



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
 Meeting/Conference Call**

**Thursday, 9 May 2024
 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 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
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Chris Fisher, CTCR	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

Action Items:

- 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.

Decision Items²:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$460,800 for the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$209,700 (plus appraisal costs) for the Kedrowski Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

¹ Brandon Rogers provided his votes on decision items before and after the meeting.

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

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the addition of at least 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.

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 May agenda.

III. March Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 11 April 2024 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall will contact the Okanagan Nation Alliance to see whether they intend to submit a specification sheet to help fund the construction of the Okanagan Dam fishway. **Complete. They will submit a specification sheet in June or July.**
- Dave Duvall will share the amounts deposited into each of the habitat accounts and final 2023 financial statements with the PRCC HabSC as soon as the information is available. **Complete. See Section VII.**
- Tracy Hillman will ask Mickey Fleming to send the Entiat Mainstem and Stormy Creek Acquisition Specification Sheet in Microsoft Word to Dave Duvall. **Complete.**

V. Project Updates

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

- **Alternate Primary Appraiser** – Dave Duvall noted that with the original contribution of \$25,000 into the Appraisal Account and the recent contribution of \$25,000 (approved in April), the total amount that has been deposited into the account is \$50,000. To date, about \$10,547 has been spent on appraisals. This means that there is \$39,453 currently available in the account for future appraisal work.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance completed two back-watering riffles last year. The sponsor will construct the remaining riffles during summer 2024. The designs for the riffles are complete.
- **Sage Sugar Acquisition** – Kate Terrell indicated that this project should be completed soon.
- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – Chris Fisher said this project is complete. We should soon see the final report.
- **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 and have had their first meeting with the Chelan County Water Conservancy Board to start the change process. The bid solicitation is scheduled for the second week in May.

- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Kate Terrell noted that the sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) was able to secure necessary funding for this project. The Icicle Workgroup will fund the remaining gap, which is about \$1.5M. These funds will come from the Office of Columbia River – Washington State Department of Ecology. In addition, the sponsor has entered into a construction contract with Strider.
- **Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the Okanagan Nation Alliance would like to complete this project this fall. Therefore, we should see a specification sheet in June or July.
- **Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project** – Kate Terrell indicated that Cascade Fisheries has been coordinating with landowners, their consultant, and partners and working through project details.
- **Bockoven Entiat Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said Grant PUD will begin the contracting process with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.
- **Bockoven Stormy Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall said Grant PUD will begin the contracting process with Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.
- **Canyon Creek Culvert Design and Construction Project** – Dave Duvall said Grant PUD will begin the contracting process with Cascade Fisheries.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project – Kate Terrell introduced the specification sheet titled, *Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project*. The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) is the sponsor of this project. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat for Covered Species between RM 42.75 and 43.50 on the Methow River. This will be accomplished by installing 18 large wood structures on point bars and along bank margins, constructing 1.2 acres of floodplain habitat and enhancing 1,300 feet of an existing split-flow channel, and planting 1.5 acres of native riparian vegetation. The total cost of the project is \$1,421,600. The sponsor requested \$460,800 from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to provide \$460,800 for the project. Dave Duvall indicated that Grant PUD will likely require additional insurance for this project. He will discuss the insurance requirements with MSRF.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$460,800 for the Eagle Rocks Habitat Enhancement Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

Kedrowski Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project – Kate Terrell introduced the specification sheet titled, *Kedrowski Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project*. MSRF is the sponsor of this project. The goal of this project is to permanently protect a portion of two properties located at RM 42 on the Methow River. The purchase of these properties will allow restoration of floodplain capacity and connectivity in the Sugar Reach. The total area of floodplain/riparian habitat to be acquired is 11.92 acres. The sponsor requested \$209,700 (plus appraisal costs) from the PRCC HabSC. After review and discussion, the PRCC HabSC agreed to provide \$209,700 (plus appraisal costs) for the project.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved \$209,700 (plus appraisal costs) for the Kedrowski Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project. Funding for this project will come from Fund 602.

VII. Administration and Information Updates

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Fourth Quarter 2023 Expenditures and Unencumbered Balances – Tracy Hillman shared the following financial information with the HabSC:

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 December 2023	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$1,007,400	\$4,927,943
602	\$941,326	\$8,433,070
603	\$1,132,492	\$1,636,231
Total	\$3,081,218	\$14,997,244

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 2024
601	\$705,232.57
602	\$1,387,197.71
603	\$495,538.14
Total	\$2,587,968.42

Time Extensions – Tracy Hillman asked the PRCC HabSC whether they would consider adding additional months to the proposed timelines in specification sheets submitted by project sponsors. He indicated that the PRCC HabSC receives several time extension requests from sponsors and believes extending the timeline on projects will minimize the number of time extension requests received from sponsors. Justin Yeager recommending adding at least an additional 12 months to the timelines identified in specification sheets. All members present approved of the addition of at least 12 months to proposed timelines.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved the addition of at least 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.*

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 13 June 2024.