



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee  
 Conference Call**

**Thursday, 12 September 2024  
 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members**

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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 Attendees<sup>1</sup>**

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Amanda Barg, WDFW	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Chris Fisher, CTCR	Hans Smith, YN
Shelby Fowler, USFWS (alternate)	Catherine Willard, CPUD <sup>1</sup>
Tom Kahler, DPUD <sup>1</sup>	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

**Action Items:**

- Tracy Hillman will ask Chelan-Douglas Land Trust for a copy of the SRFB Deed of Right for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel.
- Comments on the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design report are due to Tracy Hillman by Tuesday, 17 September 2024.
- Tracy Hillman will let Carlos Polivka know that the PRCC HabSC is not interested in funding food web studies on floodplains at this time.

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<sup>1</sup> Catherine Willard and Tom Kahler joined the meeting for the discussion on Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design Project.

- Tracy Hillman and Dave Duvall will add language in the Specification Sheet (under Final Comments and Instructions) describing Grant PUD’s insurance requirements for implementing restoration projects.
- Chris Fisher will work with Okanagan Nation Alliance on a time for tours in Canada.
- Tracy Hillman will let Carmen Andonaegui (WDFW) know that the PRCC HabSC elected to not add Cody Gillin to the PRCC HabSC distribution list.

**Decision Items<sup>2</sup>:**

- In August, PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members reviewed and approved the appraised values of \$297,000 for the Entiat River Parcel and \$451,000 for the Stormy Property.
- In August, PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$123,000 for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel (includes \$100,000 for the land, \$8,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship) and \$476,000 for the Stormy Creek Property (includes \$451,000 for the land, \$10,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship). In total, the PRCC HabSC approved \$599,000 for the acquisition of the two properties. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed that the SRFB Deed of Right can be used on the Entiat Mainstem Parcel. Therefore, the deed of right requirement within the Grant PUD contract for this project will be removed.
- In August, PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$30,936 (USD) to complete the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design. Thus, the original awarded amount of \$142,326.40 (USD) will be increased to a new total of \$173,262.40 (USD). Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$271,231.31 (US dollars) for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Restoring Salmon and Wildlife Habitat in Okanagan Falls 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. Tracy noted that the HCP Tributary Committees will join the discussion on the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design Project.

**II. Agenda Review**

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the September agenda.

**III. July Meeting Notes**

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 11 July 2024 meeting notes on 18 July 2024.

**IV. Review Action Items**

There were no action items to review from the July meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

## V. Project Updates

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

- **Alternate Primary Appraiser** – Dave Duvall reported that there are no new updates on the appraisals but suggested that the PRCC HabSC consider future appraisal needs (alternate primary and review appraisers) and be prepared to discuss at the October meeting.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is planning to complete riffle construction this November.
- **Sage Sugar Acquisition** – Kate Terrell indicated that this project is complete and is recorded under AF#3279093. The draft Deed of Right was provided to Grant PUD for review.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) indicated that Smith Excavation is working through the submittal process with Pacific Engineering and has purchased pipe and other materials for the project. Construction is to begin on 1 October 2024 with the irrigation system shutting down early to accommodate construction. The Jones Shotwell Ditch Company water right change is working its way through the Washington Department of Ecology. In addition, the sponsor continues to work on the temporary construction access agreements. Those should be completed in September. As for the Army Corps of Engineer permits, the sponsor was under the impression that the Corps was only interested in the wetland area at the Fairview Canyon Crossing; however, the permit writer recently indicated that the Corps is not concerned with the Fairview wetland. Rather, the Corps indicated that because the open ditch is water of the U.S., the project will need to go through an extensive permitting process. The sponsor is working with the Corps on this issue.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager said construction is underway and the project should be completed this winter.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – This project is discussed under Section VI.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that Cascade Fisheries (CF) is focusing on permitting. The sponsor prepared for and had a meeting with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, WDFW, and Washington Department of Ecology in August. Based on feedback provided during this meeting, the sponsor revised their wetland delineation report and functional lift memo. They are also working on the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and the Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) submittal. They intend to submit the CLOMR in September. Finally, they reviewed the draft cultural resource survey report and continue to provide regular updates to the landowners, who are enthusiastic about the project. Dave Duvall indicated that the sponsor may need additional funding to complete the project. The amount of additional funding needed is unknown at this time.
- **Bockoven Entiat Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said there is no update on this project at this time.
- **Bockoven Stormy Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said there is no update on this project other than implementing the recent decisions by the PRCC HabSC on Deed of Right and appraisal results.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that Cascade Fisheries is currently working on the 30% design. Geotechnical work will be completed this fall.

- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project** – Kate Terrell said that construction is underway at Eagle Rocks. The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation) reported that Pipkin completed work in the lower work area including the split flow, floodplain grading, and installation of wood structures. Initial plantings occurred on the lower bench and mid-channel bar and additional plantings will occur next month under cooler temperatures. In addition, floodplain bench grading is complete at the upper work area and wood structures will be installed soon. The project will be completed by the end of the month. Photos showing restoration work are provided in Attachment 1.
- **Kedrowski Acquisition Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that the sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation) is waiting on the completion of the appraisal.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance completed the removal of the concrete diversion. Photos showing the removal of the structure are provided in Attachment 2. This project is complete.
- **Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project** – Kate Terrell said the appraisal will be completed in late September or early October.
- **Skyline Screen and Fish Return Project** – Kate Terrell said this project is under construction. Palm Construction cleared the staging area and fish-screen site. An access road was completed and the sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) worked with WDFW and Forest Service staff to salvage fish before the ditch was shut down. Palm Construction installed two coffer dams and 18-inch bypass pipe. MSRF monitored irrigation flows to irrigators to ensure 3 cfs was delivered through the bypass pipe.

## VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

### Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Project

For the record, Tracy Hillman reminded the PRCC HabSC that in August they received the appraised values for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel and the Stormy Creek Property from Pacific Appraisal Associates. The appraised value for the Entiat River Parcel was \$297,000, which was \$3,000 under the estimated value of \$300,000 in the original Specification Sheet (the requested cost share from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for this property was \$100,000). The appraised value for the Stormy Property was \$451,000, which was \$26,000 over the original estimated value of \$425,000 identified in the Specification Sheet. Because of the differences between the appraised values and the values identified in the Specification Sheet, in August, members reviewed and approved the appraised values for the two properties.

Following approval of the appraised values, in August, the sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust) submitted a revised specification sheet reflecting the appraised values in the specification sheet. The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the updated Specification Sheet on 21 August 2024. Specifically, the PRCC HabSC approved \$123,000 for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel (includes \$100,000 for the land, \$8,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship) and \$476,000 for the Stormy Creek Property (includes \$451,000 for the land, \$10,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship). In total, the PRCC HabSC approved \$599,000 for the acquisition of the two properties.

Dave Duvall reported that Mickey Fleming (CDLT) discussed with him the requirement of a PRCC HabSC Deed of Right for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel. Because the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) is the primary funder for this parcel (PRCC HabSC is a 35% funder), the SRFB requires that they use their Deed of Right. This is not an issue with the Stormy Creek Property because the PRCC HabSC is the only funder.

Dave asked the PRCC HabSC whether they were okay with using the SRFB Deed of Right on the Entiat Mainstem Parcel. After discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed that the SRFB Deed of Right can be used on the Entiat Mainstem Parcel. That said, the PRCC HabSC would like a copy of the SRFB Deed of Right. Tracy Hillman will request the SRFB Deed of Right from CDLT. The Deed of Right requirement within the Grant PUD contract for this project will be removed.

***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members reviewed and approved the appraised values of \$297,000 for the Entiat River Parcel and \$451,000 for the Stormy Property.

***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$123,000 for the Entiat Mainstem Parcel (includes \$100,000 for the land, \$8,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship) and \$476,000 for the Stormy Creek Property (includes \$451,000 for the land, \$10,000 for transaction fees, and \$15,000 for stewardship). In total, the PRCC HabSC approved \$599,000 for the acquisition of the two properties. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed that the SRFB Deed of Right can be used on the Entiat Mainstem Parcel. Therefore, the deed of right requirement within the Grant PUD contract for this project will be removed.

### **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design Project (with the HCP TCs)**

For the record, Tracy Hillman reminded the PRCC HabSC that in August they received a budget amendment request from ONA on the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design Project. Because of recommended changes to the original design by some members of the PRCC HabSC, the sponsor asked for an additional \$30,936 (USD) to complete the designs. After review, the PRCC HabSC approved the budget amendment. Thus, the original awarded amount of \$142,326.40 (USD) will be increased to a new total of \$173,262.40 (USD).

On 9 September, the PRCC HabSC received the revised Okanagan Lake Dam Fish Passage Design report from ONA. Although there was little time to review the design report before the meeting, members indicated that in their quick review, the sponsor addressed all the comments offered by them and Bryan Nordlund. Chris Fisher noted that he was surprised that the additional entrance would cost an additional \$300K. Shelby responded that based on his experience, the additional \$300K is not unreasonable. Shelby indicated that he may have a comment on the flow dynamics at the fishway entrances. He said he will provide his comment to Tracy Hillman early next week. Dave Duvall indicated that he would like additional time to review the design report. If he has comments, he will send those to Tracy early next week. Others indicated that they will not have any comments and appreciated ONA's response to members recommendations.

***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved an additional \$30,936 (USD) to complete the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Design. Thus, the original awarded amount of \$142,326.40 (USD) will be increased to a new total of \$173,262.40 (USD). Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

### **Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Restoring Salmon and Wildlife Habitat in Okanagan Falls Project**

Dave Duvall introduced the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Restoring Salmon and Wildlife Habitat in Okanagan Falls Project. He said the purpose of this project is to construct instream rock riffles upstream from the vertical drop structures (VDS) on the Okanagan River between Skaha Lake and Vaseux Lake in Canada. The constructed riffles will minimize the drop effect of the VDS, enhance fish passage, and improve spawning habitat especially for Chinook Salmon. Additional restoration efforts will include the construction of downstream rock riffles designed to address the effects of channelized flows

on salmon habitat. Similar work was successfully implemented immediately upstream from the proposed project site (at VDS 17). Dave added that the project will add about 600 m<sup>2</sup> of spawning habitat. There was a question about the longevity of the constructed riffles. Chris indicated that under mostly regulated flows, the riffles can last for decades. He added that the restoration work is creating conditions that will allow for the future removal of the VDS, as those structures are degrading. Dave pointed out that the VDS will not be removed anytime soon. The total cost of the project is \$563,723 (US dollars). The sponsor requested \$271,231.31 (US dollars) from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to provide \$271,231.31 (US dollars) for the project.

***Decision:*** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$271,231.31 (US dollars) for the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Restoring Salmon and Wildlife Habitat in Okanagan Falls Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

### **Floodplain Food Web Studies**

Tracy Hillman reported that he received a call from Carlos Polivka asking whether the PRCC HabSC would be interested in reviewing a specification sheet on supporting food web studies on floodplains. This would be part of the floodplain monitoring work that Carlos is doing with support from the HCP Tributary Committees. Tracy said that Carlos currently has about \$80K for food web studies from the SRFB but needs an additional \$100K to complete the work. Members discussed the request and determined that they are not interested in funding food web studies on floodplains at this time. Tracy will relay this information to Carlos.

## **VII. Administration and Information Updates**

### **Add Grant PUD Insurance Requirements to the Specification Sheet**

Dave Duvall reported that it may be a good idea to include language in the Specification Sheet (under Final Comments and Instructions) describing Grant PUD's insurance requirements for implementing restoration projects. Although several sponsors are now aware of the insurance requirements, it may be a good idea to describe the insurance requirements in the Specification Sheet. Members agreed. Tracy and Dave will provide draft language for PRCC HabSC review in October.

### **Rotate Morning Meeting Times with the HCP Tributary Committees**

Tracy Hillman and Dave Duvall discussed the idea of the PRCC HabSC rotating meeting times with the HCP TCs. Currently, the HCP TCs always meet in the morning and the PRCC HabSC meets in the afternoon. Tracy and Dave suggested that the meeting times could rotate with the HCP TCs meeting during the mornings for six months and then the PRCC HabSC meeting during the morning for six months. This is consistent with the coordinating committees' schedule and would remove any appearance of favoritism. Some members voiced concerns about this and indicated that there is no need to fix something that is not broken. The timing of the meetings has worked for many years and there is no need to change it. Based on this feedback and pending discussion within the HCP Tributaries Committees, the PRCC HabSC will continue to meet in the afternoon on the second Thursday of each month.

### **Project Tours in Canada**

Chris Fisher reported that there is no plan at this time to have a tour in Canada this fall. Rather, there is discussion about holding the tour in late winter or early spring next year. The reason for this is because several projects will be completed this winter (e.g., ORRI VDS and Okanagan Dam Fishway), and we can visit these completed projects next year. Members were okay with this but asked whether they could

see some of the tributaries to Okanagan Lake that will be used by Sockeye Salmon. Chris said he will check with ONA on this. To accommodate this suggestion may require a tour later in the spring.

#### **Request from WDFW to Add Cody Gillin to the PRCC HabSC Distribution List**

Tracy Hillman indicated that he received a request from Carmen Andonaegui (WDFW) asking whether the PRCC HabSC could add Cody Gillin to the PRCC HabSC distribution list. Cody was recently hired as WDFW's Senior Restoration Specialist and will cover the Upper Columbia (WDFW Region 2; mostly Chelan and Okanogan counties). Carmen believes it would be useful for Cody to understand the projects that are brought to the group for funding consideration. Members discussed the request, and some members concluded that adding Cody to the distribution list may create issues with other sponsors who are not included on the subcommittee's distribution list. Therefore, they denied the request; however, they made it clear that Carmen, Amanda, and Jeremy can share information from the subcommittee with Cody. If or when Cody becomes the primary or alternate representative for WDFW on the PRCC HabSC, he will be added to the distribution list. Tracy will relay this information to Carmen.

#### **VIII. Adjourn**

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

#### **IX. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 10 October 2024.

# Attachment 1

Photos from the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project.









## Attachment 2

Photos from the Shuttleworth Creek Diversion Removal Project.





