



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Meeting

FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 13, 2020

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GCPUD

Justin Yeager, Dale Bambrick (alt), NMFS

Jeremy Cram, Carmen Andonaegui (alt), WDFW

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Chris Fisher, CCT

Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Erin Harris, GCPUD, Admin Assistant

Meeting Attendees

Chris Fisher, CCT

Dave Duvall, GCPUD

Justin Yeager, NMFS

Jeremy Cram, WDFW

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GCPUD

Brandon Rogers, YN

Erin Harris, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc

Kate Terrell, USFWS

Joint Meeting with HCP Trib Comm

10 am – 3:00 pm

HCP Tributary Committee Webinar

The PRCC HSC joined the HCP Tributary Committee meeting to participate in a review and discussion of the Yakama Nation Fisheries Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Project (Project). The Project was introduced to the two committees with a power point presentation by Hans Smith, Yakama Nation Fisheries, UC Habitat Coordinator.

Smith commented that the Project started in 2008. The species of focus are UC Spring Chinook and UC Steelhead, and the areas of focus are the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee Subbasins. Also, of interest is the restoration of Treaty Resources, implementation of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan, and assistance to BPA in producing mitigation credits under the FCRPS BiOp and the Columbia River System (CRS) BiOp.

The approach of the Project is to work under the framework of the 2007 Salmon Recovery Plan, assess habitat conditions, prioritize restoration/protection actions, and develop and implement restoration and protection projects. Typical design considerations would include activities related to habitat, geomorphology/hydrology, engineering and risk, river safety, and construction impacts.

Smith reviewed the Project accomplishments from 2009-2019 including 16 miles of mainstem complexity treatments, 5.5 miles of side channel treatments, 4,600 pieces of wood added as habitat, 36 projects implemented, and 14 habitat assessments conducted. Additionally, Smith reviewed the reach and the recreation use assessments completed to date, explanation of the Project prioritization guidelines, and a review of the financial approach to projects including typical funding strategies.

The purpose of today's meeting was to allow Smith and other Yakama Fisheries staff to present and review 9 different projects currently under development. A couple of weeks prior to today's meeting, completed HCP Project Applications with project detail attachments were provided to committee members to allow additional explanation prior to today's meeting of the projects to be reviewed. Smith commented that no funding decisions were being requested or asked to be considered at this time, but they were asking for feedback from committee members regarding specific project details, questions, comments, and potential interest of committee members in moving the projects forward.

Committee members provided feedback to Smith and Yakama Nation Fisheries staff on each project as it was presented. Accordingly, after extended discussion, the meeting concluded with the understanding that project applications, including funding requests, will be provided to each committee for consideration as Smith decides to be appropriate.

Projects Presented

1. Entiat Fox Creek and Silver Falls – Entiat Subbasin
2. Upper Nason Creek – Wenatchee Subbasin
3. Chiwawa Outlet – Wenatchee Subbasin
4. Nason RM 3.4 – 4.6 – Wenatchee Subbasin
5. Eightmile Creek Barrier – Methow Subbasin
6. Upper Methow Large Wood – Methow Subbasin
7. Twisp USFS Projects – Methow Subbasin
8. Twisp Scaffold Camp – Methow Subbasin
9. Twisp Horseshoe Large Wood – Methow Subbasin

Regular Meeting of PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

3:00 – 4:00 pm

TEAMS Webinar

Decisions made during August 13, 2020 meeting

1. No final decisions were made during the August 13th meeting.

MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Agenda Review** – Please see VIII. Additional Agenda Item: Justin Yeager/ Cascade Orchards.
- II. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - A. July 9, 2020 – Approved.
- III. **Action Items Review from July 9, 2020 Meeting**
 1. Rohr will follow up on Hans Smith comments regarding YN projects. - **Completed**
 2. Yeager will follow up with activities surrounding the potential sale of the Wilson Property. - **Completed**
 3. Jason Lundgren will be contacted regarding the committee review and discussion of the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement program. – **Completed**
- IV. **Habitat and NNI Funds Report Q2** - Rohr distributed last month.
- V. **Review and Update – Funding Activities of Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion**
 - A. **Affirmation of Approval** of Email regarding Email Vote of August 3, 2020 to Modify Contract and Funding Details of Approved Trout Unlimited May 19, 2020 Funding Request for \$250,000 by changing from Habitat Fund 602 to 603, plus performing a contract change order to HFA 603-30.
 - B. **Review of Wilson Property Sale – Options Discussion** -- Yeager talked with Aaron Penvose, TU, and next developed 4 options for committee consideration regarding the potential sale of the Wilson Property. Rohr distributed the 4 options to committee members prior to today's meeting for their consideration.
Option for Consideration:
 1. Sell property with at least 65-foot CE (Conservation Easement) throughout riparian zone, varies based on existing infrastructure, see Exhibit B
 - a. Recoup money from property sale, likely more than number 2 option.
 - b. Vegetation restoration in RPZ (Riparian Zone)

- c. Preferred TU option and legwork has already been done
- 2. Sell property with standard 100-foot CE, except near house, including moving an irrigation line in the pasture, see Exhibit B revised
 - a. Maximized CE
 - b. Reduced recoup of money from sell of property
 - c. More potential vegetation restoration than option 1
 - d. Costs to move and replace lateral irrigation line
- 3. Sell entire property, no CE
 - a. Recoup the most money
 - b. No control over property in the future
 - c. No CE
- 4. Keep property but change owner to conservation minded buyer that is not TU. Move the house and replant where applicable. Maybe move irrigation line.
 - a. Will not recoup any money
 - b. Would likely allow the most habitat restoration
 - c. If we choose to demolish house or move irrigation infrastructure would cost significant money.
 - d. TU is not in favor of this option

Yeager commented that TU favors option 1. It was noted that TU is the current holder of the title. Committee members discussed the pros and cons of the options listed. Some members suggested keeping the property and possibly doing restoration work as desired. Members discussed the desire to have a CE on the property. There was discussion on how to enforce the CE. Members commented on the possible value of the property if it were to be sold outright. It was noted that the Habitat SC would receive the funds if sold. Committee members discussed transferring the property to Methow Salmon Recovery Funding Board (MSRF), including a CE on the property. After continued discussion, it was concluded to have Yeager talk to Penvose about the possibility of transferring the property to another party. Yeager will also talk with Chris Johnson, MSRF, about transferring the property to MSRF, including a CE on the property. Accordingly, after Yeager talks with Penvose and Johnson, Rohr will consider performing an email vote, if appropriate, prior to the September meeting to address the question of the disposition of the property.

VI. Update – Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition (J. Cram) –
Rohr commented that no additional information has been received from Mickey Fleming, CD Land Trust.

VII. Potpourri – Nothing for discussion

VIII. (Additional Agenda Item) Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project - Yeager informed the committee that information had just been received that this project may be short on funding necessary to reach completion. Committee members discussed the details of the project plus shared their desire to receive more information surrounding the funding question. Yeager

commented that he had just recently been informed of the funding issue and did not have a lot of details. Accordingly, Yeager will contact the project sponsor to gain more information on the status of the project and funding question. Committee members will be kept advised going forward.

Project Updates

- A. **McIntyre Dam - Fish Jumping Efficiency** – No new information
- B. **Shuttleworth Creek Projects** -Chris Fisher provided an update on the Shuttleworth Creek project. One of the water users who continued to use a surface diversion on Shuttleworth Creek is now considering the use of groundwater from production wells that were developed during 2012. The PRCC-HSC invested ~\$600,000 to develop the groundwater source and delivery system in lieu of diverting water from Shuttleworth Creek which dewatered the lower 3 miles of Shuttleworth Creek rendering it useless for fish. He commented that information has been received from Kari Alex, ONA, that some preliminary confirmations have been received due to recent negotiations indicating that Allendale Water Users Community (AWUC) will proceed with the “well system”. Kari Alex described in an email that Nature Trust is working on formalizing the right of way administration for the main pipeline which would deliver groundwater to other users within the AWUC. Kari also informed Fisher that it is early in discussions and she will keep him advised.
- C. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II** (*From Aaron Penrose monthly report*) In July TU had a call with one of the JSDC (Jones-Shotwell) Directors to check the status on the Conservation Commission IEGP application, and where it stands with the JSDC. In June IEGP application was still in the review process with the JSDC Board of Directors and that is still the case in July. TU will continue check with coordination calls with the JSDC to let them know we are here to help, and at this point they are working through the review internally. The TU team fields questions from JSDC shareholders and interested parties on the status of the project.
- D. **Barkley Irrigation Company Permanent Point of Diversion** (*From Aaron Penrose monthly report*) In July the Barkley “Under Pressure TU team” concentrated their efforts on easements, tree removal, documentation/outreach, and working with our contractor for the Phase II Gravity pipe line construction, which included finalizing the contract, change orders 1 & 2 to address timelines and a contract extension into 2021. We also did an exhaustive documentation of materials on hand. We started a pre-project start review on the final designs to make sure all turnout and road crossings, etc. are tidied up and incorporated. The project Team is on track

for October 1, 2020 construction start date. The TU team continues weekly Barkley/MVID team meeting to field question from the shareholders and interested parties on the statuses of the project.

- E. **Skaha Dam Fish Passage Project (C. Fisher)**- No new information.
- F. **(Boulder Field) Icicle Creek Fish Passage – Wild Fish to Wilderness Proposal** (*From Aaron Penvose monthly report*) In late July Icicle Creek flows receded enough to resume work on the project. Strider, after having been gone since mid-June, began remobilizing on July 21st, geared up to start work, then quickly ramped up making good progress during the remainder of the month. Initial work consisted of equipment mobilization, materials preparation, coffer dam installs for City of Leavenworth waterline connection and screen house demo, and site preparation. With the necessary prep completed, work quickly progressed and Strider managed to complete demolition and removal of the screen house, about 80% of the excavation for the new screen house vault, and additional work on the secondary access road. Global Rope Access, the sub-contractor for boulder breaking and removal, also mobilized to the site and began drilling and breaking boulders between the IPID access road and Icicle Creek. We're excited to see things up and going again and are looking forward to a productive August. Terrell also commented on the pipeline laid, new pumphouse, and they are cracking rock. Fisher asked how far along they are, and Terrell shared they will be done by October 1st.
- G. **Entiat Stormy Project Area “A” Stream & Floodplain Enhancement, Yakama Nation** - Brandon Rogers stated, there is nothing new to report, still working on getting documents processed.
- H. **Weyco (Weyerhaeuser) Mill Creek Land Acquisition (CDLT developmental funding)** – See agenda item VI above for status.
- I. **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Proposal** - Kate Terrell reported the bridge was set to be built this fall, but IPID is having issues as a quarter of the bridge is on the Forrest Service land and they want a special use permit. She said the bridge needs to be built this fall for work slated to occur next spring. Terrell shared they might fix this issue with changing the skew of the bridge.
- J. **Final Construction for Floodplain Re-engagement - Penticton Channel Culvert Proposal** – Chris Fisher shared he had no new information regarding the culvert project, but he did share information regarding the outlet structure at Okanogan Lake. Due to above average snow pack, high rate of water has been released from Okanogan Lake. The dam gates have been open and fishway activated allowing unmanaged access to the Okanogan Lake and tributaries by sockeye salmon as well as other fish. Originally the plan was to allow approximately 100-sockeye to pass into Okanogan Lake and monitor them with either radio or acoustic tags. The fish would be tracked to reaches

within tributaries to identify selected spawning areas. However, with the high flows being experienced, the result will probably be more than 100 fish entering the Lake and require spawning surveys to be conducted to identify concentrated activity within the tributaries.

- K. **Assessment of Sediment Chemistry behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington** Chris Fisher stated he talked to USGS and the surface samples are back and results are being summarized. The core samples are being analyzed with results expected in October.
 - L. **Determine volume of Sediment Accumulated behind Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, Okanogan County, Washington** – Chris Fisher shared there is an issue with the USGS team which operates ground penetrating radar equipment. This team is located in Connecticut and due to COVID-19 are currently restricted from flying. If this team cannot travel, then they may train USGS staff based out of Tacoma. He said they hope to resolve this issue and begin the work in the Fall. Tentatively USGS is planning on initiating the survey in late September.
- IX. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, September 10, 2020, 1:00 pm, Location – MS TEAMS webinar.

Action items from August 13, 2020 Meeting

1. Yeager will follow up with Aaron Penvose, TU, and with Chris Johnson, MSRF, regarding the disposition of the Wilson Property.
2. Yeager will follow up with gathering more information regarding the funding status of the Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project.