Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP
Tributary Committees Notes
15 November 2013

Members Present: Lee Carlson (Yakama Nation), Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Chris Fisher (Colville Tribes), Steve Hays (Chelan PUD), Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Kate Terrell (USFWS), and Tracy Hillman (Committees Chair).

Members Absent: Dale Bambrick (NOAA Fisheries).

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator) and Jeff Osborn (Chelan PUD).

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met in the Chelan PUD First Floor Conference Room in Wenatchee, Washington, on Friday, 15 November 2013 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

I. Review and Adopt Agenda

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

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committees reviewed and approved the 12 September 2013 meeting notes with edits.

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.

- Nason Creek Upper White Pine Reconnection – Chelan PUD Powerline Reconnection Alternatives Analysis – The Forest Service has completed their resource surveys and is preparing an Environmental Assessment for NEPA. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has hired Interfluve to develop 30% restoration design plans, which should be completed this winter. The Sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) recently held a regulatory agency meeting on site with representatives from WDFW, NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, CCNRD, and Interfluve to discuss the proposed restoration alternative. Jeff Osborn noted that Chelan PUD has written a letter of agreement with Chelan County on moving the power lines. The letter will go to BPA for their review.
- Chewuch River Instream Passage Project – The contractor, Selland Construction, spent the first part of the month mobilizing and sorting out clarifications with Trout Unlimited (project sponsor). This work was complicated because the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) engineers, who designed the project, were on government furlough. As a result, the sponsor created a short-term contract with Anchor QEA to keep things moving while BOR engineers were unavailable. Selland Construction has focused on two of the three project stages: Lake Creek and the Winthrop-to-Bear Creek piping. Lake Creek is the primary focus because of the need to redo the Lake Creek intake while the reservoir is low. A second crew is working on the Winthrop-to-Bear Creek piping and progressing at about 500 feet per day. The sponsor also worked to address

all of the remaining easement issues with State Parks, secured all of the landowner access agreements, and provided project management support.

- Large Wood Atonement Project – Proposals for engineering assistance were due on 25 September. However, because of the government shutdown, a firm was not selected until the end of October. The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) and the USFWS selected Natural Systems Design (NSD) to help with engineering. The sponsor and the USFWS are working on finalizing the scope of work and are planning a float trip with NSD on 12 November.
- Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project – Rayfield Brothers Excavation has completely removed the levee. The contractor removed about 2,500 cubic yards of material, which formed the 300-foot long levee. The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) will re-plant the area where the levee was removed next spring.
- Upper Beaver Habitat Improvement Channel Restoration Project – Construction is nearly complete on the channel realignment, new diversion structure, new screen structure, upper canal pipeline, and decommissioning of the historic alignment adjacent to Beaver Creek Road.
- Lower Foster Creek Steelhead Habitat Enhancement Project – Becky Gallaher sent the Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement to the sponsor (Foster Creek Conservation District) for their review. She has not received a response from the project sponsor. Kate Terrell recommended that Becky contact the project sponsor and find out the status of the agreement and enhancement project. Kate mentioned that there is a possibility that Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group could implement the project if the Conservation District is unable to do so.
- Twisp River-Poorman Creek Wetland Habitat Acquisition – The Sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) is working to build a collaborative project through the Methow Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and MSRF. The intent is to secure the largest possible benefit on the Reynaud property in conjunction with Bonneville Power Administration funding awarded for the larger Twisp River floodplain project. During October, the group completed identification of project elements and partner responsibilities. The sponsor continues to coordinate efforts with Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board to develop a scope of work to prioritize and identify data gaps and restoration objectives. The sponsor has recently initiated data collection efforts. The sponsor has not yet requested a scope change with the Wells Tributary Committee (change from a conservation easement to an acquisition).
- Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project – The USFWS measured flows within the Silver Side Channel on 21 October. In addition, the USFWS installed eight temperature loggers along Silver Side Channel the last week of October. The Sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) began looking into the feasibility of a possible pump drawdown test at the Burns-Garrity site.

IV. Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project Budget Amendment

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Chelan County Natural Resources Department on the *Wenatchee Levee Removal and Riparian Restoration Project*. The sponsor asked to move $7,000 from contract labor to sponsor salaries and benefits. The total cost of the project will not change. After discussion, the Committee was unable to approve the amendment request because the Committee needs more information on why additional funds are needed for sponsor salaries and benefits. Although the construction work was completed under budget, it was not clear why additional funds are needed for salaries and benefits. The Committee directed Tracy to seek additional information

from the project sponsor. The Committee will revisit this request after they receive the additional information from the project sponsor.

V. Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project Scope Change and Budget Amendment

The Wells Tributary Committee received a scope change and budget amendment request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the *Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Monitoring Project*. The sponsor would like to conduct a pump-drawdown test in two or three locations to measure groundwater quantity and recharge on the Burns-Garrity property. Because excavation of the test pits will require the presence of an archeologist, the sponsor would like to move $1,000 from contract labor to professional services. After discussion, the Committee was unable to approve the scope change and budget amendment because the Committee needs more information on the pump rate (gpm). The Committee directed Tracy to seek additional information from the project sponsor.

Following the meeting, the project sponsor provided the following responses to the Committee's questions:

Question: For clarification, your proposed drawdown test will cost about $800-$1,500, and the cost of the archeologist will add $1,000 more to the cost of the test for a total of $1,800-$2,500. Do we have that right?

Answer: *"The total cost of the entire pump test will cost between **$800-1500**. If all goes well the archeologist will only be on site for 1-2 hrs and reporting will be minimal. I am asking for $1000 dollars to be moved to professional services, although I am anticipating it costing less than that. I want to make sure I have enough so I don't have to bother all of you again. The other portion of the $1500 budget will be to hire a laborer from a local contractor who has the required equipment (pump, hoses, etc.). This portion of the budget is already in place under Contract Labor. WDFW is providing technical assistance as well as the backhoe and operator for free."*

Question: Back in May we moved all of the money out of the professional services category (since an archeologist was not needed) into the salaries and benefits and materials/equipment categories. Are you asking to move $1,000 back to professional services if the money's available from elsewhere in the budget?

Answer: *"Yes, that is correct. After inviting potential funders to the site, some concerns were voiced about groundwater productivity and it was suggested that we do a pit and or slug test to further investigate. This level of monitoring is not in the SOW, however I see it as a good low cost opportunity to quantify groundwater productivity and if positive move this project forward."*

Question: What pump rate (gpm) will be used to conduct the drawdown test?

Answer: "*We are preparing to do two types of tests - slug and drawdown. The drawdown will involve two pumping rates to achieve a static drawdown level. Right now I am estimating 50 GPM and 100 GPM, but the actual rates will be determined by how strongly the water level draws down in response to pumping... In other words, if the aquifer is highly productive, we will pump at two higher rates and if productivity is low, we will pump at two lower rates."*

Question: Is the intent of this project to provide groundwater to activate relic channels, or to supplement channels that are currently active with surface water? If it is the former, it is probably not worth the effort or money to test 50 gpm as this is unlikely to result in any biological benefit, unless it is for plant growth. The 100 gpm may have value if it is supplemental to a channel that is active.

Answer: *"The pumping rates are to create a staged drawdown. That will quantify shallow aquifer transmissivity. With the purpose of understanding the potential groundwater inflow to an improved channel. Intent is to improve a seasonally active groundwater fed channel to a perennially active*

channel. The intent or development of this project could very well change based upon findings from the pump test. This seems like a likely next step."

Based on the responses from the project sponsor, ***the Wells Tributary Committee approved the scope change and budget amendment.*** The Committee recommended that the drawdown test be conducted at a pumping rate of no less than 100 gpm.

VI. Okanagan Project Tour

Tracy Hillman, with support from Chris Fisher, Tom Kahler, Steve Hays, and Jeremy Cram, provided a briefing on their trip to the Okanagan River in Canada. The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) conducted the site tours. During the first day of the fieldtrip (9 October), members visited the lower portion of Shuttleworth Creek. The lower portion of Shuttleworth Creek was designed to act as a sediment trap. About every five-ten years, the Ministry of Environment removes the sediment from the channel. This results in what looks like a bombing range. A rock dam located just upstream from the mouth of the stream maintains the sediment trap. Restoration actions under consideration include removing the barrier, reconfiguring the channel, and restoring riparian vegetation. Reconfiguration would result in a step-pool sequence, which would allow the Ministry of Environment to clean annually the first few pools in the sequence. Restoration would open about 31 km of tributary habitat. This stream is an important spawning and rearing area for steelhead/rainbow. The Committees suggested that ONA also consider actions to reduce sediment recruitment to the channel. In addition, in the future, the Committees would like to visit the upper watershed.

Members then visited the Shuttleworth Creek diversion, which is located at Rkm 3.5. Surface water is diverted through an unscreened intake into a 300-m long open ditch that feeds into Hody Lake. The water is then piped to the Water Users' Community (WUC) properties. The system significantly reduces stream flows and habitat conditions in Shuttleworth Creek, and strands rainbow/steelhead in pools. The goal of the restoration project is to transfer the WUC from surface water to groundwater, and decommission the existing intake and diversion. The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approved funding for the conversion to groundwater. So far, ONA has completed the drilling of wells, tested the wells and completed part of the irrigation pipeline. The remaining pipeline and irrigation system will be completed by late March 2014.

Following the site visit on Shuttleworth Creek, members visited the site of the new sockeye hatchery near the mouth of Shingle Creek and the irrigation dam on Shingle Creek. The dam is located at Rkm 2.3 and blocks access to 35.4 km of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and Chinook (once passage is provided at Okanagan Falls Dam). The dam will be removed and a series of vortex weirs will be installed to stabilize the channel and to create a series of riffles. Construction work is scheduled to begin during summer 2014. Re-vegetation work will occur during autumn 2014.

On the second day (10 October), ONA discussed restoration options for the Penticton Channel (Okanagan River upstream from Okanagan Falls Dam), which was channelized in the 1950s. About 100 meters of spawning gravels were added to the channel in the mid-1970s. Kokanee spawn extensively in these gravels. The ONA intends to add about four spawning gravel ramps to the Penticton Channel that will be used by sockeye after passage is provided at Okanagan Falls Dam. Because of controlled flows, the gravels should remain stable in the channel. ONA has completed hydraulic analyses for conceptual design options and started pretreatment monitoring. They have also started working on engineering designs and permits.

Member then visited the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) Project, which is located just upstream from the Town of Oliver. The first phase of implementation, which is complete, was to rebuild the setback dike in the lower portion of the project area. Members observed the completed side channel and instream rock structures, and noted the gravel bar forming in the main channel upstream of the side channels. They also visited the second phase of the project, which is the reconnection of a 300-m long side channel with the main channel. This was accomplished by placing bottomless, concrete structures at

the upstream and downstream ends of the side channel. Members questioned the opening to the side channel, noting that the long rock barb extending upstream will likely be modified during spring flows. The intake may need period maintenance in order to keep the side channel connected at all flows.

Lastly, members visited Vertical Drop Structure (VDS) 13, which was modified by removing four V-shaped concrete components within the two middle bays of the structure. This should improve fish passage at the structure and enhance fish habitat (velocities and substrates) upstream from the structure. Large numbers of sockeye were spawning just upstream from VDS 13. ONA will monitor the effects of the modification on changes in slope, water velocities, water depths, and incubating sockeye eggs.

VII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in October and November:

   Rock Island Plan Species Account:

   - $688.96 to Chelan PUD for Rock Island Tributary Committee administration and coordination.
   - $13,886.27 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Project.
   - $6,867.06 (Oct invoice) and $1,009.47 (Nov invoice) to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Wenatchee Nutrient Assessment Project.
   - $4,371.63 to Chelan County for the Nason Creek Upper White Pine Reconnection – PUD Powerline Reconnection Alternatives Analysis Project.

   Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

   - $1,196.02 to Chelan PUD for Rocky Reach Tributary Committee administration and coordination.
   - $947.56 (Oct invoice) and $2,007.20 (Nov invoice) to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for the Chewuch River Instream Flow Project.
   - $1,949.45 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for the Upper Beaver Habitat Improvement Channel Restoration Project (for work in August).
   - $18,908.03 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for the Upper Beaver Habitat Improvement Channel Restoration Project (for work in September and October).

   Wells Plan Species Account:

   - $1,449.97 to Chelan PUD for Wells Tributary Committee administration and coordination.
   - $1,949.45 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for the Upper Beaver Habitat Improvement Channel Restoration Project (for work in August).
   - $19,035.64 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for the Upper Beaver Habitat Improvement Channel Restoration Project (for work in September and October).
   - $17,731.07 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for the Twisp River Well Conversion Project.
   - $670.03 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Methow/Chewuch Shallow Groundwater Project.

- $5,595.42 to the Methow Conservancy for the Lower Chewuch Beaver Restoration Project.

2. Becky Gallaher reported that Mike Kane, Chelan County Natural Resources Department, asked her if he could give a presentation on the *Lower White Pine B+ Project* to the Tributary Committees. Following discussion, members agreed that it is too early for a presentation. If the presentation is similar to the one they gave to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee, it would not be worth the Committees' time. The County needs to coordinate and communicate with the Railroad and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) before they are ready to present to the Committees. For example, the County needs approval from BPA on a right-of-way. In addition, they need to find out if they can go through the railroad grade. Becky will share these concerns with Mike Kane.
3. Last month, the Rocky Reach Committee received an information request from the Okanogan Conservation District regarding the *Similkameen RM 3.8 Habitat Design Project*. The purpose of this project is to design and build a project that will reduce bank erosion and improve spawning and fry rearing habitat. As part of funding for this project, the Rocky Reach Committee required that the landowner establish a riparian buffer zone that would protect the restored bank from livestock. The sponsor asked the Committee to recommend a width for the required riparian buffer zone. ***In October, the Committee agreed that the buffer should be no less than 100 feet from the ordinary high-water mark***.
4. Last month, the Wells Tributary Committee received a request from Trout Unlimited - Washington Water Project to extend the *Twisp River Well Conversion Project* contract. Because of a lack of available contractors, the onset of winter, and the fact that the irrigation system has been drained and will not be turned on until spring, the sponsor requested that the contract be extended from 31 October 2013 to 30 June 2014. This will give the sponsor time to complete the project when the system is turned on in the spring. ***In October, the Wells Committee approved the extension with no change in the budget***. During the meeting, Tom Kahler noted that the extension may not be sufficient. The original well was in such close continuity with the river that it became apparent that the well was not deep enough even before the river flows approached base levels. Therefore, extending the contract until late June may not provide an opportunity to determine if the deepened well accomplishes the intended purpose.
5. Most members of the Committees attended the Upper Columbia Science Conference that was held in Wenatchee on 13-14 November. Members were pleased with the outcome of the conference and commented that, although it tended to be hatchery centric, it provided useful information that can be used in evaluating habitat restoration proposals. For example, the presentation by Tim Beechie on habitat restoration under a changing climate was informative and will help practitioners develop restoration actions to accommodate climate change. The Committees discussed other presentations that they found informative. Presentations can be found at the following site: http://www.ucscience.org/index.php?conference=2013conf&schedConf=2013conf&page=schedConf&op=presentations

VIII. Next Steps

If necessary, the next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 12 December 2013 at Chelan PUD in Wenatchee.

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