



## PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

### Meeting/Conference Call

Douglas PUD Auditorium,  
 East Wenatchee, WA

Thursday, 13 April 2023  
 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 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, Facilitator

#### Meeting Attendees

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Brandon Rogers, YN	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Shelby Fowler, USFWS	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Erin Harris, GPUD	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

#### Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will remove the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project and the Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project from the project table.
- Kate Terrell will let Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries) know that the PRCC HabSC's is interested in receiving a specification sheet on the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Restoration Project.
- Tracy Hillman will send the updated Operating Procedures to the PRCC HabSC.

## Decision Items<sup>1</sup>:

- The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved revisions to their Operating Procedures.

### I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Tracy noted that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (PRCC HabSC) and HCP Tributary Committees will meet jointly to discuss the Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project. Following the discussion, the PRCC HabSC will take a lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC HabSC items.

### II. Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project Discussion (with the HCPs Tributary Committees)

In January, Justin Yeager introduced the specification sheet titled, *Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project (Amended Request from March 2021 Submittal)*. Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) is the sponsor of this project. The goal of this project is to permanently restore 11.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 4,012.4 acre-feet per year (afy) of instream flow to Icicle Creek through a partial water rights acquisition and construction of a downstream pump station and piped irrigation system. The project will add 11.9 cfs and 4,012.4 afy of flow from RM 4.5 to RM 1.9 and at least 3.9 cfs and 2,694 afy of flow from RM 1.9 to the confluence of Icicle Creek with the Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project is \$5,250,000. The sponsor requested \$765,000 from the PRCC HabSC.

In February, the PRCC HabSC decided to table the budget amendment because they needed more clarity on the budget (i.e., COIC's contribution to the project) and would like to review the report of examination prepared by Ecology before approving the project. The report of examination is needed to help the PRCC HabSC evaluate whether the benefits of the project justify the additional cost of the project. The PRCC HabSC received the draft report of examination just before the February meeting and therefore did not have enough time to review the report before the meeting. Some members asked for additional time to review the draft report and discuss the project within their agencies.

During the meeting (April meeting), Tracy Hillman asked members whether they were ready to vote on the budget amendment. Some members indicated that Ecology has received many comments on the draft report of examination and there remains several unknowns regarding water usage and legal water rights. Although it is stated that 11.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) will be saved, the savings will likely be less than 11.9 cfs because the Irrigation District only uses about 4-5 cfs. Thus, from a fish perspective, the fish may only realize a gain of about 4-5 cfs, not 11.9 cfs. The biological benefit could potentially go down if the irrigation infrastructure is designed to withdraw 11.9 cfs, because water currently not used by the district could be used in the future. Some members noted that until Ecology completes an extent and validity analysis and finalizes the report of examination, they cannot vote on the budget amendment at this time. They will cast their votes once the extent and validity analysis and final report of examination are available. Thus, a funding decision on this project remains tabled.

### III. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the April agenda with one addition: Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Restoration Project.

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<sup>1</sup> All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

#### IV. Approve February Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members approved the 9 February 2023 meeting notes in early March.

#### V. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall will check to make sure that he has received the final invoice on the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project. If so, the project will be closed. **Complete. Dave received the final invoice; this project can be closed.**
- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project. **Complete. See discussion under Section VI.**
- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction Project. **Complete. See discussion under Section VI.**
- Tracy Hillman will add language to the Operating Procedures that indicates entities, whose business benefits from PRCC HabSC funding of enhancement projects, must have project cost shares from “non-fish” funds that equate to 25% of the total cost of the project. Which projects will be required to provide the 25% “non-fish” cost share will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. **Complete. See discussion under Section VIII.**
- Tracy Hillman will review licensing agreements to determine whether voting parties are required to have a designated alternate on the PRCC HabSC. **Complete. Tracy noted that the agreements do not require voting parties to have alternates (see Section 5.2 in the Settlement Agreement).**

#### VI. Project Updates

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

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell stated that Trout Unlimited (sponsor) reported that the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) directors agreed to move forward with the project and are comfortable with the conserved water numbers in the Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program application. The next step is to have a meeting with JSDC’s attorney. This will occur during the third week of April.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that this project will be completed this spring. Testing of the system will occur before the water is turned on for the irrigation season. Thus, the project will be operational for the 2023 irrigation season.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Dave Duvall reported that this project is complete and can be closed.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – See Section II for information on this project.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher said that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (sponsor) completed the two, back-watering riffles last year. ONA indicated that spawning occurred on the constructed riffles. The sponsor will construct the remaining three riffles in 2023.
- **Shingle Creek Fish Passage** – Chris Fisher reported that this project is complete and can be closed. Dave agreed.

- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – Chris Fisher reported that Phase I is complete and implementation of Phase II will begin in August 2023.
- **Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that the bid window for this project closed last week. He or Kate will provide more information as the procurement process progresses.

## VII. Restoration/Protection Projects

**Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell reported that she was approached recently by Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries) about the PRCC HabSC’s interest in potentially contributing funding to the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Restoration Project. The sponsor is seeking funding to implement a floodplain reconnection project between RM 2.5 and 3.0 on Peshastin Creek that has landowner support. The project will install 14 log jams, enhance floodplain connectivity, and restore riparian habitat. The project addresses several of the habitat factors most limiting within Peshastin Creek. Kate said the estimated cost of the restoration action is about \$1.4 million; although, the sponsor is looking to reduce costs. Kate asked whether the PRCC HabSC would be interested in receiving a specification sheet requesting about one-third of the total cost of the project. The sponsor will also seek funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and the HCP Tributary Committees.

Chris Fisher asked whether the sponsor is still requesting funding for a conservation easement. Kate indicated that it does not appear the sponsor will ask for a conservation easement. The landowners are conservation-minded people and have no intention of developing the floodplain.

Members indicated that they would like to see a specification sheet requesting funding for the project. Kate indicated that she will let the sponsor know that the PRCC HabSC is interested in the project and will likely serve as the liaison for the project.

## VIII. Administration

**Review PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures** – Based on an action item from last meeting, Tracy Hillman added language to the Operating Procedures regarding a 25% “non-fish” financial contribution to specific project types. Tracy shared the edited Operating Procedures with the PRCC HabSC and the PRCC HabSC approved the revision without including a specific percent cost share (e.g., 25%). The amount of the cost share will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

### Decision:

- *The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved revisions to their Operating Procedures.*

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Fourth Quarter 2022 Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances** – Tracy Hillman shared the following financial information with the HabSC:

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 December 2022	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$600,174	\$4,695,112
602	\$1,492,125	\$6,740,531
603	\$811,257	\$1,511,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,903,556</b>	<b>\$12,946,812</b>

**Grant PUD Contributions to the Habitat Accounts** – Tracy Hillman reported that in February, Grant PUD made their annual contributions to the different habitat accounts. The deposits were as follows:

Habitat Fund	Funds deposited in February 2023
601	\$676,213.92
602	\$1,330,117.82
603	\$475,147.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,481,479.66</b>

## IX. Information Updates

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board 2023 Schedule** – Tracy Hillman reviewed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) schedule for 2023. Important dates are noted below:

- Completed Draft Applications Due: 20 April 2023
- Site Visits: 8-10 May 2023
- Committees Review Draft Applications: 11 May 2023
- Final Application Due: 16 May 2023
- Committees Review Final Applications: 8 June 2023

Tracy noted that the SRFB applications require a cost share of at least 15%. Therefore, the PRCC HabSC may receive applications requesting funding to help cover the cost share. Tracy also recommended that members attend the site visits on 8-10 May.

**RCO Salmon Recovery Conference** – Tracy Hillman reported that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will host the Salmon Recovery Conference on 18-19 April 2023. The conference will be held in Vancouver, WA at the Convention Center. The theme of the conference is *A Shared Future*, which reflects the desire to hear broad community perspectives regarding salmon recovery. The conference will have virtual access for those who cannot attend in person. Registration opened on 4 January. PRCC HabSC members are encouraged to register for the conference.

**Miscellaneous** – Chris Fisher stated that ONA is moving forward with a fishway design for Penticton Dam. They have completed the 50% design, which is currently being evaluated by the Steering Committee. ONA plans to submit a funding request (specification sheet) this spring. In addition, ONA and the Provincial Government are identifying ways to modify the eddy along the right bank just downstream of McIntyre Dam as well as within bay #5. Modifying the eddy should improve fish passage at bay #5, which is the bay most used by fish but often unsuccessfully.

## X. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

## XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 11 May 2023.