

**January 4, 2017**  
**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 9:10 a.m.

Jason thanked Cathy Montgomery for coming early and warming up the meeting room for the group. He then welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve October 2016 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if there were edits to make to the October 2016 Minutes. No comments or edits were requested and the minutes were finalized. There were no additions to the January 2017 agenda.

Mike Cushman: There was an ice event in mid-December. Did any landowners have problems on their property? (*No one knew of any problems.*)

Alan Moen: Where did it break up?

Mike C: I'm not sure. Craig was fighting the ice at the hatchery.

**Entiat Landowner Steering Committee**

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program**

Mike Kaputa: The deadline for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) draft plan is April 2017. A meeting between the County and Cascadia Conservation District Board members is set for January to discuss the VSP process and potential commitments needed in the future.

A full presentation will be made at the April EWPU meeting. We are the first in the state to submit this plan. We plan to turn in the draft at the end of April. There has been a lot of engagement with the Farm Bureau and other groups.

Alan M: What are the major aspects of the plan?

Mike K: The program is designed to protect the critical areas within the agricultural zones of the county. The critical areas within the agricultural zones are grandfathered into the plan. That means the agricultural zones are not subject to the buffer setbacks.

Alan M: This maintains riparian areas?

Mike K: Yes, but also maintaining upland the Mule Deer range area. July 2011 is the baseline. Whatever the condition of the critical area at that point, has it been protected and/or improved since that time?

Alan M: The grandfather thing applies to conditions before July 2011?

Mike K: July 2011 is the start date to show on a watershed scale that areas are protected. We will walk through it step by step at the April meeting. We have a very good plan. Questions will come up about the monitoring and protection.

Jason: If there are no other comments or questions, we will move on to the next agenda item. It will be good to have the VSP update in April.

- **Reference Reach Discussion**

Jason: The reference reach has come up at a couple of meetings. What are the impacts? I reached out to a few people and got some answers. To recap some of the concerns: does the reference reach preclude fishing? I want to detail some of this.

Bob Whitehall: We want to be able to fish for steelhead again. With the reference reach status, also called a gene bank, fishing is limited on the Entiat River. The Entiat was designated a reference reach at one time without a chance to give public comment. Every time we try to make fishing available, this comes up. We would like to have a steelhead program at the hatchery. It reverts back to the reference reach, always goes back to 'can't fish' to protect the native fish.

Tom D: That is one of the questions we are interested in, and want to clarify. One of the questions to get down to is, if the end product is to be steelhead fishing in the Entiat, how do we get that?

Bob W: You are exactly right! We are suppose to fish the reference streams the same as other streams. But what happens is the Wenatchee and Methow streams are opened for fishing, yet the Entiat is not. We had meetings at the fire station with agencies to discuss what happens in a reference reach. We heard it would be treated the same, but once it was approved, it was never treated the same. We need a steelhead fishing season open to the Entiat when the other streams are opened.

Jason: The reference reach designation doesn't affect the fishing opportunities. It is the return numbers and the ESA listing that precludes the steelhead fishing. I contacted WDFW and what I found is the reference reach is used as a monitoring system. The gene bank has a different effect and that is mainly in regards to the hatchery program.

Bob W: It would be good for the different agencies to get together and be on the same page with their answers.

Tom D: Everyone should be on the same page.

Alan M: What has the historical run been?

Keith Vradenburg: The Entiat used to be good fishing years ago. The local stores carried fishing tackle, but they don't anymore. The lack of fishing has affected the local economy. I have a problem with the term 'native fish.' There are no native steelhead in the Entiat.

Tom D: I'm not certain about the steelhead stock. The Entiat does not have a defined stock. The Methow does.

Phil Archibald: Steelhead were hatchery fed and maintained in the Entiat from 1930 – 1999. What is the difference between the native and the hatchery fish? To a biologist, there is a big difference. To the fishermen there isn't. This was documented in the watershed plan. You can answer the questions Alan asked from that document. Look at the stocking history, the harvesting history, and the blockages. That is in the watershed plan too.

Keith V: The lack of fishing has made a big impact on the local economy in Entiat and Ardenvoir. The economy is one aspect we need to look at.

Jason: Maybe we should go into a small work group with the right people in the room and clear up some of this. There are a lot of factors that contribute to the fishing. It will take more than one thing to fix this. Bob and Tom are on deck with the small work group. Would anyone else want to join and get the agencies together?

Alan M: What other committees do you want to form?

Mike K: Greg's presentation seems to lay out a case that the Entiat populations should not be included in the Columbia.

Pamela Nelle: I would be happy to have the presentation again.

Mike K: Can you send out Greg Frazier's presentation?

Jason: I think it is on the Cascadia Conservation District website. I will check on that and send it out.

Tom D: This is a good time of year to review that.

Jason: Thank you. I want to get some clarity on this so we can begin the next steps. Good conversation on this.

- **2017 Planning**

Jason: I want to take this time to see if there are any goals or actions this group wants to take this year?

The reference reach is one of them, but are there any others? How are the meetings going? What presentations would you like to see? What are your interests? How can we meet that?

Mike K: Jason and I have had email exchanges about the Forest Health Collaborative. I want to bring more groups to help the Forest Service get more restoration and forest health projects going, and not duplicate efforts. The Forest Health Collaborative has taken on a life of its own. We have a planning unit here that should take on some of the work. It could be viewed as a way to draw the Forest Service away from the EWPU. The EWPU should be the route that deals with the forest health. Let's include them here instead of drawing the Forest Service away from the EWPU. I would like to see it drawn her so we can work together.

Alan M: A major concern is opening up the forest land to recreationists, and helping the local economy. Having the camping areas closed hurts the area. We need to work together as a community.

Jason: We have been working with James and Emily. Opportunities to update each other is critical. Is everyone getting the emails about these meetings? Did everyone get the insert in the Entiat Lookout? I put an article in the December insert talking about this meeting. Is that a good way to remind folks about our meetings and what we do?

Alan M: I will continue to include this meeting in the insert. We want to keep it in the body of the newsletter as well.

Jon Small: I don't know if the Forest Health Collaborative is involved with opening up the recreation areas. I want to make sure they are involved with our committee.

James Simino: Molly went out last year and monitored the vegetation to see what is coming back after the fires.

Mike K: Collaborative groups have emerged in the last few years. They seem to have a lot of engagement with the Forest Service. I don't know that they have a lot of engagement with our group. I would say they are not aware of the local issues. We don't want to take resources away from the groups that need to be involved. I would like to see the Forest Health Collaborative engaged with the EWPU. I will bring that point up again and get this going.

Jason: Is Jen Watkins the best person to contact for the Forest Health Collaborative?

Mike K: George is another contact.

James S: I can attend this meeting regularly and also update some of this.

Alan M: In that regard, have there been any changes from last year? Recreation is a good way to make the economy better. It would be good to work with the Forest Service and get the recreation areas open.

James S: We just had a change. Some of those areas are opened right now.

Jason: In 2016, a few people volunteered to talk with a young man from the University of Washington about the planning unit and the Entiat Watershed plan. Thank you for talking with him. I'm trying to get him to come and present his report at the April meeting. Are there any other planning work or goals?

James S: I like Alan's idea and would like to work on them.

Phil A: Where is the Planning Unit at with the reserve balance and the Department of Ecology (DOE)?

Mike C: We lost Dave Holland, so I haven't had a lot of communications or engagement with the DOE.

Mike K: There has been a large turn over in staff at the DOE office. We are paying attention to the reserve. Just after the holidays all of the data for the reserve was updated. We will want to talk about how to debit the reserve. The 5,000 gallons per city burns through the reserve quickly. Jason, are there some other ways to calculate actual usage? Let's take a look at the plan and see where we are at. It is not good that we are half way through the reserve given the increase in building construction.

Phil A: There have been discussions in the past of metering, but I haven't heard any more about that. I'm happy to have a meter put on my water so that realistic numbers can be used in determining the reserve for domestic use.

Bob Anderson: I remember doing the figures, and at the time we had some old meters available to use.

Mike K: If all we are doing is finding numbers for statistics, we only need a few volunteers to work with us. There has been a major shift determining water usage, coming from court cases for issuing building permits.

### **Habitat:**

- **Middle Entiat Project Development**

Jason: Nothing further has been done about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process since mailing the letter of intent that went out to the Middle Entiat last June. There will be a comment period in 2017 for the draft NEPA, but there will be no project implementation in the Middle Entiat this year. Hopefully, we will be building projects in 2018.

- **Yakama Nation Project**

*(Attachment 3: Yakama Nation 2017 Project Designs)*

Chris Clemons: In 2012, we did an assessment in the upper Stillwater. Projects were identified and prioritized. We came up with a list of projects and are now down to the final hurdle. All of the projects are on Forest Service land funded with dedicated Yakama Nation funding.

Page 6 is the uppermost project. It is in the recreational areas. Because of the fires we've had, things were pulled back and reassessed. There is a nice channel just past the school bus turn around. It has a flow every 2 ½ years. We want to remove the levee, control the flow with the projects so that there can be an annual flow. The channel will be enhanced with logs and boulders.

Logs will be ballast in with the boulders. We are using threaded rods drilled through the root wads and sealed with epoxy on the ends. This will be strictly a river flow channel.

Alan M: What about beaver habitat?

Chris C: We haven't seen any beaver there. It could happen later.

Bob W: It isn't the same channel that was made into a spawning channel?

Phil A: No. That channel is still intact. We had a phone call that the channel was drying up. I think the spawning channel is upstream of the channel shown here. You just have to live with the beaver. They come in, use up what they need to eat and move on. Is that Grandma Creek?

Chris C: We are going to revegetate the project and secure it. Not much excavation needs to be done.

Skip to page 8. We have 3 sites that we thought about taking the riprap out, but didn't want to stabilize the steep slope. The Best scenario is to put the new project on top of the riprap. The rootwads are 10-12 footers. We will cross to the island and put a jam there. A bridge will go in and a wetland mat. The bridge will probably be a full standing bridge. These units are pre-assembled and placed with a long reach excavator. The biggest thing is the asphalt that needs to be redone after the project is finished. All the sites are pretty close together.

Mike C: Did you do any test piles?

Chris C: No. But if plan A doesn't work, we have a plan B.

Tom D: What will the flow be along there?

Chris C: It will be a low flow. We want as much contact of wood with water as possible. Pre-fashioned boulders will also be used in the projects. The upper burn site is the next project. There is a small section of county road instead of Federal roads. We will be contacting the county for asphalt repair. There are no structures attached to the right of way on the county road.

Phil A: The map on page 10 is the actual Forest Service boundary. There are some trees marked. The sign is farther up. It is a brushy road now, but at one time was better.

Chris C: The property across the river is Chelan-Douglas Land Trust property. We will add some cover complexity at River Mile (RM) 28. The work window is July 16 through July 30. Project construction should take 2-3 days per site.

James S: The Forest Service draft decision should be coming through any day. Road repair will be phased in for the next 3 years. Along with road repair, we will be thinning, burning, and doing weed control along Mills Canyon, Roaring Creek and lower Mad River. We are working on the front loading for the project plans.

Chris C: The draft closed in November for the Stillwater area.

James S: We have worked on the draft revisions.

Chris C: We got a lot of comments and have addressed them all.

James S: With this new planning, the comment period has been replaced with an objection period.

Chris C: I will update the group at the next meeting.

Alan M: What about the campground region?

James S: We have some new strategies with plans to start talking about it this spring. We will have site visits and talk about the plan and what we hope to accomplish. Then we will talk further about the strategy.

- **Other Entiat Projects in 2017**

Keith V: Great plans! I can't wait to see them get going.

Mike K: The Land Trust and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) have worked on agreements to begin work on some of the 2017 projects to keep them going. We should have that agreement in draft form, ready to present to the Commission and Land Trust Boards in the next few weeks.

Don Olin: I'm glad to know the spawning channel is still working.

Alan M: As president of the Chamber of Commerce, I met with the Cascade Loop Association. I made a pitch to them to include the Entiat trails at Confluence Park. It is a great wildlife area. People pull off to the side of the road to see it. It would be a benefit to connect all the way, a great potential for tourism. It ties into the watershed, tourism and the rest.

Pamela N: We are getting ready to do fish capture in February and March, hopefully starting by mid-February. The Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program is in a tough situation right now, in light of the fact that the largest projects will not be implemented in 2017. The monitoring money may go away, or monitoring activities may be reduced greatly. The next couple of months will tell which way things are going to go. I will come back to the April meeting with the updates and bring an analysis.

Chris C: We have one more project going in. The Segel property and house burned down. We have tried to help them rebuild. They are allowing Yakama Nation access to the river from their property to put in some jams close to the Segel and Piper properties.

Tom D: We are gearing up the monitoring again as well. You will see a number of people in the river and some in boats, monitoring the fish.

Mike C: Thank you for coming today. This is a good turnout for the first meeting in 2017.

**Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment**

Jason S: The next Planning Unit meeting is on April 5, 2017, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please fill out an evaluation of the meeting before you leave.

We will follow up with folks after the meeting. Thank you and stay warm. See you in April.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

**List of Attachments**

<b><u>Attachment</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>
1	Attendance List
2	January 2017 Agenda
3	Yakama Nation 2017 Project Designs