



Meeting Minutes

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, July, 10, 2008

1:00 – 4:00

Chelan PUD F&W/L Office - Wenatchee, WA

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

Dale Bambrick, NMFS
Chris Fisher, CCT
Bob Rose, YN
Dennis Beich, WDFW

David Morgan, USFWS
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

ATTENDEES: (*denotes PRCC HSC members)

Dale Bambrick, NMFS*
Chris Fisher, CCT*
Bob Rose, YN*(by phone)
Lee Carlson, YN
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

David Morgan, USFWS*
Ben Lenz, GCPUD*
Dennis Beich, WDFW*
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Action Items:

- **Morgan will verify that legal water rights have been obtained by Mission Creek landowners.**
- **Lenz will notify Jones, USGS before August 01, 2008 of LiDAR contract termination.**
- **Morgan will e-mail Black Bird Island documents to Rohr.**
- **Morgan will contact Jones and Stokes regarding the Blackbird Island project budget.**
- **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members will review Blackbird Island project proposal.**

Decision Summary:

- **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members approved \$25,000 to be allocated from the Bi-Op Fund to be used to improve salmonid and riparian habitat at RM 01, 4.1, 4.3, and 4.7 of Mission Creek, conditional upon verification of legal landowner water rights.**

- **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members approve termination of the USGS LiDAR contract. Lenz will notify Jones, USGS before August 01, 2008 of LiDAR contract termination.**
- **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members approved spending \$150,000 from the Habitat Fund to purchase WDOT property located at the confluence of Peshastin Creek and the Wenatchee River. In addition to this, members are willing to allow Grant PUD to pursue acclimation facilities for summer Chinook or other anadromous fishes on this property given that Grant PUD will reimburse the habitat funds for the cost of this purchase.**
- **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members decline to approve the Lake Wenatchee to Tumwater Canyon Habitat Restoration Strategy proposal.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Agenda items were reviewed.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
 - June 10, 2008 – Approved by members.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Mission Creek** - The objective of the \$25,000 being asked for is to improve juvenile steelhead and Chinook rearing habitat and to improve riparian habitat and function at four sites (RM 01, 4.1, 4.3, and 4.7) in Mission Creek. This will be accomplished by installing four rock vanes with large woody debris to provide plunge pool habitat, control bank erosion, and increase complexity in the channelized section of the creek. Orchards in this area are supported by Mission Creek water. Cost could be reduced if backhoe equipment doesn't have to be rented. Landowners are trying to locate a backhoe that can be donated towards this project. **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members approved \$25,000 to be allocated from the Bi-Op Fund to be used to improve salmonid and riparian habitat at RM 01, 4.1, 4.3, and 4.7 of Mission Creek, conditional upon verification of legal landowner water rights. Morgan will verify that legal water rights have been obtained by Mission Creek landowners.**
- VI. **Habitat Funds Review** – Members received Habitat Funds spreadsheets via e-mail. No additional discussion took place.

VII. Project Proposals Status

- A **Entiat River Knapp/Wham-Hanan Detwiler Irrigation System Consolidation (Lenz)** – Lenz will send an update to PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members after Malinowski contacts him.
- B **LiDAR Update (Rose/Lenz)** – Lenz asked PRCC Habitat Sub-committee (HSC) members if they intend on spending the \$20,000 that is allocated for USGS LiDAR in 2009, or if they intend to terminate the contract. He explained that by the end of summer 2008, Jones will have completed all authorized tasks, and new tasks would need to be identified by this committee. After discussion, **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members approve termination of the USGS LiDAR contract. Lenz will notify Jones, USGS before August 01, 2008 of LiDAR contract termination.**
- C **Cashmere Pond (Dennis B)** – Beich explained that Jones and Stokes expanded WDFW's vision of Cashmere Pond. WDFW does not intend on having an island in the middle of the pond, or using barbs. They would like to remove the berm on the upstream end of the pond. There will be minor excavation in the main channel. Jones and Stokes will modify the design based on renewed input from WDFW. After modifications, cost estimates will be completed, and a funding agreement will be developed with Chelan County DNR.
- D **McIntyre Dam (Chris F. /Lenz)** –Associated Engineering has developed the construction timeline proposal. A kickoff meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in Penticton, B.C. 50% designs are scheduled to be reviewed in September 08. Fisher will request that the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee be allowed to review the designs. Construction will start the last week of July 2009 and be complete by the end of August 2009.
- E **ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) Project** – Fisher had no activity updates.

- VIII. **Blackbird Island (David M.)** – Morgan explained that original estimates for the Blackbird Island project were approximately \$100,000. But, after Tom Gibbons, Cascadia Conservation District (CCD) had a meeting with Jones and Stokes, the project is now estimated to cost approximately \$300,000 and proposes to include a monitoring component (something the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee wasn't interested in). Morgan expressed his surprise of the new budget figures and plans on contacting Jones and Stokes. Morgan noted a workshop will be held in September on large woody debris, but didn't have further details at this time. Discussion will be held at the next meeting. **Morgan will e-mail Black Bird Island documents to Rohr. Morgan will contact Jones and Stokes regarding the**

Blackbird Island project budget. PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members will review Blackbird Island project proposal.

- IX. Lake Wenatchee to Tumwater Canyon Habitat Restoration Strategy (Rose) Rose explained that funding for the first two tasks of the Lake Wenatchee to Tumwater Canyon Habitat Restoration Strategy will be covered by contracts with the Yakama Nation. The technical report scoped in Task 3 is a comprehensive report and development of a plan for reach scale restoration over the 18 miles of river between Lake Wenatchee and Tumwater Canyon. Rose asked the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee to fund \$19,000 for the report. He explained that the report will present an approach for developing restoration projects based on the reach characteristics, and critical habitat needs in the context of land use and ownership. The report would recommend a stronger biological, cost, and risk analysis than what the Bureau of Reclamation recommends. Members asked what assurances could be made that any of the plans outlined in the report are implementable. Rose replied that, "A 30% assessment would give assurance that the plans are implementable." Bambrick questioned if Settlement Agreement monies could fund Task 3. Rose explained that contracts are not in place through the MOA to complete this kind of work. Tasks 1 & 2 could be completed with PCRFB funds. Once the contracts are in place, MOA funds could pay for the report. Members discussed using existing LiDAR in comparison to doing future assessments. A significant amount of money has already been spent on LiDAR mapping of this area; noted Bambrick. Use of LiDAR won't guide where woody debris would be placed, stated Rose. He emphasized this is a good way to look at any reach that the HSC wants to get out into. Rose stated that, "Reach Scale Assessments provide protocol in the approach, and that people are interested in reach habitat analysis that is packaged like this because it provides the next step of project development." Beich questioned if the projects identified in this report would become the funding priority for the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee. Members agreed that other projects wouldn't be excluded if they weren't defined in this proposal. B. Rose noted the example of the BOR's assessment of Nason Creek for which some projects were suggested that the BOR missed. The types of activities and appropriate scale to make projects worth while needs to be determined to understand the benefit. After discussion, PRCC Habitat members declined to approve the proposal. Rose stated the comprehensive report would be paid for by the Yakama Nation. **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee members decline to approve the Lake Wenatchee to Tumwater Canyon Habitat Restoration Strategy proposal.**
- X. **Department of Transportation site near Dryden Dam (Dennis B) –** Beich explained that WDOT intends on selling a parcel of land that borders Peshastin Creek and the Wenatchee River very soon. Beich has asked that WDFW be given first bid opportunity. The property has

been appraised at \$600,000.00. The Resource Conservation Office approves of this project because of the potential for Peshastin Creek habitat improvement, and improved local access. Beich is currently looking for additional funding. Chelan PUD has committed to \$60,000 because their easements run through the property. Beich noted the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee has been discussing this location as a possible acclimation facility site, and would like to offer them a portion of the land for \$150,000.00. Lenz explained that if the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee pursues land acquisition, approval must go through the Grant PUD Commission, which takes time. Members questioned if the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee approves of spending \$150,000.00 from the Habitat Fund to purchase the land immediately, could they be reimbursed by the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee once commission approval is granted to purchase the land. Bambrick noted that the benefits are greater for the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee than the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee, but to tie up the property he approves of purchasing it today. Beich noted that if an acclimation pond isn't located at this site, there is a lot of habitat that can be restored at this location. **PRCC Habitat Sub-committee approves of spending \$150,000 from the Habitat Fund to purchase WDOT property located on the Wenatchee River and Peshastin Creek.**

XI. **Next Meeting:** Conference Call, TBD, Thursday, August, 14 2008.