



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 14 April 2022

Members Present: Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Chris Fisher (CTCR), Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Brandon Rogers (Yakama Nation), Kate Terrell (USFWS), Catherine Willard (Chelan PUD), Justin Yeager (NOAA Fisheries), and Tracy Hillman (Committees' Chair).

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator). Chris Johnson (MSRF) joined the meeting for the Salmon Creek Channel Realignment discussion. Jeff Dengel (WDFW), Aaron Penvose (TU), Theo Burgoon (TU), Dave Duvall (Grant PUD), Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (Grant PUD), Erin Harris (Grant PUD), and Clayton Buck (Wanapum) joined the meeting for the Icicle Creek Projects Presentations.

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees held a conference call on Thursday, 14 April 2022 from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm.

I. Review and Adopt April Agenda

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Committees adopted the proposed agenda.

II. Review and Approval of the February Meeting Minutes

The draft 10 February 2022 meeting notes were reviewed and approved by the Tributary Committees.

III. Monthly Update on Ongoing Projects

Becky Gallaher gave an update on funded projects. Most are progressing well or had no salient activity in the past month.

- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) reported they will remove the Little Barkley Pipeline in late April. There are a few clean-up details along the Barkley/MVID pipeline easements that will be addressed in late April or early May.
- Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (Cascade Fisheries; CF) reported they are working on the effectiveness monitoring report and the water quality report. Both reports are expected to be completed by the end of April.
- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) reported the 90% designs have been completed and reviewed by WDFW and Washington Department of Transportation. The sponsor intends to bid the project in April and construct the project in July and August.
- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project – The sponsor (TU) reported there was no new activity on this project.
- Upper Burns and Angle Point Project – This project is complete and the final report was uploaded to the Extranet site.

- Peshastin RM 3.4 Side Channel Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) reported they continue to collect, manage, and evaluate groundwater elevation and temperature data to assist with design development.
- Restore Chiwaukum Creek Project – The sponsor (CF) did not provide an update this month.
- Nason Ridge Acquisition – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported the project will close in mid-April.
- Beaver Creek Barrier #40016 Correction Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that Natural Systems Design has completed the Preliminary Basis of Design Report and preliminary designs. The sponsor is also working with Chelan PUD and a design engineer on cost estimates for the utility relocation options.
- Chumstick Baseflow and Riparian Enhancement Project – The sponsor (Cascadia Conservation District; CCD) reported they continue working on cultural resources and permitting. They also scheduled a site visit with the engineer and are coordinating with the landowners.
- Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that they have selected a preferred alternative. The alternative that will be advanced to 60% design is a steel bridge that is 18-feet wide and 80-feet long.
- Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported they recently met with Bureau of Reclamation and Inter-Fluve to discuss dispersed placements of boulders and/or large wood in Reaches 4-7. They also continue coordination and communications with landowners and stakeholders.
- Alder Creek Floodplain Restoration Project – The sponsor (Yakama Nation; YN) did not provide an update this month.
- Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Powered Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they are engaging with Forest Service biologists to identify possible sites for beaver dam analogs.
- Methow Thermal Refugia Restoration Assessment Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported they continue to summarize and analyze temperature data.
- Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Mission Wood Amendment Project – The sponsor (CF) reported there was no new activity on this project. They intend to implement the project in July.
- Thirteen Fish Passage Designs Project – The sponsor (CF) reported they received 30% designs for the Goose Creek project. They will seek funding for construction during the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board round.
- Eagle Rocks Groundwater Productivity Project – This project is complete and the final report was uploaded to the Extranet site.
- Nason RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported they selected Natural Systems Design as the engineering consultant for this project. They also received designs and other information from YN on a project YN completed upstream of the project site. The sponsor will make sure this project is compatible with the project completed upstream.
- Lower Little Bridge Creek Restoration Project – The sponsor (YN) did not provide an update this month.

- Mystery and War Creek Reach Large Wood Restoration Project – The sponsor (YN) did not provide an update this month.
- Methow 3R Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study Project – The sponsor (MSRF) reported their contractor, Wolf Water Resources, developed a preliminary hydraulic model for modeling existing conditions in the M3R reach. The sponsor continues to develop the planting plan.

IV. Time Extensions

Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Phase II Project

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a time extension request from TU on the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Phase II Project. The sponsor indicated that the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company decided to seek new legal counsel to represent their interests and this process has taken longer than expected. As a result, the sponsor requested a time extension from 15 July 2022 to 15 July 2024. The Rock Island Tributary Committee agreed to extend the contract period to 15 July 2024. Although this project has experienced setbacks beyond TU's control, the Committee is growing concerned about the pace at which this project is progressing. They hope work will progress more quickly now that the Ditch Company has new legal representation.

Methow Thermal Refugia Restoration Assessment Project

The Wells Tributary Committee received a time extension request from MSRF on the Methow Thermal Refugia Restoration Assessment Project. The sponsor reported that because of fire-area closures and unhealthy working conditions in 2021, they were unable to access several sampling sites in the Chewuch and elsewhere in the Methow subbasin in 2021. As a result, the sponsor requested a time extension from 31 May 2022 to 31 December 2022 so they can visit these sites this summer. The Wells Tributary Committee agreed to extend the contract period to 31 December 2022.

V. General Salmon Habitat Program Application

Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project

In February, the Committees reviewed a General Salmon Habitat Program Application from Cascade Fisheries titled, *Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project*. The purpose of the project was to conduct an appraisal of the 20.5-acre floodplain located on lower Peshastin Creek and develop conceptual restoration designs. The total cost of the project was \$132,825.20. The sponsor requested the full amount from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund the project. The Committees concluded that the 20.5-acre floodplain is not at high risk of being developed and they were divided on whether they would support restoration work on the floodplain. Some members believed the sponsor needs to determine in more detail what restoration potential exists on the floodplain. Once this information is available, those members may be more inclined to support the design of restoration work at this site. Other members, however, wanted to move forward with the alternatives and design work because floodplain reconnection is a high-priority action in Peshastin Creek and, in this case, there are willing landowners.

Following the February meeting, the sponsor submitted a memo to the Committees responding to questions and concerns raised by the Committees. In addition, Catherine Willard sent an email to the Committees formally requesting that the Committees re-evaluate the application and the additional information provided by the sponsor. As a result, the Committees re-evaluated the application and supporting materials and the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee agreed to fund both the appraisal of the 20.5-acre floodplain and the development of alternatives and conceptual restoration designs. As part of this funding, the Committee placed the following conditions on the project. The Committee will use one of their approved appraisers and pay the appraiser directly. Therefore, the amount of funding the sponsor will receive from the Committee is \$118,825.20 (total request minus the estimated appraisal cost). In

addition, the Committee will need to review the alternative analysis and approve the preferred restoration approach before they will release funding for the preparation of the 30% design.

Peshastin Creek RM 4.3 Side Channel Project

In February, the Committees reviewed a budget amendment request from CCNRD on the Peshastin Creek RM 4.3 Side Channel Project. The sponsor asked the Rock Island Tributary Committee for an additional \$89,882, which would be used to prepare 90% and construction-ready design packages for the project. At that time, the Rock Island Tributary Committee, because they were not united on moving forward with the project, decided to not fund the proposed additional design work. Thus, they denied the budget amendment request.

Although the Committee recognized the importance of reconnecting floodplains and side channels, some members believed this project will increase stranding and entrapment of steelhead and spring Chinook salmon because of the seasonality of flows in the side channels. The complete dewatering of the side channels during portions of summer and the potential for water temperatures in the side channels to increase during warmer months when the channels are watered may reduce fish survival in the channels. There is also a possibility that steelhead will spawn within the side channels at higher flows. If so, their progeny will likely perish when the channels dewater.

Following the meeting, Catherine Willard formally requested that the Rock Island Tributary Committee re-evaluate the budget amendment request. Catherine compiled notes and correspondence between the Committee and the sponsor and pointed out that the Committee provided the sponsor conflicting feedback on earlier designs. The sponsor's most recent designs were modified to address some of the comments from the Committee and regulatory agencies.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed the materials provided by Catherine and discussed the project. Although the Committee did not have time to fully discuss the budget amendment, members are still not united on this project. There remain serious concerns with stranding and loss of steelhead progeny from adult steelhead that spawn in the side channels. There are also concerns about the ability of juvenile salmonids that leave the side channel due to dewatering will find suitable habitat in mainstem Peshastin Creek. Those members with concerns point out that the sponsor should focus their efforts on increasing structural complexity within the main channel rather than reconnect or construct side channels across the floodplain. However, those members may support reconnecting side channels provided the pools within the side channels do not completely dewater. That is, the pools need to be deep enough to capture groundwater and maintain temperatures and water quality (e.g., adequate dissolved oxygen levels) necessary to sustain juvenile steelhead and Chinook salmon during critical low flow periods.

Time permitting, the Committee will continue their discussion of this project in May.

VI. Small Projects Program Application

Salmon Creek Channel Realignment Project

Chris Johnson, MSRF, joined the meeting to discuss the Salmon Creek Channel Realignment Project, which is located in the Okanogan River basin. Chris submitted a Small Projects application and provided a short presentation titled, Salmon Creek – Carlson Proposal (see Attachment 1). He noted this project was submitted to the Committees a few months ago by CTCR but was not supported based on a policy-level decision (i.e., YN cannot support CTCR projects outside the CTCR reservation). Chris said he is proposing this project on behalf of the City of Okanogan.

Chris showed the location of the project and said the goal of this project is to realign the channel of Salmon Creek in a degraded segment to reduce sediment inputs and increase in-stream complexity. The project will install root wads to concentrate flows in one narrow channel to minimize solar radiation and reduce water temperatures. He said the project has been modified slightly based on comments from the

Committees on the CTCR proposal. That is, they shifted wood placements to the upper end of the channel to ensure longevity, accumulate bedload, and deflect flows to the right channel. In addition, embedded logs on the right bank are designed to be held in place by embedment length, inert ballast on top, and forces resisting lateral deformation of the bank material and buoyancy forces. Chris also identified other restoration projects that have been implemented in Salmon Creek and described how the proposed project complements existing actions. He said the total cost of the proposed project is \$91,529.

Brandon Rogers asked if the project is designed to withstand a 100-year flood. Chris responded, yes. Tom Kahler asked about the need to tip the ponderosa pine. Chris said the pine will be dewatered and therefore they believe the tree will provide more biological benefit if tipped into the channel.

Following the presentation, the Committees reviewed the application titled, *Salmon Creek Channel Realignment*. As noted during the presentation, the purpose of the project is to install root wads to realign the channel, reduce sediment inputs, decrease water temperatures during low flows, and increase in-stream complexity. The total cost of the project is \$91,529. The sponsor requested \$60,579 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Wells Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$60,579 to the project.

VII. Icicle Creek Projects Presentations (with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee)

Jeff Dengel, WDFW, gave a presentation to the HCP Tributary Committees and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee titled, *IPID (Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District) Fish Screen Update* (see Attachment 2). Jeff began his presentation by describing the partners and funders of the project and identified the location of the project. He showed the existing diversion dam for IPID and the City of Leavenworth intakes, existing screens and ditches, and existing access road and trails. He then described the relocation designs. Jeff identified the project costs, including the original costs and costs increases, which were largely due to increases in materials (e.g., steel, lumber, diesel, and concrete) and new design elements (e.g., flume and componentry). Jeff identified the achievements and milestones and noted that remaining tasks include headgate installation, ditch/screen/trash rack demolition, WDFW-component installation, electrical contracting and installation, commission and calibration, and de-mob and completion. The project should be completed by spring 2023.

Jeff described some of the challenges associated with this project. He said the Snow Lake Bridge required extensive negotiations between the Forest Service and IPID. Because of stakeholder complexities, Icicle politics were challenging. In addition, redesign, cost increases (from inflation), labor shortages (from COVID mandate), and excavation were all challenging. He was very grateful to all the funding partners and for their patience. He is confident the project will be completed in mid-2023.

Aaron Penvose, TU, gave a presentation titled, *Icicle Creek Boulder Field Passage Project Retrospective* (see Attachment 3). Aaron began by recapping the components of the project, which included replacing 1,600 feet of the City of Leavenworth mainline, upgrading the City of Leavenworth fish screen facilities, and constructing a step-pool passage channel. Aaron described the process of replacing the mainline, which was a tremendous effort. He then shared the design drawings for the step-pool channel. He also showed before and after photos of the step-pool channel and described the need for adaptive management. Aaron indicated that after construction, some large rock from the bank fell into some of the step pools. This required re-excavation of some of the pools.

Aaron identified several challenges associated with this project. He said a large project such as this one required multiple funding sources. He said managing all the various funding sources was difficult and intensive. He also noted that permitting was challenging because of the short timeframe in which they could construct the instream component of the project. In addition, they were only allowed to break rock using tools that were wrong for this job. Finally, he said construction was difficult because of the unique work involved and the widely variable subsurface conditions. In addition, the work site was constrained because of geomorphology and public interface.

Chris Fisher asked whether the site will need to be adaptively managed into the future. Aaron responded they will likely need to adaptively manage the site until reseeding takes hold. He added that large wood recruited to the step-pool channel could be a problem. Jeremy Cram asked about other opportunities upstream from the boulder field. Aaron said there are other locations upstream from the boulder field where enhancement work may be appropriate.

The Tributary Committees and Habitat Subcommittee thanked Jeff and Aaron for their presentations.

VIII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests received in March and April 2022:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$105.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in February 2022.
- \$105.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in March 2022.
- \$628.33 to Chelan PUD for Rock Island project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2022.
- \$1,816.13 to Chelan County Treasurer for work on the Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection Project in February.
- \$1,275.30 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project in January and February.
- \$2,627.52 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project in March.
- \$283.81 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project in January and February.
- \$491.98 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project in March.
- \$2,730.34 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Goodwin Side Channel Project in January (this is the final payment request).

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$105.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in February 2022.
- \$105.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in March 2022.
- \$643.60 to Chelan PUD for Rocky Reach project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2022.
- \$256.55 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Napeequa Side Channel Project (this is the final payment request).
- \$1,763.12 to Chelan County Treasurer for work on the Beaver Creek Barrier Correction Project in January and February.

- \$7,755.83 to Chelan County Treasurer for work on the Beaver Creek Barrier Correction Project in March.
- \$11,176.47 to Cascade Conservation District for work on the Chumstick Baseflow and Riparian Enhancement Project in January through March.

Wells Species Account:

- \$253.99 to Chelan PUD for Wells project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2022.
 - \$54.47 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Mission Wood Amendment Project in January and February.
 - \$119,431.34 to the Yakama Nation for work on the Chewuch RM 4.2 Fish Enhancement Project (this is the final payment request).
 - \$4,500.00 to Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for work on the Eagle Rocks Groundwater Flow Productivity Test Project (this is the final payment request).
 - \$44,654.48 to Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for work on the Upper Beaver Creek Design and Restoration Project (this is the final payment request).
 - \$1,210.15 to Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for work on the Methow Thermal Refugia Restoration Assessment Project in October through December.
2. Tracy Hillman shared with the Committees the updated project worksheets. These worksheets show all the projects funded with HCP Plan Species Account Funds. In addition, they show the total cost of the projects, Committees' contribution, target species, and project type. Tracy said Tom Kahler added a table and figure showing the amount of money the Committees have leveraged over the life of the HCPs. In sum, the Committees have spent \$17.7 million on restoration and protection projects in the Upper Columbia, but they have leveraged \$72.1 million from other funding sources. Unfortunately, as pointed out by Justin Yeager, these investments have not translated into large returns of natural-origin fish. Nevertheless, the Committees are committed to funding projects that are intended to offset some of the unavoidable effects of project operations.

IX. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on 12 May 2022. The Tributary Committees will join the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team on project tours during 9-11 May.

Meeting notes submitted by Tracy Hillman (tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net).