



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 8 May 2019

Members Present: Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Chris Fisher (Colville Tribes), 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).

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, Washington, on Wednesday, 8 May 2019 from 9:00 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

Tributary Committees members reviewed and approved the 11 April 2019 meeting notes.

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 continue to make progress on the MVID inlet and Phase 1 piping. Phase 1 piping should be completed by early June.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they continue to work through the permitting process. Department of Ecology has requested the sponsor develop a boulder breaking plan and a Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. They will also be developing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan as part of the NPDES permit. Public comment period closed on the SEPA and county shorelines. There were no notable comments.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (WDFW) will provide the next annual report on 31 December 2019.
- Burns-Garrity Design Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) provided a final report, which was uploaded to the Extranet site.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) indicated they have been coordinating with USFS on BDA installations in Potato and Roaring creeks. The sponsor is also working with USFS on the permitting pathway.

- Methow Basin Barrier Diversion Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide an update this month.
- Derby Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported NRCS has completed the hydraulic review and the sponsor can now order the box culvert. They are currently evaluating whether to construct this year or next. Before bidding the project, the sponsor needs a construction estimate and final designs and construction documents from WDFW engineering.
- Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported no new activity this month.
- Monitor Side Channel Design Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) reported they and Natural Systems Design refined restoration plans and produce a preliminary site map and construction cost estimates. These were included in the draft SRFB/TC application.
- Peshastin Creek Environmental Site Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that Phase 1 fieldwork will be completed on 10 May 2019.
- Entiat Fish Passage and Barrier Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported there was no new activity this month.
- Twisp River Floodplain Left Bank Spring-fed Alcove Restoration Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported they are working on SEPA and JARPA.
- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update this month.
- Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that construction will begin fall 2020.

IV. General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Applications

The Committees received 18 General Salmon Habitat Program draft proposals. The Committees reviewed each draft proposal and selected those they believe warranted a final proposal.¹ Projects the Committees dismissed were either inconsistent with the intent of the Tributary Fund, did not have strong technical merit, or had low benefits per cost (not cost effective). The Committees assigned draft proposals to one of two categories: Fundable (would like to see a final application) and Not Fundable (would not like to see a final application). It is important to note that these are ratings of draft proposals and do not reflect ratings of final proposals. The Committees directed Tracy Hillman to notify sponsors with appropriate projects to submit a final proposal, with a discussion of the questions/comments identified for each draft proposal listed below. Tracy will also notify sponsors with projects that have no chance or a low likelihood of receiving funding from the Tributary Committees.

Nason and Kahler Creek Confluence Acquisition Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Chelan Douglas Land Trust) submit a full proposal. The Committees had no comments on this project.

Restore Lower Chiwaukum Creek – Phase 1 (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) address the following comments/suggestions as they develop the full proposal:

¹ The Committees held a conference call on Tuesday, 21 May 2019 to discuss observations from the site visits and reassess their designation of proposed projects as fundable (would like to see a final application) or not fundable (do not want to see a final application).

- Identify any constraints the Forest Service may have on this project before identifying enhancement alternatives.
- Evaluation of alternatives needs to consider post-fire effects (e.g., changes in hydrology, debris flows, temperature effects, etc.).
- The evaluation of alternatives needs to consider the removal of camping sites located within the riparian area.

Monitor Side Channel Construction Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) submit a full proposal. The Committees had no comments on this project.

Upper Wenatchee Side Channel RM 38.9-40.2 Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Chelan County Natural Resources Department, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reason:

- The Yakama Nation will be implementing enhancement actions at this site. Thus, there is no need for another project at this site.

Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department) address the following comments/suggestions as they develop the full proposal:

- Need to update the project schedule within the application.
- Include a signed landowner willingness form with the final application.
- Use the segments of Peshastin Creek upstream and just downstream from the proposed project site as a reference for designing the floodplain and side channel reconnections.

Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts Full Season Pumping Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Chelan County Natural Resources Department, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- The Committees believe there are too many unknowns regarding the implementation of this project. Some of those include:
 - The precise location of the proposed micro-hydropower facility is unclear.
 - It is unknown how power generated at the micro-hydropower facility will enter the power grid and what infrastructure is required to make that happen.
 - There are uncertainties regarding Snow Creek water rights.
 - It is unclear if there is or has been coordination with the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery.
 - O&M costs are mostly unknown and there is no cost estimate for the construction of a micro-hydropower facility.
 - There are no results from the original pump-station design.

The Committees are interested in better understanding this project and would like to schedule a meeting with Tony Jantzer to discuss the project in more detail.

Nason Ridge Acquisition Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Chelan County Natural Resources Department, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reason:

- The Committees are not interested in funding an acquisition that includes mostly uplands. However, the Committees would review a proposal seeking funds to acquire the floodplain and riparian habitat along Nason Creek if the floodplain can be separated from the uplands.

Wenatchee EDT Model Development Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Chelan County Natural Resources Department, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- The Committees understand that the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team is developing a prioritization tool for the Wenatchee sub-basin. They also understand that this tool, which is intended to update the Upper Columbia Biological Strategy, has not been fully developed and tested at this time. If it is determined that the prioritization tool works, there may be no need for a second prioritization tool.
- Given that EDT has produced some questionable results in the Methow sub-basin, the Committees want to see how well the model performs in the Methow once additional habitat data are collected to help populate the model, before proceeding with EDT implementation in the Wenatchee.

Eagle Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal – RM 0.3 Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Chelan County Natural Resources Department, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- Although the barrier prioritization tool identified the lower Eagle Creek culvert as a priority barrier, the tool also evaluates clusters of barriers within a stream or small watershed. In this case, it is not appropriate to evaluate the lower barrier (which is a partial barrier) in isolation from the other roughly 20 barriers in Eagle Creek. When evaluating the cluster of barriers within the stream, it does not appear the biological benefit justifies the cost of replacing all barriers at the per-barrier cost in the proposal. That is, barrier replacement in Eagle Creek does not appear to be cost effective.
- Eagle Creek is not considered a high priority area for restoration.

Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Trout Unlimited) address the following comments/suggestions as they develop the full proposal:

- Identify the level of certainty that the sponsor will receive the \$2M cost share.
- Provide specific information on the quality of water discharged back into the Wenatchee River. If available, provide the concentrations of pollutants and the temperature of the return water.
- Indicate the average amount of irrigation water returned to the Wenatchee River under current conditions. Also, indicate the amount of flow within the Wenatchee River at the times when water is diverted.

Burns-Garrity Side Channel Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- The Committees believe the groundwater yield is too low to support Plan Species.
- The Committees would like to better understand the evolution of the main channel given the recent avulsion. They are not convinced the side channel will function appropriately for Plan Species over the long term given the dynamic nature of the main channel at this location.

Restoration Strategy for the Upper Methow Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- The Committees believe the Upper Methow Reach Assessment provides adequate information to guide enhancement projects in this reach of the upper Methow River. They see no need for additional assessments in this reach.
- A better approach is to submit an application for design work, which includes enough budget to assess alternatives.

Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- The Committees believe barriers within the anadromous zone within the Okanogan sub-basin are mostly known and have been or are being addressed.
- The Committees also understand that barriers upstream from natural barriers are clustered and the biological benefit gained from addressing clusters of barriers outside the anadromous zone will not justify the cost.

Fuller Side Channel Well Conversion Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- This project will have little to no biological benefit.
- The Committees also believe this project is too expensive. The total cost of the project should be under \$100,000.

Upper Burns and Angle Point Areas Habitat Enhancement Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Yakama Nation) address the following comments/suggestions as they develop the full proposal:

- Provide maps, pictures, preliminary design drawings, and modeling results supporting design in the final proposal.
- Indicate whether the landowner supports this project.
- Consider a seasonal side channel. Not all side channels need to be perennial and this may be a good location for a seasonal channel.
- Consider adjustments to the opening of the side channel and let the river carve the side channel.
- The application refers to enhancement work that began in 2017 adjacent to the proposed project

area. If available, provide any data or information on the use of these enhancement structures by Plan Species (i.e., Chinook, steelhead, and/or coho).

- Consider a construction method that minimizes disturbance of existing riparian vegetation, such as excavating a trench to design elevation and allowing the river to contour the channel banks, rather than grading side slopes to form a trapezoidal channel. If the design team determines that such an approach is not acceptable, please provide and justify the rationale for that decision.

Nason Confluence Habitat Enhancement Project (Not Fundable)

The Committees recommend that this project, sponsored by the Yakama Nation, should not be submitted as a full proposal to the Tributary Committees for the following reasons:

- Because of the sediment dynamics and high sediment load within Nason Creek, the Committees believe maintaining a side channel at the mouth of Nason Creek will be difficult. Thus, they question the longevity of the project.
- The Committees are concerned regarding the amount of established riparian vegetation that would be removed or destroyed during project implementation.
- The application would benefit from having maps, pictures, and preliminary design drawings.

Golden Doe Large Wood Project (Fundable)

The Committees recommend that the project sponsor (Yakama Nation) address the following comments/suggestions as they develop the full proposal:

- Provide maps, pictures, and preliminary design drawings in the final proposal.
- Because this is a dynamic area, consider using large-wood apex jams at the upstream end of the project area (to direct flows into specific channels) and drive pilings downstream from the apex jams to catch wood to improve peripheral and transitional habitat.
- The Committees are concerned that the side channel will not be maintained because of the sediment dynamics at this site. The sponsor needs to describe how the side channel will be maintained over time.
- Indicate if the proposed project intends to use groundwater to maintain flows in the side channel. If so, will intercepting groundwater affect riparian vegetation along the channel?

Napeequa Side Channel Connection Project

Although it was not clear in the application if the project sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) was seeking funding from the Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees, the Committees nevertheless reviewed the application. The purpose of the project is to remove a culvert and associated fill to restore hydraulic connectivity to a side channel along the lower Napeequa River, a tributary to the White River. This action will improve juvenile steelhead and spring Chinook survival and productivity by providing access to an important spring-fed side channel. The total cost of the project is \$58,290.00. After careful review of the proposal, the ***Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$49,399.00 to the project*** (the project has a cost share of \$8,891.00). The Committee recommended the sponsor consider a less expensive pedestrian bridge over the Napeequa River.

V. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests from April and May:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$865.51 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Derby Creek Fish Passage Project.
- \$461.69 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project.
- \$8,996.08 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Monitor Side Channel Design Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$141.07 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Burns-Garrity Restoration Design Project.
 - \$690.90 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment Project.
2. Tracy Hillman shared the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Schedule with the Committees (see Attachment 1). He said project tours are scheduled for 9 May (Methow), 13 May (Wenatchee), and 14 May (Entiat). Sponsors will give presentations on 12-13 June. Final proposals are due on 28 June. The Committees will evaluate final proposals and make funding decisions on 16 July.
 3. Tracy Hillman reported that he informed Steve Kolk (Bureau of Reclamation; BOR) that the Tributary Committees are interested in partnering with BOR on the Sugar Levee Project. BOR will coordinate with the Committees on future meetings and field trips. BOR should have 2D model results available for Committees' review by the end of April.

VI. Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Tuesday, 16 July at Grant PUD in Wenatchee. The Committees will visit proposed project sites on 9, 13, and 14 May and attend presentations on 12-13 June.

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

Attachment 1 Draft SRFB Funding Schedule

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/TRIB DRAFT 2019 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
MARCH				
March 13	Meeting: SRFB/TRIB Kick-Off Meeting	LE, RTT, TRIB, Sponsors, RCO	CFNCW	LE/RCO
March 29	Deadline: One paragraph project abstracts/JotForm submitted to Lead Entity	Sponsors	Email	LE
APRIL				
April 12	Deadline: Draft proposals due	Sponsors, LE, RCO, SRP, RTT, CAC, TRIB	PRISM	LE
MAY				
May 8 & 9	Tours: SRFB/TRIB Project Tours Wenatchee (WED) Entiat (THUR)	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, SRFB SRP, CAC	TBD	LE
May	Deadline: Monitoring Letter of Intent	Sponsors, UCSRB Staff	GSRO	UCSRB
May 13 & 14	Tours: SRFB/TRIB Project Tours Okanogan (Mon) Methow (TUE)	Sponsors, LE, RTT, TRIB, SRFB SRP, CAC	TBD	LE
JUNE				
June 12 & 13	Sponsor Presentations	RTT, TRIB, SRP	TBD	LE

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/TRIB DRAFT 2019 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
June TBD	Action: SRP provides comments	SRP	Email via LE	RCO/SRP
June 13	Action: TRIB reviews draft proposals	TRIB	TRIB	TRIB Chair
June 17	Action: TRIB provide comments	TRIB	Emails	TRIB Chair
June 28	DEADLINE: Final proposals due for Regional scoring and ranking	Sponsors, LE, RTT, CAC, TRIB	PRISM	LE
JULY				
July 15	Action: RTT technical scoring	RTT, CAC, LE, BOR	RTT Meeting	RTT
July 11	Action: TRIB reviews final proposals	TRIB	TRIB Meeting	TRIB Chair
July 19	Action: TRIB Decisions	TRIB	Email/Letter	TRIB Chair
July 23/25	Presentations to Citizens: Okanogan/Chelan CAC's	Sponsors, CAC's, RTT, LE	Twisp River Bank/Wenatchee Reclamation Office	LE
July 31	CAC Project Rankings Chelan/Okanogan CAC's	CAC's, LE	Chelan Fire Hall	LE
AUGUST				
August 8	Deadline: Sponsors PRISM upload	Sponsors, LE	PRISM	LE
August 15	Deadline: Submit Regional List	LE	PRISM	LE/RCO
SEPTEMBER				

UPPER COLUMBIA SRFB/TRIB DRAFT 2019 FUNDING SCHEDULE				
DATE	ACTIVITY/MILESTONE	PARTICIPANTS	LOCATION	FACILITATOR/ COORDINATOR
Sept 6	Deadline: Regional Submittal	LE	Email	LE
Sept 10	Monitoring Review Panel Provides Comments	Monitoring Review Panel	Email via UCSRB	UCSRB
Sept 21	Deadline: Response to comments from Monitoring Review Panel	Sponsors, UCSRB	Email via UCSRB	UCSRB
Sept 26	Action: SRP provides comments	SRP	Email via LE	SRP
OCTOBER				
Oct 10	Deadline: Response to comments from project sponsors to SRP	Sponsors, LE	Email via LE	LE
Oct 22-24	Presentations: Sponsors present projects to SRP (<i>only projects identified</i>)	Select Sponsors, LE	Olympia, Washington or via phone	RCO
NOVEMBER				
Oct 30	Action: SRP finalizes comments	SRP	Email via LE	SRP
Nov 6	Deadline: Submit Final Regional List	LE/UCSRB	PRISM	LE/UCSRB
Nov 14	Final report by SRP to SRFB	RCO		RCO
DECEMBER				
Dec 12-13	Action: SRFB Decisions	SRFB	Olympia, WA	RCO

Acronyms

CAC- Citizen’s Advisory Committee
 LE- Lead Entity Coordinator/Program
 RCO- Recreation and Conservation Office
 RTT- Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team
 SRP- State Review Panel
 SRFB- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
 TRIB- Tributary Committees
 UC- Upper Columbia Region
 UCSRB- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Timeline Legend	
Meetings	Blue
Deadlines	Red
Actions	Black