

# Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 14 April 2016

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

**Others Present:** Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator), Julene McGregor (Douglas PUD), Robes Parrish (USFWS), Jason Lundgren (CCFEG), Dave Duvall (Grant PUD), and Denny Rohr (PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Chair).

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 14 April 2016 from 9:30 am to 12:40 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 10 March 2016 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.

- MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project – The project sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) reported on the phases of the project that are still active. With regard to production wells, Back Drilling will finish up the remaining punch list. The initial startup will be around the first of May. The remaining punch list items for the West Side Piping were scheduled to be completed by the end of March. The West Side tree removal should be completed by the end of April. Finally, 66 of the 72 individual wells have been completed. The remaining six have been drilled and are waiting for pump installation and electrical hook up.
- Twisp-to-Carlton Reach Assessment Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) will submit the final report soon.
- Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition – The sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) provided no new updates on this project.
- Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Project – In March, the sponsor (TU) began evaluating secondary well locations. They contacted Washington Department of Health to inquire about site approval. Once sites have been identified, the Chelan Douglas Health District will conduct a site inspection, create a field report, and send comments to the Office of Drinking Water in Spokane. A response from the hydrogeologist is expected soon. When the response is

received, the sponsor can move forward with one of the well locations or they may have to consider a less accessible location.

- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (TU) held several coordination meetings with permitting agencies in March. They also held a kick-off meeting with Ecology on the water rights change.
- Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported no new activity on the project. The sponsor provided their annual report, which discusses project accomplishments in 2015.
- Similkameen RM 3.8 Project – The project sponsor (Okanogan Conservation District) did not provide an update on this project.
- White River Floodplain (RM 3.4) Connection Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) has been working to finalize a WDFW right-of-entry permit, because the project is on WDFW property. The sponsor has also been working to finalize the JARPA. A site visit with the permitting agencies is scheduled for 5 May. In the coming weeks, the sponsor will develop a bid package and determine a construction timeline.
- M2 Sugar Acquisition Project – The sponsor (MSRF) reported that the appraisal is being reviewed. The project will be completed in May.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that there was no new activity in March. The sponsor will be meeting with the technical advisory group in mid-May on final alternative selection. Becky sent the draft agreement to Trout Unlimited in January. A signed agreement has not yet been received.
- Permitting Nutrient Enhancement Project – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor (CCFEG) agreement is ready for signature.

#### **IV. Tributary Committees Extranet Site**

Mrs. Julene McGregor, Douglas PUD, gave a presentation on how to set up an account on the HCP Tributary Committees Extranet Site. Representatives and their alternates will have access to the site. She walked the Committees through the process of logging onto the site, navigating through the site, how to search for documents, and how to upload information. The Tributary Committees intend to use the site as a repository for agendas, final meeting notes, monitoring reports, PowerPoint presentations, correspondence with project sponsors, project proposals, and final reports from project sponsors, and photographs of projects.

#### **V. White River Atonement Presentation**

Robes Parrish, USFWS, and Jason Lundgren, CCFEG, gave a presentation on the White River Atonement Project (see Attachment 1). Robes described briefly the project, which included placement of log pilings in locations on the lower White River where wood would naturally accumulate. In 2014, they placed a total of 128 pilings and constructed 28 wood structures.

Since the installation of the piling, they have lost only five pilings, most of which were sheared off at the river bed. These structures have experienced 2-year, 5-year, and 10-year flow events. The structures have successfully racked wood and continue to provide habitat for salmonids in the White River. Robes showed time-lapse video (with music) indicating the evolution of some structures during high flow events. Overall, the project is meeting its goals.

## **VI. Okanogan Restoration Projects Presentation**

Chris Fisher gave a presentation on restoration activities in the Okanogan River basin (see Attachment 2). He described six different projects.

- Reconnecting Side Channels at Conservancy Island. This is a two-phase project that includes reconnecting two different side channels at Conservancy Island. Chris talked about the process of reconnecting the channels and the monitoring efforts associated with the project. The High School Science class is involved with monitoring the effects of the project, including measuring changes in physical habitat, plant communities, and aquatic communities. Chris shared some results and trends in data over the last three years. The project appears to be working well and providing habitat for juvenile summer Chinook. Chris indicated that volunteers are welcome to join the next data collection effort at the end of April 2016.
- Irrigation Intake Screening. Chris indicated that a survey conducted in 2008 showed that 143 intakes were out of compliance. They began screening the intakes in 2011 and currently have only 12 left to screen. These will be completed this year.
- Cross Channel Project. In 2010, the Colville Tribes installed a grade structure in a cross channel that connects the Okanogan River with the Similkameen River. Before installing the grade structure, during low flows, the Okanogan River flowed into the Similkameen River via the cross channel. This resulted in the dewatering of about a two-mile stretch of the Okanogan River. The installation of the cross channel structure prevents the Okanogan from flowing into the Similkameen River during low flows. Thus, there is no longer any dewatering within the Okanogan River. Summer Chinook are now spawning within the portion of the Okanogan River that used to dewater.
- ORRI and Vertical Drop Structures. Chris briefly described the ORRI project and the modifications to a vertical drop structure on the Okanogan River in Canada. He also talked about the spawning ramps that were constructed within the Pentiction Channel. These are projects that some members of the Committees visit annually in the fall.
- Pleasant Valley Water Users Association (PVWUA) Irrigation Canal. Chris talked about the water loss within the canal and a proposed action to conserve water. He said by eliminating the loss of water within the canal, they would eliminate the need for the Loup Loup Creek diversion.
- North Fork Diversion on Salmon Creek. Chris described a project to upgrade the N.F. Diversion on Salmon Creek. The proposed action would increase instream flows by 1,800 acre-feet.

## **VII. Information Updates**

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in March and April:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$37.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in March 2016.
- \$675.88 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2016.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$9,465.00 to the Colville Confederated Tribes for the Okanogan Basin Stream Discharge Monitoring Project. This was the final invoice for this project.

- \$37.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in March 2016.
- \$571.70 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2016.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$16,524.99 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.
  - \$520.00 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the first quarter of 2016.
2. Tracy Hillman shared with the Committees the draft Upper Columbia 2016 SRFB/TC Funding Schedule. Important dates are as follows:
- 15 April: draft proposals are due.
  - 5 May: project tours in the Methow basin.
  - 11-12 May: project tours in the Wenatchee and Entiat basins.
  - 8 June: presentations to SRFB Review Panel (members of the Tributary Committees are encouraged to attend the presentations).
  - 9 June: Tributary Committees review draft proposals and identify which proposals are fundable.
  - 15 June: Tributary Committees provide feedback to the project sponsors.
  - 1 July: final proposals are due.
  - 14 July: Tributary Committees review final proposals and make funding decisions.
  - 22 July: Tributary Committees provide feedback to the project sponsors.
3. Becky Gallaher reported that she contacted Cordell, Neher & Company regarding the audit of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach Plan Species Accounts. The accountant indicated that they can begin the auditing process on 20 April.

## **VIII. Next Steps**

If necessary, the next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 12 May 2016 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee. Project tours are also scheduled in May.

Meeting notes submitted by Tracy Hillman ([tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net](mailto:tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net)).