Chelan County Natural Resources Department – Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Reconnection Project (RM36-38) – 30% Design Comment Matrix Prepared for BPA Project Number 89494		
Commenter	Comment	Response
UCRTT Verbal Comments during 01/11/2023 Virtual Meeting	1. John C. – Like how project has developed. Expects lots of fish use. Likes the approach and models.	
	2. Steve F. – Model scenarios are useful. Did you run model at flows higher than Q2? Likes ELJ placement. Reach is straight and this could increase sinuosity, which is a good thing. Less certain about boulder clusters. Small compared to channel, may not have much influence.	
	3. Amanda B. – Didn't realize beaver extent. Past side channels have had beaver issues. What happens if they move into pilot channel?	
	4. John A. – Good job. Appreciate the modeling and focus on inlet size. Still have some concern about that area. More concerned about larger materials, than the small particles modeled for sediment transport. Raising stage is effective for inundation. Have you looked at methods other than ELJs for raising stage? Be certain design is sustainable.	
	5. Tracy H. – Expects continued beaver activity and changes. This is a good thing. Beavers improve conditions when up and downstream connectivity is available. It appears that the Design Team has really addressed RTT comments throughout the process. Good project. High benefit.	

	Wenatchee really rips at high flows. Have you evaluated ELJ stability at high flows?	
	6. Kelli S. – Initially had some concerns about avulsion into side channel, but based on what I've seen today it seems like the wetland should control grade and avulsion seems unlikely. Have you considered additional complexity in the pilot channel?	
Ken Muir Region 2 Habitat Biologist, WDFW (written comments sent via email 01/17/2023)	7. Temporary Bridge a. The temporary bridge design must have at least a 1-foot minimum freeboard for clearance above the anticipated high-flow water surface during the time it will be in place. Define the anticipated flow. Provide minimum bottom chord elevations for temporary bridges on the plans to meet the above criteria. b. Orient abutments landward, if feasible, or to a location where they will not impede fish passage. c. Please define the anticipated number of in-water equipment crossings necessary to install and remove the temporary bridges.	
	8. Project Timing a. Per an email sent on 9/27/21 to Scott from Amanda, "in-water work window could be potentially extended from mid-August to mid-September, however, we would first need to discuss in-water work site isolation as that will be important to protect downstream spring Chinook redds from fine sediment, and other potential construction-related disturbances.	

	b. A meeting with the Services and USFS is scheduled for 1/27/23 to confirm the in-water work window and this time would be an opportunity to discuss the in-water isolation methods needed for WDFW to approve an extension during times when spawning and incubation are occurring.	
	9. Revegetation or Planting plan a. Are there any plans for revegetation beyond the mulching and seeding of the decommissioned road?	
	10. Pilot channel a. Was there any consideration of whether to add habitat complexity within the channel? We recommend utilizing any large woody debris collected from clearing needed for the channel excavation to be repurposed for habitat complexity within or on the margins of the newly constructed channel. b. Was there any consideration for grade control in the mainstem Wenatchee River at the inlet to the pilot channel to maintain the design flow split?	
Comments from 01/23/2023 Meeting with Services Judy Neibauer (USFWS), Justin Yaeger (NOAA), Amanda Barg (WDFW), Ken Muir (WDFW)	How might you phase work to avoid impacts to bull trout and other species? Construction sequencing/dewatering plan Flow cut offs? Flow criteria for various work elements? Conditioned construction contracts? Sediment conditions - Turbidity values? How far downstream? Additional conservation measures?	