



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Conference Call

Thursday, 18 November 2021
10:40 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	Chris Johnson, MSRF
Catherine Willard, CPUD	Camden Shaw, MSRF
Jessica Goldberg, MSRF	Nick Legg, Wolf Water Resources
Steven Rodriguez, Wolf Water Resources	Mike Kaputa, Chelan PUD
Marc Duboiski, RCO	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

Action Items:

- Dave Duvall and Denny Rohr will draft Operating Procedures for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- Dave Duvall will double check dollar values reported in the Project Updates Table.
- 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.
- Jeremy Cram will check within WDFW to see what maintenance actions are being proposed on the Libby and Trinidad properties.

Decision Items:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will contribute \$82,000 to the purchase of a PIT-tag detection barge. Funding will come from 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 Methow 3R Project Feasibility Study discussion and review of the Nason Ridge Stewardship Plan. Following those discussions, the PRCC will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC Habitat Subcommittee items.

II. Methow 3R Project Feasibility Study Discussion (with HCP Tributary Committees)

Chris Johnson (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF), Camden Shaw (MSRF), Jessica Goldberg (MSRF), Nick Legg (Wolf Water Resources), Steven Rodriguez (Wolf Water Resources) and representatives from the HCP Tributary Committees joined the meeting for the Methow 3R Project Feasibility Study discussion. Nick and Chris gave a presentation (see Attachment 1) in which they described restoration opportunities within Reach 3 of the Methow River. The purpose of the presentation was to gauge the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee's and HCP Tributary Committees' interest in supporting restoration work in this reach.

MSRF began by describing the project area and past restoration actions in the area. They then identified willing landowners within the Reach and described some of the restoration opportunities including enhancement of several thermal anomalies (cold-water refugia), 20 acres of floodplain, and 0.4 miles of side channels. Using results from the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team's Prioritization Tool, they noted this is a priority area for restoration, and warm water temperatures, disconnected floodplains and side channels, and a lack of instream structure currently limit summer and winter rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. They showed the project area in context with other completed restoration actions just upstream and downstream from the project area.

MSRF identified five restoration areas within the overall project reach. Area 1 consists of a nine-acre floodplain reconnection opportunity. Areas 2 and 3 include opportunities to enhance a bedrock pool, groundwater upwelling, and floodplain connectivity. Area 4 includes opportunities for side-channel activation at lower flows (it is currently activated at flows >5,000 cfs). The side channel also intercepts groundwater in some locations. There is also an opportunity to enhance an alcove at this site. Area 5 includes an opportunity to restore riparian vegetation and reconnect the floodplain and a side channel.

MSRF would like to conduct a feasibility study in the project area. The feasibility would focus on the following elements: benefits/costs, risks, resilience of proposed treatments, permitting feasibility, and constructability. They believe it would take 4-6 months to complete the feasibility study and would cost \$54,238. MSRF asked whether the Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees would be interested in supporting the feasibility study and restoration work in this area. The groups indicated that they would be interested in supporting restoration work in this area and the Tributary Committees asked MSRF to submit a Small Projects Application for conducting the feasibility study. MSRF thanked the Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees and requested that the groups provide

input during the design phase of the study. The Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees thanked MSRF for the discussion on the Methow 3R Feasibility Study.

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

Last month, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed documents provided by Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD; sponsor) that were assumed to be the Stewardship Plan for the Nason Ridge Property. The review revealed that several of the Habitat Subcommittee's stewardship requirements were not included in the documents. Therefore, the Habitat Subcommittee requested that the sponsor prepare an addendum to the Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan (NRCFMP) that addresses the Habitat Subcommittee's requirements. Rather than prepare an addendum to the NRCFMP, the sponsor prepared a Deed of Right, which outlines the Project Agreement, Restrictive Covenants, and General Covenants. The sponsor used language from the Habitat Subcommittee's Deed of Right template to prepare the document. The sponsor shared the draft Deed of Right with the Habitat Subcommittee before the meeting.

Mike Kaputa (CCNRD), Marc Duboiski (RCO), and members of the HCP Tributary Committees joined the discussion and review of the draft Deed of Right. Prior to the joint session, several members of the Habitat Subcommittee indicated that they approve the draft Deed of Right provided the Habitat Subcommittee's requirements are not removed from the document (note: the sponsor had indicated that those requirements could be removed because they were covered in the Allowed Uses Restricted section). During the joint session, Tracy Hillman reported that the draft Deed of Right was acceptable to members provided all the requirements identified in the General Covenants section remain in the document. Mike agreed to leave those elements in the document.

During the joint session, all parties agreed to the addition of the following language under the General Covenants section:

- "In addition, at a minimum, CCNRD 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."
- "CCNRD will make every effort to reduce road density and treat roads that cannot be decommissioned to reduce fine sediment recruitment to Nason Creek."
- "Public access will be allowed on the Property. The PRCC HabSC and RI HCP TC will review and approve public access actions that are detrimental to the integrity of the Property."

The Habitat Subcommittee directed Tracy to finalize the edits in the draft Deed of Right and send it to all parties for a final review. Reviews are to be completed by Wednesday, 24 November 2021. The Deed of Right will then undergo legal review. The final Deed of Right will be provided to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and will codify the Habitat Subcommittee's stewardship requirements on the property.

Following the discussion with the sponsor, the Habitat Subcommittee discussed the sponsor's request for a letter indicating that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will set aside \$250,000 for restoration work on the Nason Ridge Property. Based on discussions with the sponsor, the Habitat Subcommittee understands that this commitment of funding provides the Chelan County Commissioners with assurance that the \$250,000 "pulled" from the Stewardship Plan to help purchase the property will be replaced by funding from the Habitat Subcommittee to decommission roads, stormproof roads, enhance riparian and floodplain structure and function, and reduce fine sediment recruitment from the property to Nason Creek. The Habitat Subcommittee indicated they are interested in funding enhancement actions on the property and purposely withheld the \$250,000 from the original ask of \$750,000 for the acquisition because the Habitat Subcommittee wanted to use the \$250,000 to help reduce road density on the property. As such, the Habitat Subcommittee indicated they are committed to providing \$250,000 to enhancement work on the property under the following conditions:

- A specification sheet (application) is completed for proposed actions to be implemented on the property.
- Proposed actions need to focus on reducing road density, storm-proofing roads, and reducing fine sediment recruitment to Nason Creek.

- Each proposed action must be described in detail (i.e., indicate which segment of road will be treated and describe the treatment method to be used for each road segment).
- A detailed cost estimate must attend each proposed action.

The Habitat Subcommittee will evaluate the proposed action(s) based on biological and technical merit, feasibility, durability, and cost-effectiveness. Thus, as with any application, funding of a proposed action is not guaranteed, and the sponsor can expect feedback from the Habitat Subcommittee on proposed actions that do not meet the evaluation criteria.

The Habitat Subcommittee directed Tracy to draft a letter explaining the Habitat Subcommittee's response to the sponsor's request. Members will review the draft letter and send edits/comments to Tracy by Monday, 29 November 2021. The final letter will then be sent to CCNRD.

IV. Lunch Break

V. Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved the draft November agenda with the addition of reviewing total expenditures and unencumbered balances to date.

VI. Approve October Meeting Notes

Habitat Subcommittee members approved the 14 October 2021 meeting minutes.

VII. Review Action Items

The Subcommittee reviewed the following action items from the October 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 reported that the draft Operating Procedures are currently being reviewed by Grant PUD and should be available in January 2022.**
- 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 of the Habitat Subcommittee are welcome to participate in the review.**
- 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. **Completed.**
- 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. **Completed.**

VIII. Project Updates

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

- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – Dave Duvall reported no new update on this project. Dave indicated that Mickey Fleming will let him know whether this project can be closed at the end of 2021.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the next update on this project will be next fall.
- **Shuttleworth Creek Project** – Chris Fisher reported litigation among members of the water user's association. There are plans to remove Clark Meadows and Allandale dams during summer 2022.

- **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** – See discussion above on the Methow 3R Project Feasibility Study.
- **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 that Washington Department of Ecology has prepared a statement of work for additional sampling. Chris will review the statement of work soon.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor asked for bids on this project. Hopefully 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 the sponsor is currently working with the Corps of Engineers.
- **Anderson Acquisition – UBC Batie Habitat Project** – Dave Duvall reported no new updates on this project. 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 that the sponsor has completed two riffles between vertical drop structures and they are working on a third riffle. Chris indicated that this project has received a lot of public support.

IX. Restoration/Protection Projects

Wenatchee River Juvenile Detection PIT-tag Barge – The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee received a Specification Sheet from WDFW titled, *Wenatchee River Juvenile Detection PIT-tag Barge*. The purpose of the proposal is to help purchase and install a floating PIT-tag detection barge to be located near the mouth of the Wenatchee River. The barge will increase the detection efficiency of hatchery- and natural-origin fish PIT-tagged within the Wenatchee River basin. The barge will support comprehensive analysis of life-history patterns and survival of emigrating salmon and steelhead. That is, robust juvenile detection near the mouth of the Wenatchee River will enable meaningful analyses of overwinter survival, emigration timing and life-history diversity, and comparative survival of fish tagged at different locations within the basin. Importantly, this work will support the evaluation of habitat enhancement projects on survival of natural-origin juveniles within the Wenatchee River basin. The total cost of the project was \$245,793.76. The sponsor requested \$82,000.00 from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.

Based on questions from the Habitat Subcommittee, Jeremy noted that the barge should have juvenile salmonid detection efficiencies of 15-20%, which is significantly better than the current array in the lower Wenatchee River. He said this estimate is based on barges operating in similar-sized rivers. He added that the barge will operate year-round and will be installed by a contractor (most likely West Fork Environmental). Jeremy said he is not concerned that the detection system will not work. He believes it will work and the system has a proven record in other areas. There is some concern about liability (e.g., a tuber or rafter accidentally drifting into the barge and becoming injured or killed). Warning signs should help reduce injuries to recreationalists. Jeremy also responded to a question regarding future O&M costs by suggesting that other funding sources would be available for barge operating costs.

Decision: *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members present elected to contribute \$82,000 to the purchase of the PIT-tag detection barge. Funding will come from Fund 602. As part of this funding, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee requires that WDFW submit annual reports describing results from the mark-recapture efforts for as long as the barge is operational.*

X. Administration

Revisions to the Project Updates Table – Members indicated that they appreciated the additional columns added to the Project Updates Table. It was pointed out that the dollar amounts identified for some of the projects appear to be incorrect (e.g., Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project and Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project). Dave said he will double check the amounts listed within the table.

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

Fund	2021 Expenditures through 30 September	Unencumbered Balance
601	\$211,699.06	\$4,695,039
602	\$443,226.19	\$5,257,286
603	\$0.00	\$1,322,599
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$654,925.25</i>	<i>\$11,274,924</i>

Funds Remaining in Acquisition Projects – During the October meeting, Jeremy Cram indicated that WDFW received Habitat Subcommittee funding several years ago for the Libby parcel (in the Methow Basin) and the Trinidad parcel (in a tributary to the Columbia River downstream from the Wenatchee River). In October, Jeremy asked how much money remains within those projects and whether the remaining funds can be used for management and stewardship on the properties. Dave Duvall reported that he researched these two projects and determined that there is \$62,218 left in the Libby acquisition and \$32,149 left in the Trinidad acquisition. Dave noted that \$25,000 was set aside for property maintenance on both the Libby and Trinidad acquisitions. That is, both projects had a line-item allocation of \$25,000 for property maintenance. It is unclear how much of the \$25,000 for each project has been spent. Dave said he will review all invoices on the two projects and determine how much of the \$25,000 allocated to property maintenance has been spent. Whatever amount remains can be used for additional maintenance on the properties. Dave added that WDFW holds the title on both parcels. Jeremy said he will check within WDFW to see what maintenance actions are being proposed on the two properties.

XI. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm.

XII. Next Meeting

Because some members of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on leave during the scheduled December meeting, the Habitat Subcommittee will not meet in December. Their next meeting will be on 13 January 2022.