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Memorandum

To: Mike Schiewe
From: Tracy Hillman
CC: Tributary Committees
Date: 16 January 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, 9 January 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm. Dale Bambrick introduced Justin Yeager, who may replace Dale on the Committees if Dale finds that his workload will not allow him to participate on the Tributary Committees in the future.

Review of Policies and Procedures Documents

The Committees reviewed the Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects and the Tributary Committees Operating Procedures. Members had no changes to the Policies and Procedures or the Operating Procedures. However, they did discuss the option of opening the General Salmon Habitat Program (GSHP) to receive proposals at any time. Currently, the schedule for the GSHP is coordinated with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) process. Thus, GSHP pre-proposals are received in early May and final proposals are received in late June. The proposed change would allow project sponsors to submit GSHP proposals at any time during the year. The Committees would continue to coordinate with the SRFB process because project sponsors often include Plan Species Account Funds as cost shares in SRFB proposals. The Committees will review draft language to the Policies and Procedures document during the February meeting. At that time they will make a decision on whether to allow GSHP proposals to be submitted at any time or to only request GSHP proposals consistent with the SRFB timeline.

Twisp River-Poorman Creek Wetland Acquisition Budget Amendment

The Wells Committee reviewed a budget modification request from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) for the Twisp River-Poorman Creek Wetland Habitat Acquisition. After carefully reviewing the request, the Committee concluded that they cannot approve a budget amendment for a project that has changed significantly from its original scope. The Committee originally agreed to help fund an acquisition project, which has since merged with another project and morphed into a conservation easement. The budget modification indicated that \$54,350 would be used to purchase irrigation efficiencies. This money was to be used to help purchase the property. In addition, the Committee noticed that the cost of the conservation easement (\$313,650) was greater than the value of the acquisition. There was no explanation of why this was so. Finally, the sponsor did not use the Committee's appraiser to determine the value of the conservation easement. Because the project has changed significantly and is no longer an acquisition project, which the Committee agreed to help fund, the Wells Committee elected to terminate the Twisp River-Poorman Creek Wetland Habitat Acquisition Project. However, the Committee indicated that they would review a new proposal seeking money to help fund habitat enhancements on the properties.

Wells 2014 Draft Action Plan

The Wells Tributary Committee reviewed and approved the 2014 Wells Action Plan for the Wells Tributary Committee. The Rocky Reach and Rock Island Committees will review the respective Rocky Reach and Rock Island 2014 Draft Action Plans in February.

Meeting Schedule

The Tributary Committees will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month. The dates are: Jan 9, Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, and Dec 11.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 13 February 2014 at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee.