



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Meeting/Conference Call

Douglas PUD Auditorium,
 East Wenatchee, WA

Thursday, 14 July 2022
 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS	Chris Fisher, CCT
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator	

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT	Justin Yeager, NMFS - Absent
Brandon Rogers, YN	Kate Terrell, USFWS - Absent
Dave Duvall, GPUD	Tim Taylor, GPUD
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD	Mike Kaputa, CCONRD
Mike Kane, CCONRD consultant	Catherine Willard, CPUD
Tom Kahler, DPUD	Becky Gallaher, CPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	Erin Harris, GPUD

Action Items:

- Jeremy Cram will ask WDFW staff for a list and cost of actions and equipment needed for maintenance on the Libby property.
- Jeremy Cram will send an official letter from WDFW identifying Amanda Barg as their alternate on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.

- Chris Fisher will contact ONA to see if the Okanagan Basin - K'emcnitkw Floodplain Project is complete and can be closed. He will also see if juvenile Chinook salmon are using the backwater area.
- Tracy Hillman to ask ONA to explain why the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group is limiting Sockeye escapement into the Lake this year and what this means for future passage of Sockeye into the Lake.

Decision Items¹:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$295,500 to improve fish passage in Big Meadow Creek. Funding will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$128,026 to re-naturalize lower Trout Creek. Funding will come from Fund 602.
- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members recommended that language in Section 23 of acquisition contracts be identical to language in the approved Operating Procedures.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (PRCC HabSC) and HCP Tributary Committees will meet jointly for the Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) Projects Discussion. Following that discussion, the PRCC HabSC will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC HabSC items.

Justin Yeager and Kate Terrell were unable to attend the meeting. Following the meeting, Tracy Hillman contacted them and they provided their votes on decision items. Thus, all decision items identified in these notes were approved by all PRCC HabSC members.

II. CCNRD Projects Discussion (with HCP Tributary Committees)

Mike Kaputa, CCNRD, gave an overview of projects CCNRD is currently reviewing for feasibility. These are projects that CCNRD may propose for funding from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and/or the HCP Tributary Committees. Mike said the purpose of the discussion is to determine whether the funding groups support the projects and to seek feedback from the groups on how to improve the projects.

Mud and Potato Creeks

Mike noted that there are partial barriers on Mud and Potato creeks, which are tributaries to the Entiat River. He shared the Correction Analysis Forms for both streams and noted that the County Road culvert on Mud Creek is 33% passable, while the County Road culvert on Potato Creek is 67% passable. He indicated that beaver dam analogue (BDA) work is occurring in these two streams to improve habitat conditions and stream flows. He reminded the Committees that the two streams are intermittent and asked whether the Committees would be interested in funding fish passage in these streams.

Justin Yeager asked about the ranking of these streams for fish passage based on the barrier prioritization tool. Mike indicated he did not know but would check. Chris Fisher commented that habitat conditions upstream from the partial barriers may not be conducive for fish spawning or rearing. He said more information is needed on habitat conditions in these streams. Tom Kahler indicated that there may be a sequencing issue. Once habitat conditions upstream from the partial barriers are

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

addressed with the installation of BDAs, passage could then be evaluated. It may be too early to consider fish passage at this time.

Clear Creek Water Acquisition

Mike stated that the irrigation district manages two diversions in the Chiwawa River basin. One diverts water from the Chiwawa River, while the other diverts water from Clear Creek. The goal of the project is to reduce the amount of water diverted from the Chiwawa River and eliminate the diversion on Clear Creek. They are looking at piping the upper four miles of the ditch.

Mike described the difference between a water right and a water claim. The irrigation district holds a water claim, which was established before the creation of water rights. Brandon noted the importance of some type of adjudication or extent and validity review before submitting a funding request. Mike indicated that whether the water claim is valid would be assessed in an extent and validity review or in superior court. He added that there will be no adjudication and there is probably no interest in a formal extent and validity review; however, the County is working with the irrigation district on a “quiet” extent and validity review. He said CCNRD is currently measuring Clear Creek flows and will determine flows going into various channels (i.e., canal, axillary channel, and Clear Creek). He said the minimum flow in Clear Creek is 3 cfs. Mike indicated the CCNRD will be submitting a SRFB proposal under their Large Cap Program. CCNRD may ask the Committees and/or PRCC HabSC for a cost share.

Big Meadow Creek Alluvial Water Storage

Mike said several sponsors are working in Forest Service NEPA areas. Big Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Chiwawa River, was identified by their Alluvial Water Storage Model (AWSM) as an area that would benefit from restoration work. This is because the channel is currently entrenched in several locations. Mike added that several sponsors (e.g., CCNRD, CCD, TU, and CF) will be meeting to discuss beaver and BDA projects and the use of the Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) and AWSM in identifying appropriate locations for beaver reintroduction and BDA enhancement. Mike stated that the AWSM is different than BRAT. In addition, the Regional Technical Team is organizing a workshop in November to discuss the use of beavers and BDAs in stream restoration. There will be presentations, discussions, and site visits. Presentations will focus on the science behind different approaches, introductions to the models used, and permitting. The workshop will be in Leavenworth. Mike hopes the workshop will give everyone a better understanding of the models (BRAT and AWSM) and how they inform restoration work.

Mission Creek Barriers

Mike stated that CCNRD is seeking other funding to address the lower-most passage barrier and the six upstream irrigation diversions on Mission Creek. This addresses the Committees comment regarding the need to address the suite of seven lower barriers on Mission Creek. If they are not able to secure all the funding necessary to address the lower seven barriers, they may seek funding from the Tributary Committees and/or PRCC HabSC.

Icicle/Peshastin Pump-back Project

Mike gave a brief update on the Icicle/Peshastin Pump-back Project. The goal of the project is to remove the Peshastin diversion and reduce the amount of water diverted from Icicle Creek. He said they completed the feasibility study. They have one landowner issue that may affect where the pumps are located on the Wenatchee River. Once they settle on where the pump stations will be located, they will move to design. Mike said he will provide more information as the project matures.

III. Lunch Break

IV. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the July agenda with two additions: review Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction Project and Contract Language on the Sugar Sage Project for HabSC review.

V. Review Action Items

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

- Jeremy Cram will ask WDFW staff for a list and cost of actions and equipment needed for maintenance on the Libby property. **Ongoing. Jeremy indicated that he made the request but has not heard back from WDFW.**
- Jeremy Cram will determine WDFW's alternate on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. **Ongoing. Jeremy said that Amanda Barg will be WDFW's alternate on the PRCC HabSC. He still needs to send a letter to make it official.**
- Tracy Hillman will share the VDS Phase I Construction Report with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. **Completed.**
- Chris Fisher will contact ONA to see if the Okanagan Basin - K'emcniw Floodplain Project is complete and can be closed. He will also see if juvenile Chinook salmon are using the backwater area. **Ongoing. Chris said he is still working to learn if the floodplain project is completed and can be closed. He also reported that the results of sampling are not available yet. He will follow up with Kari Alex on this project.**
- Tracy Hillman will ask Bryan Nordlund, PRCC facilitator, to share the approved PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures with the PRCC. **Complete. Tracy said the document was sent to Bryan after the PRCC HabSC meeting.**
- Dave Duvall will look into the Settlement Agreements and determine if there is a minimum number of times the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee must meet per year. **Complete. Dave said he looked into this and discussed it internally and found that there is no requirement on the minimum number of meetings required per year.**

VI. Project Updates

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

- **Wenatchee River Juvenile PIT-tag Detection Barge** – Jeremy Cram reported that the barge was installed in mid-June. It was in place for about a week and then broke free, ending up in the Columbia River near Malaga. There was no damage to the barge or the detection system. The barge has since been reinstalled and is secure. Jeremy said the invoice should be out soon.
- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – Chris Fisher said there is no new update on this project.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the center gate will be the only gate opened this year. This is to help reduce lateral erosion. With the large return of Sockeye salmon, this will be a good year to test the configuration.

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – No new activity on this project.
- **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding/Final Acquisition Project** – No new activity on this project.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – No new activity on this project. The sponsor (WDFW) hopes to complete remaining items this fall.
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the final Interpretive Report from USGS should be available in two weeks.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Chris Fisher indicated that the cost of this project has increased. He does not know the amount.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager provided an update following the meeting. In an email from the sponsor (Washington Water Trust; WWT) to Justin, the sponsor reports the following:
 - COIC and Ecology have worked out a permitting strategy and WWT, COIC, and Aspect are updating the draft ROE. The related IEGP funding proposal will be reviewed and approved for funds.
 - WWT and COIC will approach PRCC HabSC by the end of the month to contract the grant.
 - WWT is also completing contracting for \$500,000 from the successful USBR WaterSmart Grant and Tributary Committee on the same time frame.
 - We have received and contracted \$750,000 in construction funding from Microsoft.
 - Project agreements with COIC (final) and bid packages, along with permitting, is scheduled for fall 2022, with bidding in January and construction from July 2023 to June 2024, including grant closeout steps.
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the sponsor (Okanagan Nation Alliance; ONA) has completed three of the five riffles. They will evaluate the project during high flows this year to determine whether there is bank erosion due to the constructed riffles.
- **Nason Ridge Acquisition Project** – Brandon Rogers reported that the original deed of right that was signed by all parties has been lost. CENRD is creating a new one that will be recirculated for signatures. Once the deed of right is signed, the project will close.
- **Shingle Creek Fish Passage** – Chris Fisher said there is no new update on Shingle Creek. He did report that ONA is moving forward with the removal of the two storage reservoirs on Shuttleworth Creek. One diversion (Clark) will be removed this fall, while the other (Allendale) will be removed fall 2023.

VII. Restoration/Protection Projects

Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project – The PRCC HabSC received a Specification Sheet from Cascade Fisheries titled, *Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration*. The purpose of the project is to restore longitudinal connectivity by replacing a partial fish passage barrier at RM 0.25 on Big Meadow Creek, which is a tributary to the Chiwawa River. The existing culvert will be replaced with a pre-

fabricated 80-foot span by 18-foot-wide steel bridge that will allow passage for all species and life stages. The total cost of the project was \$776,250. The sponsor requested \$295,500 from the PRCC HabSC.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$295,500 to improve fish passage in Big Meadow Creek. Funding will come from Fund 602.

Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction Project – The PRCC HabSC received a Specification Sheet from Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) titled, *Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction*. The purpose of the project is to restore habitat conditions in the lower 2 km of Trout Creek, a tributary to Okanagan Lake in Canada. This will be accomplished by installing four riffles over a 430-m reach and excavating and recontouring the adjacent land by 10-50 m, equaling about 2.8 acres of treatment. This will help “re-naturalize” the lower portion of the stream resulting in better water quality and retaining salmonid spawning grave and enhancing rearing habitat. The total cost of the project was \$379,434. The sponsor requested \$128,026 from the PRCC HabSC.

After considerable discussion, members were unable to come to a funding decision without more information. Although members are in favor of expanding the distribution of “Covered Species” into Okanagan Lake and improving habitat conditions for those fish, it has come to their attention that passage of Sockeye (Covered Species) into Okanagan Lake will be limited to 100 adult Sockeye this year. The PRCC HabSC is concerned with this decision as it greatly reduces the recolonization of Sockeye into Okanagan Lake at a time when Sockeye returns are at a historical high. In addition, water temperatures in the Okanogan River are currently conducive for fish migration. Without some understanding of the reasons for the reduced escapement of Sockeye into the Lake and whether passage will be provided in the future, members hesitate to fund habitat restoration actions that may not benefit Covered Species. As such, they directed Tracy Hillman to ask ONA to explain why the COBTWG (Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group) is limiting Sockeye escapement into the Lake this year and what this means for future passage of Sockeye into the Lake. An understanding of the passage plan will help the PRCC HabSC evaluate proposed habitat restoration actions in tributaries to Okanagan Lake.

Following the meeting, Kari Alex with ONA provided additional information regarding the passage of Sockeye into Lake Okanagan. She noted that the Okanagan Basin Salmon Reintroduction Committee recommended the release of 3,000 tagged adult Sockeye into the lake. This is an increase from 100 adults to 3,000 adults this year. In addition, the Chiefs will fight for full passage this year. We will not know until September whether there will be full passage into the lake. With this information, on 1 August, the PRCC HabSC approved funding for this project.

Decision: PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members elected to contribute \$128,026 to re-naturalize lower Trout Creek. Funding will come from Fund 602.

VIII. Administration

Property Maintenance for the Libby Acquisition Projects Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures

–Jeremy Cram indicated that he doesn’t have anything further to share and asked to have this added to the PRCC - HabSC August Agenda.

Sugar Sage Project Contract Language – Dave Duvall shared the current language in Section 23 of the contract with MSRF regarding the Sage Enterprises Acquisition – Sugar Reach Project that was supported by the PRCC HabSC. Dave asked if the language was consistent with the approved language in the PRCC HabSC Operating Procedures. After reviewing the language in both the contract and Operating Procedures, members concluded that the language was similar; however, they recommended that the

language in the contract be identical to the language in the Operating Procedures. Dave said he will make those changes.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members recommended that language in Section 23 of acquisition contracts be identical to language in the approved Operating Procedures.*

Icicle Workgroup Meeting – Chris Fisher reported that an Icicle Workgroup (IWG) meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon (15 July). They will discuss moving the City of Leavenworth (CoL) intake from Icicle Creek to a groundwater well farm. Chris asked if anyone from the Subcommittee would be able to join the meeting. Brandon Rogers indicated he would participate. Following the IWG meeting on Friday, Brandon provided the following notes:

- CoL is currently seeking funding for a feasibility study focusing on moving their main intake of domestic water from Icicle Creek to a groundwater well farm.
- The study would cost \$500,000 and they are asking the Icicle Workgroup (IWG) for that funding.
- Although a groundwater well alternative was strongly suggested by the IWG and rejected by the CoL prior to moving forward with the new Icicle surface diversion screens, the CoL has a new administration and that has opened up this possibility.
- If feasible, the new system would be at least 10 years out.
- The CoL expressed a strong desire to keep the existing surface diversion for reasons that were not totally clear.
- There were questions about the “strings” that might be attached to the HCP TC, PRCC HabSC, and other funding used to construct the new surface diversion screens.

IX. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 11 August 2022.