

Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 9 March 2017

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

Members Absent: Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD)¹

Others Present: Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator). Steve Kolk (Bureau of Reclamation), Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (Grant PUD), and Denny Rohr (PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Chair) attended the meeting for the Middle Entiat Project presentation.

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans Tributary Committees met at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, Washington, on Thursday, 9 March 2017 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

The Committees reviewed and approved the 12 January 2017 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.

- MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project – The project sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) did not provide an update on this project.
- Twisp-to-Carlton Reach Assessment Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) submitted a final report, which was uploaded to the Extranet site.
- Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition – The sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) did not provide an update on this project.
- Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update on this project.
- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update on this project.

¹ Tom provided his votes on decision items following the meeting.

- Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported that there was no new activity on this project. The final report will be submitted in March 2017.
- Similkameen RM 3.8 Project – Chris Fisher reported that the parties held a conference call to divide the labor among the different entities. In addition, they selected a preferred design, which was approved by the Tributary Committees last year. Permit applications will be completed by the end of March.
- White River Floodplain (RM 3.4) Connection Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported that they are continuing discussions with WDFW to finalize the Right of Entry (ROE) permit, which is the final permit needed to begin the project. Once the ROE permit is finalized, the sponsor will schedule work with the contractor.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update on this project.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – The sponsor (WDFW) reported that the project is complete. The second-year monitoring report is due on 31 December 2017.
- Permitting Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported that they continue to work with the Forest Service to assess interest and willingness to implement the project. They are also working on the project summary and monitoring proposal that will be submitted to the Forest Service in March.
- Burns-Garrity Design Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported that Rio Applied Science and Engineering (the contractor on the project) received the 2-D hydraulic model from the Bureau of Reclamation. Rio is now modeling several alternative concepts and they will present those to stakeholders in April. They will then select a preferred concept.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update on this project.

IV. Budget Amendments and Time Extensions

MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project

The Tributary Committees received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the *MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project*. The sponsor asked the Rock Island and Wells Committees to extend the period of their contracts from 30 September 2016 to 30 November 2017 and the Rocky Reach Committee to extend the period of their contract from 31 March 2017 to 30 November 2017. After review and discussion, *the Committees agreed to extend their respective contracts to 30 November 2017*.

Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition

The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee received a time extension and amendment request from Chelan-Douglas Land Trust on the *Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition Project*. The sponsor asked the Committee if CDLT could use some of the remaining balance of the Entiat Stillwaters Gray Reach Acquisition Project to help cover expenses associated with lot sales and the Beutler and Scoville acquisitions, and help purchase the Couter and Phipps properties. To complete the transactions, the sponsor asked to extend the period of the contract from 31 March 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Because the amendment represents a significant departure in the scope of the original project, *the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee denied the amendment and time extension*. The Committee invited the sponsor to submit a new proposal seeking funds to cover expenses associated with the Beutler and Scoville acquisitions and to help purchase the Couter and Phipps properties.

Similkameen RM 3.8 Rehabilitation Project

The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Okanogan Conservation District on the *Similkameen RM 3.8 Rehabilitation Project*. The sponsor asked the Rocky Reach Committee to add \$24,851.27 to their budget in order to complete the project. The additional funds will increase “Salaries/Benefits” from \$2,446.50 to \$6,364.02, “Professional Services” from \$64,108.00 to \$84,650.00, and “Indirect/Overhead/Admin” from \$815.50 to \$1,207.25. The total amount of the contract will increase from \$67,370.00 to \$92,221.27. After careful consideration, *the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved the budget amendment*.

Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Trout Unlimited on the *Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project*. The sponsor asked the Committee to move \$1,997.00 from “Administration/Overhead” to “Salaries and Benefits,” \$2,294.94 from “Administration/Overhead” to “Professional Services,” and \$7,028.75 from “Administration/Overhead” to “Project Materials.” After consideration, *the Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the budget amendment*. The total budget amount of \$108,225.94 will not change as a result of this amendment.

V. General Salmon Habitat Program Proposal

Derby Creek Fish Passage – Collins Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the *Derby Creek Fish Passage – Collins Project*. The purpose of this project is to remove the lowermost fish passage barrier culvert (RM 0.3) on Derby Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. Removal of the lowermost barrier will open about 10 miles of habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing. The total cost of the project is \$190,000. The sponsor requested \$90,000 from HCP Tributary Funds. The Committees were unable to make a funding decision and requested additional information from the sponsor.

The Committees asked the sponsor to respond to the following questions/comments:

1. Describe the status of fish passage at the obstacles downstream from the proposed passage barrier. For example, there is one obstacle that is highlighted “unknown passability.” Is this at the road or railroad crossing and is there evidence that it is passable?
2. Indicate the location of the PIT-tag array on the map prepared by Chris Dwight.
3. Does Derby Creek dewater at any time of year, and, if so, where?
4. The proposal indicates that CCFEG has removed one total barrier and received funding for removal of two additional barriers. Please show on the map prepared by Chris Dwight the location of these barriers.
5. Has NRCS confirmed that they will fund the cost share?
6. Did you consider replacing the barriers with small bridges similar to those used on Frazer Creek in the Methow River basin (e.g., see: <http://methowsalmon.org/currentprojects.html>)? If so, why are they not the preferred alternative?

Once the Committees receive the additional information, they will reevaluate the proposal.

VI. Review of Draft Wells HCP Tributary Committee Action Plan

Douglas PUD provided the Committees with the Draft Wells HCP Tributary Committee Action Plan for 2017. The 2017 Draft Action Plan for the Wells Tributary Committee is as follows:

Plan Species Account Annual Contribution

- \$176,178 in 1998 dollars: January 2017

Annual Report – Plan Species Account Status

- Draft to Tributary Committee (TC): February 2017
- Integration into HCP Annual Report: February 2017

General Salmon Habitat Program

- Project Review and Funding Decision January – December 2017

Small Projects Program

- Project Review and Funding Decision January – December 2017

The Wells Tributary Committee approved the Tributary Section of the Wells Action Plan for 2017.

VII. Review of Draft Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committees Action Plans

Chelan PUD provided the Committees with the Draft Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Action Plans for 2017. The 2017 Action Plans for both Rocky Reach and Rock Island Tributary Committees are as follows:

- Plan Species Account Deposits: January 2017
- GSHP Project Review and Approval: Ongoing
- GSHP Project Implementation: Ongoing
- Small Project Review and Approval: Ongoing
- Small Project Implementation: Ongoing

The Rocky Reach and Rock Island Tributary Committees approved the Tributary Sections of the Rocky Reach and Rock Island Action Plans for 2017.

VIII. Review of Tributary Committees’ Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects

The Committees reviewed their Policies and Procedures document and added the following language to the beginning of Section 6.3 (Timelines and Extensions).

Project Sponsors must have a signed contract with the Committees within one (1) year from the date when the Committees approved the project. In the event the Project Sponsor does not have a signed contract because of a lack of additional funds (cost share), a lack of landowner support, or any other reason, the Committees may cancel funding for the project. After the one-year period, the Project Sponsor will need to resubmit a new proposal seeking funding for a canceled project.

Following the meeting, there was discussion about the use of the word “may” in the sentence stating “...the Committees may cancel funding for the project.” It was pointed out that this statement is not consistent with the first sentence of the paragraph stating that “Project Sponsors must have a signed contract...” In short, the consequence does not fit the rule. The Committees will revisit the language added to Section 6.3 during their next meeting.

The Committees also rearranged statements in Section 3.8 (Management Guidelines for Conservation Easements/Acquired Lands). They placed the statement, “Allow public access² except under

² Public access is restricted to foot access and will be provided at all times. There shall be no impediments to foot access (e.g., fences) and the access cannot devalue the habitat being protected. The Committees do not require the easement or property-title holder to provide any improvements to facilitate access or to accommodate ADA standards.

extraordinary circumstances” at the front of the list. Finally, they rearranged sub-sections under Section 3 (General Policies) to reflect a more logical order.

Tributary Committee Operating Procedures

Tracy Hillman asked if the Committees had any changes or edits to the Tributary Committee Operating Procedures document. Members had no changes to the Operating Procedures.

IX. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in February and March:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$140.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in January 2017.
- \$1,578.50 to Trout Unlimited for work on the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.
- \$767.75 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for work on the Twisp-to-Carlton Reach Assessment (final payment).
- \$102.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Island financial administration in February 2017.
- \$2,208.14 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for work on Permitting Nutrient Enhancement in the Chiwawa River Basin.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$140.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in January 2017.
- \$966.78 to Okanogan Conservation District for work in November and December on the Similkameen RM 3.8 Rehabilitation Project.
- \$380.40 to Okanogan Conservation District for work in January on the Similkameen RM 3.8 Rehabilitation Project.
- \$102.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in February 2017.
- \$939.04 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for work on the Burns-Garrity Restoration Design Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$1,178.28 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for work on the Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project.
- \$4,319.10 to Trout Unlimited for work during January on the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.
- \$3,868.63 to Trout Unlimited for work during February on the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.

2. Becky Gallaher reported that the PUDs deposited funds into each of the Plan Species Accounts at the end of January 2017. Chelan PUD deposited \$737,452 into the Rock Island Account and \$349,271 into the Rocky Reach Account. Douglas PUD deposited \$267,771 into the Wells Account. As of March 2017, the unallocated balances within each account were \$5,559,653 in the Rock Island Account, \$2,378,263 in the Rocky Reach Account, and \$1,331,318 in the Wells Account. Thus, among the three accounts, there is about \$8,269,234 available.
3. Becky Gallaher stated that the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation would like to provide a personal showing of their Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project film. The film is about 25-minutes long. The Committees appreciated the offer, but declined a personal showing of the film. The Committees will view the film on their own.
4. Tracy Hillman reported that he and Becky Gallaher completed Section 2.3 (Tributary Committees and Plan Species Accounts) for the Annual Report of Activities under the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan for each hydroelectric project. Tracy said he sent the draft reports to Anchor QEA, who is compiling the draft annual reports. The draft reports were sent to the HCP Coordinating Committees for review. The PUDs will submit the final reports to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in April.
5. During the September 2016 meeting, members of the Committees identified possible funded projects they would like to visit in 2017 (see Item #2 on page 4 of the September 2016 meeting notes). Given the long list of possible projects, Tracy Hillman asked the Committees if they would like to refine the list so the tour would take no more than two days (one day for Okanogan/Methow projects and one day for Entiat/Wenatchee projects). In November 2016, Chris Fisher recommended each member identify five projects they would like to visit. During the March 2017 meeting, members agreed to wait until the April 2017 meeting to identify their top projects for a field visit.
6. Tracy Hillman reported that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) sent a letter (memo) asking the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) to review Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook recovery analyses and strategies. If the ISAB accepts the request, they will likely ask for a workshop in which groups such as the HCP Tributary Committees describe their approach to selecting tributary habitat actions to protect and restore habitat conditions for spring Chinook. The ISAB has not yet accepted the request. Tracy will share the NPCC memo with the Committees.

X. Middle Entiat Project Presentation

Steve Kolk (BOR) gave a presentation on the status of the Middle Entiat Restoration Project (see Attachment 1). He described the primary objectives and scope of the project, the current landowner-project sponsor relationship, acquisition of permits, and project funding. Regarding the latter, Steve noted that BOR will be funding a large portion of the project; however, they will fall short by about \$1-1.5 million to complete the project. Thus, he asked if the Tributary Committees and/or the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee would be interested in funding specific components of the restoration project.

Members of the Committees asked the following questions:

Q: When does BOR need a commitment from other funding entities?

A: Construction is scheduled to being in 2019, so a funding commitment would be needed in 2018.

Q: What is the status of the restoration design?

A: The design is at a point of delegation.

Q: How long will the restoration structures be evaluated?

A: As long as BOR is in the valley.

Q: What agreement has the County established with the landowner (CDLT)?

A: The County will take ownership of all structures on CDLT properties. DNR will own structures up to the high-water mark.

Q: Will the BOR contribute \$1 million per year or \$1.5 million per year?

A: If the BOR has additional money available, they will likely contribute up to \$1.5 million per year.

Q: Are project sponsors planning to submit proposals through the SRFB process?

A: There are no plans to seek funding through the SRFB process this year.

Q: What is the sequence for implementing restoration actions?

A: Sections B and E will be enhanced first; F will be last.

Following questions, members urged BOR to encourage their project sponsors to submit proposals through the SRFB process. Specific projects such as levee removal and reconnecting side channels should score high in the SRFB process.

Members will further discuss the Middle Entiat Project during their April meeting.

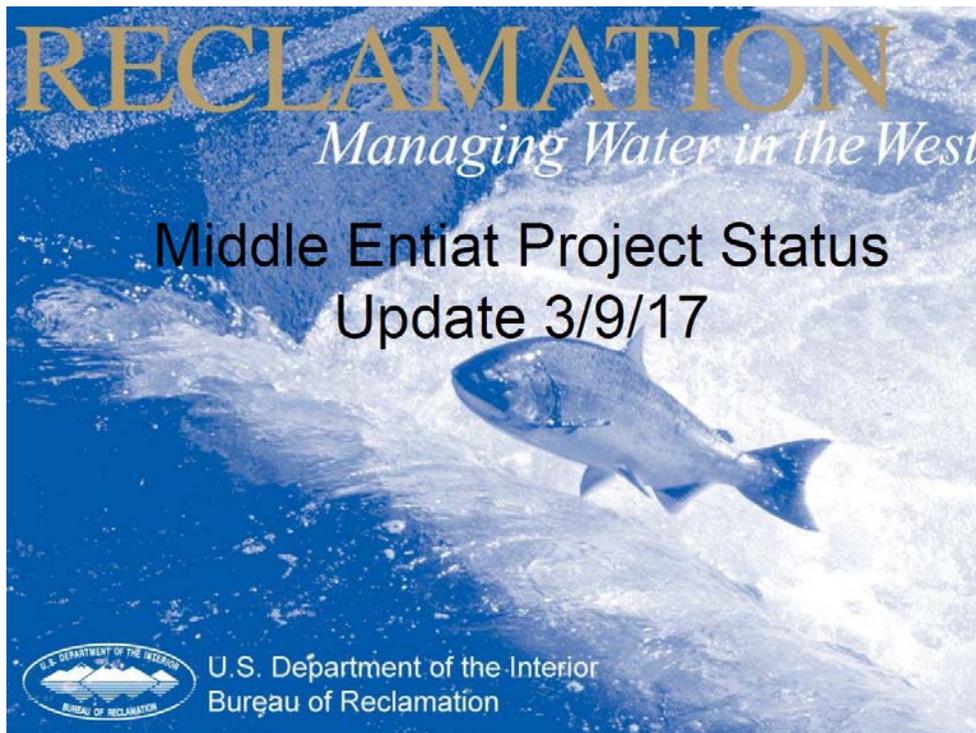
XI. Next Steps

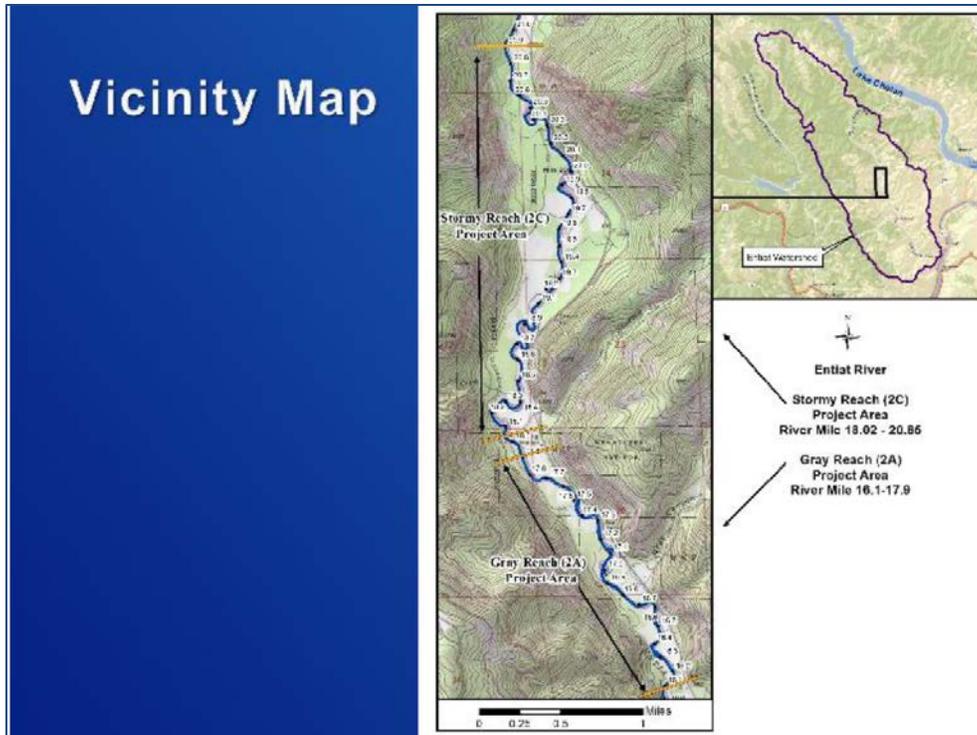
The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 13 April 2017 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee.

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

Attachment 1

Presentation by Steve Kolk on the Status of the Middle Entiat Restoration Project





Primary Project Objectives

1. Improve off-channel habitat availability and quality
2. Improve habitat complexity
 - a. Pool habitat frequency and quality within the main channel
 - b. Edge habitat
 - c. Alcove habitat
3. Re-engage channel forming processes (promote lateral channel migration)
4. Improve floodplain connectivity (reverse incision)

RECLAMATION

Landowner/Sponsor Considerations

1. Minimize impacts to existing habitat
 - a. Helicopter staging, structure assembly
2. Consider visual impacts
3. Minimize/eliminate ferrous anchoring
4. Adhere to WA HB 1194 (2013)
5. Follow BOR's Risk Based Design Guidelines
6. Rigorous inspection/adaptive management program following construction

RECLAMATION

Project Scope

- **Project Area B**
 - Chelan County NRD
 - Levee removal, alcove, instream structures
- **Project Area C**
 - CCFEG
 - Instream structures, off channel habitat improvements
- **Project Area E**
 - Cascadia CD
 - Instream structures, alcove
- **Project Area F**
 - Cascadia CD
 - Side channels, alcoves, instream structures

RECLAMATION

Permits/EC

- **Federal, State, Local Permits**
 - Applications to be submitted summer/fall 2017
 - All agencies have provided feedback on project
- **NEPA**
 - Reclamation is lead
 - Previous NEPA work under evaluation
- **ESA**
 - BA being prepared (no programmatic)
 - Project will comply with HIP III
- **Section 106**
 - Complete

RECLAMATION

Project Funding Remaining

- **Remaining design/construction oversight (Est.)**
 - \$1.7m
- **Materials acquisition (Est.)**
 - \$2.2m
- **Construction (Est.)**
 - \$3.3m
- **Post-construction inspection, adaptive management, permit compliance, stewardship of disturbed areas**
 - Undetermined, \$500k-\$1m WAG over 5 years

Bottom line: most likely case budget estimate leaves ~ \$1-1.5m unaccounted for

RECLAMATION

Questions?

RECLAMATION