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## Memorandum

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**To:** Mike Schiewe  
**From:** Tracy Hillman  
**CC:** Tributary Committees  
**Date:** 13 December 2013  
**Re:** HCP Tributary Committees Meeting Progress Report

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees did not meet in December. However, they reviewed the following decision items during December.

### **Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Budget Amendment**

In November, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Chelan County Natural Resources Department on the *Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project*. The sponsor requested that \$7,000 be moved from contract labor to sponsor salaries and benefits. The Committee was unable to approve the amendment request at that time because the Committee needed more information on why additional funds are needed for sponsor salaries and benefits. Following the November meeting, the sponsor informed the Committee that the additional funds were needed to help navigate the Water Conservancy Board process and to insure the landowner can replace any potential lost water from another source. After consideration, **the Rock Island Tributary Committee denied the budget amendment.** The Committee believes the landowner should be working with an expert in water law to inform the decision. The Committee was also concerned that the purpose of further investigation is to avoid the water owner from relinquishing any portion of his existing water right. One of the reasons the Committee funds conversion from inefficient gravity systems to more efficient well systems is to free up water to benefit fish. In this case, it appears the landowner intends to retain ownership of water previously lost to conveyance.

### **Methow/Chewuch Groundwater Monitoring Scope Change and Budget Amendment**

In November, the Wells Tributary Committee received a scope change and budget amendment request from the Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the *Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project*. The sponsor would like to conduct a pump-drawdown test in two or three locations to measure groundwater quantity and recharge on the Burns-Garrity property. Because excavation of the test pits will require the presence of an archeologist, the sponsor would like to move \$1,000 from contract labor to professional services. In November, the Committee was unable to approve the scope change and budget amendment because the Committee needed more information on the pump rate (gpm). After the sponsor provided additional information, **the Wells Tributary Committee approved the scope change and budget modification.**

### **Silver Protection Project Time Extension**

In December, the Rocky Reach and Wells Tributary Committees received a contract extension request from WDFW on the *Silver Protection Project*. The contracts are scheduled to end on 31 December 2013. The sponsor is requesting that the contracts be extended to 31 December 2014. The sponsor would like additional time to explore opportunities related to ensuring the permanent preservation and enhancement of salmonid habitat on the properties. **The Rocky Reach and Wells Tributary Committees approved the contract extensions.**

## **Nason Creek UWP Floodplain Reconnection - PUD Powerline Reconnection Alternatives Analysis Time Extension and Scope Change**

In December, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a contract extension and scope change request from Chelan County NRD on the *Nason Creek UWP Floodplain Reconnection - PUD Powerline Reconnection Alternatives Analysis Project*. They would like to add additional tasks given that Chelan PUD supports moving the powerlines. Specifically, the sponsor would like the consultant to identify pole locations and heights of structures, provide drawings detailing typical structure geometry, provide preliminary drawings detailing expected clearing requirements, and provide preliminary plans and drawings. In addition, because the current contract will expire on 31 December 2013, they would like to extend the contract to 31 April 2014. **The Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the contract extension and scope change.**

## **Chewuch River Permanent Instream Flow Project Budget Amendment**

In December, the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Trout Unlimited for the *Chewuch River Permanent Instream Flow Project*. The sponsor asked to move \$1,838.71 from “Indirect/Overhead/Administration” to “Contract Labor” because of an accounting error. **The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved the budget amendment.**

## **Mission Creek Fish Passage Project Time Extension**

In December, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Cascade Conservation District on the *Mission Creek Fish Passage Project*. This project was originally scheduled to be completed in 2012. However, because of fires in the Mission Creek watershed during 2012, the sponsor asked for an extension. The Committee agreed to extend the contract to 31 December 2013. Since then, the sponsor has been unable to secure the necessary permits for the project. Therefore, they requested that the contract be extended to 31 December 2014, which will give them additional time to secure the permits and complete the project. **The Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the contract extension.**

## **Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 9 January 2014 at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee.