

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 CAC Ranking Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 5:20-6:00pm  
Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA

- **CAC Participants:** Jim Johnson, Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Alan Schmidt, Bruce Merighi (virtual), Leah Hemberry (virtual)
- **UCSRB Staff:** Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Gabby Vermeire

Keith Truscott, Chelan CAC Chair, convened meeting at 5:20 pm

Chair Truscott provided overview of CAC ranking process and asked members to identify any conflicts of interests:

One CAC member, Leah Hemberry, explained that she has a conflict of interest as a board member for the Chelan Douglas Land Trust. She did not score the Lower Peshastin Acquisition project (proposed by CDLT), and the Nason Creek Acquisition since there are conversations about the Land Trust assuming ownership of the lands after purchase.

No other CAC members had any conflicts of interest as defined in the Bylaws as:

- *Has financial ties to the applicant;*
- *Sits on the applicant's Board of Advisors;*
- *Stands to benefit directly from the proposed project's completion; or*
- *Has contributed directly to the development of the proposal.*

Prior to the meeting, 7 individual CAC members had scored and ranked the projects and submitted those to Ariel. UCSRB staff projected a table that showed total score and rank by project for each CAC member, with summary statistics that showed average score, standard deviation of score, and average rank for each project. The project list was ranked based on the average of all Citizen's ranks.

Based on combined Citizen ranks, the initial project order was (projects in green = riparian):

| Chelan County Projects                        | Score | Rank | RTT Score |
|---|-------|------|-----------|
| Wenatchee and Okanogan Thermal IR Surveys     | 84    | 1    | 80        |
| Lower Peshastin Creek Protection RM 2.5-3.5   | 78    | 2    | 74        |
| Lower Chiwawa Area D Final Design             | 76    | 3    | 71        |
| Goodwin Side Channel Implementation           | 75    | 4    | 70        |
| Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project | 74    | 5    | 68        |

|   |    |    |    |
|---|----|----|----|
| Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design                              | 68 | 6  | 66 |
| Nason Creek RM 10-10.5 Acquisition                                      | 62 | 7  | 62 |
| Wenatchee RM 2.75-4.5 Feasibility and Conceptual Design                 | 59 | 8  | 58 |
| Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Project Low Tech Restoration and Beaver Habitat | 59 | 9  | 56 |
| CRM Riparian Stewardship Package  | 59 | 10 | 52 |
| Squilchuck Creek Passage Barrier Prelim Designs                         | 55 | 11 | 49 |
| Icicle Creek Doctor Reach Restoration Prelim Designs                    | 47 | 12 | 49 |

**Initial ranking by funding pool:**

| <b>Regular SRFB - Chelan County Projects</b>            | <b>Score</b> | <b>Rank</b> | <b>RTT Score</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Wenatchee and Okanogan Thermal IR Surveys               | 84           | 1           | 80               |
| Lower Peshastin Creek Protection RM 2.5-3.5             | 78           | 2           | 74               |
| Lower Chiwawa Area D Final Design                       | 76           | 3           | 71               |
| Goodwin Side Channel Implementation                     | 75           | 4           | 70               |
| Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design              | 68           | 5           | 66               |
| Wenatchee RM 2.75-4.5 Feasibility and Conceptual Design | 59           | 6           | 58               |
| Squilchuck Creek Passage Barrier Prelim Designs         | 55           | 7           | 49               |
| Icicle Creek Doctor Reach Restoration Prelim Designs    | 47           | 8           | 49               |

| <b>Riparian - Chelan County Projects</b>                                | <b>Score</b> | <b>Rank</b> | <b>RTT Score</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project                           | 74           | 1           | 68               |
| Nason Creek RM 10-10.5 Acquisition                                      | 62           | 2           | 62               |
| Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Project Low Tech Restoration and Beaver Habitat | 59           | 3           | 56               |
| CRM Riparian Stewardship Package  | 59           | 4           | 52               |

**Review CAC Scores/Rankings and General Project Discussion:**

- The group went through each ranking line by line and discussed where projects had a large standard deviation. The following projects were discussed:
- **Lower Peshastin Protection:** This project's score/rank had high variation, so CAC members discussed whether they think it should be adjusted on the list. CAC members who scored the project lower explained they were particularly concerned about using a Conservation Easement on the lower property. The development risk on the lower property was also discussed, since the landowners have already agreed on a restoration project here (funded last year). CAC members decided to leave the project where it is on the list since it seemed like a fair average of everyone's scores.

- **Entiat 1D Design:** UCSRB staff explained that this project would likely fall on the funding line. CAC members agreed that they did not want to move this project above any of the higher ranked projects on the list. Members discussed the possibility of offering the sponsor partial funding for the project. Everyone agreed that this could be formally discussed and decided during the Joint session.
- **Nason Creek Acquisition (Riparian):** A CAC member was curious about the plans to move the power lines, since that would make this property more appealing for restoration work. CAC participants explained that the sponsor is in conversations to move the PUD lines, but not the BPA lines. CAC members asked for clarification on when an Acquisition project can qualify as “Riparian”. Ariel clarified that Acquisitions are an eligible Riparian project type if the land area being acquired is primarily made up of riparian/floodplain area (must be 50% or less uplands). CAC members discussed the importance of Nason Creek to salmon/steelhead and were content with where this project fell on the Riparian funding list.
- **Wenatchee Feasibility & Conceptual:** One CAC member ranked this project higher as compared to others. All members discussed the challenges and opportunities in this reach. The CAC member who ranked the project higher agreed that this project should not be moved above any of the others set to receive funding higher on the list.
- **CRM Riparian Stewardship (Riparian):** UCSRB staff explained that this project would likely fall on the funding line. CAC members expressed that they understand the need for this project. However, they also noted that some of these project sites are not very old, and they are concerned that so many of these sites need stewardship. CAC members noted that it would be helpful if sponsors of these low-tech projects could report on successes/failures and demonstrate how they are responding to these lessons. It was also noted that members would like to see the list of sites needing stewardship decrease over time, as these projects take hold and perform as desired. CAC members also discussed offering partial funding for this project, and hoped the sponsor could fund some of the “higher priority” sites with the reduced funding. The final decision on this offer will be made during the joint session.
- **Squilchuck Passage Barrier:** CAC members noted that they would like to see more participation and financial commitment from Chelan County Public Works for a project like this.

Final Chelan CAC Ranked List:

*Alan Schmidt made a motion to approve the regular SRFB Chelan CAC list as initially ranked. Mike Deason seconded the motion. Chair Truscott asked for discussion on the motion, none. All approved, motion passed.*

*James Johnson made a motion to approve the Riparian Chelan CAC list as initially ranked. Alan Schmidt seconded the motion. Chair Truscott asked for discussion on the motion, none. All approved, motion passed.*

Meeting adjourned at ~6:00

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## Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 1 2025, 5:20-6:10pm

Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA

### CAC Participants:

Louis Sukovaty, Larry Hill, Will Keller, Bob Monetta, Sam Israel, Brad Armstrong (virtual)

UCSRB Staff: Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

No conflicts of interest were identified.

Prior to the meeting, individual CAC members had scored and ranked projects and submitted those to Ariel. Ryan projected a table that showed the summary of these scores and ranks, average score, standard deviation of score, and average rank for each project. UCSRB staff led a brief discussion on both the CAC ranks and RTT scores.

- CAC scores were averages of 6 CAC members who were able to send in scores prior to the Joint meeting.
- CAC rankings were compared to RTT scores for any disagreements.

Based on combined Citizen ranks, the initial project ranking was (projects in green = riparian):

| Okanogan County Projects                                   | Score | Rank | RTT Score |
|--|-------|------|-----------|
| Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation | 78    | 1    | 76        |
| Upper Methow Reassessment and design                       | 77    | 2    | 76        |
| Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Project Phase 2         | 75    | 3    | 72        |
| Sugar Reach Riparian Restoration                           | 72    | 4    | 64        |
| Beaver Creek Low Tech Restoration                          | 57    | 5    | 61        |

**Ranking by funding pool:**

| Okanogan County Projects – Regular SRFB                    | Score | Rank | RTT Score |
|--|-------|------|-----------|
| Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation | 78    | 1    | 76        |
| Upper Methow Reassessment and Design                       | 77    | 2    | 76        |
| Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Project Phase 2         | 75    | 3    | 72        |

| Okanogan County Projects – Riparian | Score | Rank | RTT Score |
|-------------------------------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Sugar Reach Riparian Restoration    | 72    | 1    | 64        |
| Beaver Creek Low Tech Restoration   | 57    | 2    | 61        |

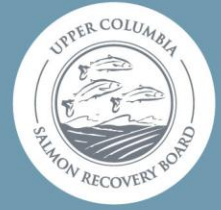
Review CAC Scores/Rankings and General Project Discussion:

- Upper Methow Reassessment and Design:** A CAC member noted that this assessment has been done before, but could be better. CAC members discussed the other Assessment project that will conduct Thermal IR surveys in both the Wenatchee and Okanogan subbasins. CAC members agreed that the Thermal IR assessment will likely be funded instead of the Upper Methow Reassessment, but noted they would like the ability to fund more assessments (and monitoring) projects each year.
- Beaver Creek Low Tech Project:** CAC members discussed the variation in individual scores on this project. Members noted they worry that there were not very specific design/planning documents provided with this application. CAC members would like to see a stewardship plan for these types of sites as well – especially in systems as flashy and high power as Beaver Creek. CAC members also noted that it would be great to have the input of experts, whether that be engineers, geomorphologists, etc., to help place these low-tech structures in appropriate places. Overall, CAC members would like to request more thorough planning for low tech projects in the future, and encourage the current sponsor to include stewardship plans at this site.
- Sugar Reach Riparian:** CAC members asked about the cost details, because based on the simple budget in PRISM it seemed as though there was a cost per acre discrepancy between worksites. UCSRB staff displayed the budget and explained that the cost per acre was about the same at each site, but it appeared a little off in PRISM because they are using more outside funding (BPA, Ecology, etc) at one of the worksites. CAC members agreed that this made sense and were otherwise excited about this project.

*Larry Hill made a motion to approve the two Okanogan ranked project lists as presented. Louis Sukovaty seconded the motion. Chair Keller asked for any discussion. Hearing none, a vote was called. The vote passed unanimously.*

The Individual Okanogan Meeting ended at ~6:10pm

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## UPPER COLUMBIA LEAD ENTITY JOINT CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Chelan County Fire Station, Chelan WA  
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 ~ 6:20 to 7:00 PM

- **CAC Participants:** Jim Johnson, Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Alan Schmidt, Bruce Merighi (virtual), Leah Hemberry (virtual), Louis Sukovaty, Larry Hill, Will Keller, Bob Monetta, Sam Israel, Brad Armstrong (virtual)
- **UCSRB Staff:** Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Gabby Vermeire, Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

### Review Joint Citizen Ranking Process and Discussion

Ariel Edwards reviewed the joint ranking, or “zippering” process. Noted that we will begin the ranked list with a Chelan project this year since we started with Okanogan last year.

Prior to deliberations, the group reviewed the decision-making ground rules used to finalize the project list:

1. *A Citizen Advisory Committee member may, at any time, make a motion to move a particular project up or down on the list.*
2. *The Citizen Advisory Committee member making such a request must include rationale based on the citizens’ review criteria.*
3. *The Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will then engage in discussion regarding the motion to move a project on the list.*
4. *After discussion, the Joint Citizen Advisory Committee will vote – approve, oppose, abstain – on the motion to move the project on the list.*

*The motion will carry upon unanimous approval by all Joint Citizen Advisory Committee Members (excluding “abstain” votes).*

### Review Funding Line

- UCSR staff reviewed the funding line: \$2,062,000 for regular SRFB and \$2,246,036 for riparian funds.

### **Present County Lists and Decide on Regional Provisional List**

- UCSRB staff shared the zippered ranked lists for both funding pools, starting with Chelan County projects.

### **Discussion on Regular SRFB Project List**

- CAC members discussed the regional Assessment funding limit. Ariel clarified that the UC is limited to funding \$200,000 in Assessments per year. CAC members noted that the top ranked project by both the CAC and RTT (Thermal Infrared Surveys) is asking for the entire \$200,000 allotment. All CAC members have reviewed the Thermal IR project and agree it would be beneficial to both counties.

*Bob Monetta makes a motion to remove the Upper Methow Assessment project from the funding list due to the Assessment funding limit. Louis Sukovaty seconded the motion. Chair Keller asked for a discussion and then called for a vote. Vote passed unanimously.*

- CAC members then discussed the Entiat 1D Final Design project, which fell on the funding line. Members discussed the possibility of offering partial funding. It was noted that if the sponsor could not use the partial funding, then it would be available for cost increases in the region.

*Bob Monetta made a motion to offer partial funding to the Entiat 1D Final Design project. James Johnson seconded the motion. Chair Keller called for discussion and then a vote. Vote passed unanimously.*

### **Finalize Ranked Project List**

*Louis Sukovaty made a motion to accept the Regular SRFB Joint Ranked List as presented. James Johnson seconded the motion. Chair Keller asked for any discussion on the motion, none. Chair Keller called for a vote, all approved. Motion passed.*

The final approved list combined from both counties was as follows (blue shading indicating projects located in Okanogan County, those without shading are in Chelan County):

(Regular SRFB)

| 2025 Upper Columbia Regular SRFB Ranked Projects  |          |                        |  |                 |           |   |                          |                      |
|---|----------|------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Final Rank  | PRISM ID | Project Type           | UC Regional Project  | County CAC Rank | RTT Score | SRFB Request  | Anticipated Total Budget | Running (SRFB) Total |
| 1   | 25-1231  | Assessment             | Wenatchee and Okanogan Thermal IR Surveys  | 1               | 80        | \$200,000   | \$458,000                | \$200,000            |
| 2   | 25-1219  | Planning & Restoration | Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation   | 1               | 76        | \$464,825   | \$906,887                | \$664,762            |
| 3   | 25-1224  | Acquisition            | Lower Peshastin Creek Protection RM 2.5-3.5  | 2               | 74        | \$445,000   | \$881,000                | \$1,109,762          |
| 4   | 25-1216  | Planning               | Lower Chiwawa Area D Final Design  | 3               | 71        | \$56,084  | \$181,084                | \$1,165,846          |
| 5   | 25-1214  | Planning               | Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Project Phase 2   | 3               | 72        | \$225,000   | \$450,000                | \$1,390,846          |
| 6   | 25-1213  | Restoration            | Goodwin Side Channel Implementation  | 4               | 70        | \$500,000   | \$2,253,500              | \$1,890,846          |
| <b>Funding Line</b>   |          |                        |  |                 |           |   |                          |                      |
| 7   | 25-1215  | Planning               | Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design   | 5               | 66        | \$260,345   | \$260,345                | \$2,151,191          |
| 8   | 25-1212  | Planning               | Wenatchee RM 2.75-4.5 Feasibility and Conceptual Design  | 6               | 58        | \$150,000   | \$300,000                | \$2,301,191          |
| 9   | 25-1227  | Planning               | Squilchuck Creek Passage Barrier Prelim Designs  | 7               | 49        | \$273,604   | \$273,604                | \$2,574,795          |
| 10  | 25-1226  | Planning               | Icicle Creek Doctor Reach Restoration Prelim Designs   | 8               | 49        | \$251,099   | \$251,099                | \$2,825,894          |
| NA  | 25-1230  | Assessment             | Upper Methow Reassessment and design - <b>Removed from funding due to Assessment allocation being used on project #1</b> | 2               | 76        | \$80,085  |                          |                      |
| *Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design will be offered partial funding totaling \$171,091 to use up the allocation |          |                        |  |                 |           |   |                          |                      |
|   |          |                        |  |                 |           | <b>**2025 Available Regular SRFB Funding: \$2,062,000</b> |                          |                      |

\*Projects in blue are Okanogan county

**Discussion on Riparian Project List:**

- UCSRB staff noted that the Joint Riparian list can be fully funded through the Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Low Tech project. CAC members discussed if partial funding could be offered to the final project on the list – CRM Stewardship Package. Members noted that it would be great if the CRM project was able to use partial funding (\$182,824).

*Bruce Merighi made a motion to approve the Riparian Joint list as presented, with partial funding offered for the CRM project. James Johnson seconded the motion. Chair Keller asked for discussion. Hearing none, a vote was called. Vote passed unanimously.*

**(Riparian Grant)**

| 2025 Upper Columbia Riparian Ranked Projects  |          |              |   |                 |           |                  |                          |                          |
|---|----------|--------------|---|-----------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Final Rank  | PRISM ID | Project Type | UC Regional Project   | County CAC Rank | RTT Score | Riparian Request | Anticipated Total Budget | Running (Riparian) Total |
| 1   | 25-1232  | Restoration  | Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project                           | 1               | 68        | \$470,000        | \$1,020,000              | \$470,000                |
| 2   | 25-1218  | Restoration  | Sugar Reach Riparian Restoration  | 1               | 64        | \$360,000        | \$498,040                | \$830,000                |
| 3   | 25-1210  | Acquisition  | Nason Creek RM 10-10.5 Acquisition                                      | 2               | 62        | \$783,296        | \$879,724                | \$1,613,296              |
| 4   | 25-1225  | Restoration  | Beaver Creek Low Tech Restoration                                       | 2               | 61        | \$100,000        | \$100,000                | \$1,713,296              |
| 5   | 25-1228  | Restoration  | Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Project Low Tech Restoration and Beaver Habitat | 3               | 56        | \$349,916        | \$359,916                | \$2,063,197              |
| <b>Funding Line</b>   |          |              |   |                 |           |                  |                          |                          |
| 6   | 25-1217  | Restoration  | CRM Riparian Stewardship Package  | 4               | 52        | \$620,000        | \$820,000                | \$2,683,197              |
| *CRM Riparian Stewardship Package will be offered partial funding totaling \$182,824 to use up the allocation |          |              |   |                 |           |                  |                          |                          |
| <b>*2025 Available Riparian SRFB Funding: \$2,246,036</b>   |          |              |   |                 |           |                  |                          |                          |

*\*Projects in green are Okanogan county*

The meeting was adjourned at ~ 7:00 pm.