



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call

Thursday, 13 January 2022
 11:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Final 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, Ben Truscott (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator	

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT	Justin Yeager, NMFS
Brandon Rogers, YN	Kate Terrell, USFWS
Dave Duvall, GPUD	Jeremy Cram, WDFW
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tom Kahler, DPUD	Jason Lundgren, CF
Catherine Willard, CPUD	Mickey Fleming, CDLT
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman will edit and reorganize the draft Operating Procedures, which were prepared by Denny Rohr and Dave and reviewed internally by Grant PUD. Dave will share the draft document with the Habitat Subcommittee before the February meeting.
- A subgroup of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will reclassify funded projects according to their restoration types and estimate the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring.
- Jeremy Cram will let Cascade Fisheries know the Silver Side Channel contract is closed and they will need to submit a new Specifications Sheet for monitoring in the Silver Side Channel.
- Dave Duvall will prepare a standardized Deed of Right template for Habitat Subcommittee review.

- Dave Duvall and Jeremy Cram will continue to investigate how much property maintenance has occurred and will occur on the Libby and Trinidad acquisition projects.

Decision Items:

- Members present unanimously agreed to close Agreement 602-27H (Silver Side Channel Project) and return the remaining \$15,000 to Habitat Supplemental Fund 602.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and HCP Tributary Committees will meet jointly for the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Presentation. Following that discussion, the PRCC will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC Habitat Subcommittee items.

II. Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Presentation (with HCP Tributary Committees)

Jason Lundgren (CF), Mickey Fleming (CDLT), and representatives from the Tributary Committees joined the meeting for the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 presentation and discussion. Jason gave a presentation (see Attachment 1) in which he described protection and restoration opportunities at RM 2.5 on Peshastin Creek. The purpose of the presentation was to determine the Tributary Committees' and Habitat Subcommittee's interest in funding protection and restoration work at this site.

Jason began the presentation by stating that Cascade Fisheries and the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust were approached by landowners who recently purchased a 163-acre property along lower Peshastin Creek. The property spans about 0.58 miles along lower Peshastin Creek (RM 2.5-3.0) and contains a large piece of floodplain (20.5 acres). The landowners are interested in conservation and stream restoration work on the property and asked CF and CDLT to develop protection (easement) and restoration alternatives. Jason showed 1949, 1997, and 2017 aerial photos of the project site. He identified the 20.5-acre floodplain and showed a LIDAR image of the floodplain, which indicated channel scars across the floodplain. Using the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team prioritization tool, Jason noted that the project occurs within a Tier 2 assessment unit for spring Chinook and steelhead restoration. He also identified the factors that currently limit salmonids and the limiting life stages in the assessment unit. Jason noted the locations of steelhead redds within the project reach and commented on the importance of Peshastin Creek as a cold-water stream for salmonids. He also talked about climate change susceptibility risk at this site.

Jason said they would like funding to appraise the value of the 20.5-acre floodplain and to develop conceptual restoration designs. The appraisal would provide an estimated cost to acquire the floodplain and the cost of an easement, which is what the landowners have requested. The purpose of the easement is to remove all development rights on the floodplain. Jason also showed very preliminary design concepts that were prepared by Natural Systems Design. He said potential restoration challenges at this site include the risk to Highway 97 and the private road, a high and cleared terrace that provides little opportunity for enhancement, and possible landowner constraints below RM 2.75 and the Peshastin Irrigation Diversion near the downstream end of the site. Jason concluded by stating this is a unique opportunity to protect and restore important habitat in lower Peshastin Creek.

Justin Yeager asked why the landowners want an easement rather than an acquisition. Mickey said they requested an easement, but the appraisal will provide both the cost to acquire the floodplain and the cost of an easement. She will discuss this with the landowners. Chris Fisher asked what the landowners intend to do with the uplands. Mickey responded the uplands will be used for cabins. Jeremy Cram noted that he is not a fan of conservation easements and would prefer this be an acquisition. He reminded Mickey and Jason that an easement purchased with habitat or tributary funds requires public access. This is something to discuss with the landowners. Jeremy asked about the effects of the Peshastin Irrigation Diversion on the project. Jason responded it will have no effect on the easement but could have an effect on restoration opportunities. However, the geomorphology of the site appears to limit restoration opportunities at the downstream end of the property. Brandon asked about the height of the terrace. Jason indicated that it is about 7 feet above the wetted surface.

In addition to the presentation, Cascade Fisheries submitted a Specifications Sheet titled, *Peshastin Creek RM 2.5*. As noted during the presentation, the purpose of the project is to conduct an appraisal of the 20.5-acre floodplain and develop conceptual restoration designs. The total cost of the project was \$132,825.20. The sponsor requested the full amount from the Habitat Subcommittee. The Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees declined the opportunity to fund the project at this time for the following reasons¹:

- Because the landowners are conservation minded and appear to want to restore habitat conditions for salmonids on their property, members question why an acquisition or conservation easement is necessary. Perhaps a more cost-effective approach would be to simply enhance the habitat without purchasing the property or an easement. In addition, members are cold to the idea of purchasing an easement, and even if they warmed to the idea, an easement purchased with tributary or habitat funds would require public access, which may not be desirable to the landowners. A possible alternative is the landowners donate the floodplain to CDLT. This would reduce the total cost of the proposed project and allow habitat enhancement work on the property.
- Although this project targets some of the factors limiting salmonid production within Peshastin Creek, an important factor not addressed by this project is stream flow. Members question what the landowners intend to do with their senior water right (if they have one). If they intend to exercise their right to withdraw water from Peshastin Creek, it is not clear what affect water withdrawal will have on enhancement opportunities on the property or on salmonid productivity.
- Members would like to better understand the landowners' desires and potential constraints on the property. As such, members would like responses to the following questions.
 - What do the landowners intend to do with the uplands?
 - If the landowners require the property be protected before initiating enhancement work, would they agree to an acquisition rather than an easement?
 - What is the size of the landowners' water right and do they intend to use it?
 - How does the senior water right relate to the Peshastin Irrigation Diversion (PID), where the diversion can remove all but about 3 cfs from Nason Creek during summer (i.e., if the landowners elect not to use their water right, would PID take the water, or would it remain in the stream)?
 - What are the potential enhancement constraints given the location of the Peshastin Irrigation Diversion at the downstream end of the property?

Members directed Tracy Hillman to draft a letter explaining the concerns and questions associated with the proposed project. After members review the draft letter, Tracy will send the letter to the project sponsor. It was decided during the meeting that the letter would be written on the Tributary Committees' letterhead. This is largely because the Specifications Sheet did not include a liaison.

III. Lunch Break

IV. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed and approved the agenda with the removal of the Fish Passage Conference Sponsorship item and addition of the Draft Nason Ridge Deed of Right.

V. Approve November Meeting Notes

Habitat Subcommittee members approved the 18 November 2021 meeting minutes on 15 December 2021.

¹ The sponsor submitted the same application to the HCP Tributary Committees. The Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees made a joint funding decision.

VI. Review Action Items

The Subcommittee reviewed the following action items from the November meeting:

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. **In progress.** Dave Duvall reported that the draft was reviewed internally and there will be an internal meeting next week to discuss comments (see discussion below).
- A subgroup of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will reclassify funded projects according to their restoration types and estimate the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring. **In progress.** Dave Duvall noted that there will be an internal meeting next week to discuss this task.
- Tracy Hillman will finalize edits in the draft Deed of Right for the Nason Ridge Property and send it to all parties for a final review. Reviews are to be completed by Wednesday, 24 November 2021. **Completed.**
- Tracy Hillman will draft a letter explaining the Habitat Subcommittee's response to Chelan County Natural Resources Department's request for a letter indicating that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will set aside \$250,000 for restoration work on the Nason Ridge Property. Members will review the draft letter and send edits/comments to Tracy by Monday, 29 November 2021. **Completed.**
- Dave Duvall will double check dollar values reported in the Project Updates Table. **Completed. The Project Updates Table includes edited values.**
- Dave Duvall will review all invoices on the Libby and Trinidad acquisition projects and determine how much of the \$25,000 allocated to property maintenance for both projects has been spent. **Completed. See discussion below.**
- Jeremy Cram will check within WDFW to see what maintenance actions are being proposed on the Libby and Trinidad properties. **In progress.**

VII. Project Updates

Members of the Habitat Subcommittee provided the following updates on funded projects:

- **Wenatchee River Juvenile PIT-tag Detection Barge** – Jeremy Cram reported that the agreements with Grant PUD are progressing and should be completed soon. Because of sole source justification issues raised by Biomark in the past, the request for proposals was delayed. At this time, they have received one response to the request for proposals. Jeremy believes the barge will be installed this spring or early summer.
- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall reported that the purchase and title transfer has been completed.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the next update on this project will be autumn 2022.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Project** – Dave Duvall said this project is complete. Remaining funds will be returned to Habitat Supplemental Fund 602. This project can be removed from the Projects Updates Table.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell indicated the sponsor (Trout Unlimited) continued coordination and communication with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) director regarding the Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program Application review process. The sponsor is waiting for an update on the review process from JSDC. The sponsor was informed by the director that JSDC is in the process of hiring a new attorney to advise them on the proposed water rights changes. The sponsor believes this will help the project move forward.
- **Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion Project** – Justin Yeager reported no new updates on this project.

- **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding/Final Acquisition Project** – Jeremy Cram reported no new activity on this project.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported no new activity on this project.
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported they are still waiting on the release of the final Interpretive Report from USGS. The report should be released in April. The Washington Department of Ecology has funding to do additional core sampling that will provide a large-scale evaluation. A request for proposals should be released on 21 January 2022. Results from the additional core sampling should be available this August.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor asked for bids on this project. Bids are due next week. The hope is the bids will be less than or equal to the engineer's estimate.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager reported no new updates on this project. He said they are looking to bid the project in late January or early February. He added that the sponsor is looking for a different group to deal with contracting requirements.
- **ORRI – Restoration of the Channelized VDS Section in Okanagan Falls Project** – Chris Fisher received an email during the meeting indicating that the project is complete. All riffles were constructed within a 2.5-week period. They will plant vegetation in the spring.

VIII. Restoration/Protection Projects

Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 – See notes above for details on this item.

Possible Scope Change on Silver Side Channel Project – Dave Duvall received an email from Cascade Fisheries (CF) indicating that there is about \$15,000 remaining in the Silver Side Channel budget. CF asked Dave whether they could use the remaining funds to do additional monitoring at the project site. Dave said this project is Agreement 602-27H and the last invoice was received in 2017. Jeremy Cram, project liaison, said he has talked with the sponsor about continued monitoring at the site but believes the project should be closed and the sponsor submit a new Specifications Sheet. Jeremy added that it is good they came in under budget. All members agreed to close the agreement and return the remaining funds back to Habitat Supplemental Fund 602. Jeremy will let CF know the contract is closed and they will need to submit a new Specifications Sheet for monitoring in the Silver Side Channel.

Decision: Members present unanimously agreed to close Agreement 602-27H (Silver Side Channel Project) and return the remaining \$15,000 to Habitat Supplemental Fund 602.

IX. Administration

In-Person Meetings – Based on conversations with Tom Dresser (Grant PUD), Tracy Hillman said there is a desire to begin meeting in-person as soon as possible. Tracy asked members whether they would be interested in or able to meet in-person soon. All members indicated they would like to meet in person; however, given the increasing infection rates with the Omicron variant of COVID-19, it is unlikely the group can meet in person anytime soon. Even with all the safeguards, most agencies will not allow their employees to meet in person at this time. Members hope they can meet in person this summer or early fall.

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Policies and Procedures – Denny Rohr and Dave Duvall completed a draft Policies and Procedures document that has been reviewed internally. Dave said he will discuss the document with Tracy Hillman next week. After additional editing and reorganizing, Dave will share the draft document with the Habitat Subcommittee before the February meeting.

Review the Draft Nason Ridge Deed of Right – Tracy Hillman indicated that yesterday he received edits from Chelan County's legal team on the draft Nason Ridge Deed of Right. Most of the edits were simple word changes that did not affect the intent of the Deed of Right. However, under Section 1.k., Chelan County suggested changing

the following language *"In addition, at a minimum, Grantor will annually present completed projects, changes and effects of public access, and proposed actions within the Salmon Area to the PRCC HabSC and RI HCP TC."* to *"In addition, for the first five years after execution of the Agreement, Grantor will annually present completed projects, changes and effects of public access, and proposed actions within the Salmon Area to the PRCC HabSC and RI HCP TC. Thereafter, Grantor will present this information at the request of either the PRCC HabSC or the RI HCP TC, but not more than once per year."* Members reviewed the suggestion and concluded they would change the *"...first five years..."* to *"...first ten years..."*. Members also suggested a minor edit to the following paragraph: changing *"will"* to *"may"*. Members agreed with all the other proposed edits in the document. Tracy will share the Habitat Subcommittee's recommendations with Chelan County.²

The Need for PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Review of Deed of Right – Dave Duvall questioned whether the Habitat Subcommittee needs to review every Deed of Right. He suggested that this may not be necessary if the Habitat Subcommittee has a standardized Deed of Right template. That is, if the sponsor does not make any changes to the standard Deed of Right, there would be no need for Habitat Subcommittee review. Only when a sponsor recommends a change to the standard Deed of Right would the Habitat Subcommittee need to review the document. Members agreed with Dave and suggested that Dave take the Nason Ridge Deed of Right (after it goes through Grant PUD legal review) and convert it into a standardized template.

Funds Remaining in Acquisition Projects – Dave Duvall reviewed invoices from WDFW on the Libby parcel (in the Methow Basin) and the Trinidad parcel (in a tributary to the Columbia River downstream from the Wenatchee River). Dave reminded everyone that the agreements for both projects included \$25,000 for property maintenance. He reviewed invoices to see how much of the \$25,000 has been spent for each project. Dave said he could not determine from the invoices whether any money had been spent on property maintenance. Jeremy Cram indicated that WDFW does not code their invoices for property maintenance or stewardship. Therefore, it will be difficult to determine if any money has been spent on property maintenance. Members discussed whether to terminate the agreements and ask WDFW to submit a Specifications Sheet for continued property maintenance or provide WDFW with \$25,000 per project for property maintenance and then terminate the agreements. Dave and Jeremy recommended that they spend more time researching the projects. In addition, Jeremy will see what maintenance actions are being proposed on the two properties. Dave and Jeremy will provide an update during the February meeting.

X. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 10 February 2022. Tracy Hillman will check with Trout Unlimited and WDFW to see if they would be available and willing to present results on the completion of the fish passage and screening projects on Icicle Creek. This will likely be a joint meeting with the Tributary Committees.

² Following the meeting, Chelan County approved the Habitat Subcommittee's recommendations and edits to the Nason Ridge draft Deed of Right. The draft document is now being reviewed by the Grant PUD legal team.

Attachment 1

Presentation by Cascade Fisheries on the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project

Lower Peshastin RM 2.5



1949

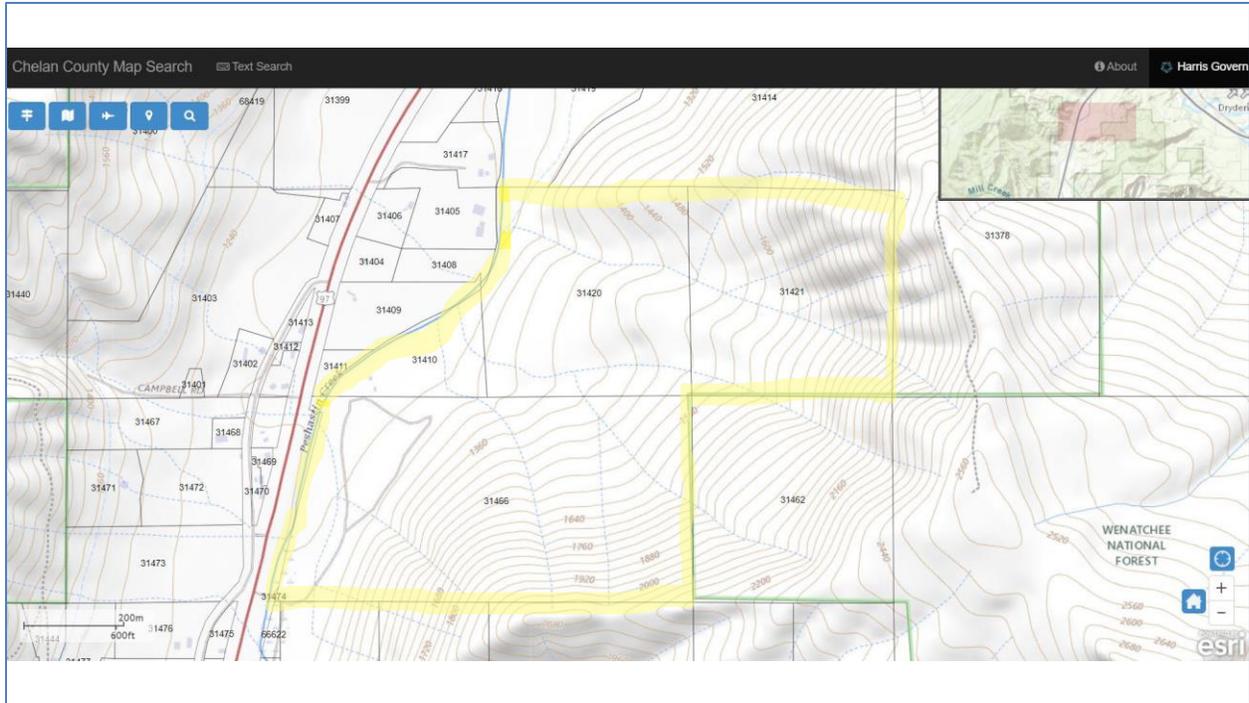


1997



2017

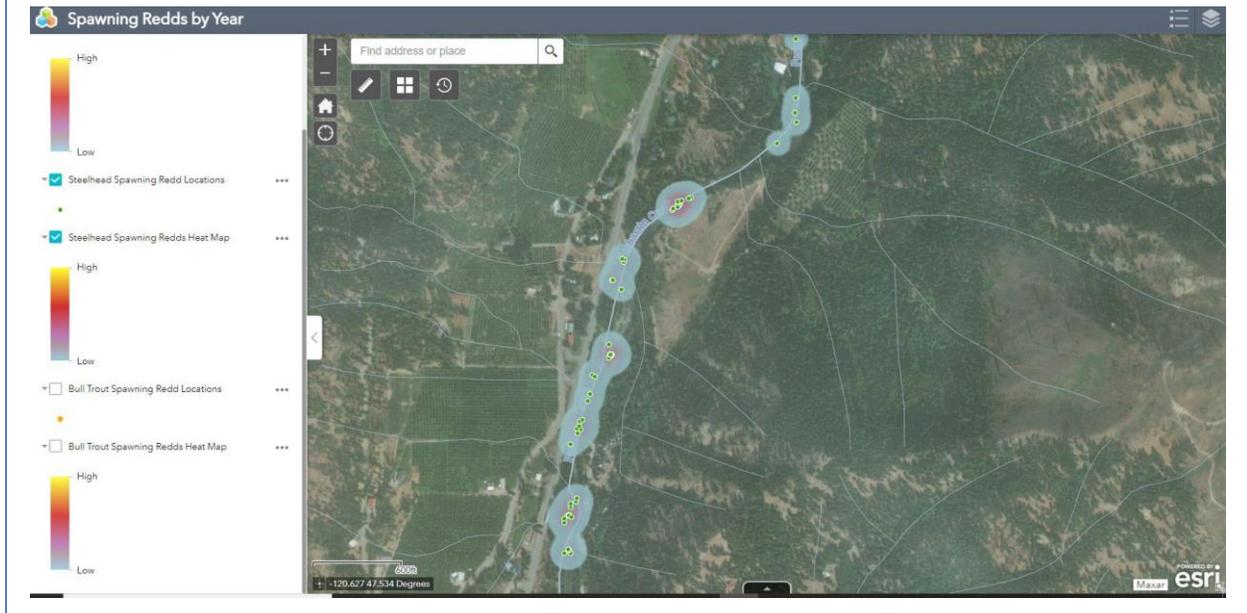




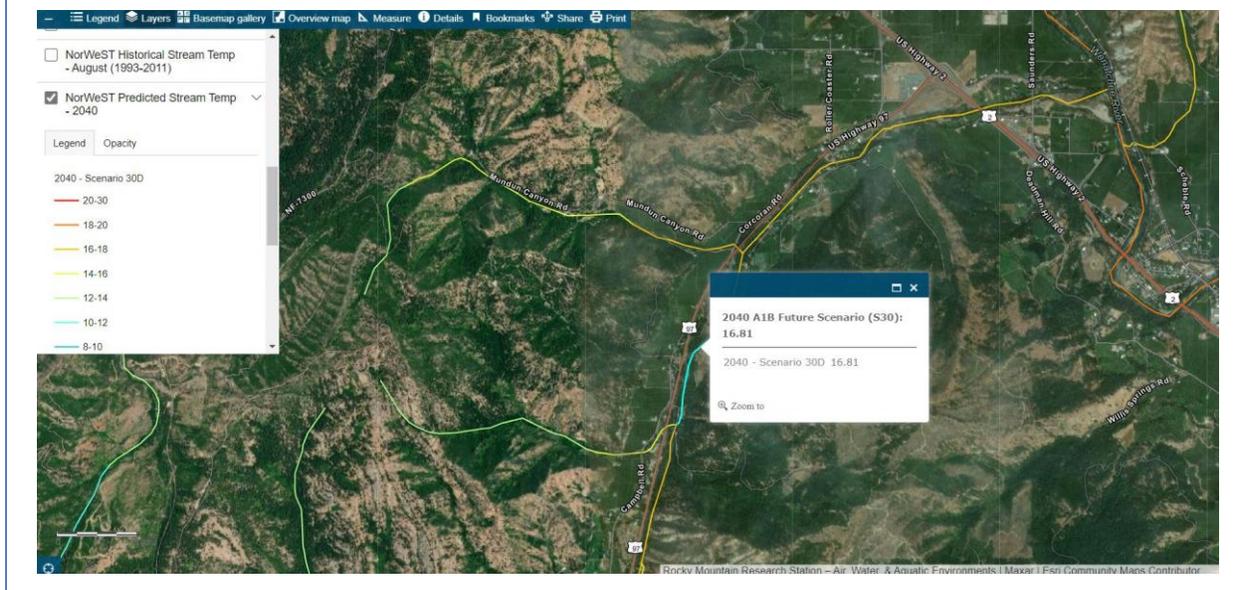
Lower Peshastin AU - Prioritization

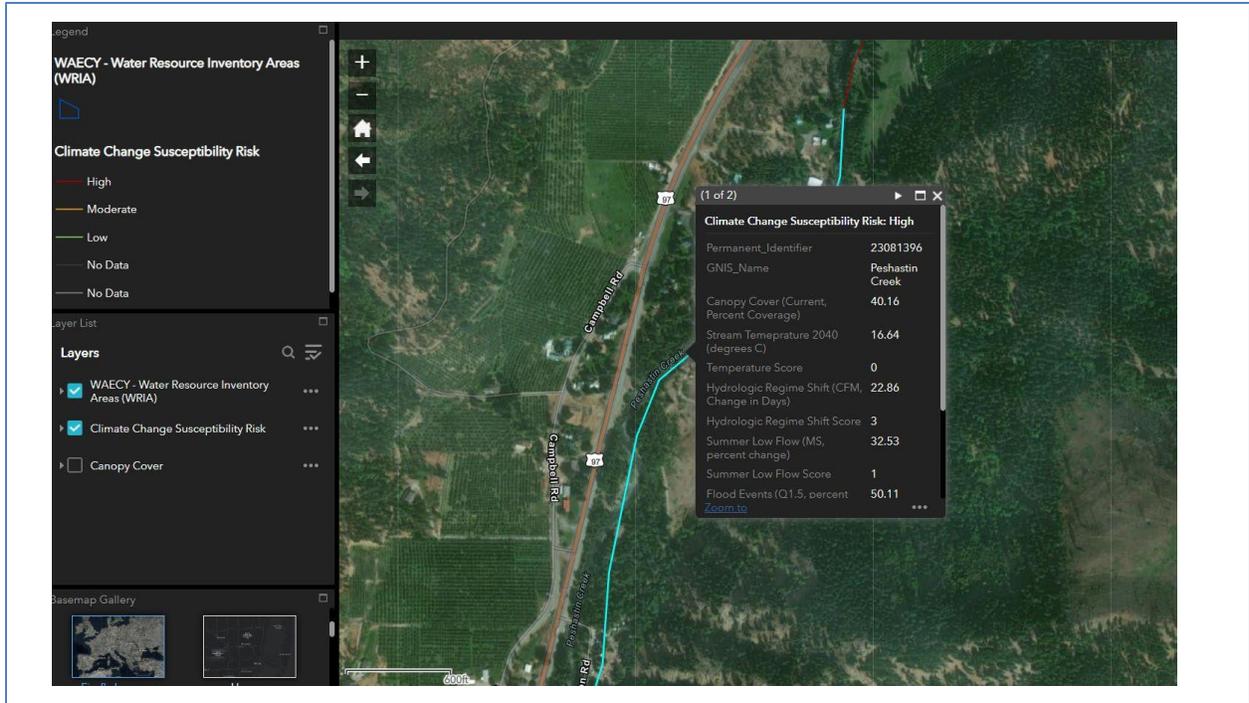
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ✕ <p>Lower Peshastin Creek Assessment Unit</p> <p>Prioritization Tiers:</p> <p>Spring Chinook Restoration: 2 Protection: 2</p> <p>Steelhead Restoration: 2 Protection: 1</p> <p>Bull Trout Restoration: 3 Protection: 3</p> <p>Scoring Criteria (5=highest): Intrinsic Potential: SpCh:4,Std:5,BuTr:3 Spawning Areas: SpCh:3,Std:5,BuTr:0</p> <p>Zoom to ...</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ▶ ✕ <p>(1 of 2)</p> <p>Reach: Peshastin Creek Lower 03</p> <p>Bank Stability: Unacceptable Channel Stability: At Risk Coarse Substrate: Adequate Cover- Wood: Unacceptable Flow- Summer Base Flow: Unacceptable Floodplain Connectivity: Unacceptable Off-Channel and Side-Channels: Unacceptable Pool Quantity and Quality: At Risk Riparian Disturbance: Unacceptable Riparian Canopy Cover: Unacceptable Summer Stream Temperature: Unacceptable</p> <p>Zoom to ...</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> ◀ ✕ <p>(22 of 22)</p> <p>Life Stage Prioritization:</p> <p>Spring Chinook Adult Migration: Medium Priority Holding: Medium Priority Spawning: Medium Priority Fry Colonization: Medium Priority Summer Rearing: Medium Priority Winter Rearing: Low Priority Smolt Emigration: Low Priority</p> <p>Steelhead Adult Migration: Low Priority Holding: Life Stage Not Supported Spawning: High Priority Fry Colonization: Medium Priority Summer Rearing: Low Priority Winter Rearing: Medium Priority Smolt Emigration: Low Priority</p> <p>Zoom to ...</p> </div>
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Steelhead spawning

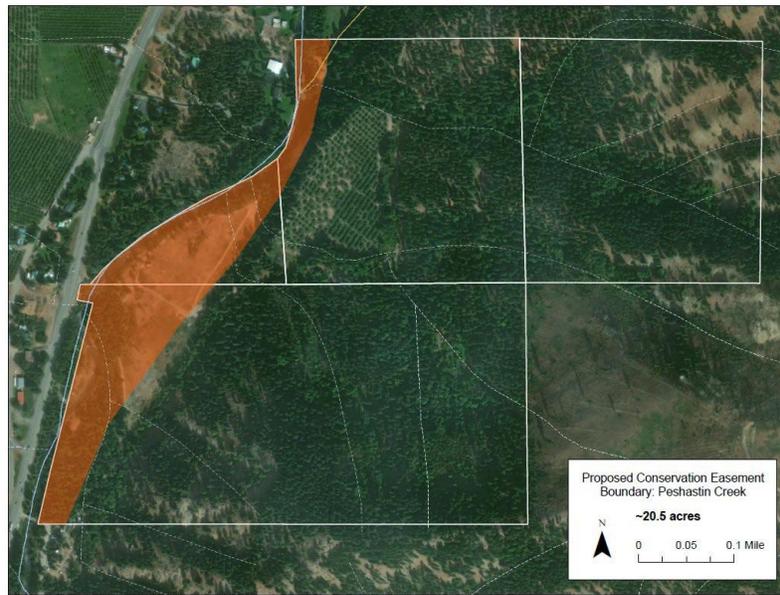


Cold water and climate change

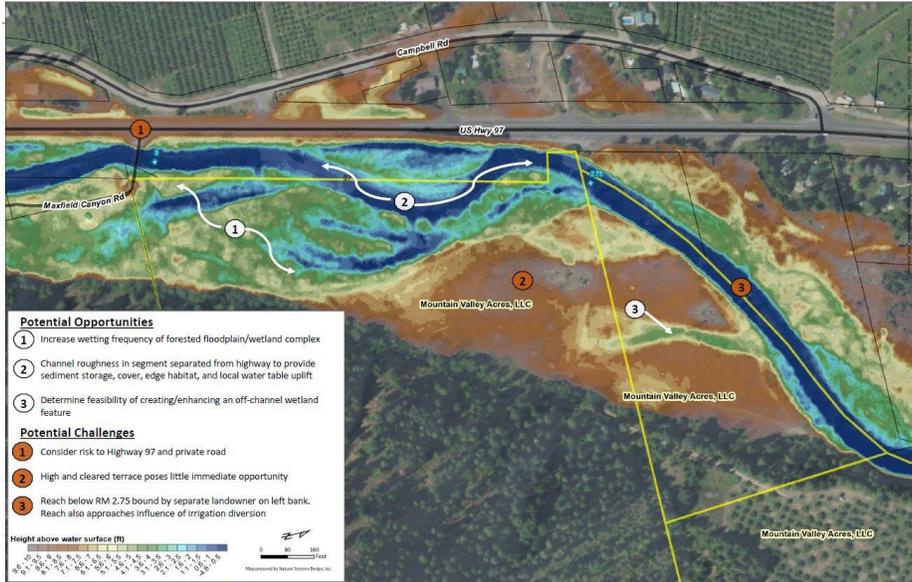




Area to be appraised – 20.5 acres



Natural Systems Design - concepts



Natural Systems Design – concepts (cont.)

