



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Conference Call

Thursday, 9 April 2026
 10:45 a.m. – 2:05 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 Attendees¹

Brandon Rogers, YN	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Chris Mott, GPUD
Erin Harris, GPUD	Tom Kahler, DPUD*
Catherine Willard, CPUD*	Jason Lundgren, CF**
Aaron Rosenblum, CF**	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Chair

*Participants from the HCP Tributary Committees who joined for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Pre-Proposal, Restoration Opportunities on Mission and Peshastin Creeks, and Coordinated Resource Management Riparian Stewardship Package discussions.

**Participants who joined for the Restoration Opportunities on Mission and Peshastin Creeks discussion.

Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will contact Cascade Fisheries and let them know that there are errors in the CRM Riparian Stewardship Package spreadsheet. Tracy will request a revised spreadsheet, which the PRCC HabSC will review during their May meeting.

¹ Chris Fisher, Scott Carlon, and Tracy Bowerman were unable to join the meeting. They provided their votes on decision items before or after the meeting.

- Tracy Hillman will let Mike Kaputa (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) know that he can present an update on the Peshastin Creek Pump-back Project to the PRCC HabSC (a joint meeting with the HCP Tributary Committees) on 9 July 2026.

Decision Items²:

- **Decision:** PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute \$213,725 for the Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) Project. Funding will come from Fund 602. The sponsor will provide presentations to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee after each monitoring year and submit annual reports for review by the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Pre-Proposals (with the HCP Tributary Committees)

Tracy Hillman reported that there were 10 pre-proposals submitted through the 2026 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) process. Of these, 5 are requesting cost shares from the HCP Tributary Committees and 1 is requesting a cost share from the PRCC HabSC. Tracy Hillman showed the following table that identifies the sponsor, project title, project type, SRFB request, Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team score, and Tributary Committee and/or PRCC HabSC request.

Sponsor	Title	Project Type	SRFB Request	Pre-Proposal Score	TC/HabSC
YN	Nason Creek and SR 207 Phases 1 & 2	Restoration	\$750,000	76	0
CCNRD	Nason Creek Floodplain Restoration: PUD Transmission Line Relocation Conceptual Design	Planning	\$276,250	67	\$49,000
MSRF	Macpherson Flats Acquisition	Acquisition	\$584,092	65	0
MSRF	Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design	Planning	\$180,000	65	0
CF	Upper Columbia Instream Habitat Assessment	Assessment	\$125,000	64	\$120,000
CF	Salmon Creek Fish Passage Barrier Design	Planning	\$100,000	64	\$100,000
CDLT	Entiat Roaring Creek Fee Acquisition	Acquisition	\$350,000	64	?
CCNRD	Lower Chiwawa Area D Implementation	Restoration	\$499,113	62	\$500,000
MSRF	Beaver Creek Confluence Acquisitions	Acquisition	\$175,000	56	\$50,000
YN	2 Channels Acquisition	Acquisition	\$180,000	48	0

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

Sponsor	Title	Project Type	SRFB Request	Pre-Proposal Score	TC/HabSC
TOTAL REQUESTED:			\$3,219,455		\$819,000

Rows highlighted in green represent projects with a Tributary Committee request; the row highlighted in purple represents a project with both a Tributary Committee and PRCC HabSC request. Tracy Hillman said draft proposals are due on 17 April. The Tributary Committees will review the draft proposals and determine which ones are fundable and which ones are not fundable. The Tributary Committees will request final applications from sponsors with fundable projects. Because the PRCC HabSC does not accept SRFB applications, the sponsors will submit specification sheets for projects with a PRCC HabSC cost share.

III. Restoration Opportunities on Mission and Peshastin Creeks (with the HCP Tributary Committees)

Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries; CF) and Aaron Rosenblum (CF) joined the meeting to discuss restoration opportunities on Mission and Peshastin creeks. Jason pointed out that the December flooding created opportunities to address a road washout on Mission Creek and excessive bank erosion on Peshastin Creek. On Mission Creek, Aaron said the flood wiped out about 1,000 feet of the Mission Creek Road upstream from the Sand Creek confluence. The flood caused entrenchment in places, downed a lot of wood, and created a large log jam. The US Forest Service (USFS) has money to replace the road with the goal of restoring the road as it was before and armoring it. Aaron said this is not a fish-friendly approach and believes there are opportunities to both replace the road and improve habitat for fish. Aaron believes there are about 2 acres of habitat potential within the reach. Cascade Fisheries is currently working with the USFS on identifying potential actions to improve habitat conditions for fish in this reach. Jeremy Cram asked how much habitat improvement can be expected if the USFS replaces the road. Aaron responded that they would like to identify and evaluate some restoration alternatives. He added that although the reach is mostly confined, it appears there are opportunities to improve habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity within the damaged area.

Regarding Peshastin Creek, Jason said they were approached by a landowner near RM 4.5 (near Mill Creek) indicating that the December flood eroded the banks of the landowner's property on Peshastin Creek, and the landowner is considering an emergency Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) to riprap the bank, selling the property, or supporting a reach-scale project that would reduce bank erosion. Aaron said the best approach would be to implement a reach-scale restoration project (0.5 miles long). This would require the support of several landowners. They have support from all but one landowner. They have been unsuccessful reaching the one landowner because he lives on the westside. Cascade Fisheries would like to identify and evaluate restoration alternatives in this reach.

Jason asked whether the Tributary Committees and/or PRCC HabSC would be interested in supporting the development and evaluation of conceptual designs for these two projects. Members present said they would accept applications requesting funding to support conceptual designs and evaluation of alternatives. Jason said he will keep the committees posted on their interactions with the USFS on Mission Creek and the landowners on Peshastin Creek. Members thanked Jason and Aaron for discussing these restoration opportunities with the committees.

IV. Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Riparian Stewardship Package (with the HCP Tributary Committees)

Tracy Hillman said that during the February meeting, representatives from Cascade Fisheries, Cascadia Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited discussed their Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Riparian Stewardship Package with the Tributary Committees and PRCC HabSC. During the February meeting, the sponsors identified some high-priority sites that support Plan Species or Covered Species. These sites were identified based on site-prioritization criteria, and the sponsor presented a table of ranked sites based on those criteria. During the February meeting, the committees recommended that the sponsors share additional information on the prioritized sites (i.e., provide a more detailed spreadsheet). Once the committees receive the spreadsheet, they will determine whether they are interested in seeing a proposal/specification sheet for stewardship on specific restoration sites. Tracy Hillman said the spreadsheet was sent to the committees on 29 March.

During the meeting today, Tracy Hillman walked members through the spreadsheet and highlighted streams that Chris Fisher identified as sites that he would like to see included in a proposal or specification sheet (Chris provided his list of favorites prior to the meeting). Unfortunately, as members worked through the spreadsheet, they realized the coordinates for project sites did not match with the Site Name or Stream in the spreadsheet. This made members question whether the other information in the spreadsheet (e.g., RM, Stream Length Affected, Riparian Acres, BDAs, etc.) matched correctly with the Site Name and Stream. Members opined that only the coordinates were incorrect; however, without knowing for sure, the committees were unable to identify which sites they would recommend being included in a proposal. Members directed Tracy Hillman to share this information with the sponsors and request an updated spreadsheet with corrected information. The Committees will revisit this item during their May meeting.

V. Lunch

VI. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed and approved the April meeting agenda.

VII. March Meeting Notes

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

VIII. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall will order an appraisal of the 5.58-acre Rains property on the Entiat River. **Complete.**
- Dave Duvall will order an appraisal of the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project. **Complete.**
- 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? **Complete. See Section X.**

IX. 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 set to begin work on the Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition appraisal.
- **Primary Appraiser (Noble Ag Land Valuation)** – Dave Duvall reported that Noble Ag Land Valuation is set to begin work on the Rains property appraisal. CDLT will provide the deed for the Rains property to the appraiser to lower the appraisal cost.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project (TU)** – On behalf of Tracy Bowerman, Tracy Hillman reported that Smith Excavation completed final site grading and cleanup, pump station electrical work, HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) installation, and the installation of the new Chelan County PUD power and fiber infrastructure. Construction activities are substantially complete, and the project has transitioned into the commissioning and start-up phase. The sponsor also reported that the Wenatchee River flood in December deposited a substantial volume of sand, gravel, and trees in the diversion side channel that conveys water to the pump station. The Jones Shotwell Ditch Company secured an emergency Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit and hired a contractor in early March to clear the diversion channel. The diversion channel clearing is complete.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project (CF)** – On behalf of Tracy Bowerman, Tracy Hillman reported that the sponsor opened construction bids in March and received six submissions, all below the engineer's estimate and all from qualified contractors. After review of proposals, the project was awarded to Strider Construction. During March, the sponsor also continued coordination with both the landowner and Washington Department of Transportation. In April, the sponsor will finalize contracting with Strider Construction, maintain ongoing landowner coordination, and begin preparing for construction activities.
- **Bockoven Entiat and Stormy Acquisition Projects (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that there are no new updates on these two projects.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project (CF)** – There is no update on this project.
- **Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall indicated that the sponsor installed fencing and gates at construction access points. They also developed a management plan to control noxious weeds in the vicinity of the project. They are currently preparing the site for spring runoff.
- **Kedrowski Acquisition Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that there has been no new activity on this project. Dave noted that he and Tracy Hillman reviewed the revised Deed of Right and it is now consistent with PRCC HabSC policy.
- **Skyline Screen and Fish Return Upgrades Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor began construction on this project. The sponsor dug a trench for 8,000 feet of pipe, installed and fused 4,000 feet of pipe, removed corrugated metal pipe, continued landowner coordination regarding access points, and removed and reoriented electrical infrastructure out of the planned pipe route.
- **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. The sponsor provided video of a Chinook Salmon passing through the fishway on 12 October 2025.

- **White River Ohme Acquisition (CDLT)** – Dave Duvall said there is no update on this project. Grant PUD is waiting for the final invoice.
- **Enloe Dam Sediment Analysis and 30% Design (TU)** – Jeremy Cram indicated that the Fish Introduction and Habitat Group will meet in August.
- **Methow River Riparian Stewardship (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that there was no new activity on this project. The sponsor is planning work on the Bartsch, Stanley, and Robinson properties in April.
- **M2@3R Habitat Construction (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor continues to hold regular design team meetings. The sponsor also followed up with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Corp of Engineers to plan future site visits and discuss next steps for project development. In April, the sponsor plans to conduct project site tours with stakeholders and landowners.
- **Libby Creek Fish-Passage Barrier Dam Removal (CF)** – There is no update on this project.
- **Sugar Channels Reconnection Project (MSRF)** – Dave Duvall reported that the sponsor completed fencing at the construction site entrance and removed wood from the staging area. The sponsor will begin restoration of the upper field, including de-compacting, soil preparation, and planting.
- **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)** – Chris Mott reported that there is no new update on this project.
- **Roaring Creek-Nysether Acquisition Project (CDLT)** – Jeremy Cram reported that there is no new information on this project. Tracy Hillman reported that this project was submitted through the SRFB process and based on Regional Technical Team scoring, the sponsor is concerned this project may not receive a cost share from the SRFB. The sponsor is considering whether to seek a cost share from the HCP Tributary Committees or request the remaining amount from the PRCC HabSC.

X. Restoration/Protection Projects

CRM Riparian Stewardship Package

This agenda item was discussed with the HCP Tributary Committees (see Section IV above).

Roaring Creek Floodplain Restoration Monitoring Revised Specification Sheet

In the absence of Tracy Bowerman's, Tracy Hillman introduced the revised "Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed)" specification sheet. He 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 revised application addressed the concerns identified by the PRCC HabSC during the review of the original specification sheet in March. Tracy Hillman indicated that the sponsor is requesting \$213,725 for two years of monitoring.

During the meeting, members present had no questions or comments on the revised specification sheet. Chris Fisher, in an email sent to Tracy Hillman before the meeting, noted that there will be 10 groundwater (GW) wells per transect; however, because only 10 GW wells are in the budget, Chris asked

whether there is only one transect, or are there existing wells and the 10 additional wells are needed to make sure there are 10 wells per transect? Following the meeting, Nick Legg responded that it was a typo in the specification sheet. Nick indicated that the specification sheet should have noted that there are 10 wells proposed for the site overall (not per transect).

All members approved \$213,725 for the proposed monitoring project. The PRCC HabSC requests the opportunity to review annual reports and would like the sponsor to present and discuss findings with the PRCC HabSC after each monitoring year.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee elected to contribute \$213,725 for the Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) Project. Funding will come from Fund 602. The sponsor will provide presentations to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee after each monitoring year and submit annual reports for review by the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.

XI. Administration and Information Updates

Monitoring and Assessment Project Tracking

Dave Duvall said he is tracking the monitoring and assessment projects funded by the PRCC HabSC. The following table shows all the monitoring/assessment projects funded under 602 and 603.

HFA	Project Name	Awarded Amount	PRCC HabSC Contribution to Date	Year Closed
602-13	Icicle Creek Boulder Field	\$99,554	\$99,460	2013
602-27	Silverside PIT Array	\$123,639	\$108,553	2020
602-30	White River Gage Station	\$60,000	\$30,390	2020
602-40	Skaha Dam Fish Passage	\$29,279	\$29,279	2018
602-41	Wenatchee Barrier Diversion	\$15,000	\$15,000	2017
602-47	McIntyre Fish Evaluation	\$15,000	\$5,366	2023
602-55	Enloe Sediment Assessment	\$229,224	\$229,224	2022
602-61	Enloe Sediment Volume	\$117,739	\$85,739	2021
602-68	Wenatchee PIT Barge	\$82,000	\$82,000	2022
602-93	Comprehensive Thermal IR Survey	\$258,000	\$0	Ongoing
603-5	Kitsap LIDAR	\$124,000	\$123,590	2007
603-7	USGS LIDAR	\$160,000	\$60,000	2008
603-22	White River Gage Station	\$22,000	\$14,288	2018
603-26	Okanogan Discharge Monitoring	\$90,952	\$90,952	2015
603-27	Icicle Peshastin Irrigation Analysis	\$174,847	\$166,139	2014
603-28	Icicle Creek PIT Array	\$167,097	\$167,097	2015
603-31	Bonaparte Discharge Monitoring	\$21,860	\$21,860	2018

Dave said that to date, \$1,586,937 of the \$2,500,000 available has been spent or allocated to projects. Thus, there is \$913,063 available for monitoring/assessment projects. This will be reduced to \$699,338 because of the approved funding for the Water Budget to Evaluate Streamflow Benefits from Floodplain Restoration in a Headwater Stream (Roaring Creek, Entiat River watershed) Project.

SRFB 2026 Schedule

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

- 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

Peshastin Pump-back Project

Tracy Hillman indicated that he received a request from Mike Kaputa (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) asking whether he and his colleagues can provide an update to the Tributary Committees and PRCC HabSC in July on the Peshastin Creek Pump-back Project. Members agreed to have Mike present during the 9 July meeting. They indicated that the presentation should be no more than 45 minutes long with 30-45 minutes for questions and discussion. Tracy Hillman will relay this information to Mike Kaputa.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 14 May 2026.