sampling being conducted throughout the basin to develop a capacity estimate. Also, additional sediment sampling may occur this fall, with funding originating from Washington Department of Ecology. Chris said the USGS interpretive report was sent to Ecology.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell shared that the sponsor is still in a holding pattern on this project. Given that bids received were three times higher than the engineers estimate, the sponsor is considering rebidding the project this winter. Chris Fisher suggested asking the Forest Service to close the road and remove the culvert. Kate indicated she will talk with the Forest Service about closing the road. Justin Yeager shared that the Forest Service will not close this road. They need it for fire and forest management.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager shared that COID is looking to go to bid this winter. They need to complete some permitting, get the ROE from Ecology, and tie-up some loose ends on funding. The 90% designs should be completed by the end of this month. They are aiming for “ready-to-proceed” status across all permits by the end of the year. Dave Duvall noted that he is working with the sponsor on finalizing the contract.
- **Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project** – Dave Duvall shared that Chris Johnson will provide the Landowner Agreement and Deed of Right for review on the Anderson Property. Dave will send the documents to members once he receives them.

- **ORRI – Restoration of the Channelized VDS Section in Okanagan Falls Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor will create meanders between vertical drop structures and will begin work next month on this project. They should have riffles and meanders completed at the base and between two of the four structures by November.

VIII. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Specification Sheet

Tracy Hillman reported that he and Dave Duvall updated the PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specifications Sheet. Dave identified and described the updates he made. During discussion, members agreed to remove the list of specific items identified in the proposed budget table. Following review and discussion, members present voted on the updated PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specifications Sheet.

Decision: Members present unanimously approved the updated PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specifications Sheet (see Attachment 1).

IX. Restoration/Protection Projects

Jawa Property Acquisition Proposal from CDLT – Tracy Hillman reviewed the email the Subcommittee received from Mickey Fleming (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) regarding the Jawa Property Acquisition. The email states that Mr. Jawa has agreed to sell the property to CDLT for the appraised value, contingent upon funding confirmation and a rather tight closing date of 15 October 2021. While this is a short timeline, Mickey believes it is doable with the prior due diligence done for this transaction. She believes the property will be acquired by CDLT before Chelan County closes on the Nason Ridge property.

Dave Duvall confirmed there are remaining funds (\$160,000) in the CDLT contract that can be used to purchase the Jawa property. Dave noted that last month the Habitat Subcommittee approved the use of these funds to purchase the Jawa property. The amount approved by the Subcommittee last month was \$98,400 for the property. The remainder (cost share) will come from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

X. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 14 October 2021.

Attachment 1

Approved PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specification Sheet



PRCC Habitat Funds Project Specifications Sheet

Date submitted:

Project Sponsor: (include name, title, mailing address, phone number and email).

Project Liaison: (PRCC Habitat Subcommittee representative as an additional point of contact).

Project Title: (Sponsor to provide a project title. Grant PUD will add a special title for contract management purposes only).

Project Type: (Should be classified as one of the following-Appraisal, Assessment, Channel Restoration, Conservation Easement, Design, Fish Passage, Instream Flow, Instream Structure, Land Acquisition, Predator Control, Project Development, Riparian Habitat.).

Location: (Give a description of the project location within the Upper Columbia including the lat. and long.).

Requested funding amount from PRCC Habitat Subcommittee:

Short description: (Two to three sentences should suffice).

Project description and justification: (Should be no more than 3 pages, not including photos or diagrams).

Project cost: (Provide an itemized budget for the funding requested from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and describe the reimbursement process and/or type of contract to be drafted. For example, do you prefer an actual cost reimbursement, fixed cost, monthly invoicing, etc.?).



HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE PRIEST RAPIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

PROPOSED BUDGET			
BUDGET ITEM	PRCC-HSC REQUEST	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL COST
TOTAL			

Estimated Timeline: (Populate the table so that the committee can foresee the projected timeline).

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Acquire Permits												
Select Contractor												
Construct Project												
Project completion												
Monitoring												
Stewardship												

Final comments and instructions:

Provide contact information for the following if applicable: contracting, financial, legal, project manager, as well as the contract signatory (if different than the project sponsor).

Please include an electronic copy of this specification sheet in Word format to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Facilitator and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Liaison Representative when submitting your proposal.



HABITAT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE PRIEST RAPIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

For appraisals associated with fee simple land acquisition, please provide the following:

Property Information

Owner Name:

Address:

General Directions:

Parcel Number:

Inspection Contact & Phone:

Other Considerations:

Appraisal Type:

Intended Users:

Reminder: When discussing potential appraisals, be sure to communicate with the Project Liaison in advance.

Disclaimer: Any habitat proposals presented to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for review should meet the terms and conditions outlined in the 2008 NMFS Biological Opinion, the Priest Rapids Salmon and Settlement Agreement, and the FERC-ordered Habitat Plan issued on 5 March 2010. For more information, please contact a member of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.