



BioAnalysts, Inc.
4725 N. Cloverdale Rd.
Suite 102
Boise, Idaho 83713
Phone: 208.321.0363
Fax: 208.321.0364

Memorandum

To: Mike Schiewe
From: Tracy Hillman
CC: Tributary Committees
Date: 18 May 2014
Re: HCP Tributary Committees Meeting Progress Report

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 8 May 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Small Projects Program Application: Silver Reach Mining Impacts Evaluation/Feasibility Study

Last month, the Committees reviewed a Small Projects Program application from Trout Unlimited titled *Silver Reach Impacts Evaluation/Feasibility Study*. The purpose of the project was to evaluate the extent to which heavy metal contamination from local mining activities at the Red Shirt Mill (RM 39.5) and the Alder Creek confluence wetland (RM 34-34.5) may affect the feasibility of restoration actions proposed in the Twisp to Carlton Reach on the Methow River. The total cost of the project is \$99,430. The sponsor requested \$96,355 from HCP Tributary Funds. Because of a lack of information, the Committees were unable to make a funding decision and requested additional information.

Following the April meeting, the sponsor provided additional information. The Committees reviewed and discussed the available information and concluded that they need more time to consider the proposal. The Committees are perplexed why Ecology has not taken a larger role in this effort, given that Ecology assigned it a hazard ranking of 1. The Committees will do some investigative work, including discussing this with the USFWS toxicologist, and will reconsider the proposal during their next meeting.

General Salmon Habitat Program: Methow Valley Irrigation District Instream Flow Improvement Project

Last year, the Wells Tributary Committee approved \$400,000 for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project, which was submitted by Trout Unlimited. The total cost of the project was \$9,747,000. The purpose of the project was to: (1) improve instream flows in the lower 4.5 miles of the Twisp River by eliminating the MVID irrigation diversion and returning up to 11 cfs, which will be placed in permanent trust; (2) improve instream flow in the Methow River by piping a portion of the east canal and permanently trusting the saved water; (3) improve instream flow (2 cfs) and wetland and side channel habitat by restoring the natural flow in Alder Creek and permanently trusting the water; and (4) prevent fish injury and mortality associated with MVID's Twisp River pushup dam, fish screen operations, and the stranding of redds and juveniles in the MVID West Canal's intake canal and fish return channel.

Trout Unlimited requested about \$2,000,000 from the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) NNI funds. However, it appears that the PRCC is unlikely to support such a large request. Therefore, the Colville Tribes on behalf of Trout Unlimited asked if the Tributary Committees would be willing to support a larger part of the request, which would then reduce the amount requested from NNI funds.

After discussion, *the Rock Island and Rocky Reach Tributary Committees agreed to contribute \$600,000 to the project (\$300,000 from the Rock Island Plan Species Account and \$300,000 from the Rocky Reach Plan Species Account)*. Thus, in total, the Tributary Committees will contribute \$1,000,000 to the project.

General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Proposals

Sponsors submitted a total of 12 General Salmon Habitat Program and Salmon Recovery Funding Board draft proposals in 2014. Of the 12 draft proposals, nine requested funds from the Tributary Committees. Five draft proposals are for projects in the Methow River basin and four are for projects in the Wenatchee River basin. The Committees received no draft proposals for projects in the Entiat or Okanogan River basins. Project tours are scheduled for 15 May in the Methow River basin and 21 May the Wenatchee River basin. The Committees will meet on Thursday, 12 June to conduct their final evaluation of the draft proposals.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 12 June 2014 at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee.