



## PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Douglas PUD

Wells Engineering Conference Room

East Wenatchee

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Chris Fisher, CCT  
Carl Merkle, CTUIR  
David Morgan, USFWS  
Ben Lenz, GPUD

Bob Rose, YN  
Dale Bambrick, NMFS  
Chris Parsons, WDFW  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

### MEETING AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2006; June 8, 2006
- III. Status/Review of Habitat Funds
  - A. Review of Habitat Funds Information Sheet
- IV. Discussion of LIDAR Project
  - PowerPoint Presentation by Bob Rose
- V. Discussion of Entiat USGS Gaging Funds
  - A. Report from Chris P. Regarding WDOE Funding Information (this subject has been tabled for future discussion as it was not time sensitive, but Chris P. was going to contact Ecology for more information).
- VI. Discussion of Committee Members Future Projects
- VII. Update of Record Keeping for Committee Funded Projects
- VIII. Next Meeting (August 9, 10 are HCP Tributary Committee Field Trips)
- IX. Welcome and Introductions

## FINAL MEETING MINUTES

**Attendees: David Morgan, USFWS; Chris Fisher, CCT; Bob Rose, YN; Mark Cookson, WDFW; Ben Lenz, Grant PUD; Dale Bambrick, NOAA Fisheries; Denny Rohr, facilitator; Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD.**

### Action items:

#### Distributed items:

- Copy of Upper Columbia LIDAR proposals and recommendations PowerPoint presentation.
- Current habitat fund totals (*this sheet had incorrect totals – a corrected sheet will be e-mailed to subcommittee members and attendees of this meeting*)
- Summary sheet of habitat conservation accounts and no net impact funds

#### Decision summary:

- **The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed to fund the following with Habitat funds (up to \$100,000 total):**
  1. Methow
    - a) Supplemental funds for BOR-contracted LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Mainstem Carlton, Lower Twisp, and Lower Chewuch.
    - b) Possible full funding for LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Upper Twisp and Upper Chewuch.
  2. Wenatchee
    - a) Supplement funds to NOAA's \$25,000 contribution for LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Lower Mainstem and Upper Mainstem Wenatchee River.
  3. Entiat
    - a) No funds will be committed at this time.
  4. Okanogan
    - a) Habitat funds will generate LIDAR and ortho mapping of rivermile 50 to Okanogan Lake, and Salmon Creek.
- **The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee agreed to use Habitat Account funds to pay the appraisal fee for the proposed purchase of a 70-acre parcel on Nason Creek.**

## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

- I. **Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes for May 24, 2006; June 8, 2006 – Approved.**
- II. **Status/Review of Habitat Funds**

A. Review of Habitat Funds Information Sheet – current totals distributed to members.

**III. Discussion of LIDAR Project** – Bob Rose presented detailed information concerning a proposal for funding 300 miles of LIDAR to be conducted in the Upper Columbia tributaries. The subcommittee discussed proposed costs for the project. Rose noted that estimating costs of conducting the LIDAR is difficult until its completion. The proposal includes LIDAR of 66 miles of the Okanogan River (with a \$95,000 cost estimate), 100 miles of the Methow River (\$68,200), 82 miles of the Wenatchee River (\$61,500), and 29 miles of the Entiat River (\$11,000). The project is being co-funded by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Entiat Planning Unit, US Geological Survey (USGS), Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE), NOAA Fisheries, Puget Sound Consortium-Kitsap County, and Yakama Nation. The subcommittee also discussed whether the cost estimate realistically reflects the cost of analyzing LIDAR data. Bambrick noted that the LIDAR data may not be collected (due the flatter terrain of floodplain areas) in places the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) is considering for project proposals. Rose discussed the necessary contract work needed to complete the project, including ortho acquisition (high-resolution photography mapping), field truthing LIDAR coordinates/elevations, and analysis. The group discussed two possible scenarios for contract structuring: 1) each funding entity contracts all work associated with a specific stream, and 2) each funding entity contracts specific tasks associated with the full project. Rose recommended the HSC approve funding of contracts with Watershed Sciences to collect all needed LIDAR data (beyond BOR's commitment for funding LIDAR of Peshastin, Nason, Icicle, mainstem Methow, Lower Twisp, and Lower Chewuch) and to develop ortho maps; and a contract with Yakima County for ortho storage (until a better solution can be developed). Morgan requested an estimate for both the LIDAR and data analysis. Bambrick stated he was uncomfortable with open-ended funding for the full project and instead suggested pinpointing flights of desired river miles and adding them to BOR's existing contract. Rose suggested a commitment of \$100,000 from habitat funds, with a general focus on HSC-identified streams, and further funding in the future of second-tier projects. Rohr called for feedback from HSC members – Lenz indicated his support of funding the full program. Cookson agreed with full funding of LIDAR flights, but suggested putting a cap on funding of the analysis following identification of HSC-priority areas. Fisher questioned the usefulness of LIDAR in terms of generating the information needed for prospective habitat projects, but supports funding only flights of streams supplemental to the work BOR will conduct, with the caveat that useful data be identified prior to a commitment of further dollars. Morgan supports using up to \$100,000 for flights, also noting his desire that it result in useful data. Morgan also requested more detailed information from Rose on the data output. Bambrick suggested partnering with BOR with a contribution of up to \$100,000 to fund LIDAR focused only on certain streams, followed

by the prioritization of other streams to possibly be funded at a later date. Bambrick also suggested suspending further funding until the data is analyzed and determined to be useful to prospective habitat projects. Bambrick was supportive of a commitment of up to \$100,000 with the caveat that contract bids for the work are seen first.

Rose noted that the Washington State Farm Bureau plans to generate ortho photography throughout Washington state, and noted that BOR is not going to wait for those to be available. The HSC would have the option of waiting for the Bureau's generation of the ortho maps.

HSC agreed to fund the following with Habitat funds (up to \$100,000):

1. Methow
  - b) Supplemental funds for BOR-contracted LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Mainstem Carlton, Lower Twisp, and Lower Chewuch.
  - c) Possible full funding for LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Upper Twisp and Upper Chewuch
2. Wenatchee
  - d) Supplement funds to NOAA's \$25,000 contribution for LIDAR and ortho mapping of the Lower Mainstem and Upper Mainstem Wenatchee River.
3. Entiat
  - e) No funds will be committed at this time.
4. Okanogan
  - f) Habitat funds will generate LIDAR and ortho mapping of rivermile 50 to Okanogan Lake, and Salmon Creek.

Rose will provide the HSC with contract estimates for the projects identified above early next week. Grant PUD will likely enter into contracts with Watershed Sciences for ortho development and Puget Sound LIDAR Consortium/Kitsap County.

Rose also stated he has requested that WDFW be involved with data analysis.

**IV. Discussion of Entiat USGS Gaging Funds (Report from Chris P. Regarding WDOE Funding Information - this subject was tabled for future discussion as it was not time sensitive).** Chris Parsons was not present at this meeting.

**V. Discussion of Committee Members Future Projects** – Bambrick discussed BOR's proposal to evaluate and refine roughened channel designs. NOAA Fisheries has agreed to fund \$50,000 of the \$260,000 needed for the project. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) habitat committee declined to fund the project, determining the information would only be used in watersheds outside their focus. Bambrick is proposing a contribution of \$50,000 to the project from PRCC habitat accounts. Morgan is in favor; Rose, Fisher and Cookson

gave a neutral response; Lenz requested further information (and expressed concern as to how the results of the project apply to the possible success or failure of the Fulton Diversion project). A final decision on the project is tabled to a future meeting following the submission of a written project proposal

- VI. Update of Record Keeping for Committee Funded Projects** – Lenz provided a summary of the Habitat Conservation Accounts and No Net Income Funds following an earlier request by Morgan.
  
- VII. Nason Creek land purchase details (added by B. Lenz)** – Lenz has proposed purchase of 5,300 linear feet, 70-acre block of property adjacent to USFS land on Nason Creek for habitat restoration. Lenz provided background information to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust concerning the possibility of the organization making the purchase and holding the deed to the land (with 5% administration fee. Lenz also polled the committee on the possibility of other agencies (such as WDFW, USFS, Yakamas, etc.) making the purchase and holding the deed. Lenz requested the subcommittee’s support of using habitat funds to pay the appraisal fee. The subcommittee agreed to use Habitat Account funds to pay the appraisal fee for the proposed purchase of a 70-acre parcel on Nason Creek.
  
- VIII. Loup-Loup Creek reconnection proposal (added by C. Fisher)** – Fisher will submit a proposal on the project.
  
- IX. Next Meeting (August 9, 10 are HCP Tributary Committee Field Trips)** – Further discussion of the August meeting will occur during an upcoming conference call to discuss the LIDAR proposal.