

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.



PRESENTATIONS TO THE CHELAN COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Upper Columbia Lead Entity

Chelan County Fire District, 206 Easy St Wenatchee WA

June 24, 2025 ; 4:00 – 8:00 PM

Attendance:

UCSRB: Ariel Edwards, Amanda Ward, Gabby Vermeire, Ryan Niemeyer

CAC: Keith Truscott (Chair), Alan Schmidt, Mike Deason, Bruce Merighi (remote)

Sponsors: Mickey Fleming (CDLT), Aaron Rosenblum (CF), Jason Lundgren (remote - CF), Phillip Klenke (CF), Mike Kane (CCNRD), Bryan Maloney (CCNRD), Mike Kaputa (CCNRD), Scott Bailey (CCNRD), Lisa Foster (TU), Ryan Lefler (TU), Mark Ingman (CCD)

RTT: Tracy Hillman (RTT Chair, remote)

General CAC Business:

- By Laws and Scoring Criteria were reviewed – no questions were posed by members.

Q&A with RTT member:

- Tracy Hillman was the RTT representative available for answering questions on project scoring. He overviewed the RTT summaries and scoring, how the RTT uses the score and standard deviation, and other details. Tracy shared that scoring was smooth this year and there were not any major disagreements about project scoring.
- There was one question from a CAC member on the CDLT Acquisition project, and Tracy confirmed that the downstream property is being proposed as a conservation easement.

Icicle Creek Doctor Reach Preliminary Design – Bryan Maloney, CCNRD

- Q: Is the road prism wet during low flow?
 - A: The road prism is wet just at the lower/downstream portion, and it is generally warm water with a lot of cobble.

Squilchuck Creek Passage Barrier Preliminary Design – Bryan Maloney, CCNRD

- Q: Why did we wait over 20 years to address this barrier?

- A: Columbia River tributaries have been unranked and lack fish use data, making them challenging to fund.
- Q: Can you clarify how the irrigation diversions are used?
 - A: The diversions pull out water in the spring, and when it gets down to a certain low flow level, they pump back out of the Columbia River.
- Q: What is the quality of habitat above the barrier?
 - A: The sponsor shared they had just installed some data loggers above the barrier to collect some of this data. There is some good substrate areas above the barrier, and areas of riparian vegetation.

Lower Chiwawa Area D Final Design – Scott Bailey, CCNRD

- Q: What is the goal and function of the excavated side channel?
 - A: In general, there is a lack of side channels in this area. The side channel will primarily be for juvenile rearing habitat. *The sponsor also clarified in an email the next day that the side channel is being designed to be perennial, and will include some large wood and excavated pools to enhance habitat quality.
- Q: How much will you have to excavate for the side channel?
 - A: 4-5 feet.
- Q: A CAC member noted that there could be an interesting response from the recreational campers.
 - A: The sponsor agreed.

Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design – Mike Kane, CCNRD

- Q: A participant noted that this project is the last project in the Entiat IMW.
 - A: The sponsor noted that this was a control reach. The goal was to be done with the IMW in 2020 and then do work there.
- Q: Are the structures meant to recruit wood?
 - A: The ones downstream may, but most of the wood moving through is quite small.

Nason Creek Acquisition – Mike Kaputa, CCNRD

- Q: When you go to plant your proposed riparian areas, how will that interface with future restoration efforts in this area?
 - A: The sponsor noted that the channel restoration efforts will be focused in the downstream sections, while the riparian planting would be in the upstream section below the powerline.

Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection - Mark Ingman, CCD

- Q: What were the responses like at the planning unit meeting?
 - A: The sponsor shared that there was general interest in the project. The sponsor tried to emphasize the importance of floodplains for growing large, successful juvenile fish which was well received by the audience.
- Q: Which tributaries are important for steelhead in this area?

- A: Mad River is the most used by steelhead, then Tillicum, and then Roaring Creek. Roaring Creek is in the top three for steelhead spawners.

Wenatchee and Okanogan Comprehensive Thermal IR Survey - Mark Ingman, CCD

- No questions were asked

Lower Peshastin Creek Protection – Mickey Fleming, CDLT

- Q: Is there much risk for the conservation easement portion of the project, considering there is already an active restoration project going in next year?
 - A: There is still some risk, but agreed with the current landowners it is a lower risk. It is important to note that the easement footprint is about twice the size of the restoration project footprint, so this acquisition would be protecting land not included in restoration.

CRM Riparian Stewardship Package – Phillip Klenke, CF

- Q: What are the ages of the project area from oldest to newest?
 - A: The oldest projects were in 2021, newest were recently implemented.
- Q: What would they do different if the noticed project sights failing? It would be interesting to see if the list of sites requiring stewardship diminishes as time goes on and stewardship is effective.
 - A: The sponsor agreed this would be good to track. The goal of the stewardship work is often to help get the water out of the incised channels and back onto the floodplain, which is why they often pair BDAs with riparian plantings. Once sites take hold, maintenance and stewardship should taper off.
- Q: Who would be the “lead” on this?
 - A: Each of the project sites has a lead for that individual project, but CF is the specific lead for the overall effort.

Wenatchee RM 2.75-4.5 Feasibility and Conceptual Design – Aaron Rosenblum, CF

- No questions were asked

Goodwin Side Channel Implementation – Aaron Rosenblum, CF

- No questions were asked

Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Project Low-Tech and Beaver Habitat – Lisa Foster, TU

- Q: What does the beaver relocation process entail?
 - A: TU has done relocation work since 2018. Generally, they work with a landowner on multiple options (try to encourage coexistence, but will relocate if needed). Relocation is also included in the CRM funding request presented earlier.

Closing reminders:

- CAC scoring deadlines – email to Ariel by Monday 6/30
 - Joint CAC Meeting – 7/1 Chelan, WA (5-8pm)
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Public Comment:

- No public comments