

Habitat Work Group - Chehalis Basin Lead Entity
Minutes
March 13, 2015
9:30- 12:30
Lewis County Conservation District, Chehalis

In Attendance

Amy Spoon
Ann Weckback
Dustin Bilhimer
Janet Strong

Jeni Maakad
John Kliem
Mike Nordin
Miles Batchelder

Miranda Plum
Omroa Bhagwandrin

Coordinator Update

A committee interviewed three people and made a recommendation to the Chehalis Tribal Business Committee. The expectation is that they will make a decision in the next several weeks.

Salmon Recovery Grant Program

The SRG submittal schedule is now complete. Batchelder reminded everyone of the due dates and that a grant checklist is available from RCO.

At the April meeting, the group will need to clarify the schedule for the May field trips. It will be important to watch the time allowed for each visit and have good directions in hand to ensure time is not lost by getting lost. The Chehalis Tribe will be providing a bus again for the field visits. There was a suggestion that the new Coordinator, when that person gets on board, may wish to do a dry run of the visits just to verify times and directions.

Conceptual Project Presentations

Weyerhaeuser W. Fork Satsop – Jeni Maakad & Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation Dist.

This RMAP Project entails removing two barrier culverts with a pipe arch on tributaries one-half mile from the mouth. Approximate cost is \$191,000; Weyerhaeuser is providing a 50% match. Main species include coho and cutthroat, as well as other species. About three miles of habitat will open up with the project. The project currently is on the WCRI list.

Weyerhaeuser M. Fork Satsop – Jeni Maakad & Mike Nordin, Grays Harbor Conservation Dist.

This RMAP project entails removing two barrier culverts and erecting a 90-foot steel bridge to open up nine miles of upstream habitat. This is a low gradient area; when flows increase, the culverts become a velocity barrier. Project cost is \$194,000 with Weyerhaeuser providing a 50% match. The project currently is on the WCRI list.

East Hoquiam Surge Plain Acquisition – Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust

Acquisition project that will purchase approximately two parcels totaling 68 acres within the Hoquiam River Surge Plain. This will be a direct acquisition by the Land Trust from the current owners. This acquisition is in the same area as previous purchases.

Wishkah Gardens Acquisition – Janet Strong, Forterra/Chehalis River Basin Land Trust

This proposed acquisition will purchase 72 acres of floodplain that has three-quarter mile of Wishkah River shoreline. Predominately forested wetland, there is some wet pastureland frequented by elk. The Wishkah River still has tidal influence in the river at the property. Audubon has conservation properties in the area and there are a number of conservation easements. The project will develop a restoration plan for future implementation. The Chehalis Basin Land Trust will be the project sponsor, but Forterra will aid in developing the application. Total estimate for the purchase is \$93,712, with a \$16,538 match. The project also will be looking for money to help with stewardship costs.

Bunker Road Barrier Removal – Bob Armine, Lewis Co. Conservation District

This barrier removal eliminates two pipes and installs two bridges that are 15' wide and 24' long each. The estimated cost will be \$250,680 total, with the SRG request coming in at 75%. The project will open up 3.6 miles of high quality habitat that serves coho and steelhead.

Intrinsic Potential Modeling

Batchelder gave a presentation and demonstration on the Intrinsic Potential Modeling Project that WCSSP has been developing. The website on the project is available at:

<http://www.onrc.washington.edu/MarinePrograms/AnadIPportal.html>.

WCSSP will be needing assistance from the Lead Entities to aid in peer review. Expect a future HWG meeting devoted to this purpose.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, April 10, 2015 at 9:30 AM at the Lewis Conservation District Office in Chehalis.