



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Meeting/Conference Call

Douglas PUD Auditorium,
 East Wenatchee, WA

Thursday, 11 May 2023
 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 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, Facilitator

Meeting Attendees

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Brandon Rogers, YN	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Justin Yeager, NMFS ¹	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- PRCC HabSC will review and provide Dave Duvall with comments on the Grant PUD presentation to the PRCC Policy Committee. Comments are due by 9 June.
- Tracy Hillman will discuss the possibility of joint PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs meetings with the HCP TCs during their June meeting.

¹ Justin Yeager was unable to attend the meeting but provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

Decision Items²:

- The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$542,309 to the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project. Funding 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 HabSC reviewed and approved the May agenda with one addition: Review First Quarter Financials.

III. Approve April Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 13 April 2023 meeting notes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Tracy Hillman will remove the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project and the Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project from the project table. **Complete.**
- 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. **Complete. Jason submitted a Specification Sheet that will be reviewed during the meeting.**
- Tracy Hillman will send the updated Operating Procedures to the PRCC HabSC. **Complete.**

V. 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 they are working through the agreement process with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC). They hope to have the agreement in place by mid-May.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that this project will be completed this spring. Thus, the project will be operational for the 2023 irrigation season.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – This project is tabled until the PRCC HabSC receives the final Record of Examination from the Department of Ecology.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher said that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA; sponsor) completed 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. These constructed riffles are associated with vertical drop structures 14-17.

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

- **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** – Kate Terrell reported that Cascade Fisheries (sponsor) submitted their final design package to the Forest Service for approval. The Forest Service had one comment on the calculations for the footings. The sponsor is addressing that comment. Bids for the earthwork contract opened on 7 April. The sponsor received two bids, one for \$385K and the other for \$585K. The sponsor selected the lowest bidder, who has done excellent work in the past. The contractor currently has a \$5M umbrella insurance policy and is working on increasing their coverage to \$10M. The sponsor continues to work with the Forest Service to complete final cultural resources and ESA approval. The contractor is planning on mobilizing to the site on 20 June with in-water work beginning on 1 July.

VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project – The PRCC HabSC received a Specification Sheet from Cascade Fisheries titled, *Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project*. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat and reconnect 4.6 acres of floodplain between RM 2.5 and 3.0 on Peshastin Creek. This will be accomplished by installing 15 mainstem large wood structures, excavating two pilot channels and one major side channel, installing large wood deflectors, and maintaining and expanding riparian habitat. The project addresses several of the habitat factors most limiting within Peshastin Creek. The total cost of the project was \$1,124,500. The sponsor requested \$542,309 from the PRCC HabSC. Funding will be used to complete final designs and implement the project.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$542,309 to the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project. Funding will come from Fund 602.*

VII. Administration

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

Habitat Fund	Expenditures through 31 December 2022	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$1,209,717	\$4,656,665
602	\$1,417,612	\$7,982,324
603	\$710,710	\$2,096,748
Total	\$3,338,039	\$14,735,737

Grant PUD Presentation to the PRCC Policy Committee – Tracy Hillman reported that Grant PUD will host a PRCC Policy Committee meeting on 20 July 2023. The purpose of the meeting is to provide new Policy Committee members with an overview of Grant PUD’s programs. This is basically a meet-and-greet gathering. Grant PUD staff will provide presentations to the Policy Committee that describe the purpose, objectives, and accomplishments of each technical group. Tracy sent the draft PRCC HabSC presentation to the PRCC HabSC late last month.

Dave Duvall walked the PRCC HabSC through the slides. Members suggested adding slides that show a map of the Upper Columbia and each major subbasin. On each map, Dave should show the locations and types of projects funded by the PRCC HabSC.

Tracy said the PRCC HabSC has 30 days to review the presentation. Comments/edits are to be sent to Dave Duvall (comments are due by 9 June). Dave will update the presentation based on comments from the PRCC HabSC.

Joint Meetings with the HCP Tributary Committees – The PRCC HabSC discussed the possibility of combining the PRCC HabSC and HCP TCs meetings. Combining meetings may improve efficiency and coordination/communication among the groups. Tracy Hillman said he will discuss this with the HCP TCs during their June meeting.

VIII. 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:

- 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. For example, the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 project discussed earlier is a cost share to a SRFB application.

Miscellaneous – Chris Fisher stated that ONA has prepared the 50% design for the fishway at Penticton Dam. It is a basically a straight, metal canal based on water-elevation requirements and is designed to allow fish viewing along a portion of the structure. He said the design surprised him but the construction of the fishway is constrained by the amount of land on which the fishway will be located.

Chris noted that ONA is planning restoration work in Six Mile Creek. A concrete dam on Six Mile Creek blew out in 2017; however, a remnant of the dam remains there. ONA is planning to implement a roughened channel, which will allow fish passage to about 25 km of upstream habitat. ONA also intends to outplant Sockeye Salmon into Six Mile Creek.

Chris reported that 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.

Finally, regarding the Okanagan Falls Floodplain Reconnection Project, Chris said that it will cost about \$0.5M to remove the pump station from the floodplain. ONA is working on identifying the locations of the culverts and intends to use square culverts and make them as wide as possible. There are some concerns regarding floodplain reconnection on other species such as amphibians.

IX. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 8 June 2023.