

Chehalis Basin Lead Entity -- Habitat Work Group

December 7, 2020

Zoom Meeting

~ 9:30 am – 12:15 pm ~

Adam Fleming - <i>WDFW Habitat Program</i> Alexa Brown - <i>Cheh. Basin Fisheries Task Force, Grays Harbor Stream Team</i> Ann Weckback - <i>Lewis Co Public Works</i> Anthony Waldrop - <i>Grays Harbor Conserv. Dist.</i> Bob Amrine - <i>Lewis Conserv. Dist.</i> Brandon Carman - <i>Recreation and Conserv. Office</i> Cade Roler - <i>WDFW</i> Caprice Fasano - <i>Quinault Indian Nation</i> Chanelle Holbrook - <i>Citizen</i> Cindy Wilson - <i>Citizen</i> Colleen Suter - <i>Chehalis Tribe</i> David Radabaugh - <i>Ecology NW Region Floodplain Mgmt Specialist</i> Greg Green - <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> Jamie Glasgow - <i>Wild Fish Conservancy</i> Jarred Figlar-Barnes - <i>Grays Harbor Citizen</i> Jennifer Reidmayer - <i>Ecology</i>	Jonathan Bradshaw - <i>LC Citizen, Minutes</i> Karin Strelloff - <i>Thurston Conserv. Dist.</i> Kathy Jacobson - <i>Lead Entity Education Coordinator</i> Key McMurry - <i>Grays Harbor Citizen</i> Kirsten Harma - <i>Lead Entity Coordinator</i> Lee First - <i>Twin Harbors Waterkeeper</i> Luke Kelly - <i>Trout Unlimited</i> Megan Tuttle - <i>WDFW</i> Miranda Plumb - <i>USFWS</i> Mara Zimmerman - <i>Coast Salmon Partnership/Fdn</i> Mark Gray - <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i> Paula Holroyde - <i>Thurston Co. LWV</i> Pete Hammer - <i>Chehalis River Basin Land Trust</i> Shawn Ultican - <i>Ecology</i> Steve Hagerdy - <i>Mason Conserv. Dist.</i> Tom Kollasch - <i>Grays Harbor Conserv. Dist.</i>
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1. Welcome, Introductions

2. Networking Time in Breakout Rooms

3. Minutes Approval

Key McMurray moved to approve November's minutes, which Tom Kollasch seconded. The motion passed unanimously without comment.

4. Organizational Business

a. Community Outreach – Current LE effort update; request for input on support from the Coast Salmon Partnership

LE Outreach held two Fish Migration Day events: one at the Chehalis Discovery Trail in Centralia, the other at a Forterra property on the Middle Satsop. Both events had small groups, but had really good engagement. Event leaders shared about conservation interests and local recreational opportunities and provided handouts. Spawning wasn't observed at the event locations, as was hoped, but participants were encouraged to keep an eye out for spawning at Schaefer Park. Folks did observe spawning there, and it generated a lot of excitement.

In the interest of giving more folks access to this meaningful experience, LE Outreach is interested in putting together a resource that helps folks find local areas to watch spawning. The group discussed the considerations of developing such a resource. An openly accessible document of where salmon spawn would likely expose those salmon to irresponsible activities by some community members. On the flip-side, building a stronger presence of conservation-minded folks at these locations could both provide a powerful experience for the community and put eyes on potential threats at those streams of interest. The group is considering what it might mean to develop such a resource, but to connect access to it with guided tours by local conservation groups.

Re: Illegal poaching, WDFW has an online reporting tool

(<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/enforcement/report#:~:text=Call%20911%20to%20report%20poaching,%20Demergency%20poaching%2Fviolation%20reports.>) and a phone number: 877-933-9847. Anyone sighting illegal fishing is encouraged to report it.

Looking at the upcoming year, Mara Zimmerman asked the group to consider what kinds of outreach efforts it would like the Coast Salmon Foundation to support. Some suggestions included developing various salmon-conservation info sheets, as well as coordinating around those ones the group has already produced; and developing outreach emphasizing the importance of wood in the streams. Also pointed out was that keeping outreach language extremely accessible is critical; without talking down to the audience, it is a reasonable guideline to think of writing public info sheets at a 7th/8th grade level.

The group will follow up and meet in a focus group to consider more fully how Coast Salmon Foundation can assist with LE outreach.

b. Lead Entity Strategy Update – 2021

Kirsten shared a summary of her current status with its 10-year strategy document update. She has completed some of the simple update tasks. Feedback on both work that has been done and on how to approach remaining update work is welcomed.

The group emphasized that it is a priority to align the strategy document with the ASRP. The ASRP will be another major guiding document for the group going forward. Mara Zimmerman emphasized the importance of adding a chapter on conducting restoration in light of climate-change. She's working to encourage a coastwide look at climate impacts on restoration, and would really like to incorporate this work into the document rewrite. She expects to have this done by fall of 2021.

5. Salmon Recovery Funding Board

a. Salmon Recovery Conference – abstract call closed Dec 4.

The call for abstracts is closed for the Salmon Recovery Conference. Another relevant date is that the conceptual forms for the SRFB grant round are due January 27th.

b. SRFB Updates

In light of previous discussion regarding incorporation of climate change into restoration work, Brandon emphasized that this is also a priority for RCO. They are working to understand how to encourage climate-change minded work through their grant program.

He also shared that the agreements for 2020-funded projects should be going out in the next couple weeks.

c. **Call for Local Volunteers to serve on Review Team**

d. **Conceptual Project Presentations**

i. **McDonald Creek** (Jarred Figlar-Barnes)

Jarred Figlar-Barnes presented a project proposal for acquisition of a property that is up for sale for development in the McDonald Creek area in Elma. It is located in the 1,300-acre McDonald Creek watershed, which has seen a lot of restoration work, and is full of wildlife. This purchase would preserve the last significant riparian zone and wetland complex in the mid-watershed of the creek.

The site is advertising about \$50K in harvestable timber, and logging has taken place at some level on the property in the past. The seller has received offers, but is still looking to sell it for \$175K.

Jarred is still looking to find a project sponsor: He would be interested in hearing from land trusts, local government and area tribes who might be interested. He'll be reaching out.

6. **Presentation: on FEMA policy regarding restoration in the Floodway**

David Radabaugh, our regional National Flood Insurance Program coordinator, gave a presentation clarifying the permitting requirements for development - including restoration - in the floodplain. His presentation was shared via email, and is available upon request. In brief:

In August of 2020, FEMA rescinded an exception that had allowed for restoration projects to incur a small degree of increase in flood elevation. At this point, David emphasized that essentially all projects - including restoration - that occur within a floodplain will require an NFIP permit. An uncomplicated permit can take around eleven months: as such it is critical to assume you will likely need a permit, and to start early.

There is discussion on the possibility of doing engineering analysis at a subbasin level in order to allow for preapproval for projects in a given area, though this is just discussion at this point. He also noted when asked that there has been some pushback-discussion asking about nulling the rescindment.

As a follow-up note, David also emphasized that his presentation only represented minimum NFIP standards. Local governments are permitted to adopt additional flood regulation requirements, and may have higher standards. When an ecological restoration project requires local permits, project sponsors should reach out to the local government about any further requirements.

Further resources can be accessed as follows:

FEMA flood maps can be found at the FEMA Flood Map Service Center:

<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

In Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties, a map providing the [National Flood Hazard Layer](#) (NFHL) is available. The NFHL Viewer can also be reached through the FEMA Map Service Center page.

Any questions can be directed to either Alex Rosen, the Southwest Region Floodplain Management Specialist, (alex.rosen@ecy.wa.gov; 360 810-0027 / 360 407-6521) or to David Radabaugh (david.radabaugh@ecy.wa.gov; 425 649-4260 / 425 417-3777).

7. **Coast Salmon Partnership Updates**

a. **Upcoming meetings**

Mara Zimmerman shared that there will be two upcoming meetings:

-A joint partnership meeting on the 4th Tuesday of February. This will discuss a region-wide conversation on communication and outreach needs. They will also convene a vote on the 2020 annual report.

-The Implementation Committee will meet in December to discuss the pilot watershed white paper, and consider how to approach restoration while taking climate change into consideration.

b. **NEPA EIS comment letter**

Kirsten told the group that a small committee met to discuss the letter since it had to be approved before a regular HWG meeting- the group included Kirsten, Hope Rieden and Key McMurray and Commissioner Randy Ross. At that meeting, Key motioned to approve the letter to be sent on behalf of the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity, and the motion was approved, although Randy Ross wanted it noted that he abstained from the vote.

8. **Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**

a. **Feedback on Implementation Planning ideas discussed last month and new info on actions to take remainder of biennium**

Kirsten shared a summary of last month's update on the developments of the ASRP implementation plan: there will be three regionally-based implementation teams that will work to develop and implement projects within priority GSUs in their regions. Project lists will be developed, by which funding will be allocated.

The Implementation and Planning Group is wrapping up after providing prioritized actions for the Steering Committee's consideration: Develop Implementation teams; develop materials needed for landowner outreach; define and set-up technical review team; develop technical design guidance for projects; develop permit and contract templates; develop an ASRP manual with RCO; develop strategies for sourcing materials.

The ASRP budget still has \$2.745 million. The Steering Committee allocated funds to work on various projects including - but not limited to - early action reach construction and technical guidance.

It was noted that there are some practical considerations for material sourcing, namely for the storage of at least 30 acres-worth of plantings, and the procurement and storage for at least 300 pieces of LWD.

Coming up:

Preparation for the development of implementation teams; the development of landowner outreach messaging for implementation in 2021; a conversation about culvert prioritization.

9. **Other Business**

a. **Grays Harbor Toxics Clean-Up**

Lee First, the Twin Harbors Waterkeeper, gave a presentation bringing attention to local toxic cleanup sites.

There are several toxic cleanup sites that need to be addressed in Grays Harbor area. Through the Model Toxics Control Act, cleanup sites can be reported by the public, or through facility self-report. The Dept. of Ecology ranks these sites from one (most toxic,

highest priority) to five. There are 150 MTCA cleanup sites in Hoquiam and Aberdeen; 10 are level one sites, none of which have entered cleanup processes. Some of these include:

1. The Industrial Development District 1 in Hoquiam, a planned mitigation site for a potash terminal in Hoquiam. It is a 44 acre site that was previously a shingle mill. Dredge materials from Grays Harbor have also been dumped there.
2. The Pakonen Boat yard – From the 1890s, it had been a boatyard, but it is not in use today. It is highly contaminated, and still slated for development, but first needs to be cleaned up,
3. Butchers Scrap Metal is a site in Hoquiam. It is a vacant old scrap metal yard, which exhibits confirmed contamination.
4. Bergs Marone Construction and Repair has been on the MTCA cleanup list since 1995, but has not been cleaned up. There is an operating shipyard on the premises, which is doing so in violation of permits.
5. Apex Environmental is a company still in business in other parts of the state. At this contamination site, they stored oil for recycling. The facility's storm drain leads to an open ditch that flows into Grays Harbor.

Lee encouraged the group and the public to get involved and build public pressure: if you're outside of Grays Harbor, look at Ecology's "What's in my Neighborhood" website. You can help document this pollution by emailing swroerts@ecy.wa.gov, calling 360-407-6300

Bob Amrine expressed interest in sending a letter to Ecology about these Grays Harbor toxic sites. Lee will work with Kirsten on the letter and will send it out to the HWG prior to their next meeting for review and comment.

10. Closing