

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, June 23, 2026 5:20-6:20pm
Lake Chelan Methodist Church, Chelan WA

- CAC Participants: Jim Johnson, Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Alan Schmidt, Bob Bugert, Bruce Merighi (virtual),
- UCSRB Staff: Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Leslie Selgestad

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

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

Bob Bugert recused himself from scoring the CDLT project, as an active Board Member for the Land Trust.

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, individual CAC members 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.

Review CAC Scores/Rankings and General Project Discussion:

- The group went through each of the top three scored projects in detail to determine how the projects should be ranked. CAC members also discussed the other two projects to ensure there are no disagreements with rank.
- **Entiat Roaring Creek Fee Acquisition (CDLT):**

- This project was consistently ranked number one by the majority of CAC members. Members also noted that it was highly scored by the RTT.
- Members also appreciated that the PRCC has committed to funding over half of this acquisition.
- Members also discussed the location of this project, and the unique opportunity it provides to connect upstream and downstream restoration activity.
- Finally, CAC members noted that the security of acquisitions and the leveraged cost share funding make this a high-value use of grant dollars, with immediate benefit.
- **Lower Chiwawa Area D Implementation (CCNRD):**
 - This project was consistently ranked in the top two projects for CAC members.
 - Members discussed the lower RTT score that this project received. The primary reason for this lower RTT score seemed to be the reduction in scope (from ~1.25 to ~0.6 miles of stream) between earlier designs and current construction plans. The group also noted the RTT concerns about the design of the side channel.
 - Despite the lower RTT score, CAC members valued the implementation-readiness of the project and noted the prior investment this project has received through previous phases.
 - CAC members also discussed the importance of this reach, and how valuable it will be to reduce human impact/camping on the streambank here.
 - CAC members noted that they would like to see this project completed.
- **Nason Creek and SR 207 (YN):**
 - This project varied in rank between CAC members, most consistently in the second or third ranked position.
 - CAC members discussed the current phase of the project, and the stormwater treatment sites that this funding would be used for.
 - The group discussed a shared concern that the DOT built infrastructure is causing the issue but is not contributing proportionally. Members are worried about salmon restoration money subsidizing highway construction.
 - Current DOT contribution was discussed - ~\$1.5 million for implementation, plus previous in-kind contributions through earlier phases of design work.
 - The group also discussed the overall cost-benefit of the project ~\$13.5 million for 15-acres of floodplain reconnection. The group agreed that the completed project would provide significant biological benefit, however the total cost needs to be considered.

- Multiple CAC members noted that, given the limited allocation this year, the cost-benefits of these projects are particularly important to consider.
- CAC members also discussed some uncertainties about the public reception of the new road alignment. Members noted that it sounds like the public response has improved over the years, but there were still some uncertainties.
- Finally, members discussed the RTT noted desire to see the project funded “as soon as possible” to prevent further cost escalation. The CAC acknowledged this but noted that the limited funding this year makes this challenging.
- **Nason Creek Restoration & Infrastructure Relocation Design (CCNRD):**
 - CAC members consistently ranked this project number 4 and agreed this was an appropriate ranking.
- **Upper Columbia Instream Habitat Assessment (CF):**
 - CAC members consistently ranked this project as number 5 and agreed this was an appropriate ranking.

Ranking Rationale:

- **Roaring Creek Acquisition:** The Chelan CAC agreed this project should be ranked number 1; PRCC contributing over half the project cost, strong biological benefit, cold-water source, and momentum from up and downstream restoration work were the primary justifications.
- **Lower Chiwawa Area D Implementation:** The CAC agreed they would like to move this project up to number 2; the group cited implementation-readiness and prior investment across multiple design phases as the reasoning.
- **Nason Creek SR 207:** CAC members agreed to rank this project as number 3, primarily due to cost-benefit concerns, the level of DOT contribution for an infrastructure project, and the desire to be equitable between the counties.

Alan Schmidt made a motion to approve the ranked list with the Roaring Creek Acquisition as No. 1, Lower Chiwawa Area D No. 2, Nason Creek SR 207 No. 3, Nason Creek PUD Transmission Lines No. 4, and Instream Habitat Assessment No. 5.

Jim Johnson seconded the motion.

The formal motion carries, with one abstention, due to a conflict of interest.

Final Chelan CAC Ranked List:

Chelan County Projects	Rank	RTT Score
Entiat Roaring Creek Fee Acquisition	1	74
Lower Chiwawa Area D Implementation	2	65
Nason Creek and SR 207	3	74
Nason Creek Floodplain Restoration PUD Transmission Line Relocation Conceptual Design	4	62
Upper Columbia Instream Habitat Assessment	5	62

Meeting adjourned at: **6:10pm**

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Okanogan CAC Ranking Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 5:20-6:10pm

Lake Chelan County United Methodist Church, Chelan WA

CAC Participants:

Will Keller, Louis Sukovaty, Sam Israel, Larry Hill

UCSRB Staff:

Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

Conflicts of interest:

None were identified, all present members scored and ranked projects. An additional member, Bob Monetta, submitted scores electronically but could not join for the meeting.

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.

Review CAC Scores/Rankings and General Project Discussion:

- The group discussed the rationale for implementation versus acquisition projects, with some members expressing their preference to see more implementation projects.
- **MacPherson Flats Acquisition (MSRF):**
 - CAC members consistently ranked this project highly and agreed this project should be the number 1 project.
 - CAC members highlighted the benefit of this acquisition being surrounded by public land.
 - CAC members agreed that this project would allow for man-made structures to be removed, thereby reconnecting the floodplain and allowing for natural processes on the floodplain.
- **Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design:**

- Members noted that there is community support for this project. Some members noted they would really like to see this project get funded and started.
- The group also discussed the Twisp Ponds property and how well that area is functioning currently, and how this project would further improve the habitat benefit of the Twisp Ponds
- Members agree this is a promising project. There was additional conversation about the zippering process, and if there would be enough funding to fund more than one project in the Okanogan.
- **Salmon Creek Fish Passage Barrier Design (CF):**
 - CAC members discussed how important Salmon Creek is for the steelhead population in the Okanogan.
 - The status of the barriers, partial versus complete blockage, was also discussed for the biological benefit score.
 - CAC members agreed this is an important barrier removal project and they would like to see this project move forward at some point.
- **Beaver Creek Confluence Acquisition (MSRF):**
 - CAC members discussed that there was some potential for benefit here, but there were some concerns about surrounding property ownership. This included concern about the middle “community use” property and how much work can be done here. There was also concern about the ownership of the downstream alcove, and potential projects being limited by the cooperation from those owners.
- **2 Channels Acquisition (YN):**
 - CAC members discussed the difficulty with the upstream landowners, and how this could limit the benefit of projects on this property.
 - CAC members commented that there is a potential great habitat and floodplain engagement project at this site, but first, the issue of cooperation with upstream landowners needs to be gained so that the project can encompass the entire side-channel.

Louis Sukovaty made a motion to approve the ranked list with the MacPherson Acquisition as No. 1, Little Siberia Design No. 2, Salmon Creek Passage Barrier Design No. 3, Beaver Creek Acquisition No. 4, and 2 Channels Acquisition No. 5.

Larry Hill seconded the motion.

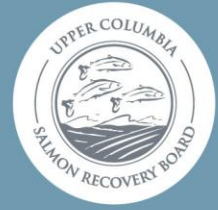
The motion carried unanimously.

Final Okanogan CAC Ranked List:

Okanogan County Projects	Rank	RTT Score
MacPherson Flats Acquisition	1	74
Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design	2	67
Salmon Creek Fish Passage Barrier Design	3	64
Beaver Creek Confluence Acquisition	4	57
2 Channels Acquisition	5	53

The Individual Okanogan Meeting ended at: **6:00pm**

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

Lake Chelan United Methodist Church, Chelan WA
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 ~ 6:20 to 7:15 PM

- **CAC Participants:**
Chelan CAC: Keith Truscott, Mike Deason, Jim Johnson, Alan Schmidt, Bob Bugert, Bruce Merighi (virtual)
Okanogan CAC: Will Keller, Sam Israel, Larry Hill, Louis Sukovaty
- **UCSRB Staff:** Ariel Edwards, Meghan Camp, Leslie Selgestad, Ryan Niemeyer, Amanda Ward

Review Joint Citizen Ranking Process and Discussion

Ariel Edwards reviewed the joint ranking, or “zippering” process.

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

- UCSRB staff reviewed the funding line: **\$1,752,700**
- Staff reiterated that there is a chance that additional 2026 PCSRF will be made available, which would allow for additional projects to be funded down the list.

Present County Lists and Decide on Regional Provisional List

- UCSRB staff shared the zippered ranked list
- The zippered list alternates between Chelan and Okanogan projects by rank. Since the RTT scores for the top two projects were tied, the second ranked projects were compared by RTT rank to determine which project is ranked first.

Discussion on SRFB Projects:

- The Joint CAC group discussed the top three ranked projects on each of their lists.
- Nason Creek SR 207 was discussed, and the Chelan CAC shared the rationale for ranking this project No. 3 (see notes above). Chelan CAC members noted that equity between the two counties was also considered given the limited funding available.
- Salmon Creek Passage Barrier Design was discussed, and the Okanogan CAC shared their opinion on the project. It was noted that the barriers in this project are impediments for juveniles, but there is adult passage.
- Several CAC members noted that they prefer to fund implementation-ready projects if possible.
- Lower Chiwawa Area D was discussed. The group noted that they have seen multiple phases of this project through the years, which has been valuable for all parties. Members noted strong community engagement on this project as well.
- As the list stands, there would be enough available funding to fully fund the top 4 projects (2 from each county). If additional 2026 PCSRF funds are made available, then the project ranked No. 5 would be first in line.

Keith Truscott made a motion to move Nason Creek SR 207 to No. 5, making it the first alternate for funding, and the Salmon Creek Barrier Design project to No. 6.

Jim Johnson seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Larry Hill made a motion to approve the 2026 ranked list as presented below.

Will Keller seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Finalize Ranked Project List

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):

2026 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	26-1639	Acquisition	MacPherson Flats Acquisition	1	74	\$599,943	\$815,634	\$599,943
2	26-1643	Acquisition	Entiat Roaring Creek Fee Acquisition	1	74	\$391,850	\$809,850	\$991,793
3	26-1638	Planning	Little Siberia Floodplain Connectivity Preliminary Design	2	67	\$187,640	\$187,640	\$1,179,433
4	26-1642	Restoration	Lower Chiwawa Area D Implementation	2	65	\$499,113	\$1,882,583	\$1,678,546
Funding Line								
5	26-1718	Restoration	Nason Creek and SR 207	3	74	\$750,000	\$15,904,594	\$2,428,546
6	26-1637	Planning	Salmon Creek Fish Passage Barrier Design	3	64	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$2,658,546
7	26-1640	Acquisition	Beaver Creek Confluence Acquisition	4	57	\$186,410	\$236,410	\$2,844,956
8	26-1678	Planning	Nason Creek Floodplain Restoration PUD Transmission Line Relocation Conceptual Design	4	62	\$277,159	\$325,000	\$3,122,115
9	26-1636	Acquisition	2 Channels Acquisition	5	53	\$180,000	\$180,000	\$3,302,115
10	26-1635	Assessment	Upper Columbia Instream Habitat Assessment	5	62	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$3,502,115
2026 SRFB Allocation								\$1,752,700

**Projects in blue are Okanogan county*

The meeting was adjourned at ~ **7:15 pm.**