

**January 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 9:11 a.m.

Jason Sims opened the meeting and updated the group regarding Mike Rickel's resignation from the District. Mike's contact information is available to folks, please ask Jason after the meeting. Jason welcomed those in attendance and continued the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve October 2015 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Jason asked if there were edits to make to the October 2015 Minutes. No comments or edits were requested, and the minutes were finalized. He called for new business items.

There were no new business items to add. The January 2016 agenda was reviewed and accepted.

**Entiat Landowner Steering Committee:**

- **BAER Discussion** Molly Hanson, USFS  
*(Attachment 3a: Wolverine Entiat BAER Power Point)*

Molly Hanson: Thank you for asking me to come and talk to the group. There has been much discussion about the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report for the Wolverine Fire. Maps showing the burn severity and flow treatments are available in the back of the room.

*Molly went through the Power Point showing pictures of the burned areas, some of the camp grounds that are now closed, and where those camp grounds are in relationship to the gullies that drain directly into them.*

Molly H: Five out of the seven fires have been assessed. The high burn severity areas are the most water repellent. Some of the moderate areas are also water repellent. We look for changing canopy cover and ground cover after the fires.

The high burn areas are in the recreation areas, and there is very limited control of flood runoff. The canopy cover is gone. The gullies are the biggest areas of concern, especially those that run through the recreation sites.

Treatments were chosen in accordance with the time limitations to implement the treatment. The website links for many of the pictures of the campfire sites are listed on the card located with the handouts in the back of the room.

Some of the achievements are the storm warning monitoring. Rain gages and stream flow gages were set in different areas of the recreation sites. Precipitation gages are online, but they are not winter weather ready. They will be back online in the spring.

Flow and erosion models are very high because the areas burned are very steep. We worked with different agencies to get forecasting stations set up to send out warnings. The probability of these events happening is a risk of 12%. Until the weather stations are in place and the ground is covered again – the recreation sites are compromised for the next three years. Liability for these areas is very high right now.

The toilets were burned at some of the sites. They will be treated and temporarily capped. Drinking water wells are shallow, so they will also be capped to prevent contamination. The flood control efforts involve taking out any potential flood debris such as picnic tables and signage. These have been removed and they have planned to remove the bridge decking on the Cottonwood Bridge.

Keith Vradenburg: We are very concerned about the social economic impact studies. We can't seem to get answers from folks. I'm meeting with Maria Cantwell and others to address this issue. I've worked in the fires before, and nothing has happened like this before. It's disappointing that no information has come for the economic community. I've talked with the Forest Service manager, Jason (from the USFS) and others.

Molly H: I have not had information get to me in a timely fashion either.

Tracy Eisenhard: Is there a long term impact study for economic or environmental study that will be available?

Molly H: No.

Randy Whitehall: The liability is in the recreation areas. Are they in the right location? When folks are asleep at night and they can't figure out where the flood issues are coming from, the danger and the liability goes up.

Jason S: What does this mean for access and restoration projects? Will they be shut down because of the closures?

Keith V: I don't think it will affect the projects. Moving the recreation sites out of the flood plain is a great idea. We don't want to close things down. We want to open them up.

Molly H: Joe Lange is an engineer for NRCS. If there are questions about bridges, call Joe.

Keith V: Moving the road up will raise it above the flood plain.

Molly H: It would be great to build a bridge high enough that we don't have to worry about it.

Don Olin: The debris from the first bridge will stop some of the flow. It may be good to leave it in to catch some of the debris and hold it up.

Molly H: Documenting all the storms and what happens is a priority now. It is a race between getting approvals and getting work done on the ground.

Mike Cushman: Thank you for your time. Are the gages USGS?

Molly H: Precipitation gages only.

Mike C: There are no potential land slide gages. Will there be links available to folks?

Molly H: Yes, on the back table. Storm watch and links are on the top. It is a good warehouse of information.

Tracy E: Are they in real time?

Molly H: Yes. This last summer was very dry. With this good snow, the risk of hyper flow is reduced for next spring.

*(Attachment 3b: Wolverine Fire: Talking Points)*

*(Attachment 4: FAQs / Questions and Answers)*

*(Attachment 5: National Weather Service)*

*(Attachment 6: Every Kid in a Park)*

There are handouts, cards with the storm watch website address, and other information is available on the back table. There are lots of details about sedimentation, slope, and return intervals. Google the BAER report from the Forest Service web site. There are a lot of treatments that we have available.

Tracy E: Is the full BAER report available?

Molly H: The report is in a form. We revamped it so it is easier to read.

Karin Whitehall: The Community support – the increased sedimentation question. The fishery file and snorkeling, the sediment came at just the right time to bury the reds. It was sad to see it happen. I'm not sure how the fish counts and the return counts will look next year.

Tom Desgroseillier: We hope that they rebound in the future will increase.

Jason S: Are there any further questions for Molly? Hearing none, we move to the next agenda item.

- **Entiat Annual Report Update**

Jason S: Currently, Cascadia is preparing a larger report of the monitoring and fisheries projects. I do not have a draft report to show you yet. We will be providing updates and sending the report in the mail. If you have specific questions for things you'd like to see in the report, please email me or let me know after the meeting.

- **2015 Outreach Review**

*(Attachment 7: Entiat Outreach Overview - Power Point)*

Jason S: The District outreach plan is very comprehensive, and I'd like to take a little time to highlight those plans. We would like your feedback on what is working and what is not working. The District goal is to address the issues and be transparent.

*Jason went through the 2015 Overview Power Point slides.*

At the end, if there are more ideas, please come and talk to me. I'd love to hear them.

The Goals and objectives – education is very important.

- Monitoring, surveying, and talking about what we are doing with the money.
- Participation, providing facts and information, understand the oppositions and the sentiments behind the opposition, two way communication – we want to listen as well as give information;
- Increase awareness; and give clear messages to the right audience at the right time;
- Share issues we've heard from the community.

Some problems are:

- Stakeholders recognize the collective effort, but don't know who is in charge.
- Current communications can be overly technical (a comment we've heard many times)
- Focus has been on project cost and characteristics, often at the expense of communicating results.
- Inconsistent communications
- Relationship building with stakeholders must be ongoing
- Finally, the lack of social media could be limiting outreach efforts.

Maybe folks aren't involved in the Chamber lunches, or the Entiat Leader. My focus will be on the media portion this year.

Who are we reaching out to in the valley?

Entiat IMW

2017-2018 Projects

USFWS Sampling

USFS PNWRS – 10 sites with 6 individual landowners

We make about 450 calls a year for access requests, and invites to events. There are direct mailings, and newsletters going out quarterly. The newsletters alone goes out to over 16,000 people a quarter. The Annual Report, attendance at community events and public meetings, field tours are all methods the District uses to reach out and inform the community. Lessons have been learned with the middle Entiat projects. Projects are delayed because some of the public is still concerned. We listened to the community and are willing to delay the projects until everyone is better informed and on board.

Steve Kolk: Due to the feedback Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) received, they decided they were not comfortable to move forward with the projects in 2016. They will have an environmental assessment conducting further studies on the projects.

Randy W: Was it the public in the upper valley? You will never get them all on board.

Steve K: The problem was with the program rather than the projects.

Jason S: The goal is to get their support.

Randy W: The silent majority was fine. It was the vocal minority that you responded to.

Steve K: To bail Jason out, it was BPA that decided to delay the projects.

Jason S: I wanted to inundate everyone with information. I tried to incorporate as much feedback as possible, especially in the project affected landowner areas.

Randy W: What is the most economical way to get the vocal minority on board?

Jason S: Look at the benefits over the years, the successes of the projects implemented. And there's always going to be a few people you'll never convince. It's a part of doing work in a dynamic place.

Other positive community interactions are the Kids in the Creek program put on at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery every year. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade students work with professionals. At the end of the curriculum, the students get to put together a land use project that goes before a mock board that will give the project a thumbs up or a thumbs

down vote. Entiat River Appreciation is a river clean up, scavenger hunt, with stations set up to promote good stewardship of the land and water. These are all benefits.

There is always room for improvement, and ideas are welcome. Contact Jason.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**

*(Attachment 8: VSP Draft Check List Handout)*

Mike C: Mike Kaputa couldn't be here today. I'd be happy if folks in the room have specific questions, to try to answer or forward them on to Mike Kaputa. There are a few drafts being put together and a new draft check list. The VSP program is to work with critical areas in the agricultural lands.

Karin W: Is that the Check List we saw before?

Mike C: I'm not sure. The draft committee is presenting this to the Commission in March, a pre-review before submitting the final. Mike Kaputa's question is, is there feedback from the stakeholders? The time is now to get involved and ask questions. If there is further information needed, please contact the District. It is moving along this summer, and then the plan is going to be up for approval.

Karin W: That is a new edition of the Check List. Will you email me a copy please?

Mike C: Yes, I will email you a copy. Is there any way to engage more folks to get involved?

Karin W: The Chelan Hort Day is on President's Day. That would be a good place to reach out to people.

Keith V: The Community Forum for Entiat is another place. There is a head table where each person is allowed 15 minutes to talk. Then there are individual tables set up for individual discussions and information sharing. We need to get the news out to people, that is one way we try to do it.

Basketball season will be over the first part of March. The Community Forum is usually the third or fourth week in March, at the Entiat High School. I will get the word out too.

Jason S: We need to keep these things going.

### **Habitat:**

- **Results to Date of Monitoring in the Entiat**

*(Attachment 9: 2015 Monitoring Updates ISEMP & CHaMP - Terraqua)*

- 1. Habitat Monitoring Discussion**

Keith van den Broek: *(Keith reviewed the Power Point presentation with the group.)*

## **2. Juvenile salmon and steelhead occupancy of stream pools treated and not treated with restoration structures, Entiat River, WA**

*(Attachment 10: USFS Effectiveness Monitoring – K Polivka)*

Karl Polivka: *(Karl reviewed his Power Point presentation, with a few additions.)*

We are watching the instream structures occupancy in the restored and unrestored reaches. In 2010, the steelhead had no difference between restored and unrestored reaches, but fish growth was better in the restored habitat.

The hypothesis is there is a stronger than average affinity for restored pools and a weaker than average for unrestored pools. The results, in 2009, Chinook showed stronger than average affinity in restored habitats. In 2012, there was no difference in overall average affinity for either species. In 2013, the Chinook had no difference from overall average affinity. The Steelhead, showed a weaker than average in unrestored habitat.

The conclusion is increased occupancy of restored habitat is very localized. The difficult news is what I have to present.

Karin W: Is stream flow and temperature in the analysis?

Karl P: Yes. That is not included with the growth, but pool depth and flow can increase occupancy.

Karin W: Is there sampling during debris flows in the summer?

Karl P: The only one that made an effect was in 2010. The flows in 2014 weren't made because we couldn't see the fish when snorkeling for capture and counts.

Don O: Any predation in that?

Karl P: Species interactions is something I want to include, but didn't have time to do. I need to show that the shift in work is worth the funding.

Tom D: Did you look at the red counts and density?

Karl P: We have no way to distinguish between fish.

Mike C: The debris at this point is pretty steady so far

Tom D: It is a big study and pretty involved.

Karl P: The man-made habitat structures have remained pretty stable.

Jason S: We skipped the project update because we covered it in the Outreach Section.

Thank you for your time. There are maps to check out in the back. And if you wish to fill out a meeting evaluation form, they are located in the back as well.

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

Jason S: The next Planning Unit meeting is on April 6, 2016, at the Entiat Grange Hall. Please fill out an evaluation of the meeting before you leave. They are found at the back table.

Thank you for coming! See you on April 6, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

### **List of Attachments**

<b><u>Attachment</u></b>	<b><u>Contents</u></b>
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3b	Wolverine Fire: Talking Points Presentation
4	FAQs / Questions and Answers
5	National Weather Service
6	Every Kid in a Park
7	Entiat Outreach Overview
8	VSP – Check List
9	2015 Monitoring Updates – ISEMP & CHaMP
10	USFS Effectiveness Monitoring Power Point