



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
 Conference Call**

Thursday, 10 February 2022
 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 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 (absent) ¹
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tom Kahler, DPUD	Catherine Willard, CPUD
Chris Butler, YN	Hans Smith, YN
Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts	

Action Items:

- Kate Terrell will contact Trout Unlimited to see whether the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project should be closed because the project has lingered for a long period of time with no action.
- Tracy Hillman will send the draft PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures to the Habitat Subcommittee for review.
- Tracy Hillman will send the draft list of project action types to the Habitat Subcommittee for review.

¹ Jeremy was not present for the meeting; however, he provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

- 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 extend the IPID Fish Screen Project contract period from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023.

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 Nason Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Presentation by the Yakama Nation (YN). Following the presentation, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will take a short lunch break and reconvene to discuss PRCC Habitat Subcommittee items.

II. Nason Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Presentation (with the HCP Tributary Committees)

Chris Butler and Hans Smith with YN gave a presentation to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and HCP Tributary Committees titled, *Nason Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project – Realignment of SR 207* (see Attachment 1). Chris began the presentation by describing the location of the proposed project on Nason Creek (between RM 3.4 and 4.6). Chris explained that the State Route (SR) 207 alignment has disconnected the floodplain from Nason Creek in this reach. Given the alignment, there continues to be extensive road damage from erosion. This leads to constant road maintenance and repairs. Looking at the historical GLO (General Land Office) map, Nason Creek meandered extensively through this reach. SR 207 reduced sinuosity, disconnected the floodplain from the stream, and reduced habitat for fish.

Chris identified some of the scientific reports that helped guide their alternative analyses and feasibility study. Previous evaluations conducted by CCNRD identified causeways, bridges, and road relocations as alternatives for restoring floodplain connectivity in this reach. None of these alternatives were implemented because of cost (~\$33 million), safety, sensitive area impacts, private lands, and complex infrastructure with high O&M (operations and maintenance) costs. In addition, road relocation must account for areas prone to avalanches. YN, working with several partners, determined that road relocation is feasible and identified relocation alternatives. Importantly, realignment would completely remove the two most egregious CED (chronic environmental deficiency) areas along the existing highway, avoid private land impacts, avoid the avalanche areas, minimize infrastructure, and avoid sensitive areas. Chris said relocation of the highway would reconnect and restore about 20 acres of floodplain habitat, including side channels and wetlands. It would also open about 0.4 miles of stream corridor for instream habitat restoration.

Chris concluded the presentation by outlining their next steps and timeline. He said they will solicit funding from different entities for design and construction, continue coordination with their partners and others, coordinate with permitting agencies, and develop a request for proposals for permit-level designs to be completed by the end of this year.

Chris Fisher asked how firm are the cost estimates? Chris Butler responded they are likely high estimates. He said they tried to capture the highest potential estimate in their analysis. Justin Yeager asked whether the cost estimates include decommissioning the existing road. Chris said no. Removal of the existing highway prism will be the last task of the project.

The Habitat Subcommittee and Tributary Committees thanked YN for the presentation.

III. Lunch Break

IV. February Agenda Review

The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee reviewed and approved the agenda.

V. Approve January Meeting Notes

Habitat Subcommittee members approved the 12 January 2022 meeting notes.

VI. Review Action Items

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

- 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. **In progress. 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. See discussion below.**
- 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. **In progress.**
- Dave Duvall will prepare a standardized Deed of Right template for Habitat Subcommittee review. **In progress. See discussion below.**
- 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. **In progress.**

VII. Project Updates

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

- **Wenatchee River Juvenile PIT-tag Detection Barge** – Dave Duvall reported that WDFW has concerns with the language in the contract that indicates who owns the barge when the project is complete. Dave said there are three funding entities and Grant PUD's contract states that Grant PUD will retain ownership of the barge once the project is complete. WDFW is currently working on contract language that will be satisfactory to all parties.
- **Toole/Mardini/Jawa Acquisition Project** – Chris Fisher reported no new updates on this project.
- **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the next update on this project will be autumn 2022.
- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Trout Unlimited) continues communications with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) director regarding the Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program (IEGP) Application review process. Unfortunately, the sponsor has not received any new information at this time. It is the sponsor's understanding that JSDC is planning a meeting in February with their new attorney to review the water right change process and the IEGP application. Kate will contact the sponsor to see whether this contract should be closed because of the long period of inaction.
- **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** – No new activity on this project.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Tracy Hillman reported that the sponsor (WDFW) is requesting a time extension on this project (see discussion below).
- **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry Behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River Project** – Chris Fisher reported that the final Interpretive Report from USGS will be available in early April. The Washington Department of Ecology has selected a firm to do additional core sampling that will provide a large-scale evaluation (upstream, downstream, and within the reservoir). Sampling will occur over a two-week period. Results from additional core sampling should be available this August. Chris noted that this second assessment funded by Ecology is not a deliverable under the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreement. He is sharing the information as a courtesy to the Habitat Subcommittee.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (TU) selected Palm Construction to implement the project. The bid from Palm Construction to implement the project was \$163,000.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Justin Yeager reported the sponsor (WWT) is looking to bid the project in February. The sponsor is also working with Chelan County and the Army Corps of Engineers on permits.
- **ORRI – Restoration of the Channelized VDS Section in Okanogan Falls Project** – Chris Fisher reported this project is finished and can be removed from the Projects Update list.

VIII. Restoration/Protection Projects

IPID Fish Screen Project Time Extension – Tracy Hillman, Jeremy Cram, and Dave Duvall received an email from Jeff Dengel (WDFW) requesting a time extension on the Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project. The sponsor would like a one-year time extension on their contract. This is needed because in-kind work such as site preparation and conduit excavation took more time to complete than planned. In addition, more time may be needed to complete various activities post-operations.

Decision: Members present unanimously agreed to extend the IPID Fish Screen Project contract period from 31 December 2022 to 31 December 2023.

IX. Administration

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Policies and Procedures – Tracy Hillman reported that he, Dave Duvall, and Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel drafted the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee's Policies and Procedures document. Tracy walked members through the draft document and indicated they still have a few minor changes to make to the document. Once these changes are complete, Tracy will share the draft document with members for their review. The goal is to approve the document during the March meeting.

Review Standardized Deed of Right Template – Dave Duvall reported that Grant PUD's legal team has reviewed the Nason Ridge Deed of Rights document. The document will be sent to Chelan County for final review. Once the document is finalized, Dave will convert it into a standardized Deed of Rights template. This will be the Habitat Subcommittee's standard form for acquisition projects. If a project sponsor makes any edits or changes to the standardized Deed of Rights document, the Habitat Subcommittee will need to review and approve the changes. If the sponsor makes no edits or changes to the standardized document, there will be no review by the Habitat Subcommittee.

Standardized Project Type List – Dave Duvall stated that he and Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel have worked their way through all projects funded by the Habitat Subcommittee. The purpose of the exercise was to classify each project into a habitat action type (e.g., fish screening, fish passage, instream flow, instream structure, etc.). Based on this work, the Habitat Subcommittee will be able to determine the amount of money spent on assessments, monitoring,

and evaluation projects. Recall, there is \$2.5 million available for this type of work. Dave indicated that he, Tracy, and Deanne will develop a standardized list of habitat action types. This will be the official list for classifying actions funded by the Habitat Subcommittee. Tracy will share the list with the Habitat Subcommittee before the March meeting. The goal is to approve the list during the March meeting.

CDLT Invoice for Appraisal – Dave Duvall reported that he received an invoice from CDLT requesting \$1,721.07 for two appraisals (one primary and one review appraisal) on the Toole/Mardini property. Unfortunately, the sponsor conducted the work without interacting with the project liaison. Although there was a line item listed in the original Specifications Sheet, members did not recall the specific details of how the appraisals were to be conducted and therefore agreed the invoice should be paid.

Libby and Trinidad Property Maintenance – Dave Duvall reported that there is no record of expenses for property maintenance on the Libby and Trinidad parcels. Therefore, each project (Libby and Trinidad) still has \$25,000 for property maintenance. During the January meeting, 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. During the last meeting, Jeremy Cram indicated he would see what maintenance actions are being proposed on the two properties. Because Jeremy was not in attendance, members do not know what maintenance actions are currently needed. Dave noted that he does not want these projects to linger forever. He would like to provide the funds to WDFW or identify a possible termination date. Members present agreed that it is not good to keep these old agreements open for long periods of time. This will be discussed in March when Jeremy is available.

X. Adjourn

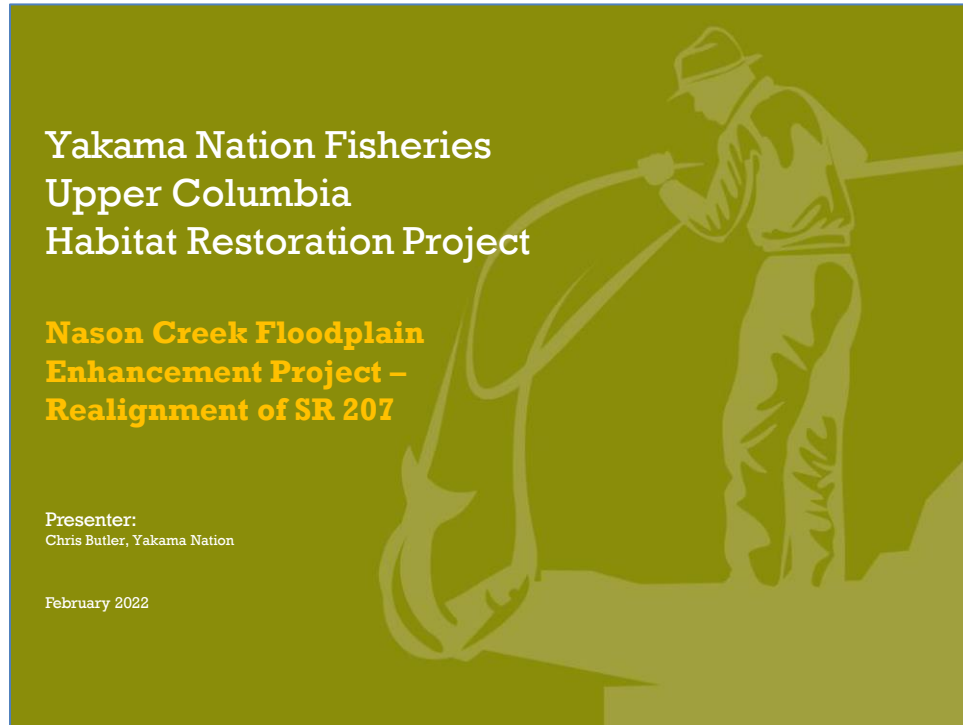
Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will be on 10 March 2022.

Attachment 1

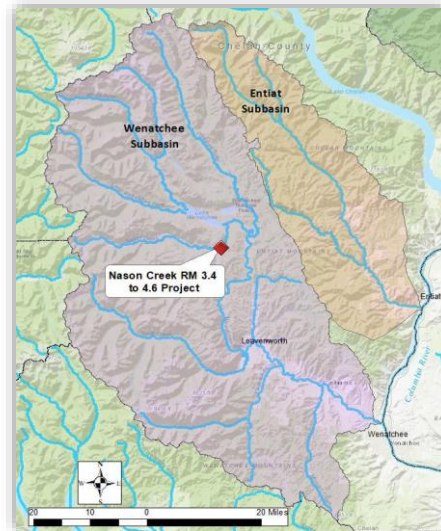
Presentation by the Yakama Nation on the Nason Creek RM 3.4-4.6 Project



Project Location

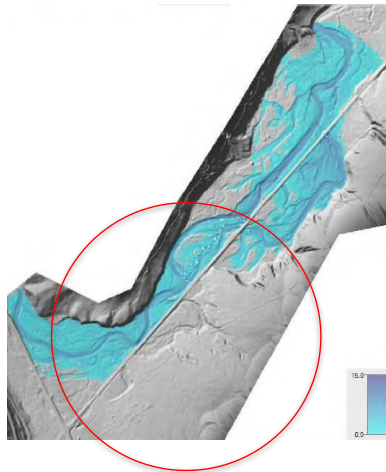
Wenatchee Subbasin

- Nason Creek Assessment Unit
- Mainstem Nason Creek
 - River Miles 3.2 to 4.6



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Current Problem

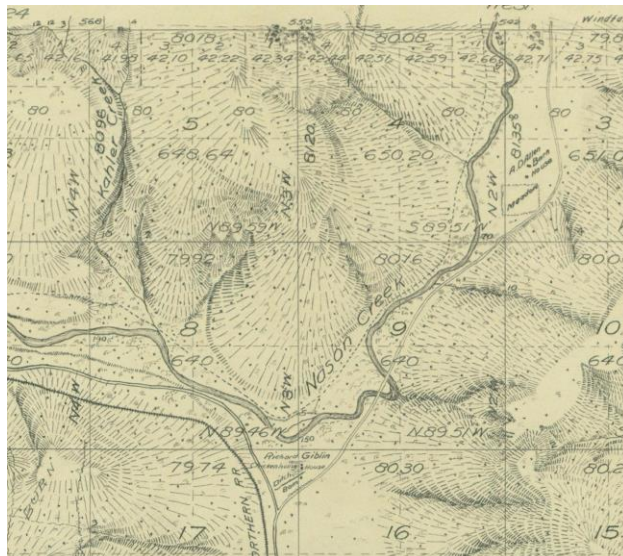


- Extensive cutoff floodplain and disconnected habitats caused by SR 207 alignment
- Direct highway and floodway interactions – continued high potential for extensive road damage
 - Constant Annual WSDOT maintenance cost for road repair and constant degraded fish habitat.



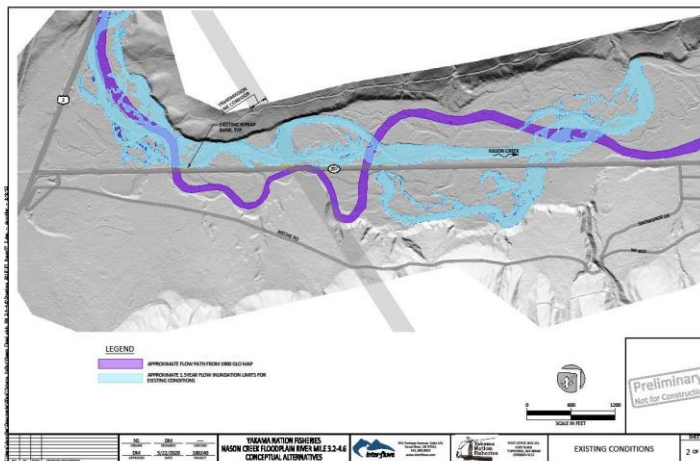
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Historic GLO Map



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Current Alignment along with GLO Map Alignment

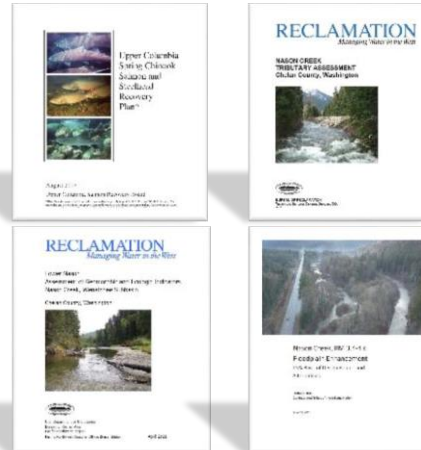


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Guiding Documents



- Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan, 2007
- Nason Creek Tributary Assessment, 2008
- Lower Nason Assessment of Geomorphic and Ecologic Indicators Nason Creek, Wenatchee Subbasin, 2011
- Salmon and Steelhead Biological Assessment for the Nason Creek N1 Floodplain Reconnection Project, 2012
- Nason Creek Feasibility Study, 2012
- Geomorphic Assessment, 2012
- Biological Strategy, 2017
- WSDOT, Chronic Environmental Deficiency Site, Priority 1, 2018
- Yakama Nation, UCHRP recommends SR 207 Reroute, 2019 and 2021
- And many more.....

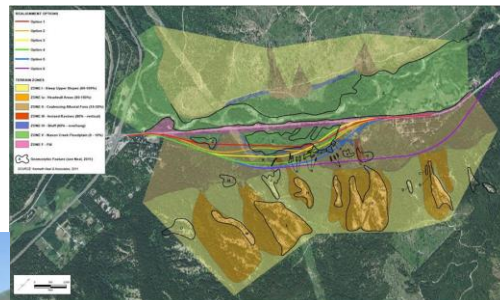


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Previous Alternative Analysis and Feasibility Study



- Causeways
- Bridges
- Road Relocation



Not Implemented Due To:

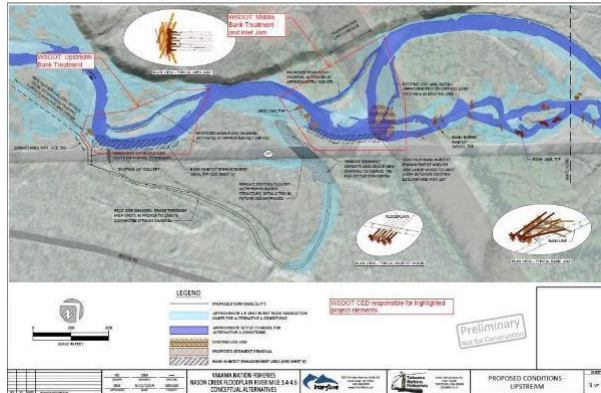
- Expense
- Sensitive Area Impacts
- Safety
- Private Land Impact
- Complex Infrastructure with high O&M costs

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Previous Project Presentation

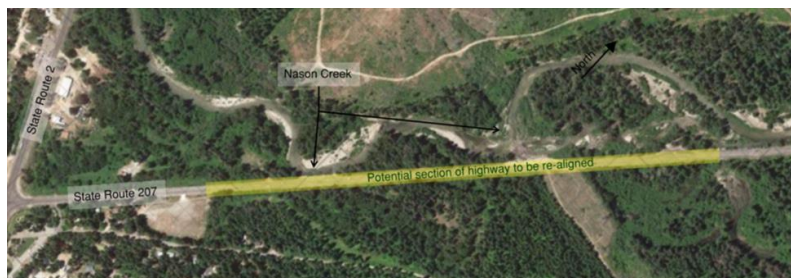
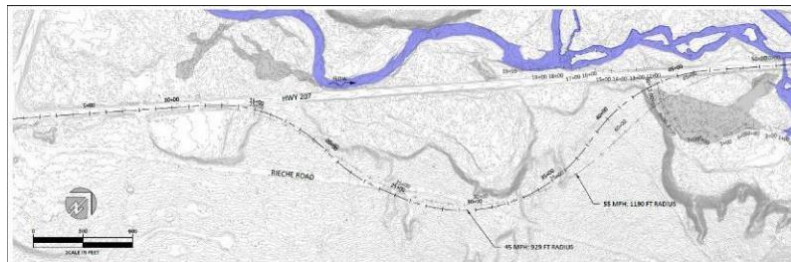


■ No Highway Realignment (2020)



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New 2021 Road Re-Alignment Concept

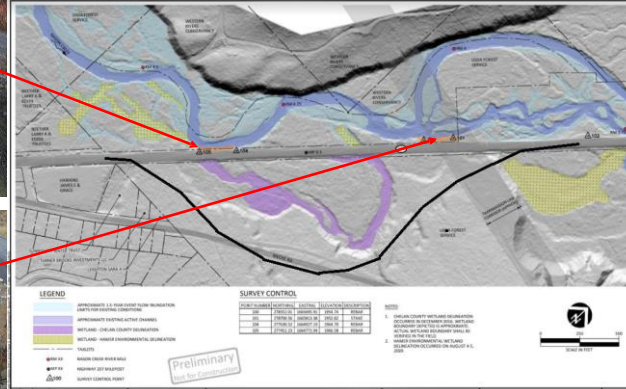


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SR 207 Re-Alignment Benefits



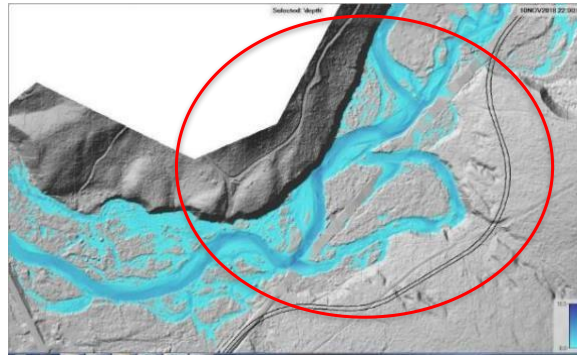
- Complete Removal of 2 Worst CED Sites



- Avoids Private Land Impacts
- Avoids Avalanche Areas
- Avoids Sensitive Areas
- Minimizes Infrastructure

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Extensive Direct Habitat Restoration Opportunities



- ~20 acres of floodplain, side channel, and wetland habitats can be reconnected and restored.
- Opens up 0.4 miles of stream corridor for instream habitat restoration

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New Restoration Project Setting

- 3 Connected Project Areas
- Current Focus is on Highway 207 Realignment
- Results from Realignment will control opportunities in other two areas



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2021 Feasibility Assessment

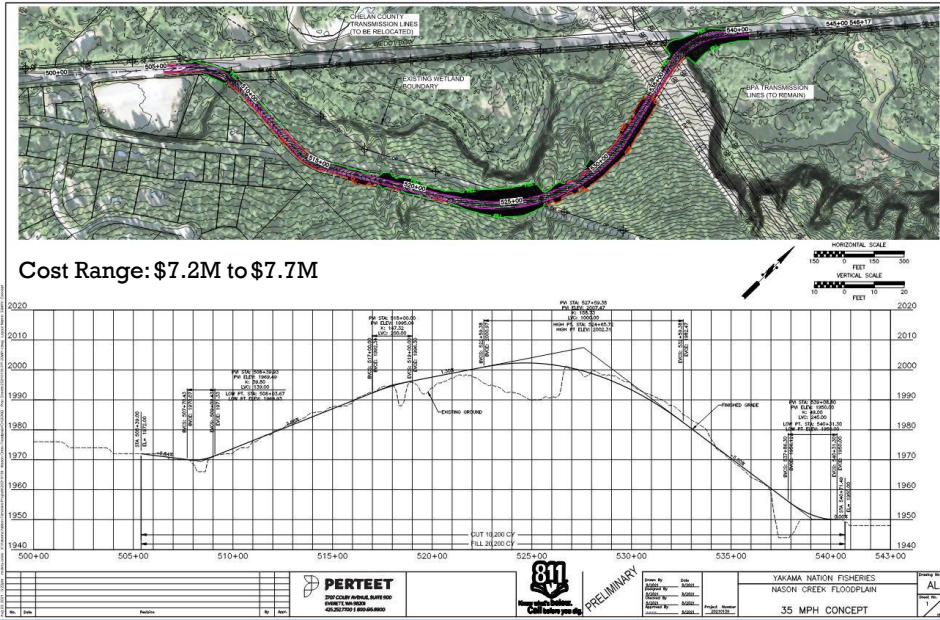
Road Realignment alternatives and feasibility analysis takes into account the following goals:

- Ensure Highway 207 maintains efficient and safe traffic flow similar to current conditions by constructing to WSDOT Standards.
- Minimize impacts of Highway 207 to Nason Creek and associated critical areas and promote salmon habitat restoration opportunities.
- Decrease ongoing flooding impacts and damage to the Highway 207 road prism.
- Minimize earthwork and impacts to US Forest Service land.
- Avoid impacting private lands with the new highway alignment.

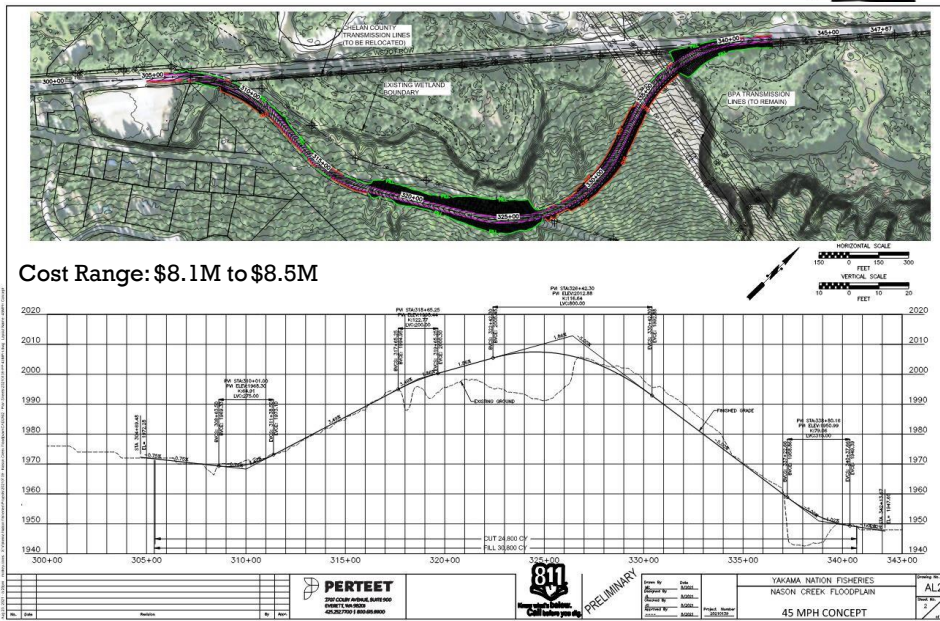


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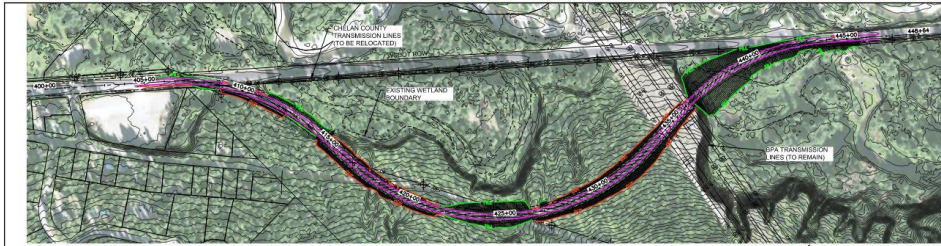
Results – 35 MPH Concept



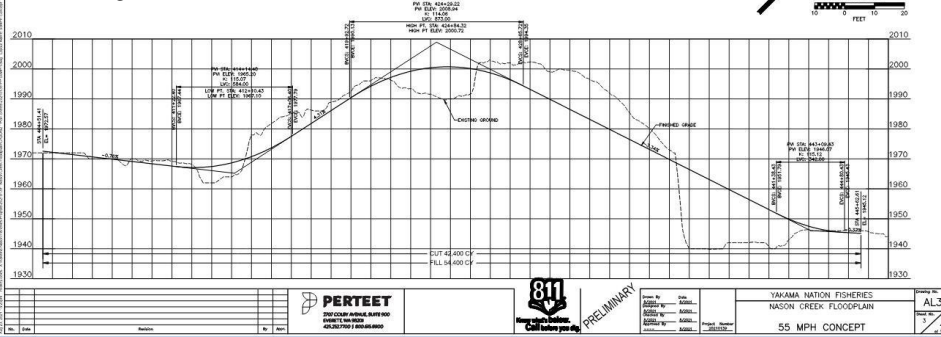
Results – 45 MPH Concept



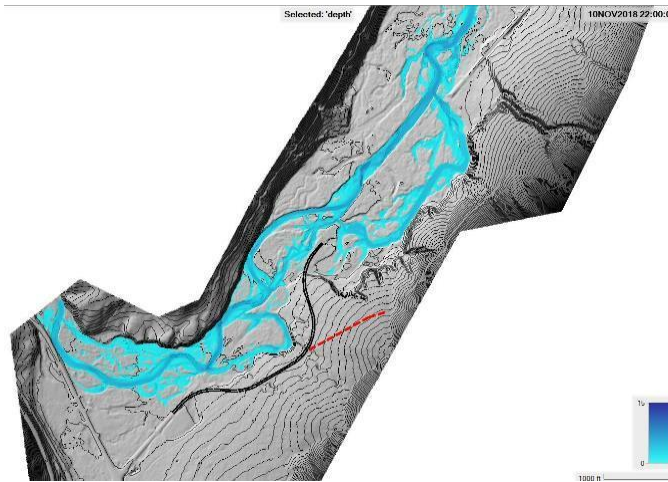
Results – 55 MPH Concept



Cost Range: \$10.8M to \$11.5M



Proposed SR 207 Re-Alignment & Area of Extensive Habitat Restoration Potential



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Project Partners



- WSDOT and USFS have reviewed the 2021 Realignment Feasibility Assessment and are supportive of further analyzing this realignment alternative
- BPA remains interested in developing restoration actions in this area and has proposed methods to secure Capital Project commitments to help fund road realignment expenses. BPA and USFS have agreed to allow BPA to act as EC lead for the project.
- Chelan County is becoming engaged in reviewing the project opportunities and will be an important partner on the new Community Forest lands being purchased from Western Rivers Conservancy.

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Current and Future Funding



CURRENT FUNDING

- WSDOT – Design and Construction - \$800 Thousand
- Yakama Nation – SR 207 Realignment Design and Construction \$3.1 Million
- Available Funds \$3.9 Million

Funding Sources for Road Re-Alignment

- WSDOT
- Yakama Nation
- Additional Funding Sources:
 - BPA
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board, (SRFB)
 - SRFB 2022 Special Funding Cycle 3.7 million
 - Tributary Committees
 - Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee, (PRCC)
 - Legislative Capital Budget

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Next Steps & Time Line



- Continue to Solicit for Funding from the different Committees for Design and Construction
- Complete Discussions of our findings and Continue to Coordinate with our Project Partners, (WSDOT, USFS, and BPA)
- Continue Coordination Efforts with Utilities, Private Landowners, Chelan County, Special Interest Groups, and Overall Public Outreach
- Coordination with permitting agencies
- Develop an RFP for permit-level design of SR 207 Re-Alignment to be completed December 2022

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QUESTIONS



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