



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 13 July 2017

Members Present: Lee Carlson (Yakama Nation)¹, Jeremy Cram (WDFW), Chris Fisher (Colville Tribes), Steve Hays (Chelan PUD), Tom Kahler (Douglas PUD), Kate Terrell (USFWS), 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 Thursday, 13 July 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:15 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 8 June 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) reported that they are completing the final punch list items. They are also working with MVID and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) on a drainage issue near Wright Road, east of Twisp. Fires upslope from the pipeline have increased surface runoff in a small canyon. The ditch that used to capture the water is now a buried pipe. BOR is working on a conceptual design and cost analysis for piping the surface-water runoff to the Methow River.
- Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they are preparing bid and contract documents for the construction bid package. They are currently planning construction in late summer or early fall. They also started planning for diversion dam removal, which will occur 1-2 years after the new water system is installed.
- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they have an executed agreement with MVID and have finalized the pump site location. With both MVID and Barkley agreements signed, they now need to secure the relationship agreement between the two parties. The sponsor started working on the headworks design and held several meetings with Barkley

¹ Lee joined via phone.

Irrigation Company and MVID to review engineer alternatives. The sponsor is still working on changing the water rights from Barkley to MVID's diversion.

- Similkameen RM 3.8 Project – The sponsor (Okanogan Conservation District; OCD) and the Colville Tribes reported that BPA reviewed the updated plan and decided not to support the project. The sponsor is working on next steps.
- White River Floodplain (RM 3.4) Connection Project – The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) did not provide a project update.
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they are working on the JARPA permit for geotech explorations. They intend to file permits for the project this fall in anticipation for fall 2018 construction.
- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – The sponsor (WDFW) will submit the second-year monitoring report on 31 December 2017.
- Permitting Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide a project update; however, they did provide a draft Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), which is being reviewed by Ecology. The sponsor expects a permit (Administrative Order) from Ecology soon.
- Burns-Garrity Design Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide a project update.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they continue project planning and due diligence. The focus has been on permitting, project task sequencing, and consideration of preliminary designs.
- Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project – The sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) did not provide a project update.

IV. Budget Amendments

White River Floodplain Connection (RM 3.4) Project

In June, the Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the *White River Floodplain Connection (RM 3.4) Project*. The sponsor asked to take all the available funds in “Excavation and Heavy Equipment” (\$5,000) and “Project Materials and Equipment” (\$500) and move those into “Salaries and Benefits,” “Overhead and Administration,” and “Permit Fees.” According to the request, this amendment would leave no money for excavation and haul. The Committee questioned how the project will be completed if there is no money available to conduct excavation and heavy equipment work. As a result, the Rock Island Tributary Committee denied the request until the sponsor can describe how the project will be completed without excavation and haul.

Following the meeting, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group provided additional information on the budget amendment. The sponsor noted that they have adequate funding through other sources to complete all excavation and construction work and will not need additional funds to complete the project. Given that, the *Rock Island 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 if they could use \$10,000 under Construction and Permitting to purchase a hydraulic post driver. The driver would be used to install BDAs. This would eliminate the need to rent the equipment and could be used on other projects. After discussion, *the Rock Island Committee denied the budget amendment*. This is because any equipment purchased by a project sponsor with Plan Species Account funds becomes the property of the Committee.

The Committee is not set up to deal with equipment storage, maintenance, management, and liability, and they do not want to be in a position of lending expensive equipment to project sponsors. Thus, they do not want project sponsors purchasing equipment with Plan Species Account funds.

V. Time Extension

Permitting Nutrient Enhancement in the Chiwawa

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group on the *Permitting Nutrient Enhancement in the Chiwawa*. Because of ongoing discussions with the Forest Service, USFWS, and Ecology, the sponsor asked to extend the period of the contract from 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2018. After discussion, ***the Rock Island Committee agreed to the one-year extension.***

VI. Small Projects Program Application

Poison Canyon Restoration Project

In June, the Committees reviewed a Small Projects Program application from Chelan County Natural Resources Department titled, *Poison Canyon Restoration*. The purpose of the project was to aggrade incised reaches within Poison Canyon, a tributary to Sand Creek, which is a tributary to Mission Creek, by installing about 20 wood jams using onsite wood and hand tools. Aggrading the channel should improve instream flows and water quality in Mission Creek. The total cost of the project was \$73,330. The sponsor requested \$38,160 from HCP Tributary Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund the project because the project was overly engineered and too expensive. The Committees also found no need for game cameras or piezometers. The Committees noted if the sponsor addresses these concerns, the sponsor is welcome to submit a revised proposal for the Committees' consideration.

Chelan County Natural Resources Department resubmitted the Small Projects Program application, which addressed the Committees' concerns. The proposed project will still construct 20 wood structures to aggrade incised reaches within Poison Canyon, but the project will use a less engineered approach and include onsite wood/brush and hand tools. The total cost of the project is \$37,918. The sponsor requested \$21,600 from HCP Tributary Funds. ***The Rock Island Committee approved funding for this project.*** The Committee appreciated the sponsor's responses to questions and complemented the sponsor on their diligence and desire to implement a cost-effective project.

Cottonwood Bridge Removal Project

The Committees reviewed a Small Projects Program application from Chelan-Douglas Land Trust titled, *Cottonwood Bridge Removal Project*. The purpose of the project is to remove the steel and creosoted railroad ties that make up the Cottonwood Bridge on the Entiat River. Once the bridge is removed, the sponsor can remove the associated road and begin floodplain enhancement on the Cottonwood property. The total cost of the project is \$95,000. The sponsor requested \$21,000 from HCP Tributary Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund the project because the project did not include the removal of the bridge abutments. The Committees recommended that the sponsor resubmit a larger project that includes the removal of the abutments. The project could be a phased approach if the sponsor includes a timeline showing when each phase of the project will be completed.

Following the meeting, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust provided the following response to the Committees' comments. "*The reason the abutments are not being removed at the same time as the railroad ties and steel is due to 3 interrelated reasons: (1) due to the deterioration of the bridge, it is essential to remove it this summer, before additional high water, ice, freezing and thawing that would result in complete failure, (2) abutment removal would involve in-water work requiring additional permitting and (3) the abutments will be removed as part of a larger project, probably in 2020, to remove the fill for the bridge approaches on both sides, fill added for "streets" within the Cottonwood property, and enhancement of side channels*

through Cottonwood – all of which will involve the appropriate time, equipment and permitting. These factors all led to the conclusion that the goal for this work season should be limited to removal of the ties and steel, and “pulling back” the abutment so that it does not come apart in the river.” After evaluating the response, *the Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*

VII. General Salmon Habitat Program Proposals

The Committees received four General Salmon Habitat Program proposals. Before reviewing the proposals and consistent with the Committees’ Operating Procedures, members of the Committees identified potential conflicts of interest. Kate Terrell recused herself from voting on the *Piscine Passage Design for Brush and Minnow Creeks Project.*

M2 WDFW Flow Connection Project

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the M2 WDFW Flow Connection Project. The purpose of this project is to reconnect 3.7 acres of floodplain habitat and wetlands by removing a flood levee located at RM 46.8 on the Methow River. The total cost of the project is \$78,828. The sponsor requested \$11,824 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Wells Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee noticed in the proposal that the sponsor expects the side channel to connect at flows above 6,000 cfs; however, Figure 1 in the proposal indicates that the channel will be connected at flows near 8,000 cfs. The Committee prefers the channel to connect at flows closer to 6,000 cfs.

M2 Mid-Sugar Acquisition Project

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the M2 Mid-Sugar Acquisition Project. The purpose of this project is to acquire 17.3 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat including about 1,300 feet of stream bank and 550 feet of side channel near RM 42.2 on the Methow River. The acquisition will allow for future restoration actions including side channel and floodplain reconnection and riparian enhancement. The total cost of the project is \$291,268. The sponsor requested \$43,690 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Wells Committee approved funding for this project.*

Piscine Passage Design for Brush and Minnow Creeks Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Piscine Passage Design for Brush and Minnow Creeks Project. The purpose of this project is to produce designs and submit permits for projects that will restore fish passage and connectivity within Minnow and Brush creeks, tributaries to the Chiwawa River. The total cost of the project is \$162,500. The sponsor requested \$52,500 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

The Committees are not interested in the Brush Creek project, because of the low biological benefit associated with it. On the other hand, the Committees see more value in restoring connectivity on Minnow Creek. Given the level of funding available from the USFWS and the possibility of receiving funding from SRFB, the Committees believe the project will receive adequate funding without the need for Plan Species Account funds. In the event the Minnow Creek project does not receive adequate funding, the sponsor can resubmit an application to the Committees. The resubmittal must include the status of the roads in Minnow Creek.

Methow Basin Barrier and Diversion Assessment Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Methow Basin Barrier and Diversion Assessment Project. The purpose of this project is to complete a comprehensive and standardized fish barrier and diversion inventory in the Methow River basin and to prioritize barrier sites for restoration. The total cost of the project is \$206,650. The sponsor requested \$40,000 from HCP Tributary Funds. *The Wells Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee understands that the sponsor will use a combination of prioritization methods developed by WDFW and the RTT. As a requirement of the Committee’s funding contribution to this project, the Committee will need to review and approve the “final” approach used to prioritize fish passage barriers.

Summary of Review of 2017 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects.

Project Name	Sponsor ¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution ²
M2 WDFW Flow Connection	MSRF	\$78,828	\$11,824	W: \$11,824
M2 Mid-Sugar Acquisition	MSRF	\$291,268	\$43,690	W: \$43,690
Piscine Passage Design for Brush and Minnow Creeks	CCFEG	\$162,500	\$52,500	\$0
Methow Basin Barrier and Diversion Assessment	CCFEG	\$206,650	\$40,000	W: \$40,000
Total:		\$739,246	\$148,014	\$95,514

¹ CCFEG = Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; MSRF = Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation.

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

VIII. Information Updates

The following information updates were provided during the meeting.

1. Approved Payment Requests in June and July:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$47.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in June 2017.
- \$855.94 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the first and second quarters of 2017.
- \$11,487.26 to Trout Unlimited for the MVID Instream Flow Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$47.50 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in June 2017.
- \$911.16 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the first and second quarters of 2017.
- \$3,442.78 to Trout Unlimited for work on the Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Enhancement Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$661.84 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2017.

2. Tracy Hillman said the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) will be in Wenatchee on 19-21 July for presentations and site visits as part of their evaluation of Upper Columbia Spring Chinook. The Council has prepared a draft agenda for the ISAB visit.
3. Tracy Hillman and Becky Gallaher shared the updated logos for the Tributary Committees. The Committees approved the following logo:



4. Becky Gallaher reported that she received a request from Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group asking the Wells Tributary Committee if CCFEG could use the Committee's piezometers for an assessment project in the Methow River basin. The Wells Committee approved the request, but asked that the sponsor let the Committee know how long they need the piezometers, where exactly they will use them, and for what project. Kate Terrell said she will provide Becky with a release form that is used by the USFWS when they lend equipment to project sponsors.
5. Tracy Hillman asked the Committees if they have decided on which completed project they would like to visit in 2017. Given schedules and interest, it is unlikely members will have time to visit completed projects in 2017. Chris Fisher said by August he will have information on the annual tour of projects in Canada.

IX. Next Steps

If necessary, the next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 10 August 2017 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee.

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