

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Fire Hall, 2200 Entiat Way, Entiat, WA 98822
May 2, 2018
6:30 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE: See Attendance List (*Attachment #1*)
See Detailed Agenda (*Attachment #2*)
FACILITATOR: Mike Cushman
NOTES: Nada Wentz

WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Cushman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He let the group know that Jason resigned his position at the District to pursue a teaching career, and continued the meeting with a round of introductions.

Approve October 2017 and February 2018 EWPU Meeting Minutes: The minutes for both meetings were posted on the District website for folks to review. The minutes for both meetings were approved.

Call for New Business Items: The Citizens Action Committee is looking to fill a position on the committee. Jon Small is stepping down. There are three to five meetings a year, project tours and some review and scoring. Pete Teigen, with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB), is the coordinator. The deadline for nominations is May 18.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) process is underway in Chelan County.

Review of the May Agenda: The additions of the Citizens Action Committee open position and the CWPP process were added to the May Agenda.

PROJECTS

USFS Projects and Planning: James Simino reported on the current smoke in the valley from a prescribed fire. He will keep folks posted as to the schedule of where and when the fires will be conducted. Other planned activities for this year are thinning, burning, road work, culvert replacement, ditch maintenance, and trail work. The Yakama Nation will be implementing a Tillicum project this year as well.

A new Forest Service staff was hired. Mariah Mayfield begins work on May 23. She is a fish biologist.

Yakama Nation Projects and Planning:

Chris Clemons presented project slides, described the type of construction at each site and project locations. Construction begins July 16 through September 21. The channel modifications at the mouth of Tillicum Creek should help with the adult fish passage and opportunities upstream to monitor fish presence could be considered.

Middle Entiat Projects and Chelan County Wood Acquisition: Chelan County is getting the log staging areas set up this year on Chelan-Douglas Land Trust property. Mike Kaputa said they will soon be awarding a contract for the purchase and delivery of habitat logs. There may be 1 to 2 truckloads a day taking logs to the staging area this summer. There will be a lot of activity next year during implementation, including further log delivery and log placement/delivery to project areas by helicopter.

Jon Small asked if there would be a safe place for folks to come watch habitat structure construction. Folks might be interested in watching if they knew when and where. That would be good information to include in outreach mailers. Project sponsors will discuss and develop opportunities, if and where possible.

Trout Unlimited Projects and Water Rights Workshop: Trout Unlimited (TU) is starting mid-May through mid-July to change the intake and screen in Roaring Creek. The change will improve the Roaring Creek passage and keep 1.5 – 2 cfs in the creek.

Mike C asked if there was interest in having a water rights 101 workshop for landowners. Joe Kelly was interested but not sure if others would come. Jon Small felt that the established farmland folks may not be interested, but the new people in the area may.

Mike Kaputa said there will be workshop in Wenatchee next fall. Mike Cushman asked that folks be notified when the date is set.

INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD REPORT OVERVIEW

Review of Spring Chinook Salmon in the Upper Columbia River:

Greer Maier briefly discussed the Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) report while presenting graphs showing the specific salmon species returns to the upper Columbia River. She compared the differences between the upper Columbia River returns versus the Snake River returns. The spring chinook is the only endangered chinook in the state. She talked about the question of why the chinook returns appear to be better in the Snake River than the Upper Columbia, and the potential causes. The full report is available on the Northwest Power Council website: www.nwcouncil.org/fw/isab/isab2018-1.

Recommendations made in the report are to study the differences in the life cycles of the spring chinook and the summer chinook. Other recommendations were to better evaluate the cost to benefit ratio of the projects as part of the project prioritization process, restoration of natural processes (i.e. floodplain and side channel connectivity) should be the highest priority, and the importance of monitoring. The report also identified several causes for fewer spring chinook counts, which included pinniped predation and rise in ocean temperatures. Please contact Greer if there are further questions.

ENTIAT LANDOWNER STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bonneville Environmental Funding (BEF) Wrap-up: Mike Cushman and Robert Warren gave updates about past and current projects and programs. The opportunities and funding provided by BEF are greatly appreciated. The EWPU group is moving forward and looking for

direction for future work, potentially forest treatment and water. Mike asked if those are natural resource topics the group is interested in.

Robert Warren said that BEF appreciates the opportunity to support the work going on in the Entiat. They also appreciate the community based, community lead engagement and stewardship for watershed planning. BEF is interested in future work in the upper Columbia.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP): The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has contracted a consultant to update the plan. Mike Asher would like to get the committee organized to begin working on this in the Entiat Watershed, and if you have questions or wish to participate, please contact him.

A few EWPU folks were concerned about the CWPP process. They expressed the view that it is better to take preventative measures now, instead of after the fire emergency measures. Also, expressed concern that the DNR timeline to complete the effort by September was too short.

Mike informed the group that an effort is being made to extend the timeline.

MEETING CLOSE-OUT, EVALUATION AND ADJOURNMENT

Mike Cushman asked if anyone wants to be involved with the Community Action Committee, please let him know, or reach out to Pete Teigen at UCSRB.

Thank you for coming tonight, and see you in August 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

List of Attachments

| <u>Attachment</u> | <u>Contents</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Attendance List |
| 2 | Agenda |