



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Conference Call

Thursday, 12 March 2026
 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Final Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Tracy Bowerman, Shelby Fowler (alt), 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

Chris Fisher, CTCR	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Tracy Bowerman, USFWS
Hans Smith, YN	Chris Mott, GPUD
Cody Gillin, WDFW	Scott Carlon, NMFS
Mark Ingman, CCD*	Nick Legg, Lichen Land and Water*
Dominique Shore, CCD*	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

*Participants who joined for the Roaring Creek Restoration Monitoring discussion.

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall will order an appraisal of the 5.58-acre Rains property on the Entiat River.
- Dave Duvall will order an appraisal of the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project.
- Tracy Hillman will ask Cascadia Conservation District to submit a revised specification sheet on the proposed Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) project. The revised specification sheet should focus on the question: does increased floodplain water storage translate to sustained late-season baseflow?

Decision Items¹:

- **Decision:** PRCC HabSC approved a two-year extension on contracts CDLT 602-77 (Bockoven Entiat Acquisition Project) and CDLT 602-78 (Bockoven Stormy Acquisition Project). The contract periods will be extended from 30 April 2026 to 30 April 2028.
- **Decision:** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed that Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman can review Deed of Right documents for consistency with the approved PRCC HabSC Deed of Right template without review and approval by the PRCC HabSC.
- **Decision:** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected not to fund the Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) Project as proposed.
- **Decision:** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute an additional \$78,105.26 for the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project (Budget Amendment to TU 603-32). Funding will come from Fund 603.
- **Decision:** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$58,000 for the Rains Acquisition 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.

II. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed and approved the March meeting agenda with the addition of the fourth-quarter 2025 financial report.

III. February Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 12 February 2026 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- If required, Dave Duvall will contact appraisers and schedule an appraisal of the 5.58-acre Rains property on the Entiat River. **Complete. Discussed during the meeting.**
- Dave Duvall will contact appraisers and schedule an appraisal of the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project. **Complete. Discussed during the 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 can complete the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition appraisal by 3 August 2026 for \$5,900. Dave asked whether he could order the appraisal. The PRCC HabSC approved the appraisal order.

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

- **Primary Appraiser (Noble Ag Land Valuation)** – Dave Duvall reported that Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) requires appraisals on all properties they purchase. Therefore, the 5.58-acre Rains property must be appraised. He said Noble Ag Land Valuation can appraise the Rains property for \$6,250-\$7,250 depending on physical deeded access and other factors. The sponsor is working to get the deed for the appraiser to reduce the appraisal cost. Dave asked whether he could order the appraisal. The PRCC HabSC approved the appraisal order.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project (TU)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that Smith Excavation’s sub-contractor ITC completed the electrical and the lighting in the new pump station and installed the 40-horse pump screen. Additionally, Cascade Powder Coating and Fabrication finished installing the aluminum diamond plate and access ladder to the pump. Smith is working with Chelan County PUD to install underground power to the pump station. The old pump station had overhead power feed, but the new power feed will be underground requiring a new easement from the property owner (WDFW). The sponsor is currently working with WDFW Lands Department to secure the easement. Smith worked on installing service valves along the 2.5 miles of mainline pipe and completed installation of 59 shareholder service valves by the end of February. The project is nearing completion. Remaining work includes final grading and clean-up, pump station electrical wrap-up (HVAC and power feed), completion of service connections, and programming and commissioning the system. A recent complication is that a portion of the service connection work has been identified as outside the contract scope, so the sponsor is working with the contractor on a change order to cover added costs. The sponsor requested additional funding from the PRCC HabSC (see Section VI). Despite a few remaining hurdles, the sponsor is on track, and the project should be substantially completed by 1 April 2026.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that the sponsor advertised the project and ran the bid solicitation to hire a construction contractor. This included a mandatory pre-bid walk, which occurred on 16 February 2026 and was well attended. A total of 16 prospective bidders showed up at the site visit, which indicated a lot of interest and competition in this project. During the site visit, the sponsor received several questions from contractors. The sponsor will officially respond to these questions in an Addendum that will be issued in early March. The sponsor will review bids in March and expects to award the project by the end of March. Coordination with the landowner and Washington Department of Transportation will continue in March.
- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that the Stormy Lodge, including the Entiat and Stormy parcels, were sold to another party. The sponsor is reaching out to the new owner to see whether the new owner would be interested in selling the uplands. Because of this change in ownership, CDLT asked to extend the contract period from 30 April 2026 to 30 April 2027 for both the Entiat (CDLT 602-77) and Stormy (CDLT 602-78) Acquisition Projects. After discussion, the PRCC HabSC believes more time will be needed to work with the new owner. Therefore, the PRCC HabSC approved a two-year extension. As such, the contracts (CDLT 602-77 and CDLT 602-78) will be extended from 30 April 2026 to 30 April 2028.

Dave Duvall indicated that during the February meeting, the PRCC HabSC agreed to a scope change on the Bockoven Entiat Acquisition Project (CDLT 602-77) to include the purchase of the Rains property, which is small 5.58-acre parcel located a quarter mile upstream from the Bockoven property. The PRCC HabSC approved the scope change because the cost of the Rains property is estimated to be \$30,000-\$40,000 and would probably not affect the budget for the

Bockoven Entiat parcel. Dave said he discussed this within Grant PUD and was informed by Grant PUD Contracting that it would be best to separate the Rains property from the Bockoven Entiat property. Therefore, Dave reached out to Mickey Fleming (CDLT) and requested a specification sheet for the Rains property. Mickey will provide Dave with a specification sheet as soon as possible. Dave will request an email vote on the specification sheet. *Following the meeting, the PRCC HabSC received a specification sheet on the Rains Acquisition from CDLT (see Section VI).*

- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that the sponsor has been on hold waiting for the next phase of review on this project. They plan to submit engineer responses to Forest Service comments on the 30% design in the next month. They will then move toward a 60% design.
- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman said this project remains in a monitoring and adaptive management phase. The sponsor is preparing for installation of fencing and gates in spring.
- **Kedrowski Acquisition Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman indicated that the acquisition closed on 1 December 2025. There will be no activity on this project until spring. At that time the sponsor will survey and flag the property boundary. She added that the sponsor is waiting for PRCC HabSC review of the draft Deed of Right.
- **Skyline Screen and Fish Return Upgrades Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that spring construction began on 4 March 2026. The sponsor held a pre-construction meeting with the engineer and contractor and is working to identify additional funding sources to complete the scope of work.
- **Bartsch Acquisition – Lower Twisp River – Reach 2A Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor is working on permits to remove the culverts and to modify the side channels. They have also started planning for riparian restoration work, and they are preparing grant applications for levee removal and complexity analysis. Dave said this project can be closed. Grant PUD received the final invoice for this project.
- **Penticton Dam Fish Passage Construction (ONA)** – Chris Fisher reported that this project is complete. Grant PUD is waiting for the final invoices for this project.
- **White River Ohme Acquisition (CDLT)** – Dave Duvall said that he and Tracy Hillman received and reviewed the Deed of Right and it is consistent with the PRCC HabSC Deed of Right template. This project will close once final invoices have been submitted.

The PRCC HabSC agreed that Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman can review Deed of Right documents for consistency with the approved PRCC HabSC Deed of Right template without review and approval by the PRCC HabSC.

- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design (TU)** – Chris Fisher reported that the elutriate tests were completed and submitted to Ecology for review. Ecology has stated they are getting more comfortable with the approach (controlled release) that is being promoted. Chris added that the sponsor, CTCR, and Ecology have been meeting with local groups and communities on the effects of dam removal and noted that there have been no issues raised or negative feedback provided by the groups. They intend to meet with Okanogan PUD on 23 March 2026.

- **Methow River Riparian Stewardship (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor is on hold for the winter. They are planning work activities on the Bartsch, Stanley, and Robinson properties.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor held meetings to discuss potential wetland impacts from side channel grading, material staging, and planting and maintenance plans. They continue to work on the CLOMR (Conditional Letter of Map Revision) and environmental permitting processes. They are also developing a budget for planting activities and rehabilitation of staging and access areas.
- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal (CF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that the sponsor contracted with American Land and Water (hydrogeologist) and Forsgren Associates (engineer) to do an initial preliminary feasibility evaluation of replacing the surface diversion with either a well and pump or some other hyporheic well type. The goal is to remove the push-up dam.
- **Sugar Channels Reconnection Project (MSRF)** – Tracy Bowerman reported that for Phase 1, the sponsor completed the project and is in the monitoring and adaptive management phase. The sponsor is preparing for installation of fencing and gates this spring, will remove remaining wood from the Witte property, and will begin restoration work on the Witte upper pasture. Under Phase 2, the sponsor hosted a required pre-bid on 4 February 2026 and nine contractors attended. Three of the contractors submitted bids. The sponsor will select a contractor in March. Construction will begin in July and extend through October 2026.
- **Methow River – Integrated CMZ Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor is waiting on clarification from Ecology about matching funds.
- **Wenatchee-Okanogan Comprehensive Thermal IR Surveys (CCD)** – Dave Duvall reported that there is no new update on this project.
- **Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project (CDLT)** – Dave Duvall indicated that he will contact Pacific Appraisal Associates to initiate the Roaring Creek-Nysether appraisal process. As described earlier, the appraisal should be completed by 3 August 2026 for \$5,900.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Roaring Creek Floodplain Restoration Monitoring Specification Sheet

Tracy Bowerman introduced the “Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed)” specification sheet. She said the purpose of the project is to quantify a reach-scale water budget before and after the proposed “Stage 0” floodplain restoration project on a 1.4-mile reach of Roaring Creek in the Entiat watershed. The proposed project will monitor components needed to quantify evapotranspiration (ET) rates before and after restoration implementation. ET monitoring will build upon the ongoing streamflow monitoring at the site. The proposed water budget will provide insight into the potential streamflow benefits from floodplain restoration actions that raise the water table and initiate riparian recovery. The primary question of the research is: does increased floodplain water storage translate to sustained late-season baseflows, or does enhanced vegetation water use offset storage gains? Tracy Bowerman said the total cost for 4 years of monitoring is \$630,864. As a final point, she said that the specification sheet provides different funding options including an option to obtain matching funding from Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration Grant program. The sponsor recently found out that the Streamflow Restoration Grant

program has received an unusually high volume of applications and therefore will likely offer partial awards for selected applicants. As a result, the sponsor is expecting low funding support from Ecology

The sponsor (Cascadia Conservation District and their consultant Nick Legg) joined the meeting to respond to questions by members. The following questions were asked and answered during the meeting.

Hans Smith asked whether pre-project flow monitoring is needed to develop a water budget. The sponsor responded that pre-treatment data are needed to make valid comparisons with post-treatment data. The pre-treatment data will provide “reference” or “control” conditions in the before-after treatment design. Hans then asked whether one year of pre-treatment data is enough to evaluate treatment effects. The sponsor noted that there will be 1.5 years of ET pre-treatment data. As for flow data, they have over two decades of data. Hans asked whether the \$630,864 includes the operation of the stream gauges. The sponsor indicated that the budget does not include the operation of the gauges. They have funding to operate the gauges through 2028. They noted that the gauges were installed and operated by Ecology, but because Ecology no longer has funding to operate the gauges, the sponsor is operating the gauges.

Jeremy Cram asked about the balance between a totally quantitative approach and a more qualitative approach such as simply monitoring the frequency and extent of downstream dewatering, which can be assessed with time-lapse photography and stream flow monitoring. The sponsor indicated that the monitoring effort is scalable, meaning that they could use less transects; however, they tried to pick a balance between highly quantifiable and less quantifiable methods. The estimation of ET requires a quantitative approach. Chris Fisher asked about the frequency and extent of dewatering in the downstream reach. The sponsor indicated that the lower 0.9 miles of Roaring Creek can dewater and based on 23 years of flow data, dewatering appears to occur over 50% of the years. They noted that this will likely get worse with climate change. Chris asked whether the stream flow gauges are functioning. The sponsor responded that they have funding to keep operating the gauges through 2028.

The PRCC HabSC thanked the sponsor for joining the meeting and for responding to questions. After the sponsor left the meeting, members discussed the project. After careful review, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee declined the opportunity to fund the project as proposed. Members found the proposed work useful and interesting; however, because of limited funding, they could not support all the elements identified in the specification sheet (e.g., ET). Therefore, they indicated that they would accept a revised specification sheet that focuses on addressing the following question: does increased floodplain water storage translate to sustained late-season baseflow? They believe answering this basic question can be addressed with monitoring flow-in and flow-out. Although interesting, monitoring ET is expensive and does not appear to be needed to answer the HabSC’s primary question. Members also indicated that they would be interested in monitoring groundwater levels, because it provides useful information on groundwater storage and water releases over time. As such, they would like to see a revised specification sheet and budget that focuses on answering their primary question. Because funds are limited, members would like to see a detailed line-item budget that will help them identify possible tasks they can support.

Tracy Hillman will ask the sponsor to submit a revised specification sheet that focuses on the question: does increased floodplain water storage translate to sustained late-season baseflow? The revised specification sheet should focus on flow-in, flow-out, and groundwater level monitoring.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected not to fund the Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) Project as proposed.*

Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Budget Amendment (TU 603-32)

Tracy Bowerman stated that Trout Unlimited is requesting additional funds to help cover several change orders that have recently surfaced on the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project. Below is a list of the change orders provided by the sponsor.

Change Order #1: There was a delay in the project due to the Army Corp of Engineers permit in early 2025 that pushed the project to fall in 2026 and is unrelated to the construction of the project. This significantly increased the cost of the project.

Change Order #2: Add a 6-inch gate valve flange to the surge anticipator valve (\$2,243.80). This valve was left off the plan set and is needed for the operation of the system.

Change Order #3: Irrigation main line moved off design alignment to avoid a property line/easement dispute (\$10,923.08).

Change Order #4: Culvert crossing under Monitor Orchard Road was unable to support a viable casing. This required the contractor to install a new casing through the existing corrugated metal pipe and grout the annular space to avoid future failure (\$38,295.54).

Change Order #5: Due to the condition of the concrete box culvert on Richard Drive, Smith Excavation cleaned out the box culvert to existing grade and installed a new 24-inch casing pipe and installed bulkheads for the new casing (\$12,873.91).

Change Order #6: Due to a discrepancy between specification and the plan sheet, there is a conflict in scope. In lieu of further action through the request for information and claims process, the following was agreed upon between Trout Unlimited and Smith Excavation. Smith Excavation will track time and materials and be compensated for all connections to the shareholder. Work on this is ongoing but nearing completion so the exact amount is currently unknown. The contractor estimate is \$35,000.00, so the sponsor is requesting a \$10,000 contingency (budgeting \$45,000.00).

Additional Trout Unlimited staff time support: Additional funds needed to support TU staff time with construction management through project completion (\$30,000).

Cain Property Boundary Line Adjustment: This is needed to install pipe crossing on the Cain property. The sponsor is waiting on an invoice from the surveyor (\$5,500).

Tracy Bowerman stated that the sponsor is requesting an additional \$78,105.26 for the project. This includes \$42,605.26 for construction and \$35,500.00 for additional support. Tracy Bowerman indicated that the sponsor cannot complete the project without additional funding. She also noted that they came to the PRCC HabSC because additional funding is needed as soon as possible, and the PRCC HabSC can approve funding quickly.

After reviewing the budget amendment request, the PRCC HabSC approved the addition of \$78,105.26 for the project. This will increase the awarded amount from \$122,487.00 to \$200,592.26.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute an additional \$78,105.26 for the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project (Budget Amendment to TU 603-32). Funding will come from Fund 603.

Rains Acquisition Specification Sheet

Following the meeting, on 16 March, CDLT submitted a specification sheet titled "Rains Acquisition." The purpose of the project is to acquire and protect a 5.58-acre parcel located at RM 20 on the Entiat River. The parcel includes 300 feet of stream bank and has a healthy riparian forest. The parcel is also adjacent

to other properties owned and protected by the sponsor. The total cost of the project is \$78,000. The sponsor requested \$58,000 from the PRCC HabSC.

Tracy Hillman sent the specification sheet to the PRCC HabSC on 16 March and requested a vote via email. Voting members approved \$58,000 (plus the appraisal cost) for the project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$58,000 for the Rains Acquisition Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Fourth Quarter 2025 Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances

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

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 December 2025	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$616,617	\$6,209,782
602	\$2,548,096	\$6,530,125
603	\$114,528	\$2,858,500
Total	\$3,279,241	\$15,598,407

SRFB 2026 Schedule

Tracy Hillman reviewed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Tributary Committees proposed schedule for 2026. Important dates are noted below:

- Pre-Applications Due: 11 March 2026
- Presentations by Project Sponsors: 25-26 March 2026
- Completed Draft Applications Due: 17 April 2026
- Site Visits: 5-7 May 2026
- Review Draft Applications: 14 May 2026
- Final Application Due: 27 May 2026
- Review Final Applications: 11 June 2026

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 9 April 2026.