

July 6, 2016
ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, Entiat, WA
9:00 a.m.

Meeting Attendance: See Attendance List (**Attachment #1**)
See detailed Agenda (**Attachment #2**)

Facilitator / Watershed Coordinator: Jason Sims

Notes: Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Meeting began at 9:09 a.m.

Jason welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a round of introductions. He then introduced Craig Gyselinck, Cascadia Conservation District's new Program Manager.

- **Approve April 2016 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if there were edits to make to the April 2016 Minutes. No comments or edits were requested and the minutes were finalized.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee:

- **USFWS Presentation: Greg Fraser**
(Attachment 3: Entiat History, Data Collection and Trends - Power Point Presentation)

Greg Fraser: *(Greg provided additional historical and statistical information along with his presentation slides.)* The slide presentation will cover the history of the Entiat River, data collection and fish population trends.

There are many reasons for the changes in fish population. Fires, dams on the river, wood mills and flooding are a few reasons. In the 1800's dams extirpated native salmon runs. There is evidence to suggest that at the mouth there was a natural falls, which may have provided reason for a strong spring chinook run and a weaker or non-existent run summer Chinook. The falls acted as a natural barrier during low summer flows. The 1948 flood changed many things along the Entiat River.

The Entiat National Fish Hatchery was built in 1941, but was disease riddled. Research began in 1951. Rocky Reach Dam was built in 1961, backfilling part of the Entiat River. Production at the fish hatchery also began in 1961. The river bed was reconstructed in 1979 which removed woody structures and flattened the river bed.

Fish surveys were conducted during the summers from 1962 -1993 in the Mad River and upper Entiat areas. Surveys were conducted by Chelan County PUD and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Population trends have peaks and valleys but counts are generally on the rise. Spring and summer chinook are sometimes in the river at the same time. Superimposition occurs when both are in the river spawning close to the same time. When the summer spawns over the top of the spring, the spring spawning dies. They don't usually cross paths.

Surveys will continue into the future. Evaluations will be made for releases, superimpositions, climate changes and early run-offs. Wandering of non Entiat hatchery fish to the Entiat waters has occurred.

Bob Whitehall: The Chiwawa and Entiat waters are similar.

Karin Whitehall: The Chiwawa and the Entiat waters are coming from the same source.

Mike Kaputa: What are the fish genetics? Are there more hybrids now compared to 100 years ago? Was there mixed breeding back then?

Greg F: It's hard to know what the hybrids were back then.

Mike K: Could there be artificial means driving the numbers?

Greg F: There is a break between the spring and summer spawning.

Karin W: There is a difference in the spring and summer counts after the Gray Mills dam.

Greg F: The spring come earlier and move further up river. The summer come later and spawn later lower in the river, possibly because the river is lower at that time.

Doug England: Does it mean the upstream habitat is in the wrong place when overlapping between the spring and summer spawning periods? Could this be detrimental?

Greg F: There has been talk about artificial separation with the habitat. My work is to help make better habitat decisions.

Bob W: What about Box Canyon?

Greg F: I don't serve that area.

Tom Desgroseillier: Typically, there is not much spawning there.

Karin W: I've seen fish up there and I hadn't in the past.

Steve Kolk: Please put the superimposition slide back up. Kilometer (KM) is where on the River Mile (RM) 27 area? We've been doing work the full length of the river. I'm not familiar with the KM locations.

Tom D: There is no limit to adult spawning.

Bob W: This is the same information for the steelhead.

Tom D: Greg's work has inspired us to do more with our surveys.

Mike K: Wild fish are really hatchery fish from other areas?

Mike Cushman: What tributary hasn't been affected by the Columbia dams?

Greg F: Another good question.

Mike K: We are doing historical research in the Wenatchee watershed too.

Karin W: Are there Entiat fish in other streams?

Greg F: We do see strays from the Entiat. Last year some were at the Wells dam. Some were used as stock breed at Chief Joseph. We are just now seeing full production returns. About 4,500 over the Rocky Reach dam.

Doug E: Are there any Entiat fish in the Chiwawa?

Greg F: I haven't seen that happen.

Bob W: I saw a lot of sockeye. Also saw some superimpositioning.

Jon Small: I met with the WDFW last year. What you are saying is that it won't change? It would be good to give this information to WDFW.

Bob W: The released steelhead in the Entiat are doing well.

Tom D: Are you asking if there will be steelhead at the hatchery again?

Karin W: When we ask about that, we are routinely slapped down.

Mike C: It was my understanding that strays are the dandelions of the fish counting. When do they become a qualifier?

Tom D: When there are levels of stray that is acceptable. The primary concern is with relaying hatchery results.

Greg F: Conard, you asked about trout in the Entiat. There have been rainbow trout released. I don't know when they came through.

- **WDFW Update on Fisheries and 2016 Forecast**
(Attachment 4: WDFW Email - Travis Maitland)

Jason S: I received an email from Travis Maitland. Summer chinook are at the mouth of the Entiat. Looking at no time windows for fishing.

Bob W: We are catching them now. The Sockeye, on the Columbia, have more than tripled. We would like to get 50,000 to 60,000 fish up to the Okanogan. I'm not sure when the season will be open.

Jason S: I have email and phone number contact information for WDFW for folks that are interested.

Greg F: Age 5 fish are coming from the Entiat hatchery. Some are bigger.

Bob W: Changes to netting and screens help the older fish to come back. We are getting closer to solving that problem.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**

Mike K: The VSP program is offered to counties under the Growth Management Act as a voluntary means to protect critical areas. We hope to get information back from the panel with the draft document. Mike Cushman has participated in the efforts. Craig is getting up to speed on the program, the Farm Bureau folks and the new Department of Ecology (DOE) person is coming to the meetings. We should be ready to give a presentation this fall or winter.

- **Shoreline Master Program**

Mike K: The Shoreline Master plan was put on hold for about a year and a half due to technical challenges and DOE staff turn-over. Kickoff efforts have begun again with the following changes, the Planning Department is now the lead and my office is in the advisory position. There will be a number of hearings and workshops to present the changes to the public. What is the best way to give information about buffers to the Entiat folks? I would appreciate comments on the updates.

Keith Vradenburg: Our plan is done.

Mike K: Is there feedback?

Chris Clemons: Run through the permit process.

Mike K: For most there are no changes. We are trying to make changes where permits are not necessary. An example: boatlifts are not listed in the Shoreline Plan and therefore have a heavier permit process.

I can continue to bring updates to the meetings and send Jason the hearing dates and plans. The review process starts in September – October. I can send those documents to Jason.

- **Plan Update Presentation**

(Attachment 5a: Entiat WRIA 46 Management Plan – Power Point Presentation)
(Attachment 5b: WRIA 46 Chapter Summary – Handout)

Jason S: I proposed going through the WRIA plan and presenting a power point showing the development of the plan, what has been done and what is yet to be completed. Two decades of work can't be easily converted into a simple report. I would like to work with the landowners and agency folks that were part of the process to better understand the original plan.

The plan needs to keep growing and changing. 2004 is the baseline. In moving forward, how do we handle the items not completed and highlight the items that are complete? What can be done to make the watershed more fire resilient? Are there volunteers willing to help me create a list of actions? I propose that this be a standing item on the agenda, take a couple of half days to go through the priorities with the volunteers, and set dates to meet. Does this sound reasonable? Bob, Karin, Conard and Keith, would you be willing to meet with me?

Mike K: That is a good idea. We are doing the same in the Wenatchee watershed. We looked at the detailed implementation plan. It may be a guide.

Jason S: It is timely to do this now. The documents will be available and I'll be reaching out to folks in the next couple of weeks.

Tom D: I echo what Mike Kaputa said. Reading through the plan to see what is relevant today. I would love to go through it with you.

Mike C: We appreciate your time going through this with us to get a clear understanding of how the plan was developed. We should have a template Jason can start with.

Jason S: If I don't have a detailed list for the next meeting, I will talk on some big ticket items. I appreciate your help!

Karin W: Jason, find out what the objective is, who is the audience and the end user. The watershed analysis, do we still need that? What information is important, what is not needed? Is the WAC instream flow information still needed? There are numerous things to decide on removing and incorporating into the plan.

Jason S: That is my whole point. There is a lot to think about. Phil Archibald said climate change wasn't taken into account when drawing up the plans.

Mike K: Could you send out the plans?

Karin W: Mike Kaputa, you said they are wanting to update the Wenatchee Implementation plan? Wildlife habitat wasn't addressed in the plan.

Mike K: We need to find out the DOE contact to get the information we need.

Keith V: All the players need to be there, the Forest Service, the County, etc.

Mike K: We are working with Cascadia Conservation District for water reserve and water right needs. We need this in the Entiat. I'm interested in supporting this.

- **Rates and Charges**

(Attachment 6: Rates & Charges - Handouts)

Craig Gyselinck: The District is implementing a Rates and Charges tax. The District has identified some budget short falls and researched this method of covering them. The proposal is \$4.63 per parcel in the Chelan County area. The Forest Service land would be \$3.00 per parcel. It was requested that the Rates and Charges time period cover ten years.

Chris Clemons: How did the hearing go?

Craig G: Other than the District Board members and two staff, only one agency person attended the hearing.

Karin W: How much will this provide for the District?

Craig G: About \$136,000, which will cover the short fall.

Karin W: The cities of Chelan and Wenatchee don't think they need Firewise assistance?

Craig G: Several Wenatchee residents asked for help but couldn't receive it because the city opted not to be part of the conservation district. The city of Chelan is currently in the process of annexing into the district.

Conard Petersen: The cities were worried about additional taxes. That's why Chelan and Wenatchee did not opt in.

- **Chelan County Flood Control Update**

(Attachment 7: Chelan County Flood Control - Handouts)

Jason S: Chelan County has handouts regarding flood control. Jason Detamore has memos from the meeting last week.

Bob W: The meetings are the last Wednesday of the month.

Craig G: I attended the last meeting. The group is working on a comprehensive plan and actions, warning devices, education and storm drains.

Mike K: There is a Capital Improvement Plan with specific places to have warning devices located, like #1 Canyon.

Bob W: There is not a lot of money for leveraging the grants. Projects were chosen by the degree of importance and danger. Most flooded areas are identified. We will get a bigger response the night after the fire enhanced flooding.

Mike C: There is a survey on the web site. We are looking for more feedback.

Craig G: A module has been developed for individual landowners to estimate potential damage based on a 100 year and 500 year flood event.

- **USFS Plan for Motorized Vehicles:**

(Attachment 8: USFS Plan – Wenatchee World Article)

James Simino: The plan is a nationwide process, and it remains in draft form until a decision is made. Cross country travel is open unless there is a specific road closed for safety, fires or flooding. The Forest Service is determined that well used camping sites are a safe distance from roads.

Jason S: What are the next steps?

James S: There is a comment period and then the decision will be made.

Mike K: I thought the comments were due by July 8. The Wenatchee World said they are due July 1. Which one is correct?

Jason S: I'll double check the date and let you know.

Habitat:

- **2017/2018 Project Development Update**

(Attachment 9: 80% Project Design Update - Power Point Presentation)

Jason S: *Jason showed slides of the areas where projects are scheduled for construction in 2017 - 2018 and currently at a design level of 80%.*

Jason S: A public meeting is to be held in late August – September. The Enlow house is in the process of being relocated. There will be some road closures during the house relocation.

There will be more information about the upcoming projects at the October meeting. The Forest Service project, Stormy A, was scoped last fall. They are sending out a draft plan in the next week or two. It is also on the website.

July 16, the third Saturday of the month, is the date for the Entiat River Appreciation event. Flyers will be out soon. The Summerfest event was rained out.

Chris C: The Yakama Nations projects are scheduled for next summer. Permits will be the focus this fall. We have a green light to move forward.

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Jason S: The next Planning Unit meeting is on October 5, 2016, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please fill out an evaluation of the meeting before you leave. They are found on the back table.

Thank you for coming! See you on October 5, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23a.m.

List of Attachments

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