



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call**

**Thursday, 11 June 2026
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

Final Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Tracy Bowerman, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Scott Carlon, Sean Gross (alt), NMFS/NOAA	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Cody Gillin (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Meeting Attendees¹

Brandon Rogers, YN	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Tracy Bowerman, USFWS
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will request additional information from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Specification Sheet.
- Dave Duvall will discuss internally whether the habitat program can remove the need for a liaison (the liaison submits the specification sheet on behalf of the project sponsor).
- Members will discuss internally whether they would be interested in funding Methow steelhead data summaries and modeling efforts.

¹ Chris Fisher was unable to join the meeting. He provided his votes on decision items after the meeting.

Decision Items²:

- **Decision:** *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$823,158 for the Lower Chiwawa River, Area D project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.*

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed and approved the June meeting agenda with the following additions: discussion on conflicts of interest and the recent All-H Integrated Methow Steelhead Workshop convened by Trout Unlimited.

III. May Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 14 May 2026 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall will determine whether Grant PUD will need to modify their contract with BioAnalysts, Inc., to include Becky Sadler to track funded projects and provide project updates during PRCC HabSC meetings. **Complete. Dave said he discussed this internally and Tom Dresser reached out to Tracy Hillman. Tracy said that he had a good discussion with Tom, and they agreed that hiring Becky to track projects is not consistent with the current structure for the PRCC HabSC. That is, liaisons are responsible for advancing projects for sponsors, tracking the status of those projects, and providing updates to the PRCC HabSC. In addition, hiring Becky to track and report on projects would require a modification to the BioAnalysts contract. Therefore, liaisons will continue to track and report on projects.**

V. Project Updates

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

- **Primary Appraiser (Pacific Appraisal Associates)** – Dave Duvall reported that Pacific Appraisal Associates is working on the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition appraisal. The appraisal should be completed by early August.
- **Primary Appraiser (Noble Ag Land Valuation)** – Dave Duvall reported that Noble Ag Land Valuation is working on the Rains property appraisal. The appraiser will visit the property this week. The appraisal should be completed later this summer.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project (TU)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the pump station has been running for six weeks. Current flow demand is between 700 and 2,400 gallons per minute. Shareholders are pleased with the new system and its operation. Smith Construction and their subs are working on punch-list items and should have them completed by mid-June. Final inspection will take place once water demand

² All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

increases. Once the system is deemed fully operational, it will be turned over to the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company. This should occur in early July.

- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor has reviewed multiple construction submittals from Strider Construction, covering key project elements such as water management, scheduling, site access, and spill prevention. All submittals and related information requests have been addressed, with only one remaining pending approval. The agreement with the Department of Transportation has been prepared and is awaiting final signature. The contractor is planning to mobilize on 29 June, and a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for 11 June.
- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that there are no new updates on these two projects.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that there is no update on this project.
- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the Eagle Rocks project was completed in 2024 and is now in the monitoring and adaptive management phase. The sponsor is currently working on outreach.
- **Skyline Screen and Fish Return Upgrades Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor installed the remaining landowner turnouts, cleaned the staging area, began demobilization, rehabilitated the ditch easement, grouted pipe through the county road crossing and driveway crossings, installed the lower control valve, and completed backfill and grading. Tracy said this project is complete. Dave Duvall indicated that Grant PUD received the final invoice for this project.
- **Penticton Dam Fish Passage Construction (ONA)** – Dave Duvall reported that this project is complete. Grant PUD is waiting for the final invoices for this project.
- **White River Ohme Acquisition (CDLT)** – Dave Duvall said he received the draft Deed of Right to Use Land for Conservation Purposes. Dave and Tracy Hillman will review the draft for consistency with the PRCC HabSC Operating Procedures.
- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design (TU)** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that Okanogan PUD hired Tetra Tech to review the TU feasibility report. In addition, on Monday, 8 June, there was a public outreach meeting. She said TU and CTCR gave an excellent presentation and did a good job addressing questions. There were several questions regarding sediment effects on downstream irrigation and potential effects of arsenic on agricultural production. There were also some concerns about potential take of ESA species by landowners upstream from Enloe Dam once the dam is removed. NMFS is working to address these “take” concerns.
- **Methow River Riparian Stewardship (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor continues work on individual properties. On the Robinson property, they removed remaining barbed wire fencing, continued irrigation for plantings, and initiated outreach to local fishing groups. On the Bartsch property, they removed site materials for disposal.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor coordinated with landowners on staging and construction impacts. They scheduled meeting dates for a walk through and estimated the amount of wood needed per project. They are also determining locations for staging.

- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman said the sponsor hired American Land and Water to perform a preliminary feasibility assessment on moving the irrigator from a surface water diversion to a groundwater well or a Ranney well. Tracy indicated that Shelby Fowler resigned from the USFWS. Therefore, once a design path is determined, the project will need to hire a new engineer for design work. This could increase the cost of the project.
- **Sugar Channels Reconnection Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that on Sugar Left (Phase 1), the sponsor continued ongoing maintenance of riparian plantings, began initial restoration of the staging area, documented activation of side channels, and began initial discussions with the engineers about project performance and channel connectivity. Regarding Sugar Right (Phase 2), the sponsor reported that they awarded the contract to Hurst and are coordinating construction work with the contractor. Construction will begin on 1 July. Finally, regarding Sugar Upper Left, the sponsor awarded the contract to Pipkin and is currently coordinating construction work with the contractor. Sugar Upper Left construction will begin on 1 September. Wood has been delivered to the site.
- **Methow River – Integrated CMZ Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor is waiting on clarification from Ecology about matching funds.
- **Wenatchee-Okanogan Comprehensive Thermal IR Surveys (CCD)** – Dave Duvall indicated that there is no new update on this project.
- **Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that Pacific Appraisal Associates is working on the appraisal and the appraisal should be completed by early August.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Lower Chiwawa River, Area D Restoration Project

Dave Duvall reported that the Chelan County Natural Resource Department submitted a specification sheet titled “Lower Chiwawa River, Area D.” The purpose of the project is to address factors limiting spring Chinook Salmon and steelhead life stages (i.e., holding, summer and winter rearing, and fry colonization) in Reach 4 of the Lower Chiwawa River Assessment Unit (RM 6.6-7.3). The project will enhance floodplain connectivity, side-channels, riparian canopy cover, instream cover (wood), deep pools, and temperature (rearing). The completed project will improve conditions along 0.6 miles of mainstem channel; create 1,000 linear feet (lf) of side-channel habitat; enhance a cold-water tributary confluence; consolidate/reduce dispersed camping; decommission up to 1,000 lf of unauthorized roads; and reduce potential for future impacts and enhance vegetation within 15 streamside acres. The total cost of the project is \$1,882,583. The request from the PRCC HabSC is \$823,158. All members approved \$823,158 for the proposed restoration project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$823,158 for the Lower Chiwawa River, Area D project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls

Dave Duvall reported that the Okanagan Nation Alliance submitted a specification sheet titled “Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls.” The purpose of this project is to improve fish passage while reestablishing a river meander pattern in the Okanagan Falls reach, which is located between Skaha and Vaseux lakes on the

Okanagan River in Canada. This will be accomplished by creating instream riffles that backwater vertical drop structures (VDSs), the last remaining significant fish passage barriers on the Okanagan River, and adding alternating thalweg riffles paired with dike setback, instream groins, islands, and spawning gravels. This work should enhance meandering, increase habitat diversity, and restore floodplain engagement. The total cost of the project, \$1,978,523.56, was split into three phases (Phase 1 = \$599,316.45; Phase 2 = \$1,178,072.85; and Phase 3 = \$201,134.26). Dave said the cost estimates are presented as worst-case scenarios.

Members understand that the intent of the proposed project is to substitute refurbishing and reconstructing Vertical Drop Structures (VDSs) for constructed riffles. The VDS's are nearing or exceeding their life expectancy and there is evidence that concrete spalling is occurring and will likely lead to collapse of some VDSs in the near future. Members believe the proposed approach is good, especially given the success of similar work at upstream VDSs. However, the cost is significantly more than similar work at upstream VDSs. It appears the reason for this higher cost is associated with several unknowns, including the cost of dike setback (whether the existing dike material can be used for the relocated dike) and the presence of utilities.

Given the complexities and uncertainties associated with the proposed project, members believe it would be more appropriate for the sponsor to collect additional information to address the uncertainties before seeking funding for implementation. The addendum outlines some of the uncertainties associated with this project, and it could be used to develop a proposal to collect additional information to refine the implementation costs. Members indicated that they would review an application seeking funding to collect additional information. If the sponsor elects to submit a proposal to address uncertainties, members recommend that they consider at least the following items (note, there is no guarantee that the HabSC will fund all or any of the items):

1. The sponsor should reach out to Fortis Gas and Province to determine whether a redesign of the riffles, pipe, or location of the pipe is needed. If it is determined that a redesign is necessary, this could be included in the data collection proposal. If it is determined that what is currently proposed will be of no consequence, then this would not be included in the data collection proposal and members would assume costs to implement the current concept/design are accurate.
2. The sponsor should consider conducting a geotechnical survey to determine whether the existing material in the dike can be reused in the relocated (setback) dike. If the existing material cannot be reused, the sponsor should provide a cost estimate to transport existing material offsite and replace with material that meets existing standards.
3. The sponsor should consider conducting 2D modeling to assess what size material will be needed for the setback dike and how much of the material will be needed to meet requirements.
4. The sponsor should consider a floodplain assessment to determine the cost to reconnect the historic side channel on river left. Side channel habitat will be important for subyearling Chinook Salmon.

Members struggled with the cost/benefit of the proposed project. They understand the proposed project will have biological benefit; however, they are not sure the uplift justifies the cost. A study to evaluate the uncertainties will help refine the cost of the proposed work and may help the HabSC better understand cost effectiveness. To this end, members would appreciate additional information on expected biological benefits.

Members identified some additional ideas for the sponsor to consider. Although the proposed spawning habitat work targets Chinook Salmon, members believe also adding suitable substrate for Sockeye Salmon would improve overall biological benefit. There was also a suggestion of adding large wood or engineered log jams to provide rearing habitat/cover for subyearling Chinook Salmon as they move through the system. Members would like to know whether adding large wood is feasible given the constraints. Members see value in the reconnection of the side channel (this was not included in the current proposal but should be evaluated in a feasibility study) because it will provide short-term rearing habitat for subyearling Chinook Salmon provided water temperatures in the side channel are cool enough to prevent Chinook Salmon from being displaced by more warm-water tolerant fish species.

Tracy Hillman will share these recommendations with the sponsor.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

Conflicts of Interest

Tracy Hillman said he and Tracy Bowerman recently discussed conflicts of interest. Because Tracy Bowerman and her office often design restoration projects, provide technical reviews, and help fund restoration projects, there is a question of whether she should abstain or recuse herself from discussing and voting on these projects when they are submitted to the PRCC HabSC. After discussion, members agreed that projects that are designed by a signatory or are submitted to the PRCC HabSC by a signatory would require recusal (i.e., the signatory would leave the meeting and not participate in discussions or voting). On the other hand, projects that receive some funding from a signatory and are being reviewed by the PRCC HabSC, the signatory would abstain (i.e., the signatory can participate in discussions but will not vote). Projects for which a signatory provides technical review would not require abstention or recusal. The latter means that a project liaison (a voting member of the PRCC HabSC) is not conflicted because they worked with the project sponsor by providing technical input. However, if a signatory works on designing a project to be submitted to the PRCC HabSC, or contributes funding to the project, the signatory cannot serve as the liaison for that project.

Specification Sheet Submittal Process

The discussion on conflicts of interest led to the question of whether the PRCC HabSC can change the way in which specification sheets are submitted to the PRCC HabSC. Currently, project sponsors select a liaison, who submits the specification sheet on behalf of the project sponsor. Because of very busy schedules, several members have no time to serve as liaisons, which means only one or two members are continually approached to serve as liaisons. This is becoming overwhelming for those liaisons. Some members asked whether the program can be changed so project sponsors no longer need a liaison. That is, rather than using a liaison, sponsors submit the specification sheet to the Chair, who then distributes it to the PRCC HabSC. Dave Duvall thought the PRCC HabSC could make this change provided the decision is unanimous. However, because this is a relatively significant change to the process, Dave will discuss it internally within Grant PUD. Tracy Hillman said any change to the submittal process may require approval by the PRCC.

USFWS Alternate

Tracy Bowerman reported that Shelby Fowler resigned from the USFWS. This means that the USFWS does not have an alternate on the PRCC HabSC. They will identify an alternate as soon as they can.

All-H Integrated Pilot Methow Steelhead Workshop

Jeremy Cram indicated that he, Dave Duvall, and Tracy Bowerman attended an All-H Integrated Pilot Methow Steelhead Workshop sponsored by Trout Unlimited. The goal of the workshop was to build

relationships, trust, and mutual understanding among partners working to support Methow steelhead, including awareness of perspectives, values, and existing recovery effort; develop alignment around shared Methow steelhead recovery goals and identify key objectives and associated metrics that reflect partner priorities and values to lay the foundation for a collaborative All-H integration process; present and refine a preliminary Methow steelhead conceptual model through collaborative discussion and partner feedback; and establish a Methow Steelhead All-H Pilot Project Workgroup committed to participation in the project process moving forward. Jeremy said there was discussion during the workshop about data gaps, information needs, data summaries, and modeling. Jeremy asked whether members would be open to receiving proposals to address data summary needs and modeling efforts. Brandon Rogers indicated that he would like to have internal discussions before responding to Jeremy's question. Members will discuss internally whether they are interested in funding data summaries and modeling efforts.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 9 July 2026.