



## FINAL CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Friday, November 2, 2007 - 10:00 am

### PRCC/PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Chris Fisher, CCT  
Bob Rose, YN  
Dale Bambrick, NMFS

David Morgan, USFWS  
Chris Parsons, WDFW  
Ben Lenz, GPUD

### Attendees (\*denotes PRCC Habitat Rep):

\*Chris Fisher, CCT  
\*Rob Rose, YN  
\*Dale Bambrick, NMFS

\*Chris Parsons, WDFW  
Denny Rohr, facilitator  
Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

### Action items:

- Rohr will contact David Morgan/USFWS and Ben Lenz/Grant PUD concerning their approval of the Antoine Creek Culvert Replacement Project.
- Fisher will distribute the project's hydraulic design and cost-analysis to members.

### Approvals:

- With the Nov. 2, 2007 approval of NMFS, WDFW, CCT and YN, and pending approval of USFWS and Grant PUD, the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee approves the use of Habitat Funds for the Antoine Creek Culvert Replacement Project.

- A. **Antoine Creek Culvert Replacement Project Proposal Discussion** – Fisher stated he received an e-mail from Ben Lenz on Nov. 1 indicating Lenz' support of funding the Antoine Creek Culvert Replacement Project. The approval is contingent on answering questions concerning the funding agreement and related contract issues. Fisher will provide both Rohr and Lenz with the applicable information. Fisher provided a description of the proposed \$56,970 project, which involves removal of one undersized (36" diameter) round culvert with one bottomless-box culvert. The bottomless box culvert will have the capacity to pass the 100-year flood event. This capacity will reduce the risk of this road crossing from washing out and delivering large volumes of sediment to established spawning habitat for summer steelhead. Mark Cookson, formerly of WDFW, and Andrea Field of Regional Fish Enhancement Group (RFEG) secured the services of the Pacific Hydraulics Engineering and Sciences to conduct engineering and survey work identifying alternatives for stream passage. Following its analysis, the group recommended culvert replacement as a less expensive and more efficient alternative. Permits for the project were submitted on Oct. 31, 2007 and will likely be expedited by WDFW, allowing work to proceed this fall, noted Fisher. Because a construction contract with CCT would require a competitive bid process, the RFEG (sponsor of the project) recommends using one of its construction contractors. One of the contractors has previously worked on projects with CCT, stated Fisher. The culvert has washed out three of the last five years, explained Fisher, noting there isn't a lot of current utilization of the stream by steelhead, primarily due to current stocking of steelhead into the Okanogan River. Completing the project this fall will prevent the culvert's exposure to flows by the spring freshet in 2008, stated Fisher, noting that installing a culvert which can sustain a 100-year-flood event will reduce the risk to spawning habitat of summer steelhead. Rose asked which agency has been permitting repair of the washed-out culvert over the past five years, noting that if the landowner is using the road for access, it should be his responsibility to replace or provide funds for replacement of the culvert. Fisher stated he was unsure whether if there was a permit for past repairs of the culvert, but stated he would find out. Fisher stated he also felt as if the landowner should share in the cost of replacement, but was unsure if that was a possibility. Rose also stated that if washing out of the culvert is an ongoing

problem, there should be others funding sources willing to contribute to the replacement. Fisher stated that PRCC Habitat funding is an opportunity to discontinue the damage, noting the culvert is the only one in the lower reach where steelhead are spawning. Fisher stated that it seems like a minimal dollar amount to assure it won't happen again. Parsons stated she will check with the landowner to see if past permits were applied for, noting WDFW wouldn't normally issue three permits for an ongoing problem. Parsons noted her support for the project, but also requested information on permitting and cost-share opportunities. Bambrick stated that while repair should be the landowner's responsibility, it isn't realistic, noting his support of the project. After further discussion, Bambrick, Parsons, Rose and Fisher approved funding of the project. Fisher noted that redd surveys will continue on Antoine Creek. Rohr will contact David Morgan and Ben Lenz concerning their vote on the project proposal and notify other committee members of the result. Fisher will distribute study design by the engineering firm to members.

*Call ends at 10:28 a.m.*