



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: 19 June 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, 12 June 2014 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Silver Side Channel Design and Groundwater Monitoring Presentation

The Committees asked Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG) to give a short presentation on the Silver Side Channel Design Project and on the results of their groundwater monitoring work. Matt Shales and Jason Lundgren from CCFEG presented their work to the Committees.

CCFEG talked about all the restoration elements of the Silver Side Channel Design Project, including the use of Hancock Springs as an analog for the Silver Side Channel project. They showed the changes in the Silver Side Channel over time, the locations of their monitoring stations, and results of stream flow and water velocity modeling work. They indicated that the goals of the project are to increase overwinter rearing habitat, possibly increase spawning habitat (for steelhead and summer Chinook), restore floodplain and riparian function, increase thermal refugia, and increase fish food (macroinvertebrates). They indicated that the next steps are to develop the preliminary designs (late July) and conduct summer macroinvertebrate and fish use monitoring in the side channel.

CCFEG then described the groundwater monitoring they have been doing on the Silver, Lewisia, and Burns-Garrity floodplains. They showed the locations of the groundwater monitoring wells and the elevation of groundwater and its relationship to the elevation of the adjacent rivers. They noted that all the groundwater elevations track closely with the elevation of the adjacent rivers. CCFEG will provide a report to the Tributary Committees once the monitoring is complete and all the data have been analyzed.

Statement of Work Amendment and Time Extension: Nason Creek Upper White Pine Reconnection Project

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a request from Chelan County Natural Resources Department for a time extension and modification to the statement of work on the Nason Creek Upper White Pine Reconnection Project. The sponsor asked to extend the project timeline through the end of August so they can spend the remaining budget (~\$7,800), which will be used to conduct a field review of the 30% design pole locations and to summarize all actions completed under this project agreement. After extensive consideration, the *Rock Island Tributary Committee denied the time extension and scope change*. The Committee previously modified the scope of work and provided a time extension. They want to see an end to the alternatives analysis work.

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

In March, 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 Twist 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 needed more time to consider the proposal. Since then the Committees have investigated why Ecology has not taken a larger role in this effort, given that they assigned it a hazard ranking of 1. In addition, the Committees discussed this project with a USFWS toxicologist. In short, the USFWS toxicologist recommended that the sponsor partner with Ecology, EPA, and/or the USFWS to seek funding to remove or stabilize the toxic sediments. The sponsor has agreed to work with the USFWS on next steps. Thus, the Committees have tabled this proposal until they hear back from the project sponsor.

Okanagan Nation Alliance Monitoring Proposals

In March, the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) asked if the Committees would be interested in funding some level of monitoring on four different restoration projects in the Upper Okanagan River basin. The Committees requested that ONA provide additional information on the four projects. In April, ONA provided the Committees with additional detail on the four restoration projects that ONA would like to monitor. The Committees reviewed the four projects and requested that ONA submit proposals on the following two projects: (1) Penticton Channel Monitoring Spawning Platforms and (2) ORRI Phase II Effectiveness Monitoring.

In May, the Committees received the two full proposals from ONA. After carefully evaluating each proposal, *the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved funding for the Penticton Channel Monitoring Spawning Platforms and the Wells Tributary Committee approved funding for the ORRI Phase II Effectiveness Monitoring Project*. As required in the HCPs, Chelan and Douglas PUDs will provide funding for the approved monitoring projects through the Rocky Reach and Wells Tributary Assessment Programs rather than through the Rocky Reach and Wells Plan Species Accounts.

General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Proposals

The Committees received nine draft proposals for the 2014 round of the General Salmon Habitat Program (GSHP). The Committees identified five projects that did not warrant a full proposal, because they were either inconsistent with the intent of the Tributary Fund or did not have strong technical merit. The Committees solicited full proposals from the remaining four projects, which are due on Tuesday, 24 June. The proposed projects are located in the Methow and Wenatchee River basins.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 10 July 2014 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee. At that time they will evaluate final GSHP proposals.