



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call

Thursday, 14 October 2021
 11:00 a.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, 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	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

*Brandon was unable to attend the meeting but provided his votes on decision items before the meeting.

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. The Operating Procedures will include definitions for abstention and recusal.
- Tracy Hillman and Dave Duvall will estimate the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring.
- Tracy Hillman will send the edited Nason Ridge Acquisition contract to Dave Duvall, who will discuss it within Grant PUD and then share it with Chelan County Natural Resources Department.
- Dave Duvall will review the Libby and Trinidad acquisition projects and determine what work has been done, confirm title holders, identify remaining funds, and identify contract termination dates.

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 to review and discuss the Nason Ridge Stewardship Plan. Following that discussion, the PRCC will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC Habitat Subcommittee items.

II. Nason Ridge Stewardship Plan Review (with HCP Tributary Committees)

As part of funding the Nason Ridge Acquisition Project, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and Rock Island Tributary Committee required that they be given an opportunity to review and approve the Nason Ridge Stewardship Plan. The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) provided the Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committee with the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan (hereafter referred to as "NRCFMP") dated 25 November 2019. The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee joined representatives from the Tributary Committees to review and discuss the NRCFMP and supporting documents. In addition to reviewing the NRCFMP and supporting documents, they also carefully reviewed the letter from CCNRD and Western Rivers Conservancy dated 21 July 2021. The letter provided the sponsor's responses to the Habitat Subcommittee's requests and requirements regarding management of the property.

The 21 July 2021 letter clearly indicated that several of the requirements identified by the Habitat Subcommittee would be addressed in the Stewardship Plan. Indeed, in several locations in the letter, the response to a Subcommittee requirement was, "We will reflect this requirement in the Stewardship Plan." The Habitat Subcommittee looked through the NRCFMP (which was assumed to be the Stewardship Plan) and tried to find where their requirements were addressed. Unfortunately, they were unable to find where their requirements were addressed in the NRCFMP, which makes sense given that the NRCFMP is dated 25 November 2019 and the letter was dated 21 July 2021. Therefore, the Habitat Subcommittee could not approve the NRCFMP as the Stewardship Plan at this time. The Habitat Subcommittee requested that the sponsor update the NRCFMP as they indicated they would in their 21 July 2021 letter or prepare an addendum to the NRCFMP. The Habitat Subcommittee is willing to review an updated NRCFMP or an addendum to the NRCFMP. If the sponsor intends to update the NRCFMP, they need to identify in the NRCFMP where each of the Habitat Subcommittee's requirements are addressed. Importantly, the Subcommittee will not approve funding for any restoration actions on the property until they approve a Stewardship Plan. Thus, they made no official decision on the Specification Sheet titled, "Nason Ridge Road Decommissioning and Treatment" (see discussion below).

III. Lunch Break

IV. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved the agenda with the addition of reviewing Nason Ridge contract language, modifications to the Project Update List, and discussion on funds remaining in two WDFW acquisition projects.

V. Approve August Meeting Notes

Habitat Subcommittee members approve the 9 September 2021 meeting minutes.

VI. Review Action Items

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

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. The Operating Procedures will include definitions for abstention and recusal. **In Progress. Dave Duvall will continue to follow up with Denny Rohr to complete the Operating Procedures. Dave noted that we already have some new procedures since Tracy Hillman began facilitating the Habitat Subcommittee.**

- Tracy Hillman and Dave Duvall will estimate the amount of money spent on assessments and monitoring. **In Progress. Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, Erin Harris, and Tracy Hillman will review all the funded projects and classify them into project types. Members are welcome to participate in the review.**

VII. Project Updates

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

- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall reported that the acquisition is closing today (14 October 2021). Dave indicated that there was a discrepancy in funding between what the Habitat Subcommittee approved and what the sponsor (CDLT) invoiced. The invoice included additional costs that were not reflected in the request to the Habitat Subcommittee. He said he informed the sponsor that Grant PUD can only provide the amount approved by the Habitat Subcommittee.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported there is no new update. Because of low sockeye salmon returns this year, they will evaluate the gate operation configuration next year. Chris reminded the group that the purpose of the project is to reduce fish jumping height by experimenting with all flow going through the middle gate. Having all flow go through the middle gate should minimize or reduce the risk of bank erosion. Chris will provide an update on this project next fall.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Project** – No update at this time.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell indicated there is no new update on this project. She said the sponsor (Trout Unlimited) is keeping interested parties up to date on project progress.
- **Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion – Wilson Property Options Discussion Project** – Justin Yeager reported there was no new update on this project. He indicated that the sponsor (MSRF) will meet with the Tributary Committees and Habitat Subcommittee next month to discuss possible restoration actions on the Wilson Property. Tracy Hillman will schedule a joint meeting for this discussion.
- **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition – CDLT Developmental Funding/Final Acquisition Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that the land parcel was sold to another party. He said the sponsor is waiting to see if there is any interest by the current owner to sell the property or a portion of the property. Therefore, Jeremy requested that we keep this project on the update list.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that the project is falling behind because of unanticipated obstacles (e.g., boulders); however, the additional costs are balanced by the earlier cost savings. He said steel components have been purchased and are on site and ready to be used. He added that work is occurring along the road on river-right.
- **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Pentiction Channel Culvert Project** – Chris Fisher said this project is complete. He added that ONA is requesting recommendations on how to sample juvenile salmonids. We should see data and results from this work sometime next year.
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the USGS interpretive report is complete and was sent to the Washington Department of Ecology. Ecology has acquired funding to conduct additional sampling that will provide a large-scale evaluation (they propose sampling well upstream and downstream of the project and within the project area). Chris said he recommended sampling this fall along the five transects where sampling did not occur previously (three of the eight transects were sampled previously). In addition, Chris recommended collecting samples within the deposition area downstream of Palmer Lake. Chris said at this time he has not heard what Ecology plans to do.

- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell shared that the sponsor is still in a holding pattern on this project. Given that bids received were two to three times higher than the engineer’s estimate, the sponsor is planning to rebid the project this winter (see Time Extension Request below).
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager reported no new updates on this project. He said COID is planning to bid the project this fall or winter.
- **Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project** – Dave Duvall said the project will close today (14 October 2021). He requested that we keep it on the update list to stay informed on planned restoration work.
- **ORRI – Restoration of the Channelized VDS Section in Okanagan Falls Project** – Chris Fisher reported there is no new update on this project.

VIII. Time Extension Request

The Habitat Subcommittee received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the Ben Canyon Fish Passage Project. Because the construction bids the sponsor received during the last bid process were double or triple the engineer’s estimates, the sponsor would like to rebid the project. Rebidding the project in December 2021 will hopefully result in more appropriate construction cost estimates. To that end, the sponsor requested a time extension from 31 December 2021 to 1 December 2022.

Decision: Members present unanimously approved the time extension on the Ben Canyon Fish Passage Project (Brandon approved the time extension before the meeting).

IX. Restoration/Protection Projects

Nason Ridge Road Decommission and Treatment Project from CCNRD – The Habitat Subcommittee received a Specification Sheet from CCNRD titled, *Nason Ridge Road Decommissioning and Treatment*. The purpose of the project is to decommission up to four miles of road primarily within the Salmon Area and treat the Perimeter Road “blowout” area with an improved crossing. Crossing options include a steel bridge, culvert, or hardened ford crossing. These treatments are intended to reduce the recruitment of fine sediments into Nason Creek. The amount requested from the Habitat Subcommittee was \$250,000.

As noted above (see Nason Ridge Stewardship Plan Review), the Subcommittee will not approve funding for any restoration actions on the property until they approve a Stewardship Plan. Thus, they made no official decision on the proposed restoration project. Nevertheless, the Habitat Subcommittee did review the application and found it lacking sufficient detail to make a funding decision even if they had approved a Stewardship Plan. The application needs to identify which segments of road will be treated, what the specific treatments will be, and how much each specific treatment will cost. In addition, the Habitat Subcommittee will not fund a bridge or culvert to address the “blowout” area on the Perimeter Road. The sponsor needs to consider another option such as a hardened ford crossing. Finally, the sponsor needs to make sure the budget includes enough detail to evaluate the cost of each proposed action.

X. Administration

Nason Ridge Contract Review – Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman reviewed with the Habitat Subcommittee edits and comments received from CCNRD on the Nason Ridge Acquisition Project contract. The Habitat Subcommittee evaluated each comment/edit and determined whether they agreed with or disagreed with the proposed changes. Proposed changes were associated with sections on Appraisals, Habitat Restoration, Special Provisions (added by CCNRD), Reselling of Property, and Public Access. Tracy identified in the contract which suggested changes were approved by the Habitat Subcommittee and which ones were not. He also recorded suggested changes in language made by the Habitat Subcommittee. Tracy will send the edited contract to Dave Duvall, who will discuss it within Grant PUD and then share it with CCNRD.

Acquisition Project Invoices – Dave Duvall reported that on two separate occasions project sponsors have invoiced more than what the Habitat Subcommittee approved for acquisition projects. He said he talked with Tracy

Hillman about attaching an identification form to letters sent to project sponsors who were awarded funding for acquisition projects. The identification form would include information needed to complete a wire transfer of funds. Dave said he is working with people within Grant PUD to help develop the form. This should prevent invoices from exceeding the approved amount for acquisition projects.

Revisions to the Project Updates Table – Tracy Hillman reported that he and Dave Duvall discussed adding additional columns to the Project Updates table. The additional columns would include Completion Date, Awarded Amount, and Remaining Amount. Members present agreed that those additions would provide useful information.

Funds Remaining in Acquisition Projects – Jeremy Cram indicated that WDFW received Habitat Subcommittee funding for two acquisition projects that are 9-12 years old. Those include the Libby parcel (in the Methow Basin) and the Trinidad parcel (in a tributary to the Columbia River downstream from the Wenatchee River). Jeremy noted that those two projects have unspent funds, which perhaps could be used for management and stewardship on the properties. For example, he asked whether remaining funds be used to restore the Libby property if the property was damaged by wildfires this year. He also asked how much money remains in the two contracts and how long will unspent funds remain available for work on the properties. Dave Duvall stated that he would look into these projects to determine what work has been done, confirm title holders, identify remaining funds, and identify contract termination dates. Dave said the small group that will meet to review all projects funded by the Habitat Subcommittee can evaluate acquisition projects for remaining funds.

XI. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 18 November 2021.