



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Conference Call

Thursday, 8 May 2025
 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Final Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Tracy Bowerman, Shelby Fowler (alt), USFWS
 Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD
 TBD, NMFS¹
 Jeremy Cram, Cody Gillin (alt), WDFW
 Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum

Chris Fisher, CTCR
 Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
 Carl Merkle, CTUIR
 Erin Harris, GPUD
 Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CTCR
 Jeremy Cram, WDFW
 Chris Mott, GPUD
 Chris Johnson, MSRF*
 Rocky Robbins, Okanogan County*
 Jessica Goldberg, MSRF*

Dave Duvall, GPUD
 Tracy Bowerman, USFWS
 Brandon Rogers, YN
 Nick Legg, MSRF Consultant*
 Tara Gregg, MSRF*
 Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

* Guests who joined the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meeting for discussion on the Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update Project and the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Budget Amendment/Scope Change.

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall will work with Grant PUD contracting to provide language requiring sponsors to request proposals for engineering, architecture, or survey work so that state requirements are met. This language will be added to award letters, contracts, and the PRCC HabSC Operating Procedures.

¹ NOAA Fisheries has not identified a representative to serve on the Habitat Subcommittees, nor did they notify the Chair requesting a delay in voting on decision items. Therefore, decisions were made by members present.

- Dave Duvall will develop a draft sign, which includes the PRCC HabSC logo, and ask vendors for an estimate on the cost to produce the sign. Signs will be placed at select restoration and protection projects funded by the PRCC HabSC.

Decision Items²:

- **Decision:** *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the scope change and following budget amendment for the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation Eagle Rocks Project: \$3,600 for spring adaptive management in 2025 and \$12,500 for maintenance work during the first year. They did not approve \$21,000 for ongoing maintenance during years 2 through 5. The total contribution to this project will not change as a result of this budget amendment.*
- **Decision:** *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$74,965 for the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 603.*

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 May meeting agenda.

III. April Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 10 April 2025 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Tracy Hillman will discuss with Brandon Rogers/Hans Smith and Justin Yeager the possibility of inviting the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) and an Okanogan County representative to discuss the Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update project with the PRCC HabSC during the May meeting. **Complete.**
- Tracy Hillman will discuss with Brand Rogers/Hans Smith and Justin Yeager whether they approve funding for the first two-line items of the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement project budget amendment/scope change request. **Complete.**
- Jeremy Cram will verify with Mickey Fleming (Chelan Douglas Land Trust) whether the Bockoven Entiat Acquisition project has been pulled. **Complete. Mickey requested that the PRCC HabSC keep the project open. The landowner may decide to sell the property to CDLT.**
- Tracy Hillman will invite MSRF to the May meeting to discuss with the PRCC HabSC the budget amendment/scope change on the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement project. **Complete.**
- Tracy Hillman will invite MSRF and a representative from Okanogan County to the next PRCC HabSC meeting to discuss the proposed Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update project. **Complete.**

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

- Tracy Hillman will add language to the letters he sends to sponsors who have been awarded funding from the PRCC HabSC that selection of a contractor for design, architecture, or engineering services must go through a competitive bid process. **Complete.**
- Dave Duvall will review contracts between Grant PUD and project sponsors to determine whether the contracts include language requiring sponsors to request proposals for design, architecture, or engineering work. **Ongoing. See Section VII.**
- Dave Duvall will investigate the cost of developing a universal sign design for placement at select restoration and protection projects funded by the PRCC HabSC. **Ongoing. See Section VII.**

V. Project Updates

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

- **Appraisals** – Dave Duvall reported that there are no new updates on the appraisal contracts. The contract with Noble Ag Land Valuation will be signed soon.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher reported no new updates on this project.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) continues to work on updating the temporary access agreements that are needed from property owners that have land contiguous with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) Right of Way. The JSDC Trust Water Right Agreement continues to move through the review process; although, it is taking longer than expected. The sponsor is working to have the draft agreement to Ecology for review by the end of May. The USFWS is helping the sponsor with the cultural review. The sponsor does not believe a new survey will be needed.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the project is complete. The contractor will be doing clean up (paving, hydroseeding, etc.) over the next couple of weeks.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design Project** – Dave Duvall shared that this project is complete and can be closed once Grant PUD receives the final invoice.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that Cascade Fisheries (CF) continues to coordinate with the landowner and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust about the potential to do a conservation easement or fee title purchase of the property. The sponsor continues to coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Ecology to work through Clean Water Act permitting. They received their 401 Water Quality Certification from Ecology. The sponsor is working through additional steps requested by the USACE archeologists. USACE is concerned about the potential burial site and wants the sponsor to perform additional field work. In April, the sponsor received confirmation from the Services that the project has ESA coverage. Documentation of ESA coverage was sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) approval. In May, the sponsor will continue to work through permitting steps, which include additional field work, archeological field work, meeting with USACE archaeologists, and working with FEMA for the CLOMR approval.
- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects** – Jeremy Cram reported that the landowner is on pause and the sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust) does not want the PRCC HabSC to pull

the Entiat acquisition project. The landowner may eventually sell the property to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that there is no update on this project.
- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project** – Tracy Bowerman said the sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) met with the planting contractor to identify a plan for completing planting and maintenance needs. In addition, they removed straw waddles from the water's edge and stockpiled it on high ground to reuse as mulch following high water, installed 8 BDA-type structures on the upper floodplain bench to provide additional roughness, installed 15 willow clump plantings along the water's edge to provide additional roughness on the upper floodplain bench, and removed deer fencing in advance of high water. During May, they will continue monitoring and photo documentation.
- **Kedrowski Acquisition Project** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that the sponsor (MSRF) is coordinating with Pacific Appraisal Associates and the Calvary Church. They intend to have a signed agreement with the Calvary Church soon.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project** – Dave Duvall shared that this project is complete and can be closed once Grant PUD receives the final invoice.
- **Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project** – Tracy Bowerman said the sponsor (MSRF) closed the property on 18 March 2025. The sponsor and the landowner completed a short-term (one year) rent-back agreement. The sponsor is currently identifying additional restoration options once the house is removed. They will also conduct a property-line survey.
- **Skyline Screen and Fish Return Project** – Tracy Bowerman said the sponsor (MSRF) is troubleshooting the new fish screen and coordinating the installation of the sluice pipe and headwall. They are looking into the cause of leakages at the vault and below the HDPE outlet. All disturbed areas have been seeded with native grass. They are also reviewing the Operations and Maintenance Manual and coordinating the installation of fencing at the fish screen. The photo below shows the operational fish screen and fish bypass.



- **Penticton Dam Fish Passage Construction** – Chris Fisher said that there is no update on this project. However, they are currently working on the project and it is expected to be completed by 30 June 2025. The fishway will begin operation in July 2025.
- **ORRI Okanagan Falls** – Dave Duvall said he has been coordinating with the sponsor (ONA) on their insurance certificate and contracting.
- **White River Ohme Acquisition** – Dave Duvall said there is no new update on this project. He said Grant PUD hired Pacific Appraisal Associates to do the appraisal.
- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design** – Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited) continues to make progress on this project. The sponsor is working with Grant PUD on a contract, and they hope the contract will be finalized soon. Dave Duvall indicated that Grant PUD is waiting on a Certificate of Insurance from the sponsor. Chris said the sponsor will send the Sediment Evaluation Report to the Dredged Materials Management Office and the Technical Advisory Committees. Chris said the sponsor continues to make progress developing the concept of a “dam removal entity” that will handle contracting, construction management, and liability/risk management during a dam removal scenario.
- **Methow River Riparian Stewardship** – Dave Duvall indicated that the sponsor (MSRF) and Grant PUD began the contracting process.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction** – Dave Duvall indicated that the sponsor (MSRF) and Grant PUD began the contracting process.
- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the \$217,033 from the U.S. Forest Service Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act (FRIMA) is hung up at a newly implemented level of review at the Department of Interior. The project will likely

not be implemented until 2026 due to this funding pause, cultural resources survey, and delays in design. The USFWS engineer (Shelby Fowler) is working toward a 60% design for the roughened channel. Dave Duvall indicated that Grant PUD Contracting and Procurement is concerned that there may be a conflict of interest because Shelby (USFWS alternate on the PRCC HabSC) is working on this project and there was no competitive bid process to select an engineer. Tracy Bowerman noted that the funding from Grant PUD would be used for project implementation, not engineering. Therefore, there should be no conflict of interest and no issues with engineering services.

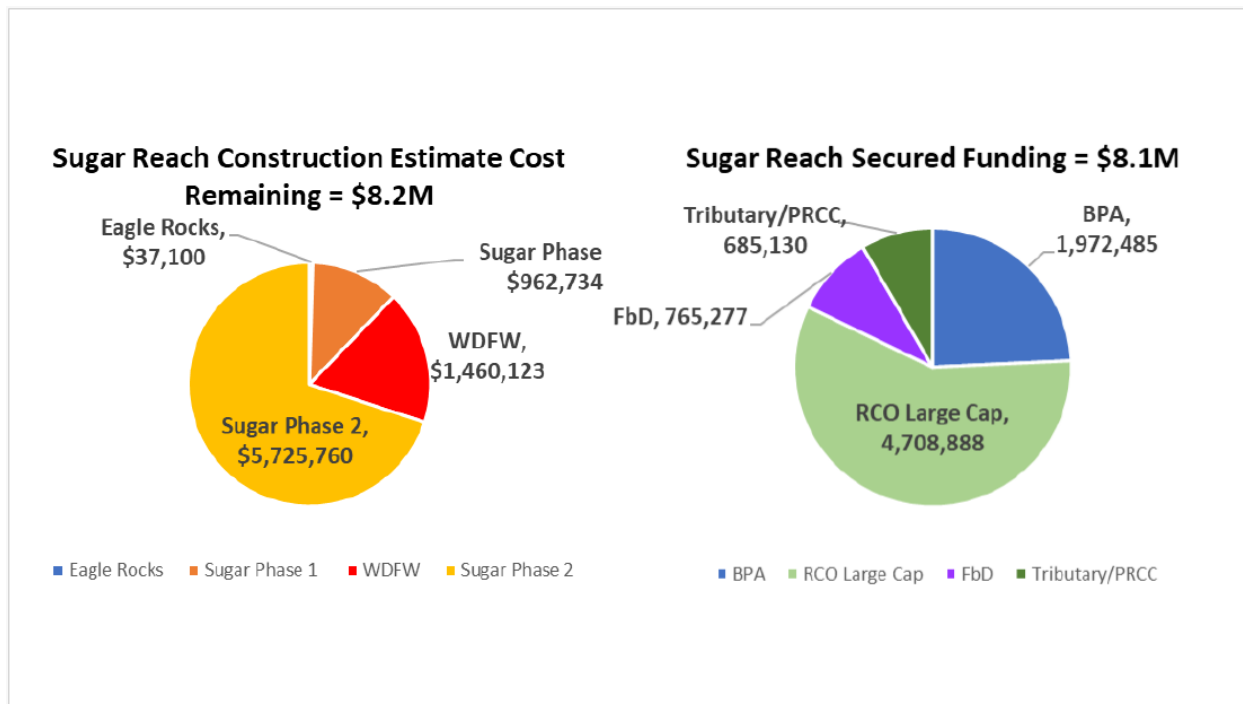
VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project Budget Amendment and Scope Change

Last month the PRCC HabSC received a budget amendment/scope change from MSRF on the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement project. This project was substantially completed late last year and there are funds remaining in the PRCC HabSC agreement. The sponsor would like to use the remaining funds to cover maintenance of riparian plantings. The sponsor stated, *“In order to fully leverage secured funding for construction of the larger Sugar Reach Project and reduce the remaining funding gap, MSRF is requesting a change in scope for our PRCC agreement. MSRF would like to utilize unspent funds in our current agreement to cover riparian adaptive and maintenance needs for the Eagle Rocks Riparian Planting.”* The sponsor specifically requested \$3,600 for spring adaptive management in 2025, \$12,500 for maintenance work during the first year (2025), and \$21,000 for ongoing maintenance during years 2 through 5 (2026-2029). The sponsor is not requesting additional funds; they are requesting to use the remaining funds to address adaptive management.

During the meeting last month, members present were divided on whether to allow the sponsor to use the remaining funds to implement adaptive management actions on the project site. Some members expressed concern about this becoming a recurring issue, suggesting future stewardship costs should be included in initial proposals. Concerns were also raised regarding project creep and the responsibility of the project sponsor to conduct ongoing maintenance. There was debate about who should bear the cost of ongoing maintenance. Ultimately, after discussion, members present supported the use of remaining funds for the first two items (i.e., \$3,600 for spring adaptive management in 2025 and \$12,500 for maintenance work during the first year), but not the last item (\$21,000 for ongoing maintenance during years 2 through 5). Because Justin Yeager and Hans Smith were unable to attend the meeting, Tracy Hillman was directed to contact them regarding their thoughts on the budget amendment/scope change. Justin supported the first two items; Hans indicated that he had some questions regarding the amendment. Hans said it would be useful for the sponsor to account for what the funding gap looks like so the PRCC HabSC can better understand what funding the sponsor has secured for all Sugar Reach projects, and what are the exact gaps they are projecting. Hans recommended a discussion with the sponsor during the May meeting.

Tara Gregg (MSRF) joined the PRCC HabSC meeting and reported that the funding gap is about \$500,000. She provided the following figure showing the amount of money secured and the estimated construction costs. She also identified the funding sources. She noted that there are some questions as to whether they will receive the RCO Large Cap funds.



Following the discussion with the sponsor, the PRCC HabSC agreed to support the first two items but not the third item.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the scope change and following budget amendment: \$3,600 for spring adaptive management in 2025 and \$12,500 for maintenance work during the first year. They did not approve \$21,000 for ongoing maintenance during years 2 through 5. The total contribution to this project will not change as a result of this budget amendment.

Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update Proposal

In March, Kate Terrell introduced the Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update proposal from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation. The purpose of the project is to remap the outdated channel migration zone (CMZ) of the Methow River (RM 0-75). This work will create an integrated picture of risks and process-based restoration opportunities along the Methow River. The sponsor will include updated LiDAR data, river course changes, and advancements in CMZ mapping techniques. The total cost of the project is \$299,860. The sponsor requested \$74,965 from the PRCC HabSC. In March, the PRCC HabSC was unable to make a funding decision because they needed more information on how this project will inform prioritization and selection of appropriate restoration actions along the Methow River. In addition, they wanted input from Brandon Rogers and Hans Smith, who were unable to attend the March meeting. As a result, the PRCC HabSC tabled a decision on this project until the April meeting.

Prior to the April meeting, the sponsor provided additional information on the project. The sponsor noted that the proposed project includes steps to map a CMZ that will create a template for an integrated strategy that combines risk reduction and process-based restoration efforts. The core elements of the study include (1) remapping the original CMZ, which was completed in 2006, with updated data and methods to create a realistic boundary to support the County’s land-use regulation efforts and (2) using integrated hydraulic modeling and habitat analysis to support strategic planning and restoration “within the CMZ.” The sponsor will specifically map floodplain connectivity and utilize the channel migration/modeling analysis to assess riparian health and cottonwood recruitment processes. This work will identify opportunities for river corridor expansions through restoration and

acquisition. The sponsor stated that “...integration of habitat restoration and conservation goals into existing CMZs is needed to help regulate existing and future development by providing a scientific basis for (1) applying land use codes that prevent unwise and risky future development, and (2) identifying areas for strategic property acquisitions.”

Members present during the April meeting discussed the original application and the additional materials provided by the sponsor. They generally agreed that an updated CMZ map could prevent development within sensitive riparian/floodplain areas; however, there is no certainty that Okanogan County would accept and use the revised CMZ maps. Although the additional information provided by the sponsor indicates that they are collaborating with the County, it was not clear whether the County would accept and use the revised mapping as a technical basis for land use/development decisions in the CMZ critical areas. To that end, during the April meeting, the PRCC HabSC recommended that the sponsor and a representative from Okanogan County attend the May PRCC HabSC meeting to discuss the project.

Chris Johnson (MSRF), Jessica Goldberg (MSRF), Nick Legg (Lichen, Land, and Water), and Rocky Robbins (Okanogan County) joined the PRCC HabSC meeting to discuss the CMZ project. When asked whether the County would use the revised mapping as a technical basis for land use/development decisions in the CMZ critical areas, Rocky indicated that they will use the updated CMZ because it is the best available scientific information. She added that they are currently working through their Critical Area Ordinance and the updated CMZ mapping is very timely. Chris Fisher asked about the timeline for completing the updated CMZ mapping. Nick said they will compile and QA/QC information in 2025, conduct the analyses in late 2025 through 2026, and provide the maps to the County for adoption in 2027. Following the discussion with the sponsor, the PRCC HabSC agreed to support the updated CMZ mapping work.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$74,965 for the Methow River – Integrated CMZ Update Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 603.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

NOAA Fisheries Representation on the PRCC HabSC

Tracy Hillman reported that Justin Yeager elected to take early retirement. Tracy has been in communication with NOAA and at this time NOAA has not identified a representative to serve on the Tributary Committees. Tracy added that Emi Melton and Scott Carlon will be meeting with Nancy Munn later this week or next week to identify their representative on the Tributary Committees. NOAA is in triage mode until they see who will be dismissed later this month because of the Reduction in Force. Scott Carlon will send an official designation letter to Tracy Hillman once NOAA identifies their representative.

Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for Engineering Services

Dave Duvall stated that Grant PUD contracting requires that funding for restoration work that includes engineering, architecture, or surveying must follow the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). This means that any funding approved by the PRCC HabSC that includes engineering must go through a competitive bid process. In most cases, project sponsors select engineers through a competitive bid process; however, we need to include this language in award letters (as approved during the April meeting), in contracts, and in our Operating Procedures. Dave said he will work with contracting to identify the appropriate language to include in these documents.

Signage on Acquisition and Restoration Properties

Dave Duvall stated that based on his action item from last month, he reached out to a few vendors who make signs. They provided Dave with the following prices:

- 24" x 36" aluminum sign: \$400-\$1,000 per sign.
- 24" x 18" aluminum sign: \$320 per sign.

Dave said there may be cost savings if the PRCC HabSC orders several signs. The price also varies depending on what is included on the sign. Dave recommended the PRCC HabSC logo be included on the sign. Dave will prepare a draft sign and ask the vendors for a more refined cost estimate.

Tracy Hillman reminded that group that they agreed to add signage on a case-by-case basis. Members believe signs for some protection and screening/water-savings projects would be appropriate.

Equipment Purchases

Dave Duvall stated that the State of Washington increased the value of purchased equipment that must be returned to the State from \$300 to \$500. Currently, the Habitat Accounts include language that clearly states that equipment purchased through the course of a project and/or evaluation with a purchased value in excess of \$300 will be returned to Grant PUD within 15 days of contract completion. Equipment with a purchased value of \$300 or less can be retained by the contractor because it is assumed that the "usable life" of that item has expired. Dave checked with the PRCC to see if they recommend increasing the purchase value from \$300 to \$500 to be consistent with the State. The PRCC indicated that they will keep the purchase value at \$300.

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 12 June 2025.