



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

**Thursday, 13 August 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:15 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
TBD, 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
Chris Fisher, CTCR	Chris Mott, GPUD
Erin Harris, GPUD	Nathan Buck, Wanapum
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 in September 2026.
- Tracy Hillman will work with the Okanagan Nation Alliance on planning the joint PRCC HabSC and HCP Tributary Committees tour of projects in Canada.
- 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.
- Dave Duvall will share the Rains Entiat River Property appraisal with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

Decision Items¹:

- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$135,026 USD for the Vaseux Creek Diversion Decommissioning Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- ***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$9,822.49 USD for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Assessment and Feasibility project. This will increase the total budget from \$196,449.85 USD (original contribution) to \$206,272.34 USD. 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 August meeting agenda with the following additions: Vaseux Creek Diversion Decommissioning Specification Sheet, ORRI – Okanagan Falls Budget Amendment, tour of projects in Canada, and NMFS representation on the PRCC HabSC.

III. July Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 9 July 2026 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- 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. **Ongoing. See Section VII.**
- 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. **Ongoing. The paperwork should be available soon.**
- Members will discuss internally whether they would be interested in funding Methow steelhead data summaries and modeling efforts. **Complete. See Section VI.**
- Chris Fisher will identify any possible restoration projects to visit on Omak, Salmon, and/or Loup Loup creeks in conjunction with the Okanagan River basin tour scheduled for 7-8 October 2026. **Complete. Chris said depending on available time, during the trip to and from Canada, there is a floodplain project to visit on Antoine Creek and a passage/diversion project to visit on Loup Loup Creek.**

¹ All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members representing the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Grant County Public Utility District. The National Marine Fisheries Service is also a member of the PRCC HabSC; however, because of a large reduction in staff, they are unable to participate in the Subcommittee until further notice. Their absence does not prevent the Subcommittee from making funding decisions given that they notified the Chair and indicated that they will not be able to participate.

- Members will discuss internally whether they would be interested in funding Methow steelhead data summaries and modeling efforts. **Complete (see Section VI).**

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 this month; however, poor air quality because of wildfires has precluded a site visit and that may delay the completion of the appraisal.
- **Primary Appraiser (Noble Ag Land Valuation)** – Dave Duvall reported that Noble Ag Land Valuation submitted the appraisal on the Rains Entiat River property. Dave said this will be reviewed during the meeting today (see Section VI).
- **Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that Pacific Appraisal Associates is working on the appraisal and the appraisal should be completed in August or September.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project (TU)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the system continues to operate as designed, with a few minor PLC programming issues that were resolved by Irrigation Technology Control. The sponsor is in the process of scheduling the final pump station test, which will take place in the first or second week of August when the system is at peak demand. This will allow the electrical engineer to observe the system operating under load. If everything works out with the test, final completion will be awarded to the contractor. The sponsor continues to check in with shareholders to see how well their personal irrigation systems are working. The sponsor continues to receive positive feedback from the users. The sponsor is planning a project tour later this summer.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that construction is progressing well. In July, the crew focused on constructing in-water engineered log jams (ELJs). They are on track to have in-water work completed within the work window. The sponsor has been busy with construction observation and contract officer duties. Construction will continue in August. The following photo shows a completed ELJ and worksite isolation.



- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported no new update on these projects.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor recently met on site with representatives from the Forest Service and WDFW to discuss the project and review designs. The sponsor has approval to move forward to a 60% design for this project. The preferred alternative for the Forest Service is an 18' span 7'8" rise structural steel plate arch culvert. The project is on track to go to construction next year.
- **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 watering, weeding, and mowing riparian 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 there is no new update on this project. The project should close this autumn.
- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design (TU)** – Chris Fisher indicated that Okanogan PUD hired Tetra Tech to review the TU feasibility report (prepared by Stantec). Tetra Tech, Okanogan PUD, and Stantec met on 8 July to review comments on the feasibility report. Tetra Tech found no fatal flaws in the feasibility report and indicated that it was comprehensive. However, there is a concern that sediment just upstream from the dam has not been sampled for trace elements and other material to a depth of the historical riverbed. During earlier sampling, due to equipment limitations, they could only collect core samples to a maximum depth of 16.2 feet. Sediments just behind the dam are about 40-45-feet deep. Therefore, core samples are needed to assess the sediment chemistry at greater depths. This will require a barge to collect the samples. The sponsor is preparing a Sediment Analysis Plan that will be reviewed by the Dredge

Material Management Office. The sponsor is securing permits (Army Corps of Engineers is the NEPA/permitting lead) to do the sampling, which is scheduled to begin on 19 October.

Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor and CTCR met with the Oroville Tonasket Irrigation District about potential effects of dam removal on the district's ability to deliver water to stakeholders. He said the district currently operates 5 pumps to deliver water to users: 3 pumps with settling basins and 2 without settling basins. Although they are not opposed to dam removal, they are concerned that they will lose pumps without settling basins and intake filling because of increased sediment load during dam removal. Because they deliver water to 10,156 acres of agriculture lands, the district needs some certainty of continued delivery of water.

Chris Fisher indicated that they are developing a Dam Removal Entity, LLC, that will consist of the sponsor (TU), CTCR, the Nature Conservancy, and the Upper and Lower Similkameen Bands. The PUD is not part of the Dam Removal Entity.

Lastly, Chris Fisher reported that on 18 July, he observed and videoed adult salmon jumping at the base of Enloe Dam. The discharge at the time of observation was 640 cfs, a flow that was not previously evaluated for access. This indicates that salmon will be able to recolonize habitat upstream from the dam once the dam is removed and may be accessible by summer Chinook Salmon, which are present in the area during mid-to-late September.

- **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 created new access to allow for culvert removal on the Bartsch property.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor evaluated wood delivery access with the contractor and agricultural lessee for the Pigott side channel. They also corresponded with landowners on final design and scheduled August meetings.
- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor continued to work with American Land and Water to perform a feasibility assessment on moving the irrigator from a surface water diversion to a groundwater well or a Ranney well. In early August, the sponsor met on site with the hydrogeologist, engineer, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the landowner.
- **Sugar Channels Reconnection Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that under Phase 1, the sponsor (1) irrigated the pasture following construction access and staging, (2) conducted weeding within planting areas, (3) worked with the engineer to develop potential adaptive actions to promote the desired channel connectivity within side-channel 4, (4) initiated conversations with the Methow Conservancy regarding adaptive actions, and (5) worked with the Bureau of Reclamation on surveying the channel inlet, which will inform adaptive action work. Under Phase 2 on Sugar Right, construction began on 13 July, and they completed the floodplain swale, relief channel, and setback grading. They continue to excavate and grade SC 1 and floodplain areas and hauled excess materials offsite. They are also staging wood in preparation of wood-structure construction that will start in late August. Under Phase 2 on Sugar Left, they are working on preconstruction planning and preparation and coordinating with the landowner. They expect to begin construction on Sugar Left on 31 August.
- **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; although, they would like to keep the project open because they believe there will be potential work in the future.

- **Wenatchee-Okanogan Comprehensive Thermal IR Surveys (CCD)** – Chris Mott reported that summer surveys were postponed until next year because of several factors including the wildfires, poor visibility, and drought. They still intend to conduct the fall/winter surveys this year.
- **Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (CCD)** – Dave Duvall reported that there is no new update on this project. Currently, the project area is under a Level 1 evacuation notice because of wildfires.
- **Lower Chiwawa River, Area D Restoration (CCNRD)** – Dave Duvall reported that the draft contract has been reviewed and should be finalized and signed soon.
- **MacPherson Flats Acquisition and Restoration (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that Grant PUD will draft the contract after the draft July meeting notes are finalized by the PRCC HabSC (the draft notes were finalized today).
- **ORRI – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls (ONA)** – Dave Duvall reported that Grant PUD will draft the contract after the draft July meeting notes are finalized by the PRCC HabSC (the draft notes were finalized today). The sponsor requested a budget amendment on this project (see Section VI).

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Rains Entiat River Property Appraisal

Dave Duvall said that he received the appraisal from Mark Noble on the Rains Entiat River Property. The market value of the fee simple estate, as of 19 June 2026, is \$25,000. The appraisal fee was \$7,250. Dave said the PRCC HabSC agreed to contribute up to \$58,000 for the purchase of this project. Members had no concerns with the appraised value. Dave will share the appraisal with CDLT.

Chris Fisher asked whether the parcel was surrounded by public lands or private lands. Jeremy Cram responded that CDLT owns the property immediately upstream from the parcel. The property downstream from the parcel is owned by a private landowner. The specification sheet indicates the following: “CDLT owns several parcels for the next 1.25 miles upstream, as well as the immediately upstream, as well as the next .75 miles downstream (Stormy Preserve), and we hope to eventually acquire the Jean parcel in between. Acquiring the Rains piece will prevent having a potentially unfriendly neighbor in the middle.”

Vaseux Creek Diversion Decommissioning Project

Dave Duvall, liaison, said the purpose of this project is to deactivate and remove the diversion on Vaseux Creek and place water users on groundwater sources. The diversion has operated for 140 years and has resulted in low flows in the stream, creating tensions between anthropogenic water uses and flow requirements for Chinook Salmon and steelhead/rainbow. Also, for most of the 140 years, the inlet at the diversion was not screened and was known to entrain fish. Removing the diversion will improve stream flows, riparian function, and reduce mortality of juvenile fish. Dave noted that Chris Fisher tried to get this project off the ground several years ago, but landowner issues prevented the project from moving forward. Landowners are now on board with the proposed project. Dave also reminded the group that this project is similar to the diversion-removal project on Shuttleworth Creek, which was in part funded by the PRCC HabSC. The total cost of the project is \$441,629.00. The sponsor is requesting

\$135,026.00 USD from the PRCC HabSC. Following discussion, the PRCC HabSC approved \$135,026.00 USD for the project.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$135,026 USD for the Vaseux Creek Diversion Decommissioning Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

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

Dave Duvall reported that he received a budget amendment request from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Project. Unfortunately, when ONA submitted the specification sheet, they failed to include the Government State Tax in the budget. The addition of this tax would increase the total budget by \$9,822.49 USD. Including the tax will increase the total budget from \$196,449.85 to \$206,272.34 USD. After review and discussion, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved the budget amendment. The total contribution from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will increase from \$196,449.85 USD (original contribution) to \$206,272.34 USD.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$9,822.49 USD for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) – Restoring Salmon Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Okanagan Falls Assessment and Feasibility project. This will increase the total budget from \$196,449.85 USD (original contribution) to \$206,272.34 USD. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Project Development Funding

Dave Duvall said he has been in communication with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) regarding whether they need funding to help develop potential projects. Dave reminded members that in the past, the PRCC HabSC provided funding to sponsors to help them develop projects. This funding helped cover staff time and administrative expenses used to develop a project, including review of tributary and reach assessments to determine priority areas, attendance at meetings (watershed habitat subcommittee, planning unit, implementation team), research of property and land ownership records, landowner outreach, and funding applications. Dave said he discussed this with Mickey Fleming (CDLT), and she recalled that they stopped submitting invoices for project development because they identified several potential projects that did not go anywhere, and they were concerned about wasting funds and goodwill. She thought it may be worth rethinking if they find good project candidates.

Chris Fisher noted that early on CDLT presented properties that were available for purchase. The PRCC-HSC selected properties that they were interested in purchasing and provided CDLT the funds for project development because, at the time, some sponsors did not have the resources to conduct preliminary tasks such as title searches, property liens, water certificates, etc. without reimbursement. This occurred when CDLT did not have the resources to fully develop the projects. Now, they have more resources and likely do not need funding to help them develop projects.

Brandon Rogers agreed that most, if not all, sponsors have the resources to develop projects without the use of development funds. He added that if a sponsor needs development funds, they can submit a specification sheet requesting funds to conduct landowner outreach, administration, and cover incidentals and other expenses associated with project development.

Members agreed that there is no need at this time to provide development funds to sponsors unless they request such funds. Sponsors are welcome to submit specification sheets requesting project development funds if these funds are needed to help them develop high-quality projects.

Methow Steelhead All-H Data Gaps and Analysis

Dave Duvall reminded members that in May, he and several others attended the Upper Columbia All-H Integration Pilot – Methow Steelhead Workshop hosted by Trout Unlimited in Mazama. One data gap identified by the group was to identify population bottlenecks for Methow steelhead (i.e., limiting factors and limiting life stages). This work is needed to identify ways to improve steelhead productivity in the Methow River basin. Dave said he strongly supports using PRCC HabSC funds to compile data and conduct statistical analysis, particularly looking at returns at Wells Dam over the past 25 years, with high and low adult steelhead returns during that timeframe, to help identify what measures could be replicated to improve adult returns in the future. This work could be conducted by a consultant.

Brandon Rogers said that it is very unlikely that the Yakama Nation will support this work. The Yakama Nation is currently discussing this internally and they generally do not support the All-H Integration work led by Trout Unlimited because there are other venues already doing this work. Jeremy Cram said that he also has concerns and would not want to hire a consultant to tell us what we already know (e.g., ocean conditions are the main driver). Jeremy added that WDFW is working on developing Integrated Population Models (IPMs) that are intended to identify population bottlenecks. These models integrate the data that would be compiled and analyzed by the consultant. Although this modeling process, which can integrate the HARP (Habitat Assessment and Restoration Planning) model and information from all the Hs, may take time to fully develop, it should address the question regarding what limits Methow steelhead productivity. IPMs can also be used to evaluate different management strategies within the different Hs and forecast changes in abundance and productivity into the future. Dave then questioned, if we already know that ocean conditions are the primary driver, then what is the point of the Methow Steelhead All-H process?

Dave said he is disappointed and frustrated that policy/political positions would prevent an unbiased, non-political evaluation of Methow steelhead, believing that there is information that could be derived from a deeper dive into the statistical analysis. These results could be used to inform future management decisions much quicker than waiting for the All-H process to run its course. The work would not take a political or policy position.

Tracy Hillman noted that the PRCC HabSC could consider supporting the development of an IMP in the Methow River basin. This is still a rigorous approach and results from the work would help identify population bottlenecks and inform future management decisions.

The recommendation to use PRCC HabSC funds to support a statistical analysis of Methow River steelhead data was not supported unanimously by the PRCC HabSC.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

NMFS Representation on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Tracy Hillman reported that he received a call from Scott Carlon indicating that because of a large reduction in staff, NMFS will no longer be able to participate in the PRCC HabSC until further notice. Current staff are being reassigned to higher priority activities. Tracy Hillman noted that their absence does not prevent the PRCC HabSC from making funding decisions given that NMFS notified him and indicated that they will not be able to participate.

Contracting Process

As an information update, Dave Duvall reported that he and Tracy Hillman discussed possible ways to speed up the contracting process. This discussion was in response to feedback from some project sponsors. Currently, the contracting process begins once the draft notes are finalized, which is usually a

month after the PRCC HabSC makes a funding decision. As such, the sponsor may not see the draft contract for up to two months after a funding decision is made. Some sponsors (e.g., Chelan-Douglas Land Trust) have indicated that the delay can be burdensome and would appreciate a faster process. Dave said that although Grant PUD cannot change the overall contracting process, they can begin the development of contracts after the award letters are prepared and sent to the project sponsors. That is, rather than begin preparing the contracts after the draft notes are finalized, Grant PUD would begin preparing the contracts after the award letters are submitted to the sponsors. Once the PRCC HabSC approves the draft meeting notes the following month, the contract will be sent to the sponsor for review and signature, potentially speeding up the time when contractors could begin work.

Project Tours in September

During the last meeting, members identified the following projects to tour in the Wenatchee River basin in September.

- 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)

Tracy Hillman reported that Becky Sadler (HCP Tributary Committees Coordinator) reached out to project sponsors to see whether they could join the tour, describe the projects, identify lessons learned, and coordinate with the landowners. Unfortunately, she found out that Chelan County Natural Resource Department and Trout Unlimited would not be available to attend the tour on 10 September. If the tour occurs on 10 September, the group will need to identify other projects to visit.

Members indicated that the identified projects are of greatest interest and replacing them with other projects is not recommended. Therefore, they asked whether the tour date could be moved to Thursday, 17 September. That date works for several members; however, there are a few that may have a Hatchery Committees meeting on the 17th. Because the Hatchery Committees meet next week (19-20 August), Tracy Hillman will find out if they plan to meet on 17 September. If there is no Hatchery Committees meeting on the 17th, Becky Sadler will reach out to the sponsors and see whether they are available on the 17th.

Tracy Bowerman and Jeremy Cram reported that it would be difficult to see the White River Large Wood Atonement project without floating the river. Tracy Hillman indicated that the sponsor (Jason Lundgren, Cascade Fisheries) is checking with Ken Muir to see whether Ken can provide current drone footage of the project. Jason, in an email to Tracy Hillman, also indicated that the last time he checked, many of the pilings were no longer there. Jason will send us video of the project site once he secures it. Jeremy stated that in place of the White River Large Wood Atonement project, he would like to visit the Upper White Pine project and/or the Monitor Side Channel project. Tracy Hillman said he will try to add those sites into the tour schedule.

Project Tour in Canada

Tracy Hillman reported that he received an email from Kari Alex (ONA) indicating that ONA has several projects they want to show us in Canada. She asked whether members of the PRCC HabSC would be

interested in and available for a tour on 7-9 October 2026. The following members indicated that they may be available for the tour:

- Chris Fisher
- Chris Mott
- Dave Duvall
- Brandon Rogers
- Jeremy Cram
- Cody Gillan
- Tracy Hillman

Tracy Hillman indicated that the best time would be 8-9 October because there are Fish Forum meetings on the 7th. Tracy Hillman will coordinate with ONA on the tour. A final participation list will be compiled during the 10 September meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 10 September 2026.