

McNary Fisheries Compensation Committee Meeting

Northern Wasco County PUD Conference Room

2345 River Road, The Dalles, Oregon 97058

Call in Number: 1-971-256-0996 , passcode: 148967

Updated: 8/6/2015

Thursday, August 6, 2015, 1 – 4 pm

Attending: Rick M.-PUD, Gary F.-NOAA, Korenna C.-PUD

On Phone: Erick V.-ODFW, Dan R.-WDFW, RD Nelle.-USFWS, Brian M.-CRITFC,

Presenting-Mitchell Long and David Gerth-KCT, Bill Anger-FS.

1. New Proposals, Extension Request or Final Report Presentations.

a. Williams Creek- Kittitas Conservation Trust – Mitchell Long.

Mitch opened the presentation, titled “Williams Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project, with an overview of the project and the area to be worked in. Main components of the project include placement of Large Woody Debris (LWD) in about 4 miles of stream, removal of 5 culverts and replacement of two others and about 6 miles of road and trail decommissioning. Bill A. from the FS talked about the role of the FS and their basin wide approach to habitat restoration to maintain functioning habitat and restore degraded habitat. Bill also talked about three techniques for road decommissioning and how all three would be used on this project. They talked about culverts and the barriers they pose and how the selective thinning being done as part of the Swauk Pine Restoration project would provide the wood for the LWD placement part of the project. Gary asked who built the roads to which Bill responded, “we (FS) did. This foreshadowed Gary’s main concern with the project, specifically, the FS created the problem, they should fix it. Dan R. asked about the FS commitment to enforce the trespassing violations that will be, hopefully, illegal in December when WA passes a new law making it illegal. Bill said the FS has doubled their enforcement officers, from 1 to 2, meaning they will do what they can but resources are very limited. Gary expressed concern about habitat restoration work being un-done by a persistent and destructive group of folks refusing to stay out.

Dan also asked if the two primary activities that caused the degradation, logging and mining, would be halted. Bill said no, both activities could still occur in the area but would have to get a plan approved by the FS to do so. Adding that the mining is small in scale and the worst part of the activity was the vehicles driving to the claim and the camping. Lastly Dan commented that steelhead prefer larger or mainstem rivers and streams and questioned if steelhead would move up into these small streams and how that would be evaluated.

Bill responded that the goal of the work is to increase the size of the streams, making them more suitable for steelhead. Mitch added that state biologists do the stream surveys which would constitute the monitoring and evaluation and that work downstream resulted in production increases so moving upstream should do the same.

Erick asked about salmonid use before degradation to which Mitch responded that Coho were in the area and he would consider a reintroduction effort if restoration work is successful.

Erick also asked about monitoring and evaluation efforts post work. Mitch mentioned wells to measure ground water elevation and additional PIT arrays. He also said he hopes to get monitoring money through SRFB.

Erick asked about FS road decommissioning program, if this project area falls within the prioritization list. Bill said it is but more planning than implementation. FS focus is on steelhead and Bull trout areas. He mentioned that the FS includes a “right-sizing” approach, basically reducing miles of road to match the O&M budget.

There was some discussion about reluctance to use MMF limited money to pay for road decommissioning and Mitch said others had expressed the same concern. Bill added that without the road decommissioning the rest of the work would be at risk of being undone. The key is reducing access and the resulting riparian degradation. Dan brought up the question of funding restoration on federal land and mentioned that BPA requires a 30% match for work on federal land. He further asked if the committee needs to have a discussion about this topic and clarify our position.

There was some discussion about timing of decision but Mitch said they won’t know about SRFB money until November so we have at least until then to vote.

Action Items: All- review proposal and prepare for discussion and vote in November.

Rick- get proposal and distribute.

2. June 2015 meeting minutes approval request.

Gary suggested and Erick agreed that the minutes should reflect agreement with all of the protocol changes

Rick proposed with the exception of the Decision Making section (2.2) which Julie was going to re-write.

Action Items: Rick: modify June minutes to reflect approval of changes to protocols, except section 2.2.

Julie: rewrite section 2.2 and distribute for review.

3. Other new business, agenda additions, etc.

a. Committee Logo

Several folks thought it was too busy, others expressed concern about use of agency logo.

Action Item: Rick will work on another draft version w/o all of the agency logos on it.

EVD Just some additional thoughts not to include in your notes: What is being advertised? McNary Mitigation Fund or the McNary Fisheries Compensation Committee?

If it is the fund, it is about the money! This seems most appropriate for a logo development. If it is the Committee it would be something different, and perhaps individual agency logo's would be appropriate. After checking ODFW would not have an issue using ODFW logo, especially for things we partner on... food for thought.

Possible statements that I could support:

"Trust fund for mitigated actions aimed at recovering wild anadromous fish and their habitats upstream of McNary Dam"

"Funding mitigation actions aimed at recovering wild anadromous fish and their habitats"

"Funding projects aimed at restoring wild anadromous fish and their habitats"

"Fund to temper past impacts on anadromous fish and their habitats"

Possible layout for McNary Mitigation Fund:



4. Grant Updates, work progress and financial activity.

- i) Swauk Creek Restoration- Yakama Nation-Henry Fraser (ED-2/10/12)
- ii) Lamprey Test Tank Construction-WDFW-Pat Shille (ED-12/4/12)
- iii) Yakama River Adult Lamprey Tracking-Yakama Nation, Bob Rose, (ED-6/30/13)
- iv) PIT Tagging Spring Chinook Parr-Year 1- WDFW-Dan Rawding, (ED-9/30/13)
- v) Facilities Inventory and RME preparation, CRITFC, Brian McIlraith, (ED-3/31/14)

Brian reported that the document had been referenced and used as intended.

- vi) Lamprey Screen Type Testing-USGS, Matt Mesa & Theresa Liedtke, (ED-12/31/13)
- vii) Lamprey Habitat Restoration Guide, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, John Crandall, (ED 5/31/15)
 - (1) Haven't gotten e-copy yet, last invoice submitted (\$13,156.50) and paid.
- viii) Cle Elum River Restoration-Phase 2, Kittitas Conservation Trust, Mitchell Long (ED 12/31/14)
 - (1) Mitchell will present an update in person. Mitch reported that he is very pleased with the effectiveness of the restoration work siting a personal experience of walking a dirt trail before the work and now the same trail is under 3 -4' of water. He is seeing cold, clean water in the side channels and an improved riparian and flood plain. He has also seen increased beaver activity. Overall, very pleased with the project which a helicopter crew leader called the best he had seen in 25 years of experience.
- ix) PIT Tagging Spring Chinook Parr-Year 2, WDFW, Todd Miller (12/31/2015)
 - (1) Invoice for \$8,336.72 submitted and paid.

Dan reported that fish are moving and being detected. He mentioned that some parr residualized.

- x) Yakama River Adult Lamprey Tracking-Tags only, Yakama Nation, Bob Rose (ED 3/31/15)

- xi) Yakama River Beaver Project, Mid C.Fisheries Enhancement Group-Mel Babik & WDFW-William Meyer, (ED 12/31/15) [Reimbursed \\$14,876.10, written update provided.](#)
 - (1) Inv#4, \$14,876.10 submitted 8/5/15, paid, see written update attached.
- xii) Adult Pacific Lamprey in the Snake- Receiver update (ED 12/31/14).
- xiii) Evaluation of Restoration Actions to Increase Overwintering Survival of Juvenile Tucannon River spring Chinook and summer steelhead. (ED 12/31/15)
 - (1) No financial activity.

See updated Grant Summary Table for complete list of activity.

[Updated tables added to the web site.](#)

5. Change Forms

- a. Committee Protocols – See Protocols document with edits, same ones as at last meeting, still waiting for responses from members.

[Changes were approved at the last meeting but Rick did not get that impression so minutes were changed and changes will be implemented.](#)

6. Website updates Updated tables and February added minutes.

7. Next Meeting Date Mid November