



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 8 June 2023

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

Members Absent: Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD)¹.

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator) and Shelby Fowler (USFWS alternate).

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Douglas PUD in East Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 8 June 2023 from 9:00 am to 11:15 pm.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the HCP Tributary Committees (Committees) meeting and participants introduced themselves.

II. Review and Adopt June Agenda

Members of the Committees reviewed and adopted the proposed agenda with the following addition: Interest in a Sediment Budget Assessment in the Upper Wenatchee River Basin.

III. Review and Approval of the May Meeting Minutes

The draft 11 May 2023 meeting notes were reviewed and approved by the Tributary Committees.

IV. 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.

- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) reported that they received two bids from qualified contractors. Pacific Civil and Infrastructure (PCI) submitted the lowest bid (\$1.363M), which was just under the engineer's estimate. A Notice of Award was issued and contracting is underway.
- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that there was no new activity on this project. They continue to work through the agreement process with the Jones Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC).

¹ Tom Kahler provided his votes on decision items before the meeting.

- Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (Cascade Fisheries; CF) reported that the contractor will mobilize to the site on 20 June, with in-water work beginning on 1 July.
- Wenatchee Entiat Beaver-Powered Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that they met onsite with the WDFW habitat biologist and engineer to gain more insight on the effects of structures on stream hydrology. The biologist and engineer recommended using Post-Assisted Log Structures (PALS) rather than Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs). PALS will help speed up the loading and retention of wood in the streams. The beaver team is also assessing project sites for 2024, including implementation of Phase II in Alder, Potato, and Roaring creeks.
- Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Mission Wood Amendment Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project. They indicated that field work will begin in July 2023.
- Thirteen Fish Passage Designs Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- Nason RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that there was no new activity on this project. The sponsor will meet with the Tributary Committees in July to discuss the preliminary designs.
- Salmon Creek Channel Realignment Project – The sponsor (City of Okanogan and Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) did not provide an update on this project.
- Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- Level II Surveys in Priority Reaches Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project. Surveys will begin in June.
- Goodwin Side Channel Design Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that they received comments from all stakeholders. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) currently favors Alternative 1, which is not supported by the sponsor. A meeting to discuss the project with BPA is set up for 12 June.
- Goose Creek Watershed Restoration Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that there was no new activity on this project.
- M2@3R Project to Advance Preferred Concepts – The sponsor (MSRF) reported that they continue landowner outreach and are collecting river stage and temperature data.
- Entiat Tributary Baseflow Project – The sponsor (Cascadia Conservation District; CCD) did not provide an update this month.
- Twisp to Carlton Reach Side Channel Project – The sponsor (CF) reported that their contractor (RIO ASE) continues to work on an initial site assessment and will visit the site again in June or July. The sponsor visited the site this spring to record high-water marks, which will help inform the development of a 2D hydraulic model. They continue to conduct landowner outreach.
- COIC Flow Restoration Project – The contract for this project is on hold pending the Committee's review of Ecology's updated draft Report of Examination.

- East Fork Mission Creek Stream Restoration Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that they worked with the Forest Service on quantities of wood that could be sourced on-site. The Forest Service agreed to 30 trees/mile to be sourced on site. The sponsor should be able to build all wood structures using wood sourced on site.
- Wilson Side Channel Adaptive Management Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that they are in the process of selecting a consultant.
- Floodplain Restoration Monitoring Project – The sponsor (Hinchinbrook, Inc.) reported that they began sampling on 30 May and will continue sampling through June.

V. Sediment Budget Assessment

Shelby Fowler asked the Committees whether they would be interested in reviewing a proposal that will develop a sediment budget for the upper Wenatchee River basin. He said this effort would be based on the work conducted by Nick Legg (Wolf Water Resources), who evaluated the volume of “lost” sediment within the Grande Ronde River basin and recently presented his results to the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team. Shelby said the analysis uses the SIAM (sediment impact assessment model), which works with HEC-RAS models, and can be applied in a cost-effective way over large areas. The model calculates a sediment budget and size of sediment available (i.e., both the amount of sediment moving through a reach and potential sediment inputs). The tool can be used to estimate the percent of sediment contribution for each reach/stream and identify depositional and transport reaches. The model can also estimate average transit times. Shelby indicated that the model could be applied to run different management scenarios or to inform various approaches for restoration. Members indicated they would be interested in reviewing a proposal, but they are not quite sure how this work will feed into prioritization and inform future habitat restoration actions. Shelby said he would be willing to reach out to Nick and see if he can give a short presentation to the Committees on the approach. Members agreed that would be beneficial.

VI. General Salmon Habitat Program Applications

The Committees received 10 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. Kate Terrell recused herself from discussing and voting on two proposals: Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration Project and Six Barrier Corrections within the Lower Chiwawa Project.

Becky Gallaher provided the Committees with the unallocated balances within each Plan Species Account. The Wells Account has \$2,004,970, the Rocky Reach Account has \$3,048,336, and the Rock Island Account has \$6,601,641. In sum, among the three accounts, there is \$11,654,947 available to fund projects.

Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration Project. The purpose of this project is to improve instream flows in lower Icicle Creek with a permanent flow benefit to the lower 4.5 miles of stream. The Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company (COIC) diversion will be removed and relocated downstream to a new pump station at RM 1.9. This will result in an 11.9 cfs benefit from RM 4.5-2.7, an 8 cfs benefit from RM 2.7-1.9 (location of pump station), and a 3.9 cfs benefit from RM 1.9 to the mouth of Icicle Creek. The instream flow improvements will be protected under the State Trust Water Program. The total cost of the project was \$5,383,940. The sponsor requested \$750,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. Although this application was submitted to the Tributary Committees in May, the Rock Island Tributary Committee previously

approved \$500,000 for this project in 2021 and is currently reviewing the revised draft Record of Examination (ROE) from Ecology before approving the additional request of \$250,000. The additional request was submitted in January and is being treated by the Committee as a budget amendment. Once the Committee reviews the updated ROE, they will decide whether they approve the additional \$250,000 for the project.

Nason Creek Restoration and Infrastructure Relocation Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Nason Creek Restoration and Infrastructure Relocation Project. The purpose of the project is to conduct an alternatives analysis and develop conceptual designs for the relocation of a three-mile section of Chelan PUD's McKenzie to Beverly 115kV lines out of the floodplain. Removal of the power lines will increase opportunities for reconnecting Nason Creek with its floodplain. The total cost of the project was \$250,000. The sponsor requested \$37,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. After careful review, the Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

Without some understanding of location and extent of restoration work, the Committees could not estimate benefits to Plan Species. The Committees agree that it would be useful to remove infrastructure that prevents restoration work, but without knowing the extent of potential restoration work, the Committees cannot determine benefits and cost effectiveness. That said, the Committees do see some benefit associated with removing the power lines even if there is no other restoration work within the floodplain (e.g., removing armor currently protecting the power poles and removing the road used to service the power lines). The Committees also noted that there will be some environmental impacts associated with building new transmission lines in the uplands.

Nason Creek RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Nason Creek RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project. The purpose of the project is to complete final designs for the reconnection of the floodplain along Nason Creek between RM 11.7 and 12.2. This is a high-priority action within a high-priority area and once implemented should provide a relatively large benefit to Plan Species. The total cost of the project was \$268,823. The sponsor requested \$56,923 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$56,923 to the project.*

Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Conceptual Design Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Conceptual Design Project. The purpose of the project is to develop conceptual designs that will ultimately reconnect Peshastin Creek with its historic channel at RM 8.8. Two separate alternatives will be evaluated: 2,850-foot-long historic channel reconnection and a 4,170-foot-long historic channel reconnection. The total cost of the project was \$243,152. The sponsor requested \$36,477 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$36,477 to the project.*

Although this is a conceptual design project, the Committee recommends that the sponsor work with the owners of the gravel pits and encourage the owners to contribute to the future implementation of this project. The Committee believes that the owners must do reclamation work after their conditional use permits expire. The owners should have access to equipment that could be used to help with the restoration work. Also, the owner may be able to use the materials removed from the site in another project. The Committee recommends that the sponsor discuss this with Amanda Barg (WDFW).

Mission Creek Protection Project

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is the sponsor of the Mission Creek Protection Project. The purpose of the project is to purchase a conservation easement that will permanently protect 40 acres of floodplain along Mission Creek between RM 4.1 and 4.9. The total cost of the project was \$983,600. The sponsor

requested \$263,600 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$263,600 to the project.*

As part of this funding, the Committee requires that the conservation easement include language that the Committee has right of first refusal should the property be sold. In addition, the Committee requires that they have an opportunity to review and approve future restoration work on the property.

Goat Creek Fan Restoration Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Goat Creek Fan Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to develop final designs for the reconnection of a floodplain along the Methow River between RM 65 and 66. The project will focus on levee removal and placement of instream and off-channel large wood. The total cost of the project was \$100,186. The sponsor requested \$50,093 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Wells Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$50,093 to the project.* As the sponsor develops the final design, the Committee requires that they evaluate the potential threat of a downstream avulsion as described in the Yakama Nation technical memo (the sponsor has the memo).

Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to increase floodplain connectivity, side channel habitat, habitat diversity, and pools within the lower 0.5 miles of Chiwaukum Creek. This project should improve juvenile rearing and adult holding habitat for Plan Species. The total cost of the project was \$962,000. The sponsor requested \$382,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$382,000 to the project.*

Peshastin RM 2.5 Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Peshastin RM 2.5 Project. The purpose of the project is to increase floodplain connectivity and riparian habitat between RM 2.5 and 3.0 on Peshastin Creek. This will be accomplished by implementing 14 log jams, enhancing connections to the floodplain, and planting riparian vegetation. This project should provide a relatively large biological benefit for Plan Species, especially steelhead. The total cost of the project was \$1,646,809. The sponsor requested \$350,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$350,000 to the project.*

Six Barrier Corrections within the Lower Chiwawa Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Six Barrier Corrections within the Lower Chiwawa Project. The purpose of the project is to replace one fish passage barrier in Brush Creek, two in Gate Creek, two in Grouse Creek, and one in Pole Creek. These are tributaries to the lower Chiwawa River. The correction of the barriers will restore access to 5.65 miles of cold-water habitat. The total cost of the project was \$4,640,600. The sponsor requested \$500,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. After careful review, the Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

Although the Committees see value in improving connectivity within small tributaries to the Chiwawa River, the Committees believe the benefits from the proposed restoration actions will not justify the cost of the project. In other words, the Committees believe this project will have low benefits per cost. In addition, the Committees identified no specific tributary they are willing to support at this time.

Chewuch Acquisition RM 2.8-3.1 Project

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Chewuch Acquisition RM 2.8-3.1 Project. The purpose of the project is to permanently protect 13 acres of high-quality floodplain habitat between RM 2.8 and 3.1 on the Chewuch River. The property includes about 2,200 feet of shoreline and several relict channels and wetlands that extend on to adjacent protected properties. The total cost of the

project was \$459,996. The sponsor requested \$69,045 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Wells Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$69,045 to the project.*

Summary of Review of 2023 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects

Project Name	Sponsor ¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C. ²	T.C. Contribution ³
Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration	CCNRD	\$5,383,940	BA:\$250,000	Tabled
Nason Creek Restoration and Infrastructure Relocation	CCNRD	\$250,000	\$37,500	\$0
Nason Creek RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection	CCNRD	\$268,823	\$56,923	RR: \$56,923
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Conceptual Design	CCNRD	\$243,152	\$36,477	RI: \$36,477
Mission Creek Protection	CDLT	\$983,600	\$263,600	RR: \$263,600
Goat Creek Fan Restoration	CF	\$100,186	\$50,093	W: \$50,093
Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration	CF	\$962,000	\$382,000	RI: \$382,000
Peshastin RM 2.5	CF	\$1,646,809	\$350,000	RI: \$350,000
Six Barrier Corrections within the Lower Chiwawa	CF	\$4,640,600	\$500,000	\$0
Chewuch Acquisition RM 2.8-3.1	MSRF	\$459,996	\$69,045	W: \$69,045
Total:		\$14,939,106	\$1,995,638	\$1,158,045

¹ CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CDLT = Chelan Douglas Land Trust; CF = Cascade Fisheries; and MSRF = Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation.

² BA = Budget Amendment.

³ RI = Rock Island Plan Species Account; RR = Rocky Reach Plan Species Account; and W = Wells Plan Species Account.

VII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests received in May and June 2023:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$210.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in May 2023.
- \$1,445.30 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Level II Surveys in Priority Reaches Project.
- \$1,028.71 to Chelan County Natural Resources Department for work on the Nason RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$210.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in May 2023.
- \$22,933.72 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project.
- \$41,152.16 to Hinchinbrook, Inc. for work on the Floodplain Restoration Monitoring Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$2,363.94 to Cascade Fisheries for work on the Twisp to Carlton Reach Side Channel Project.

2. Tracy Hillman reported that the NOAA Science Center will be developing a life cycle (Habitat Assessment and Restoration Planning; HARP) model for the entire Columbia River Basin that will help the Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Reclamation evaluate their Tributary Implementation Program. This model was originally developed on the eastside of the Cascades (i.e., Chehalis, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish River systems) for evaluating different habitat restoration scenarios. They will develop the Columbia Basin model by starting in the upper Columbia. They would like to discuss the model with the habitat and hatchery technical folks in the upper Columbia and answer any questions we may have regarding the HARP model. In addition, they will be asking for data or information that can be used to populate the model with local information. Tracy said this will be a combined meeting with the Tributary Committees, Habitat Subcommittee, Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team, and the Hatchery Committees. The tentative date for the meeting is Wednesday, 12 July. Members agreed that this is a good idea and would like to learn more about the HARP model.
3. Tracy Hillman stated that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee discussed during their May meeting the possibility of holding joint HCP TCs and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meetings. The goal would be to eliminate repeating discussions during the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meeting that occur during the HCP Tributary Committees meeting. Tracy noted that the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee hold joint meetings, which does reduce redundancy and increases efficiency. Some members noted that they believe the groups already hold joint meetings when agenda items overlap. Those members would like to maintain the status quo. At least one member indicated that a joint meeting would be beneficial. Ultimately, the group agreed to continue holding joint meetings when agenda items overlap. They also recommended that Dave Duvall, Grant PUD representative on the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee, join the HCP Tributary Committees' meetings as he once did. This would help reduce redundancy and increase efficiency during the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee meetings. Tracy will ask Dave Duvall to join the HCP Tributary Committees meetings.

VIII. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on 13 July 2023.

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