

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

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

**Members Absent:** Jeremy Cram (WDFW).<sup>1</sup>

**Others Present:** Becky Gallaher (Tributary Project Coordinator).

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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 July 2016 from 9:30 am to 12:20 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 May 2016 meeting notes and the 16 June 2016 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Conference Call notes.

The Committees agreed to replace “Final Draft” from the header of notes with “Final 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) reported that construction is substantially complete. Pressure testing on the E2-E5 Laterals was completed in June. They noted that there are a few items yet to complete this summer. All but one individual well has been drilled. One parcel does not have power and therefore the sponsor is working with Ecology on how to address the water needs for this parcel. The sponsor is also working on a few lingering issues with a couple wells. These should be resolved this summer.

TU approached the Committees to see if the Committees would consider a scope change, which would allow using remaining funds to pipe the irrigation system from Nob Hill to the fish screen on the MVID East portion of the project. The Committees indicated that the request goes beyond a scope change. The sponsor will need to submit a new proposal.

- Twisp-to-Carlton Reach Assessment Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) will submit a final report soon.

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<sup>1</sup> Jeremy provided his votes on decision items before the meeting.

- 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) received the final hydrogeology report indicating that they can drill a well that is capable of meeting the landowner's needs. The sponsor is coordinating a date for well drilling, which will likely occur during mid to late August. Washington Department of Health has approved the proposed work. TU is planning the water-system construction and diversion dam removal, and started preliminary consultations with USFWS as well as permitting consultation with Chelan County.
- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (TU) reported that the 95% design was completed at the end of June. The sponsor has secured all local and state permits including the HPA. They are still waiting on the Corp permit and completion of the NEPA process. They continue to work with Ecology on the water rights change and will meet with the Barkley Directors to review the Trust Water Agreement in early July.
- Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported that five beavers were released in June. There are eight active beaver establishments.
- Similkameen RM 3.8 Project – The project sponsor (Okanogan Conservation District) submitted the proposed habitat restoration design for Committee review. *The Rocky Reach Committee studied the proposed design and approved it with no changes or edits.* The Committee hopes the project will be completed this year.
- White River Floodplain (RM 3.4) Connection Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported that they submitted the JARPA and received notice from the Army Corp of Engineers that the project is exempt from Sections 404 and 101 of the Clean Water Act. As a result, Ecology told the sponsor that they will not need a permit from Ecology. In addition, Chelan County Department of Community Development issued a determination of non-significance. This means the sponsor will not need to work through the SEPA process. The sponsor submitted the HPA and is working with WDFW to finalize project designs. They are also coordinating the archeology work through the WDFW archeologist. Finally, the sponsor started communicating with contractors about construction logistics.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) and their engineer are addressing comments from the technical advisory group and planning next steps. As stream flows drop in Icicle Creek, the sponsor will collect additional information for the final design.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – The installation of the detection equipment is complete and the sponsor (WDFW) will provide an annual report to the Rock Island Committee by 31 December 2016.
- Permitting Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) is statistically evaluating Chiwawa River data in order to identify and provide scientific support for an effectiveness monitoring plan.

#### IV. General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Proposals

The Committees received seven General Salmon Habitat Program proposals. Before reviewing the proposals, Becky Gallaher reported that the unallocated balances within each account were \$5,528,216 in the Rock Island Plan Species Account, \$2,042,757 in the Rocky Reach Plan Species Account, and \$1,300,397 in the Wells Plan Species Account. In addition, and consistent with the Committees' Operating Procedures, members of the Committees identified potential conflicts of interest. Kate Terrell recused herself from voting on the *Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project*.

**Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project**

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is the sponsor of the Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project. The purpose of this project is to protect 2,700 feet of riverbank and 37 acres of high quality riparian/floodplain habitat on the lower Wenatchee River (RM 2.7-3.2). The total cost of the project is \$661,000. The sponsor requested \$165,250 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Rock Island Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Rock Island Committee pointed out that the Committee will order and pay for the appraisal and review. Because the sponsor asked for \$9,000 for appraisal and review, the Committee subtracted this amount from the Tributary Committee request. Thus, the amount the Rocky Island Committee will pay the sponsor for this project is \$156,250 (\$165,250 - \$9,000).

**Silver Side Channel Acquisition Project**

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Silver Side Channel Acquisition Project. The purpose of this project is to protect 95.8 acres, including off-channel floodplain habitat, wetlands, riparian habitat, and agricultural lands on the middle Methow River (RM 34.3-35.3). The total cost of the project is \$801,470. The sponsor requested \$236,406 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Wells Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee's contribution to this project is based on the following conditions:

- The Wells Committee will have input and shall approve any management decisions regarding side-channel restoration actions and the resale of the upland parcel.
- The sponsor will make sure that no surface-water rights are transferred with the sale of the upland parcel. Any and all surface-water rights associated with the upland parcel will be trusted in perpetuity.

**Burns-Garrity Restoration Design Project**

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Burns-Garrity Restoration Design Project. The purpose of this project is to prepare a restoration design that will improve instream, off-channel, and floodplain habitat on 30 acres of land owned by WDFW on the lower Chewuch River (RM 2.3-2.8). The total cost of the project is \$177,335. The sponsor requested \$45,550 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Rocky Reach Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee's contribution to this project is based on the following conditions:

- The Rocky Reach Committee will review alternatives and approve final designs.
- The Committee needs a detailed budget. The proposal was lacking a detailed budget.

**Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project**

Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project is the sponsor of the Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project. The purpose of this project is to reestablish beavers and install beaver dam analogs (BDAs) in tributaries of the Wenatchee River basin. The reintroduction of beavers and installation of BDAs should enhance salmonid habitat by increasing habitat complexity, moderating water temperatures, augmenting stream flows, trapping fine sediments, and improving riparian and off-channel connectivity. The total cost of the project is \$279,278. The sponsor requested \$108,226 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Rock Island Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee's contribution to this project is based on the following condition:

- All money from the Rock Island Plan Species Account will be used to purchase and install BDAs. No funds from the account will be used to trap, acclimate, or relocate beavers.

### **Nason Creek RM 2.3 Side Channel Reconnection Design Project**

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Nason Creek RM 2.3 Side Channel Reconnection Design Project. The purpose of this project is to design a restoration project that will reconnect a 0.36-0.53 mile-long, high-flow channel to the mainstem on lower Nason Creek near RM 2.3. The total cost of the project is \$149,778. The sponsor requested \$23,000 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

The Committees believe this project has become too complex and expensive. The Committees supported protecting the floodplain property and reconnecting the downstream end of the side channel; however, the project has grown into a much larger effort that may not provide significant additional benefit. The Committees question whether creating a right-angle connection at the upstream end of the side channel will be sustained over the long term. Such a connection may suffer from deposition of fine sediments. If the intent is to reconnect the upstream end of the side channel, the Committees recommend that the sponsor look farther upstream for a reconnection point; one that does not connect at a right angle.

### **Thermal Refuge in the Wenatchee Basin Project**

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Thermal Refuge in the Wenatchee Basin Project. The purpose of this project is to identify locations of cold-water seeps and functioning cold-water refugia, as well as identify possible protection and restoration opportunities to increase thermal refugia within the Upper Wenatchee River, Nason Creek, Chiwawa River, and the Little Wenatchee River. This will be accomplished by conducting ground-based longitudinal profiles and spot checking cold seeps identified during 2001-2002 FLIR surveys. The total cost of the project is \$48,807. The sponsor requested \$7,321 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

As the Committees indicated in their comments to the sponsor during the draft proposal process, they believe the proposed approach may not be the best method for identifying thermal refugia. Collecting late-fall or early-winter FLIR imaging is a more practical approach to identifying and characterizing thermal refugia. Such an approach could rapidly survey the entire basin, and would readily identify groundwater inputs that summer FLIR imaging would not detect. The Committees believe that application of the proposed methodology to the entire basin will ultimately cost more, produce less reliable data, and take longer to implement and develop projects from, than a proposal based on cold-season FLIR.

### **Peshastin Irrigation District Pump Exchange Project, Preliminary Design**

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Peshastin Irrigation District Pump Exchange Project, Preliminary Design. The purpose of this project is to increase late summer flows in the lower 2.4 miles of Peshastin Creek by up to 30 cfs. This will be accomplished by designing a pump exchange facility that will deliver water from the Wenatchee River to the Peshastin Irrigation District Canal for irrigation during late summer. The total cost of the project is \$199,393. The sponsor requested \$29,909 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

As the Committees indicated in their comments to the sponsor during the draft proposal process, they want no water diverted from Peshastin Creek. They believe the most biological benefit would come from removing the irrigation diversion from Peshastin Creek and restoring normative flows to lower Peshastin Creek.

**Summary of Review of 2016 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects.**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Request from T.C.</b>	<b>T.C. Contribution<sup>2</sup></b>
Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition	CDLT	\$661,000	\$165,250	RI: \$156,250
Silver Side Channel Acquisition	MSRF	\$801,470	\$236,406	W: \$236,406
Burns-Garrity Restoration Design	CCFEG	\$177,335	\$45,550	RR: \$45,550
Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function	TU-WWP	\$279,278	\$108,226	RI: \$108,226
Nason RM 2.3 Side Channel Reconnection Design	CCNRD	\$149,778	\$23,000	\$0
Thermal Refuge in the Wenatchee Basin	CCNRD	\$48,807	\$7,321	\$0
Peshastin Irrigation Pump Exchange Preliminary Design	CCNRD	\$199,393	\$29,909	\$0
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$2,317,061</b>	<b>\$615,662</b>	<b>\$546,432</b>

<sup>1</sup> CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resource Department; CCFEG = Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CDLT = Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; MSRF = Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; and TU-WWP = Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project.

<sup>2</sup> RI = Rock Island Plan Species Account; RR = Rocky Reach Plan Species Account; W = Wells Plan Species Account.

## V. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in May, June, and July:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$96.25 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in May 2016.
- \$77.54 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in June 2016.
- \$1,252.99 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2016.
- \$95,594.73 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.
- \$1,104 to Cascadia Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for permitting nutrient enhancement in the Chiwawa River.
- \$4,379.13 to Cascadia Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the White River Floodplain Connection Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$96.25 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in May 2016.
- \$77.54 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in June 2016.
- \$1,492.29 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2016.
- \$5,489.54 to Trout Unlimited for the Clear Creek Fish Passage Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$50,475.81 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project (May invoice).
  - \$19,917.43 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project (June invoice).
  - \$400.00 to Cascade Chelan Appraisal for the appraisal on the M2 Sugar Acquisition project. This included time for responding to the review's questions.
  - \$11,687.05 to the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation for the Methow Watershed Beaver Reintroduction Project.
  - \$1,067.63 to Chelan PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2016.
2. Becky Gallaher identified a conflict in language between Section 15 (Sponsor Responsibilities) and Section 17 (Committee Review of Contractor Scope(s) of Work) in the Sponsor Agreement with the Committees. After reviewing the sections, the Committees agreed to remove Section 17 from the Sponsor Agreement.
  3. Chris Fisher said that Kari Alex with the Okanagan Nation Alliance talked with him about a field trip in Canada this fall. Chris said the proposed date for the trip is 12 and 13 October. The HCP Tributary Committees and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee will attend the tour.
  4. Becky Gallaher reported that Cordell, Neher & Company has completed their audit of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach Plan Species Accounts. The accountants are currently conducting QA/QC. Once that is complete, the Committees will receive a report from the accountant.

## **VI. Next Steps**

If necessary, the next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 11 August 2016 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee.

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