



## PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2014

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Douglas PUD Auditorium

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

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Kate Terrell, USFWS

Dave Duvall, GCPUD

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick, NMFS

Chris Fisher, CCT

Lee Carlson, YN

Jeremy Cram, Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

### Attendees:

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Justin Yeager, NMFS

Lee Carlson, YN

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Jennifer Goodridge, CCNR

Steve Kolk, BOR

Chris Fisher, CCT

Jeremy Cram, WDFW

Dave Duvall, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Rob Richardson, BOR

### Distributed Items:

1. MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project Construction Schedule
2. Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Penticton Channel Spawning Platforms No. 1 & No. 2 Progress Report
3. Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – Penticton Channel Spawning Platforms No. 1 & No. 2 Photo Documentation
4. Silver Side Channel PIT-tag Array Spec Sheet

### Action Items:

1. Rohr will contact USFS regarding the Upper White Pine Project.
2. Duvall will send the original Squadroni spec sheet to members.
3. Rohr will send the Newby Narrows appraisal that's been received to HSC members. Upon receipt of the other two appraisals, Duvall will call for an email vote to approve acquisition.
4. Rohr and Duvall will look for an appraiser that's able to appraise all types of property.
5. Cram will have David Morgan get the assessed value of the Goodfellow property on the lower Wenatchee River.
6. Terrell will send the Peshastin and Icicle Irrigation Districts Pump-back System Options Feasibility Study to HSC members.

## Final Meeting Minutes

### 11:00 am – Combined meeting of Habitat SC and HCP Tributary Committees

#### **Upper White Pine Presentation (Chelan County Natural Resources Department and Bureau of Reclamation)**

The following summary is from the HCP Tributary Committees Notes dated 11 September 2014: In June, Chelan County Natural Resources Department asked the Committees if the County and BOR could attend the September meeting to describe the proposed approach for the Nason Creek Upper White Pine Restoration Project. The Committees agreed to invite the County and BOR to the meeting. Jennifer Goodridge (CCNRD) and Rob Richardson (BOR) presented their proposed approach to the Committees during the September meeting (their presentation is appended as Attachment 1).

Jennifer Goodridge began the presentation by talking about the development of the project and the current conditions. She noted that in the project area about one mile of Nason Creek has been relocated by the construction of the railroad. The U.S. Forest Service TEAMS completed a restoration plan in 2013. Currently there is very little habitat in the project area, because the stream has incised, water velocities are relatively high, and there is little instream complexity. The six small tributaries that enter the project area drain into the wetland. Chelan PUD power lines are also within the floodplain area. Jennifer then presented information on flows, temperatures, and counts of fish within the project area. She identified the goals of the project, which are to (1) restore natural stream channel and floodplain structure and function to increase floodplain connectivity and promote habitat formation, and (2) rehabilitate and restore aquatic habitat to allow for the opportunity and capacity to support diverse life history strategies and increased growth and survival of fish. Jennifer described the alternatives that were considered in the restoration plan. These included levee removal and breaching only, construction of channel meanders within current stream alignment (with or without levee removal), full levee removal and channel reconstruction (re-alignment) from RM 13.4-13.8, and partial levee removal and partial channel re-construction. She then discussed the PUD power lines and the 15 alternatives considered for moving them out of the project area. The preferred alternative is to relocate the power lines to the Upper White Pine road. Jennifer concluded her presentation by giving an overview of the 30% design.

Rob Richardson picked up the presentation by describing profiles and inundation results from the 30% design. He identified some of the comments they received on the 30% design, which included, "go bigger," they can fill the existing channel to avoid avulsion, and they need to consider the benefits of long term channel migration and floodplain re-connection. Rob walked the Committees through the different "go big" evaluations. He identified the preferred scenario and presented 1-D model results of restored conditions for annual, two-year, ten-year, 50-year, and 100-year flow events. The existing channel will be filled with about 37,000 cubic yard of fill to avoid channel avulsion back into it, and the preferred scenario will increase floodplain connectivity by over 7 acres at the two-year event and 15 acres at the 100-year event. In addition, the preferred scenario will allow access to the existing wetland habitat in the area. The project will increase access to thermal refugia, increase channel length, sinuosity, pools, large wood, and floodplain function. Jennifer shared with the Committees additional benefits such as increased fish production and the amount of habitat impairment that will be fixed.

Jennifer said that they expect to complete the 60% design by October, and complete permits by the end of the year. They hope to construct in 2015-2016. They plan to move the power lines in 2015 and the channel in 2016. The total cost of the project is estimated at about \$2.6M; they have

already secured \$780,000 from Ecology. They intend to ask the Tributary Committees and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for about \$1.2M.

Members of the Committees had several questions. One question that was discussed extensively was why not just breach the levee and let the stream carve out a preferred channel or channels. This would create extensive edge habitat for juvenile salmonids and would be far less expensive. Rob answered that this is not feasible at this time because the Forest Service needs assurance and some certainty about the location of the channel within the floodplain. He also said that the channel may avulse into the existing channel, because it is the preferred flow path. Another concern is the mobilization of extensive amounts of fine sediments into downstream spawning and rearing areas. Finally, Rob noted that even if the stream is allowed to carve out its own path, it will ultimately evolve into a single-thread channel. Thus, the multiple channels created early will be short lived. The Committees provided the County and BOR with suggestions and the County will likely submit a proposal to the Committees in the near future. (End Tributary Committees Notes)

After the conclusion of the Tributary Committees meeting, the HSC members reconvened and began their regular meeting in the early afternoon. There was continued discussion of this project with questions particularly focused on the involvement and activities of the USFS. Accordingly, HSC members decided they would like the USFS to attend the next meeting to discuss their view and expectation of the project. **Rohr will contact USFS.**

#### **1:00 – 4:00 – Regular Habitat SC Meeting**

- I. **Agenda Review**
- II. **Action Items Review**
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – Affirmation of HSC Email Vote to Approve July 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes, Affirmed with changes. Nason View Project Development was assigned to Fund 602.
- IV. **Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)** – Will distribute upon receipt.
- V. **Review of Squadroni Property (D. Duvall)** – John Squadroni contacted Grant PUD regarding the resurrection of a proposed project on his land that he and the previous Grant PUD Habitat Project Manager, Ben Lenz, had discussed in 2007. The project was put on hold in 2007 by Chelan County Natural Resources because of its proximity the B+ Project. **Duvall will send the original spec sheet to members.**
- VI. **Silver Side Channel Proposal (J. Cram)** HSC members approved this project from Fund 602, in the amount of \$123,638.30.
- VII. **Newby Narrows Property Acquisition (D. Duvall, L. Carlson)** Larry Rees conducted appraisals on the three parcels that make up this land acquisition. **Rohr will send the one appraisal that's been received to HSC members. Upon receipt of the other two appraisals, Duvall will call for an email vote to approve acquisition as Rohr will be out of country during this time period.**
- VIII. **Review of Property Acquisition Appraisal Process (D. Rohr)**
  - A. **Update regarding adding Tom Walters to the List of Appraisers (D. Duvall)** – Tom Walters, who specializes in orchards and smaller parcels of property, declined being added to the list of primary appraisers, but was willing to be a review appraiser. **Rohr and Duvall will look for an appraiser that's able to appraise all types of property.**

Cram reported that he has been contacted by David Morgan, CDLT, regarding a 40 acre parcel (Goodfellow property) of land below the Sleepy Hollow Bridge, on the lower Wenatchee River, that is being put on the market instead of the developer building a subdivision, as planned. This piece offers low biological benefit as the riparian is intact, but it would connect a long section of the Wenatchee River, as WDFW has an easement downstream of this site. **Cram will have David Morgan get the assessed value of the property.**

B. Appraisal Flow Chart (D. Rohr) - Ongoing

## IX. Project Updates

- A. **McIntyre Dam – Improving Fish Jumping Efficiency** (C. Fisher) – This site will be visited on the tour of Canadian habitat projects. Fisher reported that fish are still having trouble getting over the dam and that efficiencies aren't what ONA wants them to be.
- B. **Wenatchee Nutrient Enhancement Proposal** (J. Cram, D. Duvall) – Ongoing. Bio Analysts (Hillman and Langshaw) are developing a monitoring proposal. USFWS is concerned of the impact to bull trout; a NEPA might have to be conducted.
- C. **Icicle Creek Boulder Field Assessment Project** (K. Terrell) The project is in the design phase. The hope is for the project to be constructed in 2016.
- D. **Shuttleworth Creek Project** (C. Fisher) – This site will be visited on the tour of Canadian habitat projects. Fisher reported that this project has a \$300,000 short-fall. Fisher noted his concern that the project has been mismanaged by ONA from the start and that he will not advocate for any additional funds. The HSC originally funded \$600,000 for this project.
- E. **Roaring Creek Flow Restoration and Diversion Removal Project** (K. Terrell) – Issues with property lines between the USFWS and the adjoining orchardist need to be worked out before spring 2015, when the project is to begin.
- F. **Bremer Property, Phase 3** (D. Duvall, D. Rohr) – CDLT has a buyer for the 10 acre home site parcel that appraised for approximately \$85,000; funds from that sale will be deposited back into the Habitat Fund.
- G. **Barkley Irrigation Company, 2012 – 2014 Diversion Change** (D. Bambrick) The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) provided \$700,000 for this project, while the HSC funded the design work. Funding for implementation is now being sought. Fisher questioned who will pay for ongoing pumping cost. No pumps or lines were lost in the Carlton Complex fire.
- H. **Chewuch River Permanent Instream Flow Project** (K. Terrell) – This project is complete; HSC members have received the final report.
- I. **Peshastin and Icicle Irrigation Districts Pump-back System Options Feasibility Study** (K. Terrell) – This project is complete; **Terrell will send the report to HSC members.**
- J. **Icicle Creek Boulder Field PIT Tag Array** (J. Cram) – Cram reported that the arrays have been built, but that they did not work during pre-installation testing. It was found that Biomark sent ACN's (transceiver) that were

encrypted and will not talk to other systems. WDFW is holding off on rebuilding until a conference call can be scheduled with Biomark and NOAA. WDFW is hoping that Biomark will provide them with the key to unencrypt the array that has already been installed. Cram believes that the arrays can still be installed this fall (October).

- K. **Penticton Spawning Platforms** (C. Fisher) – This site will be visited on the tour of Canadian habitat projects. The second platform will be completed tomorrow.
- L. **Trout Unlimited – Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II** (J. Cram) - Ongoing
- M. **White River Staff Gage** (D. Duvall) - Duvall received an email from Washington Department of Ecology stating that they will discuss the one-time funding offer of \$50,000 to cover four 4 years of staff gage operations, in November.
- N. **Lower Nason Side Channel RM 2.4 Development on the McCarty Property** (D. Duvall) – The contract has been submitted to CDLT.
- O. **Methow Valley Instream Flow Improvement Project (MVID)** – The following update was provided by Kate Terrell.

TU continued to participate in the twice-monthly MVID Directors' meetings and monthly Operations and Executive Team meetings. Areas of focus this month were preparation assistance to the MVID Directors for their special member meeting scheduled for August, review of Reclamation's Final Design for East Main Pipe, and review of Anchor's Concept Plans for the West Pump System and E1. Bid documents for the East Main pipe were advertised and sent out to interested contractors. Depending on bid numbers and funding availability we anticipate starting construction mid-October.

Project implementation contracts between TU and MVID were signed as were the Trust Water Right Agreements between the Department of Ecology and MVID. The new Water Right Reports of Examination were posted and the 30 day review period ended August 24<sup>th</sup> with no comments received.

Landowner outreach continued with planning for neighborhood meetings with the groups of landowners on the East laterals. The meetings are expected to take place through September, to discuss proposed alignments of laterals to be renovated. Easement negotiations continue for the new proposed pipe alignments, staging areas, and the production well field. Main thrust now is for the designers and MVID to finalize the lateral alignments so that those easements can be executed.

- Permitting is now close to complete.
  - SEPA
    - Ecology published the Final MDNS on July 30.
- Okanogan County JARPA
  - Shoreline Exemption is complete
- WDFW JARPA
  - 1st HPA is complete for the Alder Creek Diversion Removal and drain installation

- Second JARPA will be submitted for the long term maintenance of the Mill Hill Spill and Beaver Creek Drain
- DOE JARPA
  - Complete
- DOE Stormwater
  - Will be resubmitted as soon as Final MDNS is signed.
- Archy
  - MOU submitted from DOE to DAHP, pending signature for mitigation plan
  - Phase II survey work almost complete

**X. Next Meetings:**

- A.** Next Meeting – October 8, 9, Annual Canadian Project Tour