

**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Habitat Work Group
February 13, 2015 Meeting**
Lewis County Conservation District, Chehalis

In Attendance

Amy Spoon	Cynthia Wilson	Lonnie Crumley
Ann Weckback	Dustin Bilhimer	Miles Batchelder
Bob Armine	Janet Strong	Omroa Bhugwandin
Chanele Holbrook	John Kliem	
Charissa Waters	Laurence Reeves	

Conceptual Project Presentations

Mima Creek Riparian Restoration – Laurence Reeves, Capitol Land Trust

Continuation of Capitol Land Trust’s efforts at its Black River Farm project. Restoration of a scrub-shrub wetland on a commercial dairy farm. Project includes removal of reed canary grass and blackberries that will result in a restored 100-foot buffer along Mima Creek on the property. Length of the restoration will be about 2,900 feet of stream length and about 5 acres in area. Estimated project cost is \$47,000 with the Land Trust asking for about half from the Salmon Recovery Grant program. Mima Creek is barrier-free for about four miles from its mouth.

Wein’s Farm Riparian Restoration – Chanele Holbrook, Creekside Conservancy

Wein’s Farm is an educational/demonstrate site. The project involves riparian restoration on Scatter Creek with mixed plantings that includes pollinators and bird feeders. The project anticipates incorporating lots of public participation and school instruction. Emphasis will be on demonstrating sustainable farming near streams. The project area covers about six acres and will cost around \$15,000.

Scatter Creek Restoration – Chanele Holbrook, Creekside Conservancy

This project aims at instream restoration for a one-mile length section of Scatter Creek. Seven property owners are expected to participate. Restoration work will include creating small floodplain benches, increasing instream complexity, planting natural vegetation, and enrolling owners into the CREP program to fence animals away from the stream. Mason Conservation District will partner with Creekside Conservancy for this project. Project is still in the organizational phase.

Wisner Creek Restoration – Bob Armine, Lewis Conservation District

A tributary of Mill Creek, the Wisner Creek project will recreate a channel to open up 1.2 miles of the stream that should increase salmon production upstream. Restoration work along the channel will remove reed canary grass. In-channel work will include placing spawning rock. Estimated project cost will be around \$55,000. Maintenance funding will be necessary as well.

Update on 2014 SRFB Funding

Miles Batchelder reported that if the state legislature funds the West Coast Recovery Initiative (WCRI), the Lead Entity may be short on submittals. He invited project sponsors to consider additional projects.

Testimony before the legislature went well at its hearing. The \$15 million request has received positive feedback so far. The funding, if passed by the legislature, will go into the WDFW budget.

Update on Lead Entity Position

Recruitment is continuing. More information may be available at the March 13th meeting.