



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 16 July 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, 16 July 2019 from 9:00 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

Tributary Committees members reviewed and approved the 8 May 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 completed Phase 1 piping on 10 June. This allowed Barkley/MVID to start running irrigation to their shareholders. The easements with the DOT/FAA and adjacent property owners along the Barkley and MVID pipe alignment continue to move slowly.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they are waiting on federal permits and are planning on a late summer/early fall bid walk. They also continue to work closely with WDFW and are also working through the funding process for the City of Leavenworth fish screen.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – This project is complete. The sponsor (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; WDFW) will provide the next annual report on 31 December 2019.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they continue to wait on the USFS internal processes for moving forward with Roaring Creek and Potato Creek BDA installation in 2019 or 2020.
- Methow Basin Barrier Diversion Assessment Project – The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) did not provide an update this month.

- Derby Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported that because of a delay in final design development, it will be too late to have the concrete box culvert manufactured this year. Therefore, they requested a time extension to 15 December 2020 (see discussion below).
- Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported they are preparing for the field season.
- Monitor Side Channel Design Project – The sponsor (Chelan County Natural Resources Department; CCNRD) reported they conducted a site tour with WDFW and WDOT to secure early feedback on project plan and preliminary designs.
- Peshastin Creek Environmental Site Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported that their consultant is working on the draft report.
- Entiat Fish Passage and Barrier Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) reported they are preparing for the field season.
- Twisp River Floodplain Left Bank Spring-fed Alcove Restoration Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported permits have been secured with WDFW and Okanogan County. They expect permits from the Corps of Engineers and Ecology soon. They currently have a landowner agreement with one of the three landowners. Construction is scheduled to start 12 July.
- Johnson Creek Habitat Restoration Project – The sponsor (TU) did not provide an update this month.
- Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Project – The sponsor (CCNRD) reported construction will occur during fall 2020.
- Upper Kahler Stream and Floodplain Project – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement has been executed.
- Stormy Area “A: Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement has been executed.
- Napeequa Side Channel Connection Project – The Tributary Committee/Sponsor Agreement is ready for signature.

IV. Budget Amendment Request

Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage Project

In June, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage Project. Because of unforeseen changes in the project, the sponsor requested an additional \$32,196 from the Committee. The Committee originally approved \$65,000 for the project. With the budget amendment, the total request from the Rock Island Tributary Committee will be \$97,196. In June, the Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the budget amendment.

V. Time Extension Request

Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage Project

In July, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage Project. Because of a delay in completing final designs, the sponsor requested a time extension from 1 December 2019 to 1 December 2020. After careful consideration, the Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the time extension.

VI. General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Applications

The Committees received 12 General Salmon Habitat Program proposals that were cost shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). In addition, they received an application from WDFW 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.

Becky Gallaher provided the Committees with the unallocated balances within each Plan Species Account. The Wells Account has \$1,813,698, the Rocky Reach Account has \$2,270,634, and the Rock Island Account has \$6,389,534. In sum, among the three accounts, there is \$10,473,866 available to fund projects.

Nason and Kahler Creek Confluence Acquisition Project

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is the sponsor of the Nason and Kahler Creek Confluence Acquisition Project. The purpose of this project is to purchase and protect 80 acres of riparian/floodplain habitat along lower Kahler Creek, a tributary to Nason Creek. The total cost of the acquisition was \$369,150. The sponsor requested \$231,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. Although the Committees found the project worthy of funding, they withdrew the application because the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Habitat Subcommittee elected to fund this project.

Restore Lower Chiwaukum Creek – Phase I Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Restore Lower Chiwaukum Creek – Phase I Project. The purpose of the project is to evaluate the geomorphology and fish habitat within the lower one mile of Chiwaukum Creek, and create effective enhancement designs. Chiwaukum Creek is a tributary to the Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project was \$116,256. The sponsor requested \$55,098 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$55,098 to the project*. As part of funding for this project, the Committee requires that they review and approve restoration scenarios and designs.

Monitor Side Channel Construction Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Monitor Side Channel Construction Project. The purpose of the project is to construct large wood structures and boulder clusters within the Monitor Side Channel and enhance riparian habitat along the side channel, which is located within the lower Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project was \$296,530. The sponsor requested \$148,265 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$148,265 to the project*.

Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel Project. The purpose of the project is to design a 1,200-foot long side channel along Peshastin Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project was \$99,010. The sponsor requested \$19,802 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$19,802 to the project*.

IPID Full Season Pumping Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the IPID Full Season Pumping Project. The purpose of the project is to design a full-season, pressurized, pumpback system for the Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts. This system will allow for the decommissioning of the Peshastin Irrigation

Diversion. The total cost of the project was \$135,000. The sponsor requested \$67,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees understand there is about \$120,000 remaining in the Peshastin Irrigation District Pump Exchange Preliminary Design Project. Because of landowner issues associated with that project, and the clear overlap in project scope with the proposed project, the Committees recommend that the sponsor work with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on changing the scope of the Peshastin Irrigation District Pump Exchange Preliminary Design Project and amend its budget to include the proposed work. The Committees would review a revised proposal if the resulting budget amendment is inadequate to complete the Peshastin Irrigation District Full-Season Pumpback Project.

Nason Ridge Acquisition Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Nason Ridge Acquisition Project. The purpose of the project is to protect 3,714 acres of riparian, floodplain, and upland habitat within the Nason Creek watershed. In sum, the acquisition will protect 506 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat along lower Nason Creek. The acquisition will also allow upland restoration actions that will reduce fine sediment recruitment to Nason Creek. The total cost of the project was \$5,500,000. The sponsor requested \$500,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$500,000 to the project*. This funding is contingent on the Committee's review and approval of the draft management plan. At a minimum, it is important to the Committee that the road density be reduced to at least 2 miles per square mile. This will directly benefit Plan Species within the project area.

Wenatchee EDT Model Development Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Wenatchee EDT Model Development Project. The purpose of the project is to build a model-based synthesis platform for monitoring data to support habitat status and trends reporting and restoration planning. The tool will help identify and prioritize enhancement actions, develop conceptual designs, and evaluate biological benefits and feasibility. The total cost of the project was \$318,000. The sponsor requested \$48,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees understand that the Upper Columbia Regional Technical Team is developing a prioritization tool for the Wenatchee sub-basin. The Committees 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 the prioritization tool works, there may be no need for a second prioritization tool, such as EDT. In addition, 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 sub-basin. This was the expressed opinion of the Committees regarding the 2018 application, and given the remaining uncertainty around the suitability of the Methow EDT, the Committees' decision is unchanged.

Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project

Trout Unlimited is the sponsor of the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project. The purpose of the project is to conserve up to 15 cfs of water in the lower Wenatchee River by developing a pressurized irrigation system. The system will also eliminate the return of warm irrigation water that is contaminated with agricultural chemicals. The total cost of the project was \$2,500,000. The sponsor requested \$250,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$250,000 to the project*.

Upper Burns and Angle Point Areas Habitat Enhancement Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Upper Burns and Angle Point Areas Habitat Enhancement Project. The purpose of the project is to reconnect relic side channels and install large wood structures within the mainstem Entiat River. The total cost of the project was \$1,070,500. The sponsor requested \$189,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The *Rock Island Tributary Committee elected to contribute \$189,000 to the project.*

Golden Doe Large Wood Project

The Yakama Nation is the sponsor of the Golden Doe Large Wood Project. The purpose of the project is to recreate large, bar-apex wood structures in a wide anabranching segment of the Methow River between Twisp and Carlton. The total cost of the project was \$1,004,590. The sponsor requested \$200,270 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project.

The Committees believe the proposed enhancement site is located in a very dynamic reach, which means there is considerable uncertainty as to how the river will respond to the proposed structures and whether the structures will provide habitat for HCP Plan Species for a long enough period of time to warrant the substantial investment. Given these uncertainties, the Committees believe a lighter, less expensive approach, which includes the use of a few apex jams and pilings, would be best suited for this site.

Upper Methow Restoration Assessment and Design Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Upper Methow Restoration Assessment and Design Project. The purpose of the project is to develop restoration designs and a protection strategy for the Upper Methow River. The sponsor will compile available data, identify and fill data gaps, initiate stakeholder outreach, and develop enhancement concepts and a protection strategy. The total cost of the project was \$80,200. The sponsor requested \$35,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project because they are not interested in funding additional assessment work. However, they would review applications for preliminary and final enhancement designs.

Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment Project. The purpose of the project is to conduct a comprehensive fish passage barrier assessment throughout the Okanogan River sub-basin, including areas upstream from anadromy. The total cost of the project was \$193,826. The sponsor requested \$22,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project because they believe barriers within the anadromous zone are already known. In addition, they see relatively little value in assessing barriers outside the anadromous zone because there is a low likelihood those barriers will be addressed anytime soon. Finally, barriers above the anadromous zone are also outside the zone for Plan Species, and thus ineligible for Tributary Committees funding.

2019 Eightmile Creek Fisheries Assessment Project

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is the sponsor of the 2019 Eightmile Creek Fisheries Assessment Project. This project did not have a SRFB cost share. The purpose of the project is to identify fish abundance, stream flows, and water temperatures to guide permitting and selecting a brook trout removal strategy for Eightmile Creek, a tributary to the Chewuch River. The total cost of the project was \$130,183. The sponsor requested \$125,183 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees were unable to make a funding decision at this time. This is primarily because the fish passage barrier is scheduled to be removed in 2020 and therefore there is no need for an assessment or development of a brook trout management plan. The Committees believe the sponsor should focus on removing as many brook trout as they can before passage is provided. As such, the Committees recommended the following:

- Propose a multiple-pass electrofishing effort to remove as many brook trout as possible before they spawn this fall. An additional removal effort could also occur next summer before barrier removal. Under this approach, there is no need for block nets because the entire length of stream is fished on more than one occasion within a short period of time (see Thompson and Rahel (1996) and Buktenica et al. (2013), which were provided to the sponsor earlier).
- Remove genetic sampling as there is no need for it given that passage will be provided and, because a rotenone treatment is not necessary (given electrofishing removal efforts), there is also no need to identify or quantify bull trout losses that would occur with piscicide application. The Committees appreciate the desire to better understand the genetics of bull trout and brook trout; however, neither are Plan Species, and as a result, Plan Species Account Funds cannot be used to fund this effort.
- Please remove any costs associated with renting electrofishing gear. The Committees understand that WDFW has electrofishing gear available for the work and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) have indicated they are willing to let the sponsor use their electrofishing gear if necessary.
- The Committees recommend that you discuss this project with both Jeremy Cram (WDFW) and Chris Fisher (CCT). Chris Fisher indicated that he may be able to provide technicians and gear if necessary.

Summary of Review of 2019 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects

Project Name	Sponsor¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution²
Nason and Kahler Creek Confluence Acquisition	CDLT	\$369,150	\$184,575	\$0
Restore Lower Chiwaukum Creek – Phase 1	CCFEG	\$116,256	\$55,098	RI: \$55,098
Monitor Side Channel Construction	CCNRD	\$296,530	\$148,265	RI: \$148,265
Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel	CCNRD	\$99,010	\$19,802	RI: \$19,802
IPID Full Season Pumping Project	CCNRD	\$135,000	\$67,500	\$0
Nason Ridge Acquisition	CCNRD	\$5,500,000	\$500,000	RI: \$500,000
Wenatchee EDT Model Development	CCNRD	\$318,000	\$48,000	\$0
Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement	TU	\$2,500,000	\$250,000	RI: \$250,000
Upper Burns & Angle Point Areas Enhancement	YN	\$1,070,500	\$189,000	RI: \$189,000
Golden Doe Large Wood Project	YN	\$1,004,590	\$200,270	\$0
Upper Methow Restoration Assessment and Design	CCFEG	\$80,200	\$35,500	\$0
Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment	CCFEG	\$193,826	\$22,000	\$0
2019 Eightmile Creek Fisheries Assessment	WDFW	\$130,183	\$125,183	No decision
Total:		\$11,813,245	\$1,845,193	\$1,162,165

¹ CCFEG = Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resources Department, CDLT = Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, TU = Trout Unlimited, WDFW = Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and YN = Yakama Nation.

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

VII. HCP Policy Committees Guidance

Tracy Hillman shared with the HCP Tributary Committees the guidance that was provided by the HCP Policy Committees. Specific to the HCP Tributary Committees:

- The Tribal Councils of the Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes will meet to discuss a third-party owner (e.g., WDFW) for the Scaffold Camp #2 Acquisition Project in the Twisp River watershed. Brandon Rogers reported that the Yakama Nation already purchased the property. Therefore, there is no need for the Policy Committees to address the Scaffold Camp #2 Acquisition Project.
- The Tribal Councils will also provide guidance on landownership. PUD staff and other signatories will likely be asked to describe the meaning and intent of the HCPs to the Councils.
- The Tributary Committees will evaluate all project applications based on biological and technical merits, feasibility, durability, and cost-effectiveness. All policy-level issues will be evaluated by the HCP Policy Committees. In addition, technical members can abstain from voting on a decision item that has policy-level implications.

VIII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

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

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$127.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in April and May 2019.
- \$75.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in June 2019.
- \$602.48 to Chelan PUD for Rock Island project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2019.
- \$259.61 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Derby Creek Fish Passage Project for work in May.
- \$1,509.66 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Derby Creek Fish Passage Project for work in June.
- \$395.16 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project for work in May.
- \$680.03 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Chiwawa Nutrient Enhancement Project for work in June.
- \$1,195.56 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Monitor Side Channel Design Project for work in May.
- \$3,701.08 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Monitor Side Channel Design Project for work in June.
- \$808.13 to Trout Unlimited for the Beaver Fever: Restoring Ecosystem Function Project.
- \$15,492.41 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Improvement Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$127.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in April and May 2019.
- \$75.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in June 2019.
- \$571.23 to Chelan PUD for Rocky Reach project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2019.
- \$200.20 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Channel Reconnection – Site Assessment Project for work in May.
- \$2,577.50 to Chelan County Treasurer for the Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Channel Reconnection – Site Assessment Project for work in June.
- \$1,220.68 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment Project for work in May.
- \$1,380.50 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment Project for work in June.

Wells Species Account:

- \$319.06 to Chelan PUD for Wells project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2019.
2. Tracy Hillman reported that he received a request from the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board asking if the Tributary Committees would be interested in helping sponsor the 2020 Science Conference, which will be on 23-24 January 2020 in Wenatchee. The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Tributary Committees each agreed to donate \$1,000.00 to the Conference. Funding will come from administrative expenses (not to exceed \$80,000 per year per account) under the Plan Species Accounts. This level of sponsorship identifies each of the Committees as a “Gold Sponsor.”
 3. Tracy Hillman reminded the Committees that there will be a Peshastin Pumpback Project meeting on 23 July from 10:00 am to noon at the IPID office at 5594 Wescott Dr. in Cashmere. Members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

IX. Next Steps

The next scheduled meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 8 August at Grant PUD in Wenatchee.

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