



Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Tributary Committees Notes 12 July 2018

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 Thursday, 12 July 2018 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 following additions:

- Review email from Chelan County on the Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Reconnection Project.
- Review email from WDFW on Icicle Creek Screening Projects.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Committees reviewed and approved the 23 May 2018 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.

- Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Project – The sponsor (Trout Unlimited; TU) reported that the new water line connecting the well with the existing storage tank and distribution system is complete and passed the pressure test. The new water treatment building is nearing completion.
- Barkley Irrigation – Under Pressure Project – The sponsor (TU) continues to work on the final design review. They are also working on private landowner easements. With financial help from the Colville Confederated Tribes, they were able to purchase pipe for the project (cost of pipe was about \$2 million).
- Icicle Boulder Field Project – The sponsor (TU) will soon submit draft permits to the regulatory agencies. They received feedback from the City of Leavenworth on the passage project and are waiting to hear from the Icicle Peshastin Irrigation District.

- Peshastin Creek RM 10.5 PIT-Tag Detection Site Project – By 31 December 2018, the sponsor (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; WDFW) will submit the third-year monitoring report on work conducted in 2018.
- Permitting Nutrient Enhancement Project – The sponsor (Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCFEG) reported that the issues raised by the USFWS and USFS have mostly been resolved. It also appears they will receive about 40,000 pounds of nutrient analogs for free. Thus, they would like to begin treating the Chiwawa River this year. To that end, they asked the Rock Island Tributary Committee if they need to submit a scope and budget change for the project, or submit a new proposal. Recall that the Rock Island Tributary Committee approved the implementation of the project in 2013, but the contract was never signed because the sponsor did not have a cost share. Given the long time period since the approval of the original project, the Committee said the sponsor will need to submit a new proposal for implementing the project.
- Burns-Garrity Design Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide an update on this project.
- Beaver Fever Project – The sponsor (TU) reported they are making progress on installing beaver dam analogs (BDAs) in Derby Creek. After several site visits to collect data and photos, they met with the landowner, who supports the installation of BDAs in 5-7 locations on his property. The sponsor is also working with the Forest Service on installing BDAs in Potato Creek. Installation will likely occur in 2019. The sponsor still needs to address NEPA issues.
- Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project – The sponsor (Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; CDLT) reported there is no new activity on this project. However, they did request a budget increase of about \$131,000, which will cover the increased value of the acquisition, required building demolition, and stewardship (see budget amendment and time extension request below).
- M2 Mid-Sugar Acquisition Project – The sponsor (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation; MSRF) reported that the Purchase and Sale Agreement was delivered to the landowner for review.
- Methow Basin Barrier Diversion Assessment Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide an update on this project.
- Derby Creek Fish Passage Project – The sponsor (CCFEG) did not provide an update on this project.

IV. Budget Amendment and Time Extension

Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project

The Rock Island Tributary Committee received a budget amendment and time extension request from CDLT on the Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project. Because of increased land value and other incidental changes (required demolition of existing buildings), the sponsor requested a budget increase of \$65,560, which includes \$10,000 for stewardship. Thus, the total contribution from the Rock Island Plan Species Account Fund would increase from \$156,250 to \$221,810. The sponsor also asked the Committee to extend the completion date from 30 June 2019 to 30 November 2019.

After review and discussion, the Committee agreed to contribute an additional \$55,560 to the acquisition project. The Committee elected not to contribute \$10,000 for stewardship. They believe the landowner should cover that cost. Thus, the approved budget amendment increases the total contribution from the Committee to \$211,810. The Committee also approved the time extension request. The approved completion date for the project is 30 November 2019.

V. General Salmon Habitat Program Proposals

The Committees received 11 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. No members identified conflicts of interest.

Burns-Garrity Perennial Side-Channel Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Burns-Garrity Perennial Side-Channel Project. The purpose of this project is to construct a half-mile, perennial, side channel on private property (with conservation easement) and WDFW property located at RM 3.2 on the Chewuch River. This project will create year-round, off-channel, rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and other native fish. The total cost of the project is \$735,000. The sponsor requested \$316,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Wells Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee believes the cost of \$97,000 for vegetation planting is excessive. They asked the sponsor to consider seeding the area with herbaceous vegetation (native seed mix) immediately after the project is completed to minimize the establishment of noxious weeds and surface erosion. They also recommended that the sponsor delay planting of riparian woody vegetation at least one growing season after the project is complete. The Committee believes that most native woody vegetation will respond aggressively post-ground disturbance and may save the project a considerable amount of money.

Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Entiat River (RM 17.65) Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Entiat River Project. The purpose of this project is to complete final designs and permitting, and reconnect six acres of floodplain habitat and side channels near RM 17.7 on the Entiat River. This project will increase seasonal, high-flow rearing and refugia habitat for juvenile Chinook and steelhead and increase alcove habitat during low flows. The total cost of the project is \$600,598. The sponsor requested \$90,090 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee recommended that the sponsor maximize the inlet connection, include a perennial connection at the outlet, and remove the road fill and let the stream cut its own channels through the floodplain. As part of funding for this project, the Committee requires that they have an opportunity to review the 80% design.

Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment Project. The purpose of the project is to conduct a comprehensive fish passage and screening assessment throughout the Entiat Subbasin. The total cost of the project is \$76,142. The sponsor requested \$25,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Rocky Reach Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.* The Committee noted that funds from the Plan Species Account can only be used to assess barriers within the distribution of Plan Species.

Goodwin Side Channel Design Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Goodwin Side Channel Design Project. The purpose of this project is to collect data, work through feasibility, and produce a preliminary design for an upstream connection to an existing 1,200-foot side channel at RM 12 on the Wenatchee River. The total cost of the project is \$102,500. The sponsor requested \$45,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

Although the Committees generally support floodplain reconnection projects, they believe this project is too expensive and they are concerned that the resulting project may reduce or destroy existing riparian habitat, which is currently functioning properly.

Lower Entiat Tributaries – Aquatic Habitat Assessments Project

Cascadia Conservation District is the sponsor of the Lower Entiat Tributaries – Aquatic Habitat Assessments Project. The purpose of the project is to work with the Forest Service on conducting assessments in the Mad River and Roaring Creek within the Entiat Subbasin. This work will help identify enhancement and protection projects within the two streams. The total cost of the project is \$211,010. The sponsor requested \$45,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

The Committees believe there are few opportunities to significantly improve habitat conditions and biological benefit within the two streams. The Forest Service road system is likely the factor most affecting habitat conditions within the Mad River. Stream flows and possible fish passage barriers are or have been addressed in Roaring Creek.

Merritt Oxbow Design Project

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group is the sponsor of the Merritt Oxbow Design Project. The purpose of this project is to collect data, work through feasibility, and produce a preliminary design to improve connectivity of two oxbows located at RM 10.4 on Nason Creek. The total cost of the project is \$110,500. The sponsor requested \$30,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

Although the Committees generally support floodplain reconnection projects, they questioned the certainty of success and longevity of this project. They were also concerned that the outlet of the proposed project may not be connected at low flows because of the actively aggrading bar near the outlet of the side channel.

Methow Beaver Project – Beaver and Anadromy

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Methow Beaver Project – Beaver and Anadromy. The purpose of the project is to use beavers to help enhance salmonid habitat within the anadromous zone in the Methow River basin. Nuisance beavers will be captured and relocated to areas where they can improve habitat conditions. Beaver dam analogs will be installed at release locations to increase certainty of success. The total cost of the project is \$499,576. The sponsor requested \$180,574 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

The Committees believe the project is too expensive and the Plan Species Account Funds would go primarily to fund program capacity, without much certainty regarding biological benefit. At this time, the Committees are not interested in funding the existence of beaver restoration programs.

Methow Watershed Riparian Stewardship Program II Project

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Methow Watershed Riparian Stewardship Program II Project. The purpose of the project is to provide additional maintenance to riparian restoration sites within the Methow Subbasin. The goal is to increase riparian plant survival from 60% to 80%. The total cost of the project is \$116,721. The sponsor requested \$19,373 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

The Committees were unable to determine the cost effectiveness of this project because the application lacked information on the size of the proposed action, including existing site characteristics and conditions, and the suite of enhancement actions that had been implemented at those locations.

Monitor Side Channel Design and Construction Project

Chelan County Natural Resources Department is the sponsor of the Monitor Side Channel Design and Construction Project. The purpose of the project is to design, permit, and install 5-6 engineered log jams in the Monitor side channel located at RM 6 on the Wenatchee River. This work will provide additional juvenile salmonid rearing habitat at lower flows. The total cost of the project is \$294,000. The sponsor

requested \$44,100 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Rock Island Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*

The Committee indicated that funds from the Plan Species Account can only be used to prepare designs. The Committee believes the side channel would benefit from adding complexity and narrowing and deepening the channel; however, they are not convinced the proposed level of effort will successfully narrow and deepen the channel. Therefore, they recommend that the sponsor increase the number of elements necessary to narrow and deepen the channel without over-engineering the project. As part of funding for this project, the Committee requires that they have an opportunity to review the designs.

Twisp River Floodplain Left Bank Spring-fed Alcove Restoration Project

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Twisp River Floodplain Left Bank Spring-fed Alcove Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is to enhance water quality in a spring-fed alcove by establishing fencing to exclude livestock grazing, provide off-channel watering equipment, replace two undersized road culverts, and restore riparian vegetation to address existing noxious weeds on the sites. The project is located at RM 4.1 on the Twisp River. The total cost of the project is \$42,348. The sponsor requested \$17,779 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Wells Tributary Committee approved funding for this project.*

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 ecological monitoring data to support habitat status and trends reporting and aid restoration planning and prioritization. The total cost of the project is \$273,000. The sponsor requested \$92,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. *The Tributary Committees elected not to fund this project.*

Before funding additional model work in the Wenatchee River basin, the Committees would like to see how successful EDT is in identifying and guiding restoration work in the Methow Subbasin. The Committees acknowledge that EDT has been used successfully in the Okanogan Subbasin; however, practitioners collected monitoring data specifically for EDT there. Such data have not been collected in the Methow Subbasin and the Committees would like to see if EDT performs in the Methow as well as it does in the Okanogan Subbasin.

Summary of Review of 2018 General Salmon Habitat Program Projects

Project Name	Sponsor¹	Total Cost	Request from T.C.	T.C. Contribution²
Burns Garrity Perennial Side Channel	CCFEG	\$735,000	\$316,000	W: \$316,000
Cottonwood Flats Floodplain Restoration Entiat River	CCNRD	\$600,598	\$90,090	RR: \$90,090
Entiat Basin Fish Passage and Screening Assessment	CCFEG	\$76,142	\$25,500	RR: \$25,500
Goodwin Side Channel	CCFEG	\$120,500	\$45,000	\$0
Lower Entiat Tributaries Aquatic Habitat Assessment	CCD	\$211,010	\$45,000	\$0
Merritt Oxbow	CCFEG	\$110,500	\$30,000	\$0
Methow Beaver Project – Beavers and Anadromy	MSRF	\$499,576	\$180,574	\$0
Methow Watershed Riparian Stewardship Program II	MSRF	\$116,721	\$19,373	\$0
Monitor Side Channel Design and Construction	CCNRD	\$294,000	\$44,100	RI: \$44,100
Twisp River Floodplain Spring-fed Alcove Restoration	MSRF	\$42,348	\$17,779	W: \$17,779
Wenatchee EDT Model Development	CCNRD	\$273,000	\$92,500	\$0
Total:		\$3,079,395	\$905,916	\$493,469

¹ CCD = Cascadia Conservation District; CCFEG = Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group; CCNRD = Chelan County Natural Resources Department; MSRF = Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation.

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 June and July:

Rock Island Plan Species Account:

- \$120.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in May 2018.
- \$110.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rock Island financial administration in June 2018.
- \$521.24 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2018.
- \$900.00 to Walters Appraisal Service for the appraisal of the Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition Project.
- \$1,049.68 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Derby Creek Fish Passage Project.
- \$1,512.92 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for the Beaver Fever – Restoring Ecosystem Function Project.

Rocky Reach Plan Species Account:

- \$120.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in May 2018.
- \$110.00 to Clifton Larson Allen for Rocky Reach financial administration in June 2018.
- \$434.07 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2018.
- \$12,698.01 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Burns-Garrity Restoration Design Project.
- \$91,692.41 to Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project for the Clear Creek Fish Passage and Instream Flow Enhancement Project.

Wells Plan Species Account:

- \$289.11 to Chelan County PUD for project coordination and administration during the second quarter of 2018.
- \$43,690.00 to Inland Professional Title for the M2-Mid Sugar Acquisition Project.
- \$2,023.99 to Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group for the Methow Basin Barrier and Diversion Assessment Project.

2. Tracy Hillman shared with the Committees an email he received from Jennifer Hadersberger (CCNRD) regarding the Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 (Blewett Rock and Gravel) project. As a bit of background, several years ago, CCNRD secured funds from the SRFB to design a channel

reconnection project near RM 8.8 on Peshastin Creek. The conceptual design was completed and proposed a full reconnection of Peshastin Creek to the historical channel at an estimated cost of \$14 million. Because of the high cost of the project, the County did not pursue funding for implementation of the project. The County is now considering a scaled-down version of the design. To that end, Jennifer would like to give a presentation to the Committees describing the scaled-down design and cost estimates for land protection (conservation easement or acquisition).

After discussion, the Committees decided they do not want to hear a presentation on this project until a contamination survey is completed. Once the survey is completed, they would entertain a presentation on the project. In addition, the Committees indicated they are not interested in funding the contamination survey. They recommend the sponsor seek those funds from Washington Department of Ecology.

3. Tracy Hillman shared with the Committees an email he received from Jeff Dengel (WDFW) regarding the Icicle Creek Fish Screening Projects. In the email, Jeff describes how WDFW is attending to the screening projects and how the projects fit within the Icicle Strategy. At the end of the email, Jeff asked the Committees two questions: (1) *Beyond landowner permissions and Tribal concurrence in the form of a MOU, can you please define what the Committees need to indicate their assurance of boulder field passage before funding screen construction?* and (2) *You state that the Committees need a letter from IID asserting that fish passage and screening projects, “are not contingent on any other agreements.” We are unclear of what the committee members were considering in this regard. There may, in fact need to be a MOU/MOA between Trout Unlimited, WDFW, and IID in order to achieve permissions from IID. While the specifics of this MOU are still under deliberation, it will likely attend to the implementation timing. Would such an agreement violate this stipulation?* The Committees reviewed these questions and offered the following responses.

1. *Beyond landowner permissions and Tribal concurrence in the form of a MOU, can you please define what the Committees need to indicate their assurance of boulder field passage before funding screen construction?*

The Committees require a letter from both the Icicle Irrigation District and the City of Leavenworth indicating that they support the boulder field passage project and that they will allow access to the boulder field, so the fish passage project can be completed. The reason for this is because Plan Species Account Funds can only be used to enhance conditions that benefit HCP Plan Species (summer steelhead, spring and summer Chinook, coho salmon, and sockeye salmon). Without fish passage at the boulder field, HCP Plan Species will benefit little from the screening projects. Thus, the screening projects will neither be cost effective nor eligible for funding by the Committees unless HCP Plan Species are allowed access to habitat upstream from the boulder field. The letters should be addressed to my attention and include the MOU.

2. *You state that the Committees need a letter from IID asserting that fish passage and screening projects, “are not contingent on any other agreements.” We are unclear of what the committee members were considering in this regard. There may, in fact need to be a MOU/MOA between Trout Unlimited, WDFW, and IID in order to achieve permissions from IID. While the specifics of this MOU are still under deliberation, it will likely attend to the implementation timing. Would such an agreement violate this stipulation?*

No, the MOU/MOA will not violate the Committees’ stipulation that fish passage and screening projects are not contingent on any other agreements. The Committees were responding to a letter submitted by the Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts that accompanied the WDFW proposal. In the letter (see Attachment 1), written by Mr. Jantzer (dated January 11, 2018), IPID stated: “*We would be willing to allow construction to start on*

the boulder field prior to the completion of our fish screens if we could get a concrete agreement with funders, the state, and federal fisheries folks. This agreement needs to cover who will fund, what will be built where, when, and the effects of not having the screens updated in the interim. This agreement would have to have an incidental take permit and hold harmless agreement to cover our continued diversion with our current screens until our new screens are constructed at no cost to the Districts.” Specifically, the Committees were responding to the last sentence indicating that IPID would have to have an incidental take permit and hold harmless agreement. The Committees have no regulatory authority and therefore cannot provide such an agreement. In addition, the Committees understand that the federal agencies with regulatory authority cannot provide such an agreement. Therefore, the Committees asked for a letter from IPID stating that the implementation of the boulder fish passage and screening projects are not contingent on an incidental take permit and hold harmless agreement.

The Committees directed Tracy to share these responses with Jeff.

VII. Next Steps

The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, 9 August 2018 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee.

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

Attachment 1

Letter from IPID

Icicle Directors
Melvin Weythman
Dennis Rudolph
Craig Christensen

Peshastin Directors
James Koempel
Richard Smithson
Daryl Harnden

Anthony Jantzer, Secretary Manager
Levi Jantzer, Assistant Manager
Telephone: (509) 782-2561
Fax: (509) 782-8233

Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts

Chelan County

5594 Westcott · Post Office Box 371
Cashmere Washington 98815-0371

January 11, 2018

Potential Funders
Icicle Creek Boulder Field Fish Passage
And Fish Screens

Subject: Icicle Creek Boulder Field Fish Passage

Dear Committee Member

Icicle and Peshastin Irrigation Districts have been very consistent in our support of fish passage at the boulder field in Icicle Creek. Trout Unlimited has been through several renditions of plans for passage at the boulder field and the district is on board with what we believe is the latest design. Our major concern currently is that there is a push to complete the boulder field project ahead of updating the fish screens for the City of Leavenworth and our diversions. Our fish screens were not upgraded like all other major diverters in the state due to the boulder field impassability. We would be willing to allow construction to start on the boulder field prior to the completion of our fish screens if we could get a concrete agreement with funders, the state, and federal fisheries folks. This agreement needs to cover who will fund, what will be built where, when, and the effects of not having the screens updated in the interim. This agreement would have to have an incidental take permit and hold harmless agreement to cover our continued diversion with our current screens until our new screens are constructed at no cost to the Districts.

Attached are two pervious letters that I have sent on this matter. We do not want to hold up the boulder field project; we feel that it is a great project with much potential, but we do not want to put fish or our selves in jeopardy. We feel that there has been plenty of time since the start of the project to address our screen issue, but little has been done to address this part of the project. We stated back in June of 2012 that replacement of our screens had to be an integral part of the project. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me. My cell phone number is 509 433-4064 and my email address is tony.iid.pid@nwi.net.

Sincerely

Anthony D. Jantzer
Secretary, Manager

2 Attached
Letter dated Jun 2012
Letter dated Nov 2015