



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 11 June 2020

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 held a conference call on Thursday, 11 June 2020 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 with the addition of a Small Projects Program Application. The Committees also received an Assessment/Monitoring Application but they were unable to review it before the meeting. They will review it and make a funding decision in July.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The draft May meeting notes were reviewed and approved by Tributary Committees members.

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 that the pump station is online and running smoothly. The pressure pipeline is also complete. All wells have all been drilled, tested, and commissioned.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that 400-linear-feet of pipe was installed between the Water Treatment Plant (near the City of Leavenworth) and Snow Lakes parking area. The contractor also spent time breaking and removing boulders between the IPID access and USFS roads.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; WDFW) provided the 2019 annual report, which was uploaded to the Extranet site.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) reported there are beaver dam analog projects planned for this summer/fall in Potato and Roaring creeks. The sponsor is currently working on permits.
- Derby Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (CF) reported they completed the bid process and will complete contracting this month.

- Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project – Because of COVID-19, the Sponsor (CF) is still waiting for confirmation from WDFW that 40,000 pounds of analogs will be available for distribution in the Chiwawa River this year. WCC crews are scheduled to distribute the analogs; however, it is unclear at this time how COVID-19 guidelines will affect their availability.
- Entiat Fish Passage and Barrier Assessment Project – The sponsor (CF) reported the final report is expected to be completed by mid-June.
- Twisp River Floodplain Left Bank Spring-fed Alcove Restoration Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported they are in contact with the upstream landowners but do not yet have an agreement with them. They will continue to discuss the project with the landowners.
- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update this month. This work will occur later in 2020.
- Sugar Levee Groundwater Evaluation Project – The sponsor (MSRF) reported that staff gauges have been installed and loggers were installed in historic wells as needed. The sponsor continues to coordinate with landowners regarding access to existing groundwater monitoring wells and sites for new groundwater wells.
- Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project – The sponsor (TU) reported there was no new activity on this project.
- Peshastin RM 3.4 Side Channel Project – The Sponsor (CCNRD) reported they are in the process of contracting for both the cultural resource survey and preliminary design.
- Stormy Area “A: Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project – The sponsor (YN) reported construction is complete and they are writing the final report.
- Napeequa Side Channel Connection Project – The sponsor (CF) reported there was no new activity on this project.
- Monitor Side Channel Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) did not provide an update this month.
- Restore Chiwaukum Creek Project – The sponsor (CF) reported they recently received additional funding from USFWS to help design the project.
- City of Leavenworth Fish Screen Project – The Sponsor (TU) did not provide an update this month.
- Goodwin Side Channel Assessment Project – The Sponsor (CF) reported there was no new activity on this project.
- Sugar Reach Habitat Enhancement Early Implementation Project – The Sponsor/Tributary Agreement has been signed.

IV. Small Projects Program Application

Methow River – Vandervort Property Appraisal Project

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Methow River – Vandervort Property Appraisal Project. The purpose of the project is to fund an appraisal to determine the value of the Vandervort property at the upper end of the Silver Side Channel Project area, located on the Methow River near RM 35.5. The acquisition of this property would potentially allow the removal of a levee that

currently isolates flow into the upper end of the Silver Side Channel. The total cost of the project was \$9,250 (does not include the cost of the actual appraisal).¹ The sponsor requested \$9,250 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees identified several uncertainties and unknowns associated with the Silver Side Channel that they need to better understand. For example, what effects will removal of the levee have on downstream landowners, would downstream landowners agree with levee removal, how will levee removal affect completed enhancement work in the lower portion of the side channel, and are there current or future issues that will prevent the levee from being removed? In addition, the Committees would like to better understand the effectiveness of the implemented enhancement actions in the lower portion of the side channel and the effects of beavers on those actions. To that end, the Committees will invite MSRF to a future meeting to discuss these issues with the Committees. MSRF is welcome to include others (e.g., WDFW and CF) who may be able to respond to these issues.

V. General Salmon Habitat Program Applications

The Committees received eight General Salmon Habitat Program proposals that were cost shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). In addition, they received an application from the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) that was not a cost share with the SRFB.

Before reviewing the proposals and consistent with the Committees' Operating Procedures, members of the Committees identified potential conflicts of interest. Brandon Rogers recused himself from discussing and voting on the two Yakama Nation proposals. Chris Fisher recused himself from discussing and voting on the CCT proposal.

Becky Gallaher provided the Committees with the unallocated balances within each Plan Species Account. The Wells Account has \$2,131,058, the Rocky Reach Account has \$2,676,021, and the Rock Island Account has \$5,532,293. In sum, among the three accounts, there is \$10,339,372 available to fund projects.

Upper Beaver Creek Final Design and Restoration Project

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Upper Beaver Creek Final Design and Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore fish passage at two irrigation diversions, increase flood conveyance capacity, and increase fish access to a 1,300-foot-long perennial groundwater-fed wetland channel. This project is located at RM 6.2-6.7 on Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Methow River. The total cost of the project was \$395,342. The sponsor requested \$59,307 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project. Given the effects of the fire and the associated upstream issues, the Committees believe this project will not be sustainable and thus will have little biological benefit. They would like to see the diversions removed from the stream and the groundwater-fed wetland reconnected at both the upstream and downstream ends.

Beaver Creek Barrier #040016 Correction Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Beaver Creek Barrier #040016 Correction Project. The purpose of the project is to replace a partial fish passage barrier at RM 0.5 on Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. This project will restore fish access to about 6.2 miles of intrinsic potential for salmonids. The total cost of the project was \$251,110. The sponsor requested \$54,646 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The ***Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$54,646 to the project.*** The Committee encourages the sponsor to replace the existing culvert with a bridge; however, the cost of the bridge and its installation should not exceed the existing budget for the project.

¹ The budget request of \$9,250 included coordination, administration, and indirect costs.

Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project. The purpose of the project is to evaluate the mainstem Chiwawa River from RM 1.0-4.25, including a 25-acre floodplain wetland complex, to identify and develop enhancement actions that will improve instream habitat conditions and reconnect the floodplain, while avoiding negative effects to residential properties. The total cost of the project was \$166,395. The sponsor requested \$24,960 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$24,960 to the project*. As part of funding for this project, the Committee requires that they can review and approve restoration scenarios and designs.

Icicle Confluence Side Channel Habitat Improvement Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Icicle Confluence Side Channel Habitat Improvement Project. The purpose of the project is to install wood structures and plantings at strategic locations in the Icicle confluence side channel and along the Wenatchee River margin to encourage pool scour and provide cover for juvenile salmonids. The total cost of the project was \$335,320. The sponsor requested \$50,298 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees believe the proposed project will provide little benefit to juvenile spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. They are concerned the project may actually entrap more fish and depending on the amount of organic matter within the channel, it could create a dissolved oxygen problem during low-flow periods and increase mortality rates. In addition, given the dynamics and condition of the site, the proposed activities will likely improve conditions for coho salmon, which may have a competitive advantage over juvenile Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project

Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to replace a partial fish passage barrier at RM 0.25 on Big Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Chiwawa River in the Wenatchee River basin. This project will restore fish access to about 10.7 miles of intrinsic potential for salmonids. The total cost of the project was \$475,000. The sponsor requested \$207,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$207,500 to the project*. The Committee encourages the sponsor to replace the existing culvert with a bridge.

Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project. The purpose of the project is to improve adult Chinook and steelhead holding habitat and increase winter rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids by increasing instream complexity and peripheral off-channel habitat at RM 6.0-7.4 on Nason Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project was \$662,865. The sponsor requested \$149,020 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rocky Reach Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$149,020 to the project*.

Enloe Dam Removal Concept Plan

The Colville Confederated Tribes is the sponsor of the Enloe Dam Removal Concept Plan. The purpose of the project is to develop a conceptual plan to remove Enloe Dam, which is located at RM 8.8 on the Similkameen River in the Okanogan River basin. The plan would include water control, access and staging, sediment management, demolition, and post removal restoration. The plan would identify the sequence with which these elements would be undertaken and the associated cost estimates for each element. The total cost of the project was \$117,612. The sponsor requested \$117,612 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees require that this project include a 15% cost share. In addition, if this project moves forward, the Committees would like to know all the potential funders. The removal of Enloe Dam is not a project the Committees can support financially without significant contributions from other funding sources. After the sponsor includes a cost share and identifies potential future funding sources, they are encouraged to resubmit the application.

Chewuch River Mile 4 Fish Enhancement Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Chewuch River Mile 4 Fish Enhancement Project. The purpose of the project is to restore side channel and floodplain connectivity, increase instream complexity, and restore habitat forming processes that will benefit salmonids at RM 4.2-4.6 on the Chewuch River, a tributary to the Methow River. The total cost of the project was \$659,351. The sponsor requested \$137,866 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees believe the project can be accomplished with much less excavation work and disturbance to the forested floodplain by constructing a relatively short pilot channel on the floodplain. This would minimize disturbance to existing riparian habitat and maximize opportunities for the river to carve its own flow paths. Another, shorter channel could be constructed at the downstream end of the floodplain to ensure completion of the connection. In addition, the Committees would prefer the activation of existing features rather than creating new ones. As a final note, the Committees would like to reiterate that if the sponsor intends to seek funds from Plan Species Accounts, the Committees recommend that the sponsor consult with them during the design phase of a proposed project. This will allow the Committees opportunities to provide feedback earlier in the process.

Alder Creek Floodplain Restoration Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Alder Creek Floodplain Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to restore side channel and floodplain connectivity, increase instream complexity, and restore habitat forming processes that will benefit salmonids at RM 34.0-34.5 on the Methow River. The total cost of the project was \$691,700. The sponsor requested \$149,967 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees believe this project relies too heavily on excavation work and can be completed with much less excavation work. In addition, the Committees would need to see a 10-year management plan that addresses potential beaver issues within the site. They believe it is likely that beavers will colonize the site before the enhancement actions have matured to the point to be resistant or resilient to beavers. Finally, they believe their comment on the draft application regarding creation of undercut banks was misunderstood. They were not suggesting the creation of “engineered” undercut banks. Rather, they were suggesting the river be allowed to create undercut banks naturally. That is, allowing the river to cut flow paths across the floodplain or to flow through under-excavated, engineered channels should result in the creation of undercut banks as the water erodes sediments through the forested floodplain.

Summary of Review of 2020 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects

Project Name	Sponsor¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution²
Upper Beaver Creek Final Design and Restoration	MSRF	\$395,342	\$59,307	\$0
Beaver Creek #040016 Correction Project	CCNRD	\$251,110	\$54,646	RR: \$54,646
Chiwawa Floodplain Reconnection & Enhancement	CCNRD	\$166,395	\$24,960	RI: \$24,960
Icicle Confluence Side Channel Habitat Improvement	CCNRD	\$335,320	\$50,298	\$0
Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration	CF	\$475,000	\$207,500	RI: \$207,500
Nason Kahler Instream Complexity Project	CCNRD	\$662,865	\$149,020	RR: \$149,020

Project Name	Sponsor ¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution ²
Enloe Dam Removal Concept Plan	CCT	\$117,612	\$117,612	\$0
Chewuch River Mile 4 Enhancement Project	YN	\$659,351	\$137,866	\$0
Alder Creek Floodplain Restoration	YN	\$691,700	\$149,967	\$0
Total:		\$3,754,695	\$951,176	\$436,126

¹ CF = Cascade Fisheries; CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resources Department, CCT = Colville Confederated Tribes, MSRF = Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, and YN = Yakama Nation.

² RI = Rock Island Plan Species Account; RR = Rocky Reach Plan Species Account; W = Wells Plan Species Account.

VI. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests from May and June:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$136.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in May 2020.
- \$30,484.25 to Trout Unlimited for the Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project (March work).
- \$1,584.74 to Cascade Fisheries for the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project (May work).

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$136.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in May 2020.

2. Tracy Hillman reported that the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team is proposing to hold a workshop to discuss the use of beavers in restoration work. As there are concerns that beavers can harm recently completed enhancement projects (e.g., Silver Side Channel Project), the workshop would focus on when and how to use beavers in restoration. The Committees indicated that they would like to participate in the workshop.

VII. Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 9 July 2020.

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