



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call**

**Thursday, 9 July 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 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 Attendees

Brandon Rogers, YN	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Tracy Bowerman, USFWS
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Cody Gillin, WDFW
Chris Fisher, CTCR	Chris Mott, GPUD
Erin Harris, GPUD	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will work with Becky Sadler (HCP Tributary Committees' coordinator) on logistics for the joint PRCC HabSC and HCP Tributary Committees project tours in the Wenatchee River basin on 10 September 2026.
- Tracy Bowerman will track the status of legal documents related to water conservation and trust water rights program paperwork for the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project.
- Members will discuss internally whether they would be interested in funding Methow steelhead data summaries and modeling efforts.
- Chris Fisher will identify any possible restoration projects to visit on Omak, Salmon, and/or Loup Loup creeks in conjunction with the Okanogan River basin tour scheduled for 7-8 October 2026.

Decision Items¹:

- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$215,691 for the MacPherson Flats Acquisition and Restoration project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$391,850 for the Roaring Creek RM 0.5-1.5 Nysether Acquisition Project. Funding for this budget amendment will come from Fund 602. The \$391,850 will be reimbursed to the PRCC HabSC once the sponsor receives the funds from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$196,449.85 (USD) for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Assessment and Feasibility project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members denied a time extension on the Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal project. Because the contract ends on 30 June 2027, and there is much uncertainty associated with this project, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee recommended that the sponsor request a time extension next year if it is needed.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed to review a specification sheet seeking funding to implement Aquatic Organism Passage in the Methow River basin.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved to extend the Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project contract from 31 August 2026 to 31 August 2028.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved clarifying language to the Full Disclosure section in their Operating Procedures.

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: PRCC HabSC first quarter 2026 expenditures and unencumbered balances, Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project time extension, feedback on Aquatic Organism Passage in the Twisp Aquatic Restoration Project and the Mission Project, and potential property acquisitions.

III. June Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 11 June 2026 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- 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. **Complete. ONA submitted a revised Specification Sheet that will be evaluated during the meeting today (see Section VI).**

¹ All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

- 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). **Complete. See discussion under Section VII.**
- Members will discuss internally whether they would be interested in funding Methow steelhead data summaries and modeling efforts. **Ongoing. This item will be discussed during the August meeting.**

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 appraisal should be completed later this summer.
- **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.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project (TU)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the new pump station is in operation and continues to perform well, consistently meeting flow demands of about 2,400 gallons per minute. The sponsor remains engaged with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company directors and shareholders to address any operational issues that arise, though very few have been encountered. The project team is currently completing as-builts, final reporting, and the remaining items required for project closeout. Planning is underway for a tour later this summer.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that that construction is underway and will continue through July. Bridge construction is complete.
- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects (CDLT)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor will contact the Bockoven's to see whether they are still interested in selling the Entiat parcel. The Stormy property was sold to the Wilson's, who are not interested in selling any portion of the Stormy property at this time. However, the sponsor believes the Wilson's will sell a portion of the property in the future.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that there is no new information on this project. However, the sponsor did ask whether the PRCC HabSC is willing to review a specification sheet seeking funding to address additional Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) projects in the Methow River basin (see Section VI).
- **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, watering and weeding, and managing whitetop (hoary cress) adjacent to the planting areas.
- **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 reported that the sponsor will work on several items during the winter. This includes a survey to mark the corners on the property and development of a forest management plan. These will feed into the property stewardship plan. The Deed or Right should be signed this week.
- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design (TU)** – Chris Fisher indicated that Okanogan PUD hired Tetra Tech to review the TU feasibility report. Tetra Tech found no fatal flaws in the feasibility report and indicated that it was comprehensive. There is a concern that sediments just upstream from the dam have unknown levels of arsenic. During earlier sampling, crews could only collect cores to a depth of about 16.2 feet. Sediment just behind the dam is about 40-45-feet deep. Therefore, core samples are needed to evaluate arsenic levels at greater depths. This will require a barge to collect the samples. In addition, there is some concern from downstream irrigators that their water delivery systems may be affected by the increased sediment load when the dam is removed. They are also concerned about possible effects of arsenic attached to fine sediment that may increase a human health concern of ingesting the fruit when they spray water on their orchards to cool fruit.
- **Methow River Riparian Stewardship (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor continues work on individual properties. They removed site materials for disposal from the Bartsch property, continued irrigating new plantings on the Robinson property, and conducted outreach to local fishing groups. They are preparing to remove the culvert on the Bartsch property and will continue to control weeds and provide irrigation on the Robinson and Bartsch properties.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor coordinated with the wood delivery contractor on staging wood and worked with local nurseries on plant availability for summer 2027. They also coordinated with the landowners on construction impacts and staging. Finally, they identified wood quantities for each project area and are planning wood delivery.
- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman said there is no new update on this project. She reminded the group that 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. She 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 the sponsor (1) documented flow activation in the side channels, (2) the engineer surveyed staked water surface elevations of modeled flows during descending limb of hydrograph, (3) requested that the engineer identify adaptive actions to ensure the project meets design intent and habitat goals, (4) weeded and watered riparian planting areas, (5) set up and moved handlines to restore staging area to the pasture, and (6) initiated conversations with the landowner regarding adaptive actions. Tracy Bowerman added that there were some issues that arose after the Sugar Left construction was completed in 2025. That is, there were some connectivity issues with both Channel 2 and Channel 4. The connectivity issues were associated with the original design not the recent floods. Additional excavation work is addressing those issues.
- **Methow River – Integrated CMZ Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor has not been successful in securing additional (matching) funds for the project. The sponsor is considering terminating the agreement with the PRCC HabSC.

- **Wenatchee-Okanogan Comprehensive Thermal IR Surveys (CCD)** – Chris Mott indicated that there is no new update on this project. Surveys are expected to occur in the Wenatchee River basin between July and September and in the Okanogan River basin between October and December.
- **Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (CCD)** – Dave Duvall reported that there is no update on this project.
- **Lower Chiwawa River, Area D Restoration (CCNRD)** – Dave Duvall reported that there is no update on this project.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

MacPherson Flats Acquisition and Restoration Project

Dave Duvall reported that the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation submitted a specification sheet titled “MacPherson Flats Acquisition and Restoration.” The purpose of the project is to permanently protect 8.7 acres of floodplain habitat and remove residence and commercial construction buildings from the property. The acquisition will restore the property to its natural condition by allowing side channel and floodplain enhancement and removal of culverts and a flood levee. The acquisition will also allow expansion of large-scale floodplain restoration on public property. The total cost of the project is \$815,691. The request from the PRCC HabSC is \$215,691. All members approved \$215,691 for the acquisition project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$215,691 for the MacPherson Flats Acquisition and Restoration project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.*

Roaring Creek RM 0.5-1.5 Nysether Acquisition Project Budget Amendment

Jeremy Cram and Dave Duvall reported that Chelan Douglas Land Trust requested a budget amendment on the Roaring Creek RM 0.5-1.5 Nysether Acquisition Project. The sponsor successfully acquired a cost share of \$391,850 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, but the cost share will not be available until late this year or early next year. Because the landowner wants to sell as soon as possible and the sponsor would like to participate in the stream restoration work occurring this year both upstream and downstream from the property, the sponsor asked whether the PRCC HabSC would cover the cost share of \$391,850, allowing the prompt purchase of the property with the understanding that the cost share will be paid back to the PRCC HabSC when those funds are available from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC approved the budget amendment. The total contribution from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for contract CDLT 602-95 will increase from \$450,000 (original contribution from Account 602) to \$841,850. The additional contribution of \$391,850 from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be reimbursed to the Subcommittee after the funds are received from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$391,850 for the Roaring Creek RM 0.5-1.5 Nysether Acquisition Project. Funding for this budget amendment will come from Fund 602. The \$391,850 will be reimbursed to the PRCC HabSC once the sponsor receives the funds from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.*

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

Chris Fisher reported that last month 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 the project was 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 would be accomplished by creating instream riffles that backwater vertical drop structures (VDSs), the last remaining significant fish passage impediments 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).

During the review of the specification sheet last month, members determined that given the complexities and uncertainties associated with the proposed project, it would be more appropriate for the sponsor to collect additional information to address the uncertainties before seeking funding for implementation. Members indicated that they would review an application seeking funding to collect additional information.

On 6 July, the sponsor submitted a revised specification sheet that focused on the recommendations offered by the PRCC HabSC. The specification sheet titled "Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls” identified the following activities:

- Landowner agreement for east adjacent property for floodplain/wetland restoration and coordination of agriculture to conservation zoning/options.
- Geotechnical drilling investigation and assessment for dike material suitability, preliminary dike design to meet seismic and freeboard requirements, culvert construction parameters near the high-pressure gas distribution pipelines and floodplain feasibility.
- Archeological and contaminant assessments for floodplain/wetland restoration.
- Regulatory meetings and discussions regarding site considerations and development of further design criteria (with utilities, Province, ORRI).
- HEC-RAS 2D modeling of existing and proposed conditions to assess variable discharge velocities, engagement elevations and inundation at target Okanagan River flows, bed and constriction scour, aggradation and erosion areas, bank shear stress, which will to determine size and quantity of bank armoring to meet dike requirements, freeboard during design events for peak flow, and seismic deformation.
- Design of utility relocations for Fortis Power lines, TELUS communication cables, Provincial drainage infrastructure, and construction costs for working around Fortis Gas high-pressure pipelines and associated infrastructure.
- 90% detailed engineering design with changes for river restoration components as needed based on analysis results.
- 90% detailed design to determine the cost to reconnect the historic side channel on river left for sub-yearling Chinook Salmon and development of other floodplain/wetland restoration designs including large wood, engineered log jams, and habitat enhancement features.
- Preliminary geotechnical technical memorandum outlining suitability of existing dike material and stockpile of Shuttleworth Creek sediment for dike setback construction and minimum dike design specifications for setback dike and drainage pipe relocation.
- Development of detailed schedule of quantities based on engineering analysis.
- Revised Class A (± 10) cost estimate for construction in phased approach.
- Permit ready submission package for First Nations, Local, Provincial, and Federal government.

The total cost to do the proposed work is \$196,449.85 (USD). The sponsor requested the entire amount from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, all members approved \$196,449.85 for the feasibility and assessment work. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$196,449.85 (USD) for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Assessment and Feasibility project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

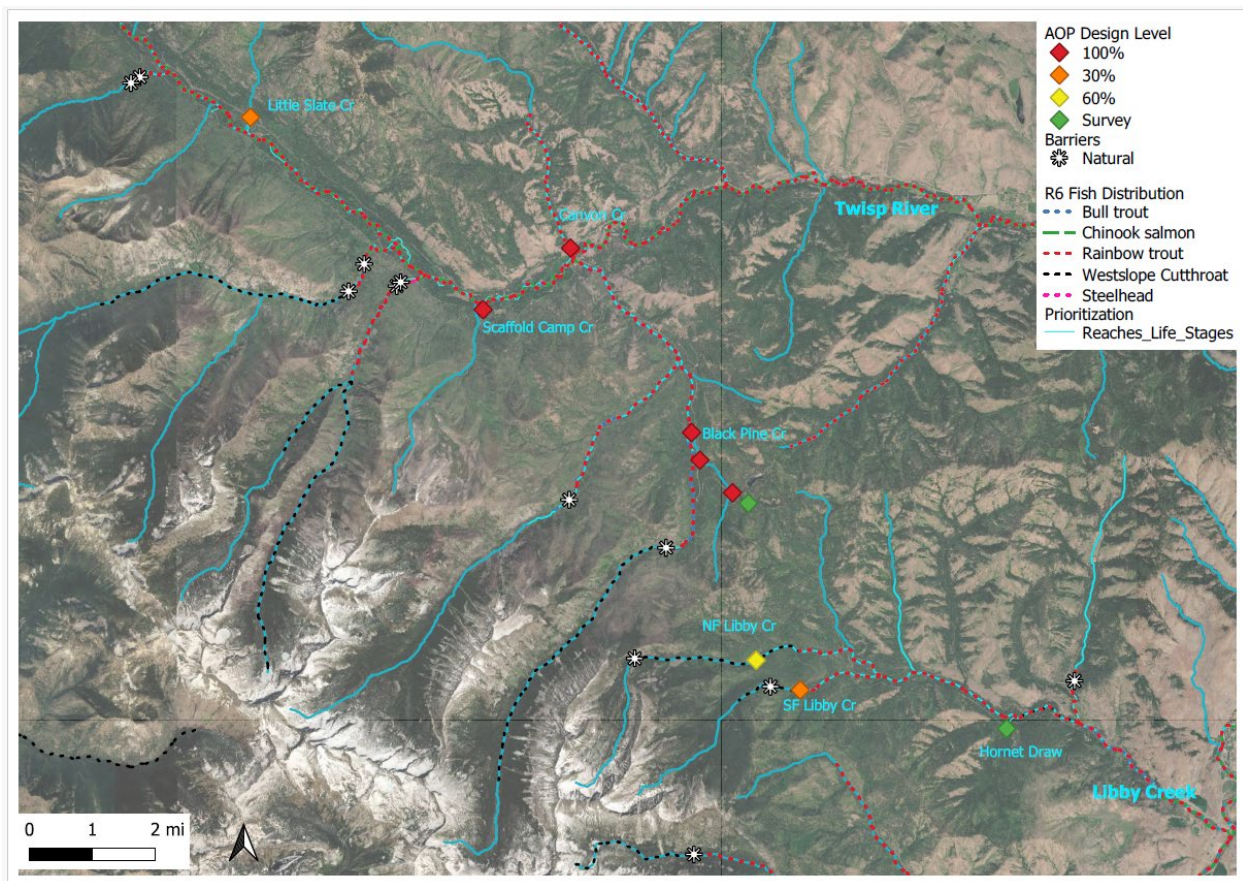
Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal Project Time Extension

Cascade Fisheries asked to extend the contract on the Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal Project. The PRCC HabSC discussed the sponsor's request and noted that the current contract is scheduled to expire on 30 June 2027. Given all the moving parts and uncertainties associated with this project, the PRCC HabSC recommended that the sponsor request a time extension next year when they have more clarity on how much time will be needed to complete the project. This will hopefully reduce the number of time extension requests on this project.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members denied a time extension on the Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal project. Because the contract ends on 30 June 2027, and there is much uncertainty associated with this project, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee recommended that the sponsor request a time extension next year if it is needed.

US Forest Service Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Project

In an email to Tracy Bowerman and Tracy Hillman, Cascade Fisheries asked whether the PRCC HabSC would be interested in providing a cost share on completing designs and implementation of Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) projects for the Twisp Aquatic Restoration and the Mission projects (within the Methow River basin). The sponsor indicated that the Forest Service has an additional \$1.23 million to address AOP projects, but they will need at least a 5% (more likely 10%) non-federal match. The sponsor indicated that although the project addresses longitudinal connectivity, not all streams that will be addressed have anadromous fish (see the map below showing the locations of the barriers).



After discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to review a specification sheet seeking funding to help implement AOP projects. They noted that any funding from the PRCC HabSC would have to be used to address passage issues in streams that support anadromous fish (Covered Species).

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed to review a specification sheet seeking funding to implement Aquatic Organism Passage in the Methow River basin.*

Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project Time Extension

The PRCC HabSC noticed that the Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project contract will expire on 31 August 2026. Given that the project is incomplete and is unlikely to be completed by the end of the contract period, they decided to extend the contract for an additional two years. The PRCC HabSC believes the sponsor will need extra time to complete the project. Thus, the contract (CF 602-76) will be extended from 31 August 2026 to 31 August 2028.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved to extend the Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project contract from 31 August 2026 to 31 August 2028.*

VII. Administration and Information Updates

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee First Quarter 2026 Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances

Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman shared the following financial information with the HabSC:

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 March 2026	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$695,846.65	\$7,120,349.35
602	\$4,165,688.11	\$6,446,530.89
603	\$114,527.64	\$3,468,464.36
Total	\$4,976,062.40	\$17,035,344.60

Operating Procedures

Last month, the PRCC HabSC revisited their recusal and abstention language in their Operating Procedures. During the meeting last month, members agreed that projects that are designed by a signatory or are submitted to the Committees 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 Committees, 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. They directed Tracy Hillman to add this language to the Full Disclosure section in the Operating Procedures. Members reviewed and approved the revised language in their Operating Procedures.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved clarifying language to the Full Disclosure section in their Operating Procedures.*

Evaluate the Need for a Liaison

Last month, the PRCC HabSC discussed whether the liaison is still necessary. One of Dave Duvall's action items from last month was to discuss this within Grant PUD. Dave reported that he discussed this item internally and the feedback he received is that it is up to the PRCC HabSC whether they want to retain the current application process or modify it. However, whatever is decided unanimously within the PRCC HabSC would need to be reviewed and approved by the PRCC.

Members discussed the issue and noted that if the liaison is removed from the process, specification sheets would be sent to Tracy Hillman, who would then distribute them to members for review. In addition, Tracy Hillman would have to track the projects and provide information updates on the projects during the monthly meetings, a job that is currently the responsibility of the liaisons. Some members were in favor of removing the need for a liaison because they have no time to be a liaison. On the other hand, some members believe the liaison serves a valuable role in the evaluation process. For example, if the liaison believes a proposed project is not fundable, the proposed project would not be submitted to the group for evaluation. Thus, the liaison serves as a filter to help remove projects that are not worthy of PRCC HabSC funding (i.e., if the liaison does not support the project, the project would not achieve consensus).

Because the PRCC HabSC did not achieve consensus on removing the liaison, the current process will continue. Project sponsors will continue to reach out to members of the PRCC HabSC to serve as their liaison in the evaluation process.

Project Tours

During the last meeting, members rekindled their desire to visit some of the completed restoration projects funded by the PRCC HabSC. They directed Tracy Hillman to resurrect the list of identified projects compiled in 2018 for the HCP Tributary Committees. Tracy Hillman shared the list compiled in

2018 and also provided a list of projects funded since 2018. Members reviewed both lists and identified the following projects to visit in the Wenatchee River basin:

- Nason Creek Off-Channel Habitat Restoration Project (Chelan County Natural Resource Department)
- White River Large Wood Atonement Project (Cascade Fisheries)
- Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project (Chelan County Natural Resource Department)
- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project (Trout Unlimited)
- Lower Peshastin (Cascade Fisheries)
- Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel Project (Chelan County Natural Resource Department)

Members agreed that the tours will occur with the HCP Tributary Committees during their regular meeting date. However, because not all members are available in August, the tour in the Wenatchee River basin is scheduled for 10 September 2026.

Members indicated that they cannot spend more than one day per month visiting completed projects; therefore, they only identified projects to visit in the Wenatchee River basin. They will identify projects to visit in the Entiat and Methow River basins at a later date.

Because the Okanagan tours in Canada, hosted by the Okanagan Nation Alliance, will occur in October, members indicated they would like to tour completed projects in the U.S. portion of the Okanagan Basin during the trip up to or back from the Canada tour. Chris Fisher recommended that the Committees visit the Antoine Creek Floodplain Restoration Project on the way to Canada. Chris will also identify any completed projects in Omak, Salmon, or Loup Loup creeks that may be worth visiting.

Members directed Tracy Hillman to work with Becky Sadler (HCP Tributary Committees coordinator) to coordinate the Wenatchee Basin tours with project sponsors.

Potential Property Acquisitions

Dave Duvall indicated that CDLT has a few possible acquisition projects on the horizon. On Nason Creek, McIndoe is willing to sell the 5-acre parcel downstream from the CDLT properties and near the County's pending purchase of 10 acres of the Squadroni property. In addition, CDLT has been in communication with several landowners on the White River and Icicle Creek who have indicated interest in selling. Lastly, a landowner on the Wenatchee River just upstream from the Peshastin Mill site has expressed interest in selling, but they want to know how much they will be paid. The sponsor would like to know whether the PRCC HabSC would be willing to pay for appraisals. Members requested additional information, including a map, plan view, and project specification sheets before considering future actions.

All-H Data Gaps and Analyses

Unfortunately, the PRCC HabSC did not have time to discuss the All-H Data Gaps and Analysis agenda item. Following the meeting, Dave Duvall emailed the group expressing his disappointment and strongly supports using funds from the PRCC HabSC and feels that doing an extensive statistical review and data comparison of steelhead returns can provide information needed to improve steelhead productivity in the Methow basin. This item will be discussed during the August meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 13 August 2026.