



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Conference Call

Thursday, 13 June 2024
 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, Shelby Fowler (alt), USFWS	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Amanda Barg (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

Meeting Attendees¹

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Amanda Barg, WDFW	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Chris Fisher, CTCR	Brandon Rogers, YN
Chris Johnson, MSRF	Brian Fisher, MSRF
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- None.

Decision Items²:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$27,087 for the Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

¹ Chris Johnson and Brian Fisher joined the meeting for the discussion on Methow Salmon Recovery Board restoration projects.

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

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$919,200 (plus appraisal costs) for the Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the time extension language in the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the June agenda.

III. May Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 9 May 2024 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall will discuss with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation the additional insurance likely required by Grant PUD on the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project. **Complete. Dave said the sponsor is aware of Grant PUD's insurance requirements.**

V. Project Updates

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

- **Alternate Primary Appraiser** – Dave Duvall reported no new updates on this item.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance will construct the remaining riffles during summer 2024. The final designs for the riffles should be completed soon.
- **Sage Sugar Acquisition** – Kate Terrell indicated that this project is in closing. The closing date is set for 30 June.
- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – Chris Fisher said this project is complete. The project can be closed once final invoices are received.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (TU) continues to work through the water right change application and the Record of Examination (ROE). Chelan County Water Conservancy Board is currently reviewing the draft ROE. The sponsor finalized the bid documents and advertised the bid on 16 May. There was a mandatory bid walk on 29 May. Bids are due on 20 June.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager noted that pump station construction has started.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance will soon submit a specification sheet to the PRCC HabSC seeking funds to construct the fishway.

- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that Cascade Fisheries has been working on the 30% designs to maximize the period of inundation to the new side channel while avoiding an avulsion. They are also working on construction access and relocating a well. Impacts to wetlands is one of the biggest challenges. Cultural resources field work is complete.
- **Bockoven Entiat Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said Grant PUD is working through the contracting process with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. He also noted that the estimated cost of the appraisal is \$6,000 with an appraisal completion date of 31 July 2024.
- **Bockoven Stormy Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said Grant PUD is working through the contracting process with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Dave indicated that the estimated cost of the appraisal is \$6,500 with an appraisal completion date of 24 July 2024.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that Cascade Fisheries has completed surveys and should have conceptual designs ready for Forest Service review in July. They will then select a preferred alternative and continue design work through this summer. They hope to complete Geotech work this fall.
- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project** – Kate Terrell said the bid process is complete and a contractor has been selected.
- **Kedrowski Acquisition Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that there is no update on this project. Dave Duvall said that Grant PUD will begin the contracting process with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation.

Chris Fisher provided an update on fish passage at Zosel Dam on the Okanogan River. As he described during the April meeting, the dam causes delays in adult Sockeye Salmon passage, mainly because of high water temperatures and a lack of attraction water to the fishway. Based on a recent meeting with stakeholders, all agreed to test operational changes (i.e., changes in the gate configuration) at the dam when Sockeye Salmon are detected at Malott. When water temperature descends below the thermal tolerance (~ 22°C) and Sockeye Salmon are detected, a gate at Zosel Dam will be opened releasing ~ 900 cfs. It is expected that Sockeye Salmon will more readily locate this point of access past Zosel Dam and reduce mortality associated with delay. This will be tested this year.

VI. Discussion with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation

Chris Johnson and Brian Fisher with the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) joined the meeting to discuss the status of projects in the Methow River basin. Chris Johnson began by providing some additional information on the Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project (see Section VII below), noting that acquiring the property will allow them to breach the levee and reconnect the floodplain with the Twisp River. He added that reconnecting the floodplain on river right will not affect the property on river left. He said their desire is to sell and remove the house on the property. If the house stays on the property, they cannot remove all of the levee. Chris Fisher asked what MSRF's vision is for the property once they acquire the property. Chris Johnson said they want to remove the house, culverts, and roads and allow full connection with the river. They will conduct 2D analyses to determine the potential effects of levee removal.

Chris Johnson then talked briefly about the Kedrowski Acquisition Project. He reminded the PRCC HabSC that the goal of the project is to permanently protect a portion of two properties located at RM 42 on the Methow River. The purchase of these properties allows restoration of floodplain capacity and connectivity in the Sugar Reach. Kate Terrell asked about the benefits that can be achieved by acquiring

the property. Chris Johnson responded that it will connect significant (11.92 acres) floodplain habitat with very little work needed to reconnect the floodplain.

Lastly, Chris Johnson then noted that the Sage Sugar Acquisition Project is closing on 30 June 2024. He thanked the PRCC HabSC for all their support and appreciates the PRCC HabSC's review and feedback on restoration project designs. Brandon Rogers asked whether MSRF could provide an update on all the restoration work completed, occurring, and planned within the M2 reach on the Methow River. Chris Johnson indicated he could provide a presentation to both the PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs during the July meeting.

The PRCC HabSC thanked Chris Johnson and Brian Fisher for joining the meeting to discuss the status of some of their projects.

VII. Restoration/Protection Projects

Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project – Chris Fisher introduced the specification sheet titled, *Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project*. The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is the sponsor of this project. The purpose of the project is to remove the Allendale Water User Community's unscreened point of diversion structure on Shuttleworth Creek, a tributary to the Okanagan River in Canada. Removal of the diversion will prevent unauthorized surface-water withdrawals and entrainment of fish, and removal will maintain natural flow in the lower five miles of Shuttleworth Creek. The water user receives water from a production well, which serves three water users, a water exchange project that was funded through PRCC-HSC during 2012. The total cost to remove the concrete diversion and pipe is \$48,587. The sponsor requested \$27,087 from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to provide \$27,087 (US dollars) for the project.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$27,087 (US dollars) for the Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.*

Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A – Kate Terrell introduced the specification sheet titled, *Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project*. The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of this project. The goal of this project is to permanently protect 7.86 acres of floodplain and riparian habitat at RM 1.5 along the Twisp River. The property lies immediately upstream of the MSRF pond complex and would allow reconnection of the entire floodplain by removal of a 1,200-foot-long levee. The total cost of the project is \$919,200, which includes the purchase of a 2,500 square foot residential home. The sponsor requested the full amount (plus appraisal costs) from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to provide \$919,200 (plus appraisal costs) for the project with the following conditions: The PRCC HabSC cannot pay more than the appraised value for the property, and they require that any funds collected through the sale of the structures on the property be returned to the PRCC HabSC.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$919,200 (plus appraisal costs) for the Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.*

VIII. Administration and Information Updates

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures – During the May meeting, the PRCC HabSC approved the addition of 12 months to the proposed timeline identified in specification sheets from project sponsors. This is intended to reduce the number of time extension requests from project sponsors. The following language was added to the PRCC HSC Operating Procedures under Habitat Funding Proposals and Process:

“The HabSC often receives time extension requests from project sponsors because sponsors often underestimate the amount of time it will take to implement the project as proposed. To minimize the number of time extensions the HabSC has to evaluate, the HabSC approved the addition of 12 months to the proposed timeline identified in specification sheets by project sponsors.”

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the time extension language in the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures.

Restoration Effectiveness – Because of a lack of time, the PRCC HabSC did not discuss this item during the meeting. They will discuss it during the July meeting.

IX. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 11 July 2024.