

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

AGENDA

Monday, January 6, 2019

~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm ~

Chehalis Tribe Community Center – Gathering Room

Alissa Ferrell, RCO	Jonathan Bradshaw, HWG Minutes
Ann Weckback, Lewis Co.	Karin Strelloff, Thurston CD
Anthony Waldrop, Grays Harbor CD	Kathy Jacobsen, LE Outreach Coordinator
Bob Amrine, Lewis CD	Kelly Verd, Lewis CD
Brandon Carman, RCO	Kirsten Harma, Lead Entity Coordinator
Caprice Fasano, Quinault Indian Nation	Mark Gary, CRBLT
Chris Dwight, WDFW	Megan Tuttle, WDFW
Claire Williamson, WDFW	Ned Pittman, Coast Salmon Partnership/Fdn
Greg Green, Ducks Ultd	Rick Rouse, Port of Chehalis
Garret Dalan, TNC	Rickie Marion, Chehalis Tribe
Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy	Thom Woodruff, Capitol Land Trust
Jan Robinson, CRBLT	Tom Kollasch, Grays Harbor CD
Jason Gillie, Chehalis Tribe	

1. Welcome, Introductions, Updates

Of note, Megan Tuttle is a new WDFW Biologist within Region 6. She covers parts of Grays Harbor, the Satsop, the Wynoochee, and the Chehalis upstream to Oakville. More information on biologists' coverage areas can be found here:

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=48699252565749d1b7e16b3e34422271>

2. Organizational Business

1. Review minutes from December

Thom Woodruff motioned to approve December's minutes without comment, and Jason Gillie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Subcommittees – Updates

Culvert:

The culvert prioritization tool is being finished up. It will be presented at the upcoming Chehalis Science Symposium, as well as at the upcoming Chehalis Basin Board meeting and with the WSDOT. Finishing touches include canopy cover, LWD recruitment, buffer, and tree height. The team has been working with Caprice and Coleen to update SWIFD, toward approval by NWIFC. A lot of the inconsistencies regarding Chinook has been cleared up, and the database is matching up with reality much more closely.

Education/Outreach:

Kathy took the river table to local schools to teach about river hydrology and restoration, and it was a big hit. The students responded very well, and we received 110 thank-you letters.

We would like to ensure good landowner representation at the upcoming Scott Freeman talk on Friday, March 6th. Anyone interested in tabling at the event should contact Kathy for forms. They were also

passed out at the meeting.

Newaukum:

WDFW crews are currently on the ground in tributaries to the Newaukum River taking photos, recording GPS points, getting the character of each reach, and attaching in a GIS. This will all be developed into a tool for working on restoration projects higher up in the watershed. Right after February's HWG meeting, the Newaukum Subcommittee will be meeting to talk through how best to assemble the data to be useful to all parties involved.

3. A handful of HWG Conflict of Interest print-outs were passed around for review. Feedback needs to be submitted by next meeting.**

3. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

1. Formation of 2020 Local Review Team

Kirsten checked in with potential members of the 2020 SRFB local review team, and gave a rundown of expectations and dates.

2. Conceptual Project Presentations

i. Tree Fever Conservation Easement (Thom Woodruff, Capitol Land Trust)

The CLT is looking to acquire an easement on a 136-acre property with 1 mile of frontage on the West Fork of the Satsop. The easement would protect the land from subdivision, which is seen as very likely for this parcel, and has occurred on adjacent parcels. The restrictions of the easement would allow no more than 3 homes to total no more than 5000 sq. ft. It would also restrict shoreline development, new road construction, and allow for restoration work. A rough estimation of the easement's cost at this point is \$325K, half of which would be requested from SRFB, with the other half being a match requested from ASRP.

DISCUSSION:

Thom noted after the presentation that though this is a lot of acreage, there is a lot of waterfront. Additionally, the current buyer is motivated by economics, not necessarily conservation: he's got it platted in 10-acre parcels. If he sees selling development rights as a more viable option, he will go that route. That said, the LO would gladly go the conservation easement route.

Comment: In your proposal, be clearer about the specific conservation/restoration possibilities. This would really improve your application.

Q: *Is this on an Early Action Reach?*

A: No. The Early Action Reach is on the lower East Fork.

Q: *Would timber harvest be prohibited?*

A: No, this owner is enrolled in FREP with DNR. Forestry would be maintained, with minimized roads.

ii. Bly and Fairfield Acquisitions (Mark Gray, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust)

Mark Gray presented on behalf of the CRBLT for an acquisition of two properties for a total of 39 acres. The properties have a total of 0.5 miles of shoreline and contain a 10-acre wetland, and are on the West Hoquiam River, within the inner estuary. They are adjacent to 712 acres of previously acquired CRBLT land, and near 670 acres owned on the East Hoquiam. The two properties bookend, more or less, the Middle Fork Tidal Restoration CRBLT/GHCD project. The Bly property is 14 acres, and includes 10 acres of wetland. It is currently not shoreline, but the adjacent shoreline is already owned by the CRBLT. The Fairfield property is 25 acres and has a half-mile of shoreline. It has some clear restoration opportunities, though this will need to be done with a mind to how climate change will affect species composition and the dynamic shoreline here. CRBLT will partner with Ducks Unlimited for guidance on restoration for these parcels. Proposed request would be for \$133,000.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is there a boat launch on either parcel? Public access?

A: Not formally, but it's a county road directly to the river. And yes, with SRFB funding, we'd have to allow public access here, but we don't have to facilitate it.

Q: Looks like you and a lot of folks are going to the ASRP for match. Are there other sources for match?

A: Options are pretty limited. Used to be that Thurston Co had Conservation Futures, but that program has changed. With properties like this, though, there's always the potential for a bargain sale as match.

iii. Satsop and Wynoochee Headwaters Restoration (Grays Harbor CD)

Anthony Waldrop presented on a GHCD project proposal to build on a restoration strategy development already in process. The current project is working to develop data into reach-specific, suggested restoration prescriptions. It is focusing on improving level 2 through level 4 streams for water quality, quantity, and aquatic species habitat. NSD is doing geomorphology assessment, and GHCD is also working with Weyerhaeuser, Green Diamond and Mason CD. In particular, this work is looking to develop this knowledge toward addressing the legacy impact of previous forest industry impacts- in particular splash dams. As previous funding was limited to project development, the current funding request is to implement pilot project construction in 2021. NSD is presently working to determine an ideal reach for this pilot construction, and this site will be selected by the time the proposal is submitted.

DISCUSSION:

Q: Is there the possibility of doing pre-project monitoring? It would be great to have before/after data on the water storage here: there's not a lot of data at present.

A: We do have some funding for monitoring, so it's a possibility to get Winter/Spring/Summer information on waterflow for the 2021 project, yes.

Q: Do you have any more detail on what the prescription would be for implementation?

A: That's what we're determining, but it will likely include beaver analogues, post-assisted log-jams, etc. It'll be intentional, structured wood-restoration techniques that will capture sediment and reconnect the floodplain. Once we identify our pilot site, we can give more specific clarity.

Q: Have you made LO incentive considerations?

A: Not actively yet: there are some incentives in place, but there is certainly more opportunity there, and we'll be considering that.

Q: Do you have costs?

A: We don't have a direct idea of this without our site selected, but NSD did about ½ mile for 50K on the east side of the state, so we can ballpark with that a bit.

iv. MF Newaukum at Centralia Alpha Fish Passage Construction (Lewis County)

This project is requesting ASRP funding. Ann Weckback outlined a Lewis County proposal for construction to replace an existing 7' by 5' corrugated steel squash pipe that is 33% passable due to velocity. The complete design would install a 50' x 22' x 9' fish-passable structure. Replacing this tier 2 barrier would open 3.5 miles for coho, 2.6 for steelhead. This site lacks a PI number, but on-the-ground observations expect a high score, higher than adjacent barriers that score 10.0.

v. Lucas Creek Trib MP 4.24 and Lucas Creek Trib MP 4.39 – Fish Passage Construction (Lewis County)

This project is requesting ASRP funding. Ann Weckback presented on two ASRP project proposals on Lucas Creek: The first is a fish passage at milepost 4.24. It's a 3' diameter half concrete, half steel pipe. It's 33% passable with a 2' water surface drop. The replacement structure would be 70' x 24' x 12'. It's ranked as a tier 3 barrier, although this takes into consideration a downstream barrier that doesn't exist. As such, this barrier may have higher actual priority. This project would open up 1.22 linear miles for coho and 1.36 for steelhead. There is 100% riparian cover above this culvert. The second barrier occurs at milepost 4.39. The current 33% passable (1.7% grade) 6' x 4' steel pipe arch would be replaced with a 78' x 20' x 13' structure. There is also 100% canopy cover above this site, and about 4 acres of wetland.

Costs for these projects would be, respectively, \$241,730 and \$210,418. These requests are each a 20% match for proposals being submitted to the FBRB.

vi. Jested Creek at Senn – Fish Passage Design (Lewis County)

This project is requesting ASRP funding. Ann Weckback presented a request for funding to design a replacement for a 0% passable culvert. It's a 5' by 3' corrugated steel squash pipe with a 4.9% slope. Above this barrier is 1.26 miles of access for coho, 0.79 miles for steelhead. There is 100% canopy cover here as well, and above, both a dam and a culvert have been removed by LCD.

4. ASRP

1. ASRP Document – Public Comment Letter?

The group determined that there's not interest in putting together a joint letter. Individual groups, however, may and are encouraged to send letters on their own.

2. ASRP Updates

ASRP proposals are due on February 5th. Any questions should be directed to Julia Marshburn. Her contact info is on the website along with the RFP. There are a handful of FAQ up online, too, at this point.

3. Early Action Reach Updates

Not many updates at this point. Thurston CD is looking at putting in for permits.

5. Chehalis Lead Entity Strategy Chapter Review

1. Lincoln

Rick Rouse presented a summary of the Lincoln Creek watershed. He gave a general overview of the strategy's description of this reach and its features, and touched on notable issues that need addressed. The tiers of concern for this subbasin are as follows. Tier 1: sediment, riparian condition, fish passage; tier 2: floodplain connection and water quality; tier 3: LWD, water quantity.

2. Wynoochee

Tom Kollasch presented on the content of the strategy regarding the Wynoochee subbasin. Briefly: The Wynoochee subbasin drains south, out of the Olympic Mountains, and has 62.3 mainstem miles, and 173 tributary miles. Notable, too, is the presence of the Wynoochee dam at mile 47.8, around which fish, wood and gravel are trucked. Tier 1 concerns include fish passage, riparian, floodplain connection; tier 2 concerns are water quality and sedimentation; and tier 3 concerns are LWD and water quantity issues.

One recommended action that Tom pointed out as particularly interesting was that more wood and gravel be transported more thoroughly. LWD as a whole, it seems, should be a higher priority, certainly higher than a Tier 3 concern. Also of note, the ASRP states that spring chinook had existed in this area, but have been extirpated. This isn't reflected in the strategy. Overall, however, this section of the strategy seems to be pretty solid.

DISCUSSION:

Comment: There are records of bull trout in system, too.

Answer: There is USFW money to find any populations above the falls using eDNA. It's not impossible, but it doesn't seem likely.

Comment: It's also noteworthy that there have been some invasives observed, namely West Slope Cutthroat and Brook Trout.

3. Upcoming: Humptulips (Luke); South Bay (Caprice); Skookumchuck (Devin)

6. Closing