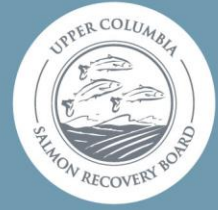


Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



CHELAN PROJECT RANKING MEETING NOTES
CHELAN COUNTY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 5:00-6:20 PM
CHELAN COUNTY FIRE STATION, CHELAN WA

- CAC Participants: Keith Truscott (Chair), Alan Schmidt, Leah Hemberry, Jim Johnson, Mike Deason (remote)
 - Matt Collins and Bruce Merighi (not in attendance - each submitted rankings ahead of the meeting)
- UCSRB Staff: Amanda Ward, Tracy Bowerman, Dave Hecker

Keith Truscott, Chelan CAC Chair, convened the meeting at 5:18 pm.

Chair Truscott welcomed everyone, and introductions were made. The CAC ranking process and Bylaws were reviewed. Chair Truscott requested members identify any conflicts of interest. Three were identified:

- One member recused themselves from the Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration – COIC proposal, and
- Two members recused themselves from the Mission Creek Protection proposal.

A CAC member asked whether there was a limit on how much funding could be requested for a single project. The Chair confirmed there is not a request cap, and that the committee would discuss how they want to distribute funds during the ensuing process.

Tracy Hillman (RTT) joined the meeting virtually to address biological questions from CAC members. Open discussion regarding biological benefit and RTT scores included the following:

CAC question: If they were to fund the most expensive project, did Tracy Hillman think the biological benefit would outweigh the sum of 6-8 other proposals? Tracy Hillman response: No, the cumulative biological benefit of the top 6-8 restoration/design projects, not including the SR 207 project, exceeds the biological benefit of the SR 207 project.

CAC question: Will you clarify the extent of floodplain reconnection for the SR 207 project, and what kept it from scoring higher? Tracy Hillman response: If the project included a large area downstream it would have scored higher. It includes a portion; therefore, it scored lower than it could have. The RTT can only evaluate this project based on the area to be restored.

CAC question: Regrading the Mission Creek Barrier Removal proposal, can you clarify the discussion of high flows that cleared woody debris from the barrier this spring and whether the

barrier is now passable? Tracy Hillman response: The information the RTT received came from the landowner. Recent high flows apparently moved a lot of woody debris from the rock cluster at that site, although it does not mean debris won't collect again in the future. The rock structure itself did not change.

There were no further questions.

Prior to the meeting, individual Chelan CAC members scored and ranked projects and submitted those to Dave Hecker. Tracy Bowerman displayed the committee's initial average scores, ranks, and standard deviations for committee review. RTT scores were also displayed in comparison to average CAC ranks.

Initial Chelan County CAC Ranking:

Lower Wenatchee and Peshastin Thermal Refuge Assessment	1
Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Reconnection (RM 37-38) - Implementation	2
Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration	3
Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration - COIC	4
Nason Creek RM12 Floodplain Reconnection	5
Peshastin RM 2.5	6
Mission Creek Protection	7
Nason Creek and SR 207 Re-Alignment Fish Habitat Enhancement Project	8
Floodplain Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring on Fish Populations in the Upper Columbia	9
Fish Passage Restoration at Six Barrier Corrections within Lower Chiwawa Tributaries	10
Nason Creek Floodplain Restoration: PUD Transmission Line Relocation	11
Mission Creek Barriers	12
CMZ 12 Side Channel Adaptive Management	13
Peshastin Creek RM 8.8 Conceptual Design	14
Beaver Creek Barrier Correction Implementation	15
Eagle Creek Lowest Four Barrier Corrections	16

The CACs discussed each project individually and shared their thoughts on how they scored projects. If a member had a score that was an outlier from the average, the member shared their reasoning.

1. Lower Wenatchee and Peshastin Thermal Refuge Assessment:
 - Valuable project that will produce a lot of meaningful data to help inform future proposals.

2. Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Reconnection (RM 37-38) – Implementation:
 - Members value the extent of project vetting and design revisions. This project is evidence that it's worth it to go through years of design for the right outcome.

3. Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration:

- Well balanced project in terms of funding sources, social and community benefits, outreach opportunities and biological benefits.
4. Icicle Creek In-stream Flow Restoration – COIC:
 - The timing was right, and the CAC values the collaboration that went into this project over the past 10 years.
 5. Nason Creek RM 12 Floodplain Reconnection – Final Design:
 - This project is in a high benefit location and there’s a lot of opportunity to add habitat. However, CACs observed quality riparian vegetation and habitat nearby that the sponsor will want to be careful to avoid negatively impacting.
 6. Peshastin RM 2.5:
 - Committee members like the restoration design and believe that more time will bring certainty for how the landowners plan to develop the site.
 7. Mission Creek Protection:
 - Opportunities for protection are limited and the CAC values the landowners desire to establish a conservation easement.
 8. Nason Creek SR 207 Re-Alignment Fish Habitat Enhancement:
 - The CAC recognizes this proposal is in a high priority area that would allow natural stream processes to occur and it’s a positive that WDOT has committed funding. The committee agrees that while this project would provide significant biological benefit, it’s difficult to justify allocating the requested amount to one project when the funding could be distributed across numerous other projects.
 9. Floodplain Restoration Monitoring:
 - The CAC values monitoring projects and committee members are interested in related results.

A committee member pointed out that it may not be necessary to discuss remaining projects in detail, as they had reached the associated funding total. Chair Truscott asked if there were any additional comments or project considerations.

CAC members briefly noted the following:

Regarding Mission Creek Barriers: Given the uncertainty of the barrier status, it would be beneficial to resurvey and determine if it’s passable after high flow altered placement of wood.

Regarding Fish Barrier Removal Board funded projects seeking match from SRFB (Mission Creek Barriers and Beaver Creek): CAC members noted interest in these projects given their ability to leverage large amounts funds via small SRFB requests.

Regarding CMZ Side Channel Adaptive Management: Would like to see side channel adaptive management at a later date. The CAC is concerned this site may require continual maintenance and is interested in alternatives.

Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the Chelan CAC list as initially ranked. Mike Deason seconded the motion and all members approved.

Final Chelan CAC Ranked List:

Lower Wenatchee and Peshastin Thermal Refuge Assessment	1
Upper Wenatchee Floodplain Reconnection (RM 37-38) - Implementation	2
Lower Chiwaukum Creek Restoration	3
Icicle Creek Instream Flow Restoration - COIC	4
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