

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
PRCC Habitat Subcommittee
Conference Call
Tuesday, June 5, 2007
8:00 – 8:48 AM

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

Participants:

*Chris Parsons, WDFW

*David Morgan, USFWS

*Chris Fisher, CCT

*Dale Bambrick, NMFS

*Bob Rose, YN

*Ben Lenz, Grant PUD

Denny Rohr, facilitator

Julie Yount, Grant PUD

Distributed items:

The following items sent via email June 1, 2007 by Bob Rose:

- LiDAR discussion talking points.
- A November 2006 report by Joseph Jones, USGS, on side channel mapping and fish habitat analysis using LiDAR topography and orthophotography.
- LiDAR Remote Sensing Data Collection report by Watershed Sciences ~ work they just completed for the Habitat SC.

Action items:

- Rose to contact Joseph Jones, USGS, to advise the Habitat SC is supportive of funding analysis of LiDAR data, and to invite Jones to the next meeting, June 22, to create a specific scope of work for the project.
- Rose to contact Casey Baldwin, WDFW to invite to June 22 meeting.
- Lenz to work on list of actions for potential inclusion in the USGS scope of work.

Decision summary:

- CCT, NMFS, WDFW and Grant PUD voted to support additional funding of LiDAR data analysis by Joseph Jones of USGS utilizing Habitat Funds. The expenditure of \$30,000 for 2007 is approved pending USFWS (Morgan's) approval (will email decision today upon review of distributed information). Agreement can then be renewed for 2008 for an additional \$30,000 and for 2009 for an additional \$20,000 if the committee is satisfied with the work product. The Habitat SC will discuss and establish a scope of work at the next meeting, June 22, 2007.

Next Meeting – Had been previously scheduled for next Thursday, June 14 following the Tributary Committee meeting in Wenatchee. Rohr was informed that the Tributary meeting agenda is full, and he had a concern there may not be enough time to complete Habitat SC business.

Discussed probable agenda items, including continued LiDAR data evaluation discussions, annual Habitat Plan and several projects. Rose indicated he is gone next week. The Committee agreed on moving the meeting to **Friday, June 22 at 9:00 am** in Wenatchee. Morgan indicated he is on vacation on the 22nd and would be unable to attend.

LiDAR Discussion and Additional Funding Proposal:

Bob Rose reviewed the distributed list of talking points and the request for \$30,000 additional funding from the Habitat Fund to have USGS perform evaluation of LiDAR data collected. Rose stated that he visited with Joseph Jones at USGS. As explained in the talking points, there had been a misunderstanding relating to the cost share contribution from the Habitat funds to the LiDAR project. Rose originally thought that the Habitat SC could provide up-front funding for a USGS time commitment. In actuality, there will need to be analysis of LiDAR data to evaluate where projects may be identified, which will take staff commitment. Rose went on to state that both NOAA Fisheries and Washington Department of Ecology have also expressed interest in LiDAR data evaluation.

Lenz stated he has meeting with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) later this week and may identify where the Habitat SC can focus on complementing the work BOR is already doing. Parsons questioned why the Habitat SC would pay for an additional LiDAR project if BOR is already doing it. Rose indicated there is a need to distinguish the differences in what the Habitat SC will have done, in conjunction with other agencies. BOR is looking at Nason Creek, but to what degree, Rose does not know. Rose stated that the Habitat SC would potentially use the data to identify potential spawning grounds, capacity, etc. Parsons questions if the effort with USGS would be a collaborative effort with all the other interested agencies pursuing these ventures.

Fisher stated he would need to see more details on the specific work to be requested in order to evaluate if additional funds should be released. Rose referred to the five-page paper by Joseph Jones regarding side channel mapping as an example of the type of work the Habitat SC could have USGS perform. Jones has put together a very general proposal for analysis for an additional \$30,000 for 2007 (cost-share). This could be set up as a three-year project, with the obligation for only one year, then the committee would have the opportunity to evaluate the merit. If positive results are found, then additional work would continue at \$30,000 for year two, and \$20,000 for year three.

Morgan indicated he did not receive the June 1 email and cannot make a decision prior to reviewing the additional information. Parsons questions what the role of BOR and NOAA in this analysis and the program. What are they buying into? Rose stated BOR has their own GIS staff and are working on LiDAR already. Rose indicated BOR has identified what they will be doing, stated in an email forwarded this morning.

Fisher stated Jones has proven he is adept at evaluating the LiDAR data and has no doubt we can find things for him to do.

Rohr suggested voting on the \$30k, \$30k, \$20k three year proposal; then on the 22nd during a face-to-face meeting decide on the specific statement of work to be performed. Bambrick suggested allowing time to look at the information and hold a decision until the 22nd if Jones can hold out until that time. Rose indicates USGS has several projects, and the money for cost share available at this time may be soaked into another project if the Habitat SC does not give a nod soon. An indication that the committee is supportive of the project would be helpful.

Bambrick stated he is supportive, Parsons is supportive (provided the scope of work is clear). Morgan asked for additional time to review information. Fisher voted yes. Lenz is supportive, and will work on a list to assist in determining a specific project outline on the 22nd. Lenz suggested having Jones at the meeting. Parsons requested having Casey Baldwin, WDFW also come to the meeting.

Rose will contact Jones and will invite him to the meeting on June 22. Other questions posed by the committee today (to be resolved June 22): Will this create a usable end-product by

October? How much information can he process for \$30K? (10 miles, 100 miles??) Must there be a consensus on what specific area the committee wants him to review? If the Habitat SC identifies a project outside Nason or the other identified biological areas, does this limit the use of his time?

Rohr summarized yes votes by WDFW, CCT, NMFS, Grant PUD and YN, reserving USFWS's vote until after review of the information emailed earlier. Morgan will send an email with vote within the next couple hours.

Meeting adjourned, 8:48 am.