



PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Friday, Jan. 13, 2006 – 9 a.m. to noon
Chelan County PUD, Wenatchee, WA

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members:

Chris Fisher, Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT)	Bob Rose, Yakama Nation (YN)
Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)	Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries
David Morgan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Dennis Beich, Chris Parsons, WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Ben Lenz, Grant County PUD (Grant PUD)	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2005
- III. Review and Discussion of Grant PUD Administrative Subjects
- IV. Update of PR Settlement Agreement Discussions
- V. Discussion of \$288,000 for 2005 and 2006
- VI. Discussion of Funding Concept(s)
- VII. Committee Administrative Review
 - A. "Draft PRCC Habitat Subcomm Operating Procedures"
 - B. "Draft PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects"
 - C. "Draft PRCC Habitat Plan"
- VIII. Next Meeting
 - A. Date, Time, Location

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Chris Parsons, WDFW; Ben Lenz, Grant PUD, Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries; Chris Fisher, CCT; Tom Dresser, Grant PUD, Denny Rohr, facilitator; Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD; Bob Rose, YN (by phone).

Action Items:

- NOAA Fisheries will draft for subcommittee review a voting structure proposal for project selection and provide to subcommittee by e-mail.
- Grant PUD will provide NOAA Fisheries and CCT with a copy of its genetic sampling report concerning fish in the Skookumchuck Creek.
- Letters of official replacement to the PRCC Subcommittee from WDFW (Parsons replacing Beich) and Grant PUD (Lenz replacing Langshaw) will be submitted.

Distributed Items:

- I. Welcome and Introductions –
- II. Finalization of Minutes – Oct. 14 - Finalized

- III. **Review and Discussion of Grant PUD Administrative Subjects** – Ben Lenz is now Grant PUD’s official representative to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee, replacing Russell Langshaw, who will serve as alternate.
- IV. **Update of PR Settlement Agreement Discussions** – CCT will sign on Jan. 19. YN has six months to sign on as a signatory. \$1,112,501.00 annually will be available to the subcommittee once the agreement is finalized. Grant PUD is discussing the legal issues surrounding the Habitat Account and other funding involved with the settlement agreement. In the meantime, Grant is willing to accept appropriate projects while details concerning administration of the account are worked out. Grant PUD is meeting with Douglas and Chelan PUDs on the possibility of co-administering the fund. NOAA Fisheries stated its objection to the development of a project solicitation process which differs from the HCP’s current selection process. The agency also suggests combining the HCP and PRCC Habitat meetings. Grant PUD agreed with that approach, provided clarification occurs on the administration of the fund prior to project selection. NOAA Fisheries stated the HCP has left the door open for funding of PRCC Subcommittee-developed projects identified by the technical team, which are not currently being funded by HCP dollars. WDFW stated that as solicited projects become fewer and fewer, it’s important to identify projects outside the formal solicitation process. Rohr questioned whether the HCP has a process in place to be flexible with choosing projects. WDFW stated that the HCP process, which is tied to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF Board) annual funding, will change to an annual selection process. NOAA Fisheries suggested not creating a new public solicitation process, but rather combining the HCP and PRCC on the selection process end, while keeping the funding “pots” separate. The combined committees can select their own projects. A decision-making structure would need to be developed. Rohr suggested NOAA Fisheries develop a project selection voting structure for the PRCC Subcommittee similar to the one for the HCP, where voting members are defined and consensus reached. YN stated available money is in actuality 1) directed money, 2) solicited project money, and 3) an undefined contingency. YN suggested identifying the projects well in advance of the actual selection process, which ultimately results in directed funding. YN indicated support of the HCP process as long as pre-project selection involves identifying quality projects not previously proposed to the HCP, which in turn would draw quality partnerships. WDFW suggested focusing research dollars to certain areas. HCP project selection should involve assessment of how well the group did on choosing projects. WDFW suggested that analysis and discussion will help in pro-active development for future projects.

The group agreed that a new selection process would not be developed and that the PRCC Subcommittee would fund projects submitted through the HCP process, involving review from the Regional Technical Team (RTT), with no separate decision-making process. YN stated that decisions are currently being made by the Upper Salmon Recovery Board concerning who is involved with the RTT, which is solely an advisory board. NOAA Fisheries agreed to draft a voting structure proposal.

- V. **Discussion of \$288,600 for 2005 and 2006** \$577,200 is currently available for funding projects. The additional \$1,112,501.00 from the NNI fund will be available following final signatures on the Salmon Settlement Agreement.
- VI. **Discussion of Funding Concept(s)** - NOAA Fisheries indicated interest in Habitat Account funds being used for land acquisition, specifically 14,000 acres surrounding the Skookumchuck Creek, located on the west side of Wanapum pool, which has been under private ownership since mid-80s. The wind-power interests have a purchase agreement for large portion of this property. NOAA Fisheries proposed that the PRCC Subcommittee fund be used to purchase the lower three miles of Skookumchuck for steelhead spawning. Cost would be approximately \$800,000. Grant PUD stated they have concerns about this proposal as it relates to fish benefit based on genetic sampling conducted by Grant PUD in 1999, and included in Grant PUD’s Final License Application. NOAA Fisheries requested a copy of the report. Rohr suggested future discussion on the issue and other possible projects. YN suggested re-visiting projects previously identified by CCT, WDFW and YN, and brain-storming directed-funding projects at the subcommittee’s next meeting. A HCP meeting is planned for Feb. 1. A joint meeting is proposed for Feb. 9, and a tentative date for a meeting of the PRCC Subcommittee is set for Feb. 10. USFWS will be notified of the change.
- VII. **Committee Administrative Review**
- a. **“Draft PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures”**
 - b. **“Draft PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects”**
 - c. **“Draft PRCC Habitat Plan”**

- VIII. **Next meeting**

- a. Feb. 10th9, tentative. Rohr will notify committee members.