



## MEETING

### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee

Thursday, April 09, 2009  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Chelan PUD Auditorium

#### PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members

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

David Morgan, USFWS  
Ben Lenz, GCPUD  
Carl Merkle, CTUIR

#### Attendees: (\*Denotes PRCC member)

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Dale Bambrick, NMFS\*  
Chris Fisher, CCT\*  
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

David Morgan, USFWS\*  
Casey Baldwin, WDFW\*  
Ben Lenz, GCPUD\*  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### Action Items:

1. Baldwin will insert clarifying language regarding WDFW's Habitat/Hatchery Coordination directly into the Habitat Plan document.
2. Lenz will update the Habitat Plan with HSC edits and send it back out to the committee for review by April 16, 2009. HSC comments are due by April 23, 2009.
3. Lenz will investigate progress on Chelan County's Department of Natural Resources communications with the railroad company as it relates to reconnecting an oxbow at Nason Creek (RM 11).
4. HSC members will visit the Squadroni property at Nason Creek (RM 11) during their May 14, 2009 meeting.
5. Rohr will talk to Hillman regarding holding the May HCP meeting in Leavenworth.

#### Decisions:

1. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved Grant PUD's request for an Extension of Time on the Habitat Plan. Members agreed to extend the deadline to July 01, 2009.

## Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review:** Nason Creek Restoration Phase 1 was added to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - March 12, 2009 – To be discussed at the next meeting
  - March 19, 2009 - meeting - Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed.
- V. **Habitat/NNI Funds Review:** Rohr informed members of fund balances, and reminded them that additional funds were deposited by Grant PUD on February 16, 2009. An updated fund balance sheet was e-mailed to all members.

Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) members discussed expenditures (Predator Study) to the No Net Impact (NNI) Fund, and questioned the types and size of projects that should be funded by it in the future. The HSC would like language inserted into the Habitat Plan stating that NNI Funds would be used to fund large mainstem and tributary projects, i.e., passage in the Okanogan Basin, instream flow improvements, side channel restoration, flow plain function restoration, and habitat land purchases.

Bambrick stated he didn't think the Predator Study should have been funded from the NNI Fund, and questions if the PRCC will propose other large projects to be funded by the NNI Fund. Fisher explained that large projects take time to develop, and noted concern that funds might not be available when the HSC needs to access them for projects they are interested in developing. HSC members like the fact the NNI Funds is growing, and would like to see that continue. The HSC plans on spending money to supplement projects proposed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) projects.

- VI. **Habitat Plan** - Members reviewed Habitat Plan comments provided by all entities. Comments provided by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) propose that project coordination take place between the Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) and the Hatchery Subcommittee. HSC members asked for comment clarification before agreeing to include the comments in the Habitat Plan. **Baldwin will insert clarifying language regarding WDFW's Habitat/Hatchery Coordination directly into the Habitat Plan document. Lenz will update the Habitat Plan with HSC edits and send it back out to the committee for review by April 16, 2009. HSC comments are due**

**by April 23, 2009.** HSC members believe they will be able to have the Habitat Plan complete in time for PRCC review at their April 29, 2009 meeting. The PRCC will be asked to provide comments by May 27, 2009.

**A. Extension of Time – PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved Grant PUD’s request for an Extension of Time on the Habitat Plan. Members agreed to extend the deadline to July 01, 2009.**

**VII. Beaver Creek** – Morgan explained that the Washington River Conservation District wasn’t able to answer questions as to how much water could be saved by converting the two surface diversions to private wells. Morgan will update the committee when he has more information on this project.

**VIII. Nason Creek Habitat Rehabilitation at Squadroni Property (RM 11)** Project specification sheets were distributed electronically to all HSC members. Lenz explained that he proposed this project to the HSC last year, and at that time they were not interested in this particular project, but were comfortable with Large Woody Debris (LWD) projects in general. Since that time, the Bureau of Land Reclamation has published the Lower White Pine Reach Assessment describing what should be done in this reach. The assessment describes the use of LWD for habitat rehabilitation projects.

Lenz is requesting \$61,452.00 for Phase 1, design and permitting of the project, construction not included. Construction would not be proposed until 2010, with LGL being the proposed contractor.

Spring Chinook and steelhead redds have been located in this area, and are actively using this reach. The Wenatchee Watershed, Cascadia Conservation District, and Chelan County have evaluated this site. It is proposed that willow scrub, or dogwood be used for riparian plantings. Cottonwood would not be planted there because Chelan PUD cuts them down.

Members discussed the risk and benefits of the project, and the possible reconnection of the ox bow cut off when the railroad was built. SRFB funding was given in January 08 for this project. **Lenz will investigative progress on Chelan County’s Department of Natural Resources communications with the railroad company as it relates to reconnecting an oxbow at Nason Creek (RM 11).**

Baldwin stated progress is being made with the railroad regarding the reconnection. The Chelan County Natural Resources Department has several projects in this area under consideration. Redds at risk are a large concern to the committee. **HSC members will visit the Squadroni property at Nason Creek (RM 11) during their May 14, 2009 meeting.** Lenz stated this site is actively used for recreation. Detailed fish habitat survey data for this area is available from the

Bureau of Land Reclamation. **Rohr will talk to Hillman regarding holding the May HCP meeting in Leavenworth.**

**IX. Project Status**

- A. Cashmere Pond** – No discussion took place.
- B. McIntyre Dam** – No discussion took place.
- C. ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative Project)** – Fisher explained that project engineers are rethinking the flow originally proposed on this project in order to support egg to fry sockeye survival in naturalized reaches they are in the process of reconnecting. The HSC will be touring the ORRI Project in October. During the onsite visit, Fisher explained that the next phase of the project will be shown to.
- D. Blackbird Island** – Legal review of the City of Leavenworth's Special Use Permit (SUP) was provided by the Grant PUD legal department. After review, it was sent to the City of Leavenworth. Because the SUP was modified by Grant PUD, Morgan thinks the city will contact him regarding edits made.

- X. Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 14, 2009, time and location to be determined. Rohr continues work to find a date for the Priest Rapids Project tour.