



**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee  
 Conference Call**

**Thursday, 9 February 2023  
 1:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Members**

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Kate Terrell, Shelby Fowler (alt), USFWS	Chris Fisher, CTCR
Dave Duvall, Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel (alt), GPUD	Brandon Rogers, Hans Smith (alt), YN
Justin Yeager, NMFS	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Jeremy Cram, Amanda Barg (alt), WDFW	Erin Harris, GPUD
Nathan and Clayton Buck, Wanapum	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts, Facilitator

**Meeting Attendees**

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Kate Terrell, USFWS	Dave Duvall, GPUD
Brandon Rogers, YN	Nathan Buck, Wanapum
Jeremy Cram, WDFW	Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Shelby Fowler, USFWS	Tracy Hillman, BioAnalysts

**Action Items:**

- Dave Duvall will check to make sure that he has received the final invoice on the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project. If so, the project will be closed.
- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project.
- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction Project.
- Tracy Hillman will add language to the Operating Procedures that indicates entities, whose business benefits from PRCC HabSC funding of enhancement projects, must have project cost shares from “non-fish” funds that equate to 25% of the total cost of the project. Which projects will be required to provide the 25% “non-fish” cost share will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

- Tracy Hillman will review licensing agreements to determine whether voting parties are required to have a designated alternate on the PRCC HabSC.

## Decision Items<sup>1</sup>:

- PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed to combine the Halterman Hole with the Sage acquisition project. The contribution from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for the combined project is \$60,809.70.
- The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed that Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman can make decisions on behalf of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee on small administrative items that do not include scope changes, funding decisions, budget changes and amendments, and project time extensions.

## I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and participants introduced themselves. Chris Fisher and Justin Yeager<sup>2</sup> were unable to attend the meeting.

Tracy introduced Shelby Fowler to the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (PRCC HabSC). The USFWS identified Shelby as their alternate on the PRCC HabSC. Kate Terrell will continue to serve as the primary representative on the PRCC HabSC. Shelby shared that he is a fish passage engineer based out of the USFWS Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office. He has over 10 years of experience conducting hydrologic, hydraulic, and coastal studies. He has worked primarily on hydrology and hydraulic analyses throughout the Pacific Northwest, and he has gained experience working on projects that focus on flood risk mapping and management, levee setbacks, fish passage, habitat restoration, culvert design, bridge replacement and scour analyses, climate change, stormwater planning, and green stormwater infrastructure. Members welcomed Shelby to the Committees.

Tracy reported that he will soon move away from the GoToMeeting platform and will use Microsoft Teams for conducting virtual meetings. He said he is having some difficulties with GoToMeeting and believes Teams will be a more dependable platform.

## II. Agenda Review

The PRCC HabSC reviewed and approved the February agenda with one addition: Combine the Sage and Halterman Acquisition Projects into one Project.

## III. Approve January Meeting Notes

PRCC HabSC members reviewed and approved the 12 January 2023 meeting notes with minor edits.

## IV. Review Action Items

The PRCC HabSC reviewed the following action items from the January meeting:

- Dave Duvall will check to make sure that he has received the final invoice on the Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project. If so, the project will be closed. **Ongoing. Dave is waiting to hear from the project sponsor.**

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<sup>1</sup> All decision items listed here were approved by PRCC HabSC members.

<sup>2</sup> Chris Fisher and Justin Yeager provided their votes on decision items following the meeting.

- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Shingle Creek Fish Passage Project. **Ongoing.**
- Chris Fisher will check with ONA on the status of the Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction Project. **Ongoing**
- Tracy Hillman will request a detailed, line-item budget from Chelan County Natural Resources Department on the Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project. **Completed. Mike Kaputa provided the budget in an email.**
- Tracy Hillman will update the Land Acquisitions and Conservation Easements section in the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee's Operating Procedures. **Completed. See discussion under Section VIII.**

## V. Project Updates

Members of the PRCC HabSC provided the following updates on funded projects:

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project, Phase II Project** – Kate Terrell stated that Trout Unlimited (sponsor) met with the Cascadia Conservation District and the Conservation Commission in early January to discuss next steps for the Irrigation Efficiencies Grant Program application. The meeting reassured the sponsor that they are on the right path with conserved flows (7.37 cfs) within the application. The sponsor will meet with Jones Shotwell Ditch Company in February to review the conserved water piece and water they need for their 370 acres.
- **Icicle-Peshastin Irrigation District Fish Screen Project** – Jeremy Cram reported that the sponsor (WDFW) plans to complete the project this spring. Thus, the project will be operational for the 2023 irrigation season. Jeremy will provide additional details as they become available.
- **Ben Canyon Creek Fish Passage Project** – Dave Duvall reported that this project is complete and can be closed once the final invoice is received.
- **Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek (COIC) Flow Restoration Project** – Tracy Hillman reported that the PRCC HabSC will discuss this project today (see Section VI).
- **ORRI VDS Backwatering Project** – No update at this time.
- **Shingle Creek Fish Passage** – No update at this time.
- **Lower Trout Creek Re-naturalization: Stage 1 Construction** – No update at this time.
- **Big Meadow Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project** – Kate Terrell reported that the sponsor (Cascade Fisheries) received the bridge shop drawings from the bridge manufacturer (Rapid Span). Once they receive the design calculations, they will submit them to the Forest Service for review. Dave Duvall stated that the contract is in development and added that because the project is on public lands, Grant PUD is not responsible for bridge maintenance.
- **Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Funding Board Floodplain Science Workshop** – Dave Duvall reported that the PRCC HabSC contributed \$500 to the workshop. This project can be closed.

## VI. Restoration/Protection Projects

**Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project** – Last month, Justin Yeager introduced the specification sheet titled, *Cascade Orchards Icicle Creek Flow Restoration Project (Amended Request from March 2021 Submittal)*. Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) is the sponsor of

this project. The goal of this project is to permanently restore 11.9 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 4,012.4 acre-feet per year (afy) of instream flow to Icicle Creek through a partial water rights acquisition and construction of a downstream pump station and piped irrigation system. The project will add 11.9 cfs and 4,012.4 afy of flow from RM 4.5 to RM 1.9 and at least 3.9 cfs and 2,694 afy of flow from RM 1.9 to the confluence of Icicle Creek with the Wenatchee River. Ninety-percent designs have been completed and bid documents are scheduled to be completed by the end of January 2023. Final permits and project bidding should be completed by June 2023. Construction should begin in August, assuming all funding and permits are in place, and the project is scheduled to be completed by April 2025. The total cost of the project is \$5,250,000. The sponsor requested \$750,000 from the PRCC HabSC.

Last month, the PRCC HabSC decided to table the budget amendment because they needed more clarity on the budget (i.e., COIC's contribution to the project) and would like to review the report of examination prepared by Ecology before approving the project. This report is needed to help the PRCC HabSC evaluate whether the benefits of the project justify the additional cost of the project.

At the end of January, CCNRD provided an email itemizing the budget and indicated that the irrigation company purchased the pump station property for \$200,000 and has participated in more than five years of meetings. CCNRD also provided a map showing the amount of flow added to different sections of Icicle Creek (see Attachment 1). Just before the meeting today, the PRCC HabSC received the report of examination prepared by Ecology.

Dave Duvall asked about the funding gap (identified as "Remainder") in the sponsor's budget. Kate Terrell responded that the "Remainder" will be covered by the Office of Columbia River. Thus, it is unlikely the sponsor will ask the PRCC HabSC to cover the "Remainder." Tracy Hillman added that because the sponsor has not yet requested bids, the sponsor is not certain if they will have a funding gap. Dave also questioned the timeline for the project and asked if the timeline for implementation is reasonable. Kate stated that the Leavenworth Fish Hatchery intake is going forward and the hatchery is required to provide water to the irrigation district. She added that the sooner COIC can be separated from the hatchery the better. In addition, the sponsor would like to know they have full funding before they request bids.

Dave noted that in the past the PRCC HabSC has required that irrigation districts provide a cost share where there is a benefit to their organization and wondered if this applies to this project. Kate recalled that there was a percentage (~25%) that is supposed to be covered with "non-fish" dollars. She added that in this case, there are "non-fish" contributions including funds from COIC, Microsoft, Conservation Commission, and WaterSMART. Thus, they have over \$1M in "non-fish" dollars. Kate stated that the percentage does not need to be covered entirely by the irrigation company. Jeremy Cram thought it was a de facto policy but was to be implemented on a case-by-case basis. He agreed that the 25% contribution would come from "non-fish" funds on specific projects. Dave agreed that it did not apply to all projects, just those where the entity receives a business benefit. Dave suggested that we codify this decision in the notes and the Operating Procedures.

Tracy asked members if they were prepared to vote on the specification sheet. Some members indicated that they needed additional time to review the report of examination and to discuss the project internally. Those members indicated that they could provide their votes by Friday, 24 February.

**Halterman Hole and Sage Acquisition Projects** – Dave Duvall indicated that in May 2022, the PRCC HabSC approved funding for the Halterman Hole and Sage acquisition projects. The PRCC HabSC elected to contribute \$2,840.00 for Halterman Hole plus the appraisal (already completed under a pre-existing contract) and \$57,969.70 for the Sage acquisition. The amended specification sheet provided by Chris Johnson (MSRF) showed \$60,809.70 after adding the project development expenses of Halterman to the

Sage acquisition. Dave said unless we have meeting notes that more clearly reflect the PRCC HabSC decision to combine both, he believes Grant PUD Contracting will intervene and ask for clarification. Therefore, Dave asked the PRCC HabSC for approval to link Halterman Hole expenses to the Sage acquisition. This will result in one contract that clearly matches the dollar amount of \$60,809.70 with the amended specification sheet from MSRF. The PRCC HabSC agreed to combine the Halterman Hole with the Sage acquisition. The total contribution from the PRCC HabSC for the combined project is \$60,809.70.

**Decision:**

- *PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed to combine the Halterman Hole with the Sage acquisition project. The contribution from the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee for the combined project is \$60,809.70.*

**VII. Information Updates**

**UCSRB Floodplain Science Workshop** – Tracy Hillman reported that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) held the Floodplain Science Workshop on Tuesday, 24 January 2023. Tracy provided a brief overview of the presentations given during the workshop. He stated that a recording of the workshop can be found on the UCSRB website. Here are the links to the workshop recording and presentation abstracts:

- Workshop content: <https://www.ucsrb.org/meetings-events/conferences-workshop/floodplain/>.
- Workshop recordings: [YouTube channel](#).

**Salmon Recovery Funding Board 2023 Schedule** – Tracy Hillman reviewed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) schedule for 2023. Important dates are noted below:

- Pre-Applications Due: 9 March 2023
- Presentations by Project Sponsors: 29-30 March 2023
- Completed Draft Applications Due: 20 April 2023
- Site Visits: 8-10 May 2023
- Committees Review Draft Applications: 11 May 2023
- Final Application Due: 16 May 2023
- Committees Review Final Applications: 8 June 2023

Tracy noted that the SRFB applications require a cost share of at least 15%. Therefore, the PRCC HabSC may receive applications requesting funding to help cover the cost share. Tracy also recommended that members attend the presentations by project sponsors on 29-30 March.

**RCO Salmon Recovery Conference** – Tracy Hillman reported that the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will host the Salmon Recovery Conference on 18-19 April 2023. The conference will be held in Vancouver, WA at the Convention Center. The theme of the conference is *A Shared Future*, which reflects the desire to hear broad community perspectives regarding salmon recovery. The conference will have virtual access for those who cannot attend in person. Registration opened on 4 January. PRCC HabSC members are encouraged to register for the conference.

**Restoring Riverscapes Workshop: Advancing Process-Based Actions** – Tracy Hillman reported that NOAA Fisheries will host a virtual Restoring Riverscapes Workshop on 7-9 March 2023. The workshop will focus on advancing process-based restoration actions. The goals of the workshop are to discuss the principles and benefits of process-based restoration actions, dive into the challenges these approaches present, and work on solutions to encourage robust, region-wide implementation. The workshop will examine process-based restoration, provide riverscape restoration examples, explore constraints and solutions, and describe the road ahead. Registration opened on 3 January. It was recommended that members of the PRCC HabSC register for the workshop.

## **VIII. Administration**

**Review PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Operating Procedures** – Based on an action item from last month, Tracy Hillman reviewed the PRCC HabSC’s Operating Procedures to make sure they are consistent with the most recent approved Deed of Rights template. Tracy indicated that the Operating Procedures are up to date and include revisions that are not included in the most recent Deed of Rights. Dave Duvall indicated that the Deed of Rights template can change as needed based on project particulars. It is considered a template, which is needed to start the contracting process. There is no need to revise the Deed of Rights template at this time.

The PRCC HabSC will need to discuss the need to add language to the Operating Procedures regarding a 25% “non-fish” financial contribution to specific project types. The PRCC HabSC will need to decide whether this is specific to certain project types or will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Dave asked whether all voting members are required to identify an alternate to serve on the PRCC HabSC. Currently, NOAA and CTCR do not have alternates. The PRCC HabSC directed Tracy to review the PRCC agreement to see if it is a requirement. Tracy noted that some entities have stated that they do not have the capacity to assign alternates (e.g., CTCR).

### **Decision:**

- *The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members agreed that Dave Duvall and Tracy Hillman can make decisions on behalf of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee on small administrative items that do not include scope changes, funding decisions, budget changes and amendments, and project time extensions.*

## **IX. Adjourn**

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.

## **X. Next Meeting**

If necessary, the next meeting of the PRCC HabSC will be on 9 March 2023. This meeting may be cancelled because several members will be attending the Restoring Riverscapes Workshop on 7-9 March 2023. If the March meeting is cancelled the next meeting will be held on 13 April 2023.

# Attachment 1

## Flow Benefit Map for the COIC Project



