



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 9 June 2022

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

Members Absent: Kate Terrell (USFWS).¹

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator).

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Douglas PUD in East Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 9 June 2022 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

I. Review and Adopt June Agenda

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

II. Review and Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

The draft 12 May 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 that the Little Barkley pipe removal is complete. They continue to work through the remaining easement for both the BIC/MVID at the headworks, which is located on Department of Transportation (DOT) property. The easement documents have been sent to the DOT attorney and once reviewed will be sent to BIC and MVID's attorney for review. This should happen in early June. The sponsor will continue to work on easements that are needed for the Barkley individual wells.
- Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (Cascade Fisheries; CF) reported that they are working on the effectiveness monitoring report.
- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they continue to work through final designs, traffic control plans, and the bid package. They are hoping to begin construction in August or September.

¹ Kate provided her votes on decision items following the meeting.

- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that there was no new activity this month. The Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) is currently reviewing the draft Right of Entry and Conservation Commission Irrigation Efficiency Grant Program application.
- Peshastin RM 3.4 Side Channel Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) did not provide a project update this month.
- Beaver Creek Barrier #40016 Correction Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that they identified a preferred utility relocation option and their engineer began work on the final designs.
- Chumstick Baseflow and Riparian Enhancement Project – The sponsor (Cascadia Conservation District; CCD) reported that they continue to work through permitting at three of the four sites. They began installing beaver dam analogues at the Allen Cushing site on 2 June.
- 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 the 60% design is complete and has been submitted to the Forest Service and BPA for review. Review and comments from the Tributary Committee are welcome. The design package can be found here: [☐ Big Meadow Creek AOP 60% submittal](#).
- Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that they continue to coordinate with landowners/stakeholders. Inter-fluve is continuing to work on the existing conditions hydraulic model, site alternatives, and other work products needed to prepare restoration concepts.
- Alder Creek Floodplain Restoration Project – The sponsor (Yakama Nation; YN) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- Wenatchee Entiat Beaver-Powered Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that they will start planning for site work on Beaver Creek. In addition, they are also working with partners to develop a monitoring plan for the Beaver Creek project.
- Methow Thermal Refugia Restoration Assessment Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported that they are planning for the 2022 field season.
- Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Wenatchee River Juvenile Detection PIT Barge – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement is ready for signature.
- Mission Wood Amendment Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project. They continue moving through the Forest Service agreement process.
- Thirteen Fish Passage Designs Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that 75% designs for the Goose Creek project are complete and can be found here: [PDF GooseCreekProject_75%Design_20220422.pdf](#)
- Nason RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that field work was completed on 1 June. Their consultant, Natural Systems Design, developed a relative elevation model for the project area, began preparing the model surface for hydraulic modeling, and completed tasks in preparation for reconnaissance.

- Lower Little Bridge Creek Restoration Project – The sponsor (YN) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- Mystery and War Creek Reach Large Wood Restoration Project – The sponsor (YN) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- Methow 3R Floodplain Restoration Feasibility Study Project – The sponsor (MSRF) reported that ortho imagery was taken from a drone flight and was provided to their consultant, Wolf Water Resources, for conceptual mapping. They also have coordinated and communicated with several landowners/stakeholders.
- Salmon Creek Channel Realignment Project – The sponsor (MSRF) did not provide an update this month.
- Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that they have been working with their consultant, Natural Systems Design, on a scope of work and design.

IV. General Salmon Habitat Program Applications

The Committees received eight General Salmon Habitat Program proposals that were cost shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).

Before reviewing the proposals and consistent with the Committees' Operating Procedures, members of the Committees identified potential conflicts of interest. Brandon Rogers recused himself from discussing and voting on the two Yakama Nation proposals.

Becky Gallaher provided the Committees with the unallocated balances within each Plan Species Account. The Wells Account has \$1,665,560, the Rocky Reach Account has \$3,275,096, and the Rock Island Account has \$6,240,030. In sum, among the three accounts, there is \$11,180,686 available to fund projects. Finally, Tracy Hillman shared with the Committees the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team scores and comments on the proposals.

Upper Wenatchee RM 40.5-41.5 Conceptual Designs Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Upper Wenatchee RM 40.5-41.5 Conceptual Designs Project. The purpose of the project is to evaluate the mainstem Wenatchee River and adjacent floodplain wetland complexes on river left between RM 40.5 and 41.5 and identify and develop restoration actions that will improve instream conditions, reduce erosion, and reconnect the floodplain. The effort will focus on engaging landowners, evaluating the site, developing and analyzing alternative restoration actions, and preparing conceptual designs. The total cost of the project was \$75,000. The sponsor requested \$11,250 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

Although this project is within an important assessment unit for restoration, the Committees believe there are too many known constraints and likely several unknown constraints that will significantly limit what actions can be implemented in this reach of the Wenatchee River. This is based on previous evaluations conducted by the Yakama Nation in this reach. Because of these constraints, it is unlikely natural processes can be restored in this reach. In addition, there remain several unknowns, including why the side channel appears to be warmer than the mainstem and the cost of accessing the site to do restoration work.

Lower Chiwawa AU, Area D – Preliminary Design Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Lower Chiwawa AU, Area D – Preliminary Design Project. The purpose of the project is to address primary limiting factors and limiting life stages of Plan Species within the lower Chiwawa River, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. The project will prepare preliminary designs, conduct studies to support permitting, and complete

environmental compliance tasks to improve habitat conditions along 1.25 miles of mainstem channel. It will also create up to 0.25 miles of side channel habitat, enhance cold-water refugia at two tributary confluences, consolidate or reduce dispersed camping sites, decommission up to 2,000 linear feet of forest roads, and enhance 15 acres of riparian vegetation. The total cost of the project was \$160,832. The sponsor requested \$24,725 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$24,725 to the project.***

Level II Surveys in Priority Reaches – Upper Columbia Assessment Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Level II Surveys in Priority Reaches – Upper Columbia Assessment Project. The purpose of the project is to fill Tier 1 data gaps identified by the Monitoring and Data Management Committee by collecting Level II data on 78.8 miles of reaches in priority Assessment Units located in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow subbasins. This work will support the completion of the Upper Columbia Prioritization Strategy by providing reach-based ecosystem indicators, which are used to identify limiting factors. The total cost of the project was \$179,465. The sponsor requested \$53,840 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$53,465 to the project.***

Goodwin Side Channel Design Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Goodwin Side Channel Design Project. The purpose of the project is to progress designs from conceptual alternatives to permit-ready designs (60%) within two years. The project will address the highest-ranking limiting factors within the Lower Wenatchee River by improving fish access to a 1,200-foot-long side channel located between RM 11.2 and 11.5. The total cost of the project was \$150,000. The sponsor requested \$60,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$60,000 to the project.***

Goose Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Goose Creek Watershed Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore longitudinal connectivity in Goose Creek, a tributary to the lower Chiwawa River, by replacing two fish passage barriers with stream simulation culverts. This work will restore access to 0.73 miles of fish habitat. The project will also treat 0.38 miles of Goose Creek with large wood and cover. In addition, the project will improve drainage for 0.075 miles of road and relocate one campsite that is adjacent to the stream. The total cost of the project was \$506,500. The sponsor requested \$255,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$255,500 to the project.***

Entiat Tributary Baseflow and Habitat Restoration Project

Cascadia Conservation District is the sponsor of the Entiat Tributary Baseflow Habitat Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore baseflows, stream complexity, and floodplain reconnection in priority reaches in Potato, Mud, and Stormy creeks, tributaries to the Entiat River. Beaver dam analogues will be installed to reconnect floodplains, increase in-channel wood, increase pools, help address water surface and groundwater levels, and increase growth of riparian vegetation in these streams. These actions will also improve water quality, decrease fine sediment recruitment, and enhance nutrient cycling to the Entiat River. The total cost of the project was \$410,765. The sponsor requested \$188,945 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$188,945 to the project.***

This was a difficult decision for the Committee because at least one member does not believe the proposed actions in the intermittent streams (Potato and Mud creeks) will provide significant benefits to Plan Species. On the other hand, all members believe the proposed actions will benefit Plan Species in Stormy Creek, a perennial stream. Therefore, the Committee requires the funds from the Rock Island Plan

Species Account be used for restoration work only in Stormy Creek. All other matching funds can be used to implement restoration actions within the two intermittent streams.

Upper Wenatchee Acquisition Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Upper Wenatchee Acquisition Project. The purpose of the project is to protect 4.8 acres of undeveloped forested floodplain and wetlands located at the outlet of a large oxbow along the Upper Wenatchee River. Acquisition will allow channel margin, side-channel, and main-channel habitat restoration at the site. The total cost of the project was \$80,500. The sponsor requested \$13,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. Based on a policy directive within the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

Scaffold Camp Floodplain Restoration Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Scaffold Camp Floodplain Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to create 2,400 feet of side channel with groundwater connectivity across a floodplain located between RM 15.3 and 15.8 on the Twisp River. In addition, the project will include the implementation of 17 large wood structures designed to facilitate pool formation and provide cover for Plan Species. The total cost of the project was \$718,160. The sponsor requested \$207,284 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. Based on a policy directive within the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

Summary of Review of 2022 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects

Project Name	Sponsor¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution²
Upper Wenatchee RM 40.5-41.5 Conceptual Design	CCNRD	\$75,000	\$11,250	\$0
Lower Chiwawa AU, Area D Preliminary Design	CCNRD	\$160,832	\$24,725	RR: \$24,725
Level II Surveys in Priority UC AUs	CF	\$179,465	\$53,840	RI: \$53,840
Goodwin Side Channel Design	CF	\$150,000	\$60,000	RI: \$60,000
Goose Creek Watershed Restoration	CF	\$506,500	\$255,500	RR: \$255,500
Entiat Tributary Baseflow and Habitat Restoration	CCD	\$410,765	\$188,945	RI: \$188,945
Upper Wenatchee Acquisition	YN	\$80,500	\$13,000	\$0
Scaffold Camp Floodplain Enhancement	YN	\$718,160	\$207,284	\$0
Total:		\$2,281,222	\$814,544	\$583,010

¹ CF = Cascade Fisheries; CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resources Department, CCD = Cascadia Conservation District, and YN = Yakama Nation.

² RI = Rock Island Plan Species Account; RR = Rocky Reach Plan Species Account; W = Wells Plan Species Account.

V. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests received in May and June 2022:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$81.38 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in May 2022.
- \$2,266.36 to Cascade Fisheries for the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project.

- \$231.72 to Cascade Fisheries for the Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Project.
- \$2,556.90 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection Project.
- \$2,652.10 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Nason RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$81.37 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in May 2022.
- \$1,635.27 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Beaver Creek Barrier Correction Project.
- \$1,217.55 to Cascadia Conservation District for the Chumstick Baseflow and Riparian Enhancement Project for work during December 2021.
- \$24,244.93 to Cascadia Conservation District for the Chumstick Baseflow and Riparian Enhancement Project for work during April and May 2022.
- \$1,299.20 to Cascade Fisheries for the Peshastin RM 2.5 Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$258.54 to Cascade Fisheries for the Mission Project Wood Amendment Project.
2. Tracy Hillman reported that he received a call from Lisa Pelly (Trout Unlimited), who reported that the City of Leavenworth has a new manager and he is interested in removing their diversion from Icicle Creek. Unfortunately, the Tributary Committees and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee just spent over \$1.5M on updating the current diversion and fish screen. Lisa told Tracy that the City of Leavenworth will be asking for about \$500K for a feasibility study. The Committees indicated that they would like their money back if the project moves forward. Members also acknowledged that it would be good to remove the diversion from Icicle Creek, an action the Committees supported from the beginning.
 3. Tracy Hillman reported that the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) has scheduled a site visit for the HCP Tributary Committees and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for 12-13 October 2022. ONA needs a head count so they can plan the tours. Tracy asked members whether they plan to attend the site visits. Chris, Brandon, Tom, Catherine, and Tracy confirmed they plan to attend. Justin, Kate, and Becky indicated they cannot attend. Jeremy and Andrew Gingerich are uncertain at this time.

VI. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on 14 July 2022.

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