

October 7, 2015
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: Mike Rickel
Notes: Nada Wentz

Welcome / Introductions

Meeting began at 9:07 a.m.

Mike Rickel welcomed those in attendance and opened the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve July 2015 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

Mike asked if there were edits to make to the July 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. The October 2015 agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Entiat Landowner Steering Committee:

- **Access Entiat Updates**

(Attachment 3: Burned Area Map)

(Attachment 4: Access Entiat Outline) by Dale Wick

Dale Wick: *(Attachment 3: passed around to share.)* I'm concerned with the Duncan Fire from last year. *(Attachment 4: handed out.)* The outline covers what has happened, the beginning of the access committee, and developments since the committee started.

After the Duncan Fire burn, the gate was put up and no access to the area was permitted. Conditions leading to the closure are similar to the conditions that lead to the Oso landslide. We are watching and waiting to see if it happens here. The day after Labor Day, we'll go in and see what happens. We can't let people go in because there would be no access to get to them if they needed help. We checked with USGS and the foresters, who are also customers, and they all said 'no landslide is going to happen.' The snowmobile association, and others, were concerned about no access. There was enough interest that the district decided to have an open house on June 1. There was no mention of opening the roads. The reasons to keep it closed were given, but no word on when it opens. We formed a committee at that point to keep interested folks in the loop. The group got started, and then the 2015 fires began. Now, things have changed again. The committee will continue to meet and see what we can get worked out. We are lucky the

Duncan fire happened, otherwise the fires this year would have been worst. We are still waiting to see what happens with the Wolverine fire.

Mike Rickel: I committed to meet with the Forest Service, the new supervisor. After that meeting all the fires in the Methow, Okanogan and Entiat changed the focus to those areas. It is a comfort to the access group that the district ranger is engaged. Cascadia Conservation District continues to support as we can.

Dale W: We continue to monitor the situation.

Mike R: How many people are on the committee?

Dale W: There is a core group of 12.

Mike R: Was there a petition signed by folks?

Dale W: There were a lot of signatures, over 2,000. There were 674 signatures online, the others signed a hard copy/paper form.

Mike R: As appropriate, we will continue to have updates, engage with the Forest Service and share the information.

Dale W: We are meeting every 2 – 3 weeks.

Jason Sims: is there a timeline on when the next Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report comes out?

Randy Whitehall: We were briefed on Monday. The deputy has not been briefed yet.

Emily Johnson: Molly is briefing the Chelan unit today.

Randy W: We are still in the conversation piece of the reports. We are working with the deputy to get information out as to what will be closed and what is not. The decision should be made within the next two weeks.

Mike R: Chelan County applied for Emergency Watershed Relief. Implementation of recovery for private land is to come from the County or NRCS.

- **New Entiat District Ranger – Detail Assignment**

Randy W: I am the Acting Forest Service Supervisor. Janet retired, and I'm the replacement. I've lived in the Entiat Valley for 53 years. I understand the concerns, but I don't have a silver bullet to answer your concerns. Keep the communication open with each other. Keep asking questions I can forward on. We are moving forward to get things cleaned up, like the Stillwaters.

The Wolverine fire significantly impacted the upper part of the valley. We had the engine captain check the bridge at Myrtle Lake. The bridge is still there but the decking is gone. Things that haven't burned for the last 100 years are burned now. It is open. The concern is the water flow and flooding. For a short term, it will be closed. I don't know how long. Duncan is still closed due to the Wolverine fire. I don't have an answer on how to get the Duncan closure to a manageable piece. There is no time frame or plan to say we met the requirement to open it back up. The best thing is to close the valley at the mouth. You are all behind it. Just kidding! I don't know what the new report will say or how it will be implemented.

Shady Pass is open, Tommy Creek is closed. We pulled the culverts last year and are trying to maintain drivability. Mills Canyon is open, with no plans to close it unless there is a public safety issue. If there is anything you want to come and talk about, I'm there and the door is open.

Mike R: Your attendance today is a huge help!

- **Chelan County Flood Control Zone District**
(Attachment 5: Chelan County Flood Control)

Mike R: (Attachment 5: handed out.) For \$.07 per parcel in Chelan County, an expert is hired to develop a list of actions to mitigate the risks of flooding. That process is just beginning. They want as much participation as possible, so please pass that information along to others. This group meets monthly at the PUD building at Olds Station. There are local representatives in attendance. They will continue to bring updates to this group. We see that there fire and floods often accompany each other. That is of interest to the Cascadia Conservation District. We want to implement projects to help prevent as much damage as possible.

Karin Whitehall: Is it Chelan County that has an agreement with the weather service about warnings for floods and weather alerts? How did that come about?

Mike R: There were weather stations put in a number of draws. Crumb Canyon had one put installed in 2012. The BAER report said that weather stations should be installed. They continue to be maintained through county funding. The BAER team may make an additional request to implement more weather stations.

Karin W: Do you know anything about weather stations having communication towers for radios?

Mike R: You buy the weather station and turn to the frequency used for the alert.

Karin W: In July, NOAA had issued a debris flow for the upper Entiat. How will the upper valley be warned?

Mike R: The warning given is the same alert used on all radio stations. Radio stations and public broadcasting television stations run emergency broadcasting system tests to be ready for emergencies like storm warnings and amber alerts.

Mike Cushman: If the radio is not on, you won't hear it. Weather warnings are also sent to cell phones.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**

Mike R: The critical areas and Ag areas overlap. The forward movement has lapsed due to fires and harvesting. A public meeting is planned for this fall, and next spring to give landowners and Ag producers the information they need to protect critical areas. Most Ag growers already adhere to the requirements. The committee in this effort laugh at the 'voluntary' part of this, but it is an effort to bring land-use compliance. There will be focused outreach this winter, continued updates as to what this means to the community. If anyone has questions, Mike Kaputa speaks to this.

Graham Simon: Due to Ag season, they haven't met.

Dave Holland: I think a meeting is planned for later this October.

- **Upper Columbia Citizens Advisory Committee: Call for Nominations**

(Attachment 6a: Advisory Committee Recruitment)

(Attachment 6b: Advisory Nomination Form)

Mike R: The Upper Columbia reviews all proposals sent in to the state. A broad group of non-profits apply for grant funding through the state. The advisory committee is the first filter, the social filter, to recommend to the state what needs to be implemented. There is an opening in this committee. If you know of a landowner that has an interest in this, please let folks know. We would love to have an Entiat landowner involved.

Karin W: How much time does it take, how much work is involved and when do they meet?

Hal Hawley: You get a stack of papers to review, make choices and say yay or nay to the application.

Jason Lundgren: It is a good thing to be involved in, and educational.

Mike R: Some cases have seen a biologically high ranking be ranked low by the social filter committee.

Hal H: They meet 5 – 6 times a year. You sort through papers from Chelan County, then have a meeting. Then go to Okanogan and decide what gets the higher rank. The final meeting is where you meet with the other county and share ideas of importance.

Sharon Rose: How influential is this group? Do they act on the recommendations of this group?

Hal H: When you come up with the 5 best from each county, it goes to Olympia. Then you get the results of your opinion. The discussions and feelings of the group are acted on.

Mike R: They are very respectful of peoples' opinions. It is only through state funded dollars.

Steve Kolk: I'm hoping I have the current rankings. The landowner committee used this as a tool to get the current rankings. The final say is with the citizens' advisory committee.

Habitat

- **Review Updated Designs for 2016 Projects**

(Attachment 7: 2016-17 Proj. – Middle Entiat IMW Imp.)

Jason S: My job title is the Entiat Watershed Coordinator / Project Manager for the 2016-17 projects. My presentation is an overview of all of the 2016-17 projects. The other project sponsors will present their projects. We will talk about the status of where we are at right now. If there are questions, please stop me. I might deflect the questions to the appropriate project sponsor.

There are 5 different project areas: Project A is sponsored by Yakama Nations, Project B is sponsored by County of Chelan, Project C is sponsored by Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG), and Projects E & F are sponsored by Cascadia Conservation District. *(Jason went through the PowerPoint presentation highlighting the goals and objectives of the projects.)*

We are currently at 60% completion on project designs. Once the designs are finalized, the permitting process begins. The main goal is to make an improvement for fish habitat without taking away from the recreational activities. We are working with the landowners and the recreational community. This is a voluntary process. We are thankful and grateful to implement these projects, and we would like to track the concerns and answer the questions.

Chris Clemons: Will those comments be collected and distributed to the public?

Jason S: We have tracked all comments in a comprehensive matrix that tracks comments and the response to those comments and any subsequent changes that result from the comment. These are available upon request.

Chris C: At other public meetings there has not been enough time to reply to comments. If another meeting date is set, how can we include those that are not able to attend the meeting?

Jason S: Greater community participation is difficult. We are open to emails and direct calls. I can distribute the comments to the group as needed.

Steve K: We will have another project meeting and accept public comments at that time.

Jason S: The project team has served as another source of public outreach. The next meeting is Thursday, November 19, from 9 am to noon, in Wenatchee. If it is better to hold the meeting in Entiat, we could arrange to have it in Entiat.

Jim S: Maybe we should go to organized meetings like the Chamber meetings.

Jason S: I have been attending those meetings and getting some feedback.

Chris C: Which projects are scheduled for construction in 2016 and which ones in 2017?

Jason S: I don't have an answer to that yet. The general timeline is: 60% design by November 2015, final plans developed by December 2015 – January 2016, phase 1 of the final design in March 2016, phase 1 construction during summer/fall of 2016, phase 2 final design in March 2017, and phase 2 construction during summer/fall of 2017.

We will definitely have public meetings as we get closer to March 2016.

Emily J: How do people find out about these public meetings?

Jason S: Meetings are listed in the Entiat Lookout, at the Entiat public activities like Swallow Fest, and Facebook. I'll be here until the meeting ends, and I have business cards with contact information to pass out.

Mike R: We do struggle to engage landowners through many venues. If there are other ideas to try, or individuals to contact, please let us know.

Wes Childress: We talked about the potential for flooding. These projects will change the flooding dynamics. What can and will fail and wind up down-stream? I've not seen where the impacts down-stream have been adequately addressed.

Jason S: In an attempt to be brief, there are details available to those who ask. The risks and concerns have been documented and worked on.

Wes C: I would like to see that during the review.

Jason S: I'd love to sit down and talk with you and share information addressing your concerns.

Project A – Stormy Reach – Yakama Nations – Matt Wilberding
(Attachment 8: Stormy A Proj. Overview)

Matt W: *(Power Point presentation for Project A.)* Project A is on Forest Service and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust land. The goal of this project is to improve the Dill Creek connectivity. One of the construction sites was moved to the mouth of Dill Creek.

Mike R: One aspect of the improved flood plain is to keep flood waters from shooting straight down the river bed.

Matt W: We made some changes due to the comments from recreationists.

Tracy Eisenhard: Are we going to have project wide details?

Jason S: We will have signage once the designs are finalized.

Steve K: The specifics of the signage is yet to be determined.

Tracy E: Will signage be on the gravel beds be for fish spawning and not safety?

Graham S: There were signs in the Icicle to warn folks about spawning areas, and not to disturb them.

Mike C: Signage creates a false security. There needs to be a balance between too much and not enough. If you have ideas of where signs should be placed and what they should say, we'd appreciate the feedback.

Jim S: There needs to be some notification for folks going down-stream. When it is high water, you can lose control at some of the bends.

Mike C: Usually river recreation is during the summer months, warm weather and lower flows.

Wes C: A map of where to access the river would be good.

Steve K: Inputs will be a minimum for signage.

Project B-Bremmer Levee – Chelan County Natural Resources – Pete Cruickshank
(Attachment 9: Proj. Area B – Bremmer Levee - CCNRD)

Pete C: *(PowerPoint presentation for Project B.)* This project is on Chelan-Douglas Land Trust property. The project area is located between road mile 16 – 17, and River Mile (RM) 19.7. The levee will be pulled out to allow the river to migrate into previously farmed land. We are looking to get the river back to a natural state, induce some meanders and create more habitat.

Wes C: Who built the levee?

Pete C: I don't know for sure. The Bremmers' owned the land and had a homestead there.

Jason S: It was built after the 1972/1978 flooding.

Karin W: There were a lot of changes to the river after the 1948 flood.

Pete C: There has been a lot of discussion that too much is being done to change the river. Removal of fill, and let the river do the work to re-engage the flood plain is part of our plan. Log jams after the levee removal were points of contention, so we changed the project positions to allow recreationists ample time to steer clear. Native planting is planned once the construction work is completed. It looks like we will be building in 2016. The log procurement is beginning now.

Dale W: You've been moving logs for quite a while?

Pete C: I don't know what those logs are for, but they are not for our project.

Mike R: It will be constructed and then moved to the site. Are you anchoring with cable?

Jason S: Cables and chains are not allowed. The piles will be set down, then there will be a Lincoln log style to anchor them. Helicopter based jams will be used for the banks. The details are not finalized.

Mike C: I have a couple of pictures to show you different kinds of jams.

Steve K: the Helicopter is for specific sites. The driver is low impact and makes less of a mess.

Sharon R: Will the log jam staging be in the flood plain?

Pete C: We will not be water logging our logs.

Tracy E: Where are the logs coming from?

Pete C: There is a combination of loggers and companies for the logs. We are working with the Forest Service too.

Mike C: Maybe some mulch from the Forest Service from burned areas could be used, as well as clean out the burned areas.

Pete C: We are removing fill and engaging the flood plain.

Wes C: If material is imported, it will raise the flood plain unless some is taken out too.

Steve K: The practical aspect is that you want to slow water down. You do increase the depth. The benefit of the Land Trust is they are allowing a land flooding creating a habitat, increasing sediment and other benefits. Where flood plains are allowed, flooding is localized. If anything is compromised, the design will change.

Wes C: The municipalities I've worked on allow zero plain raising.

Chris C: When you excavate, you are taking out, but logs are considered fill and increase the plain.

Steve K: If you run water into an obstruction, water will back up behind it. The effects will be localized.

Wes C: Unless you have logs that form a jam, you will have a problem down-stream.

Steve K: We are reducing the velocity so wood will have places to drop out, and it won't impact down-stream.

Wes C: I've seen wood drop out, and the dammed up water raises the level of the river. The potential is there for dangerous flooding of downstream folks.

Steve K: That problem is considered when the structures are designed. We will not allow designs to be developed or built that create a long term problem.

Wes C: I'd like to see that mitigated. There are a lot of dynamics that can and will happen. You can't predict them all. What about ice jams over the river creating a flash flood?

Chris C: The Land Trust is working with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to take care of that.

Wes C: Structural maintenance is what we've asked for. There are a lot of 'what-ifs,' with a tremendous amount of material put in the river.

Jim S: Historically, there has been a lot of wood put in the river. The first flood was in 1894. It brought a lot of debris down. In 1948 and 1972, the river was raised because of the debris.

Sharon R: The 1972 flood took out our bridge.

Jim S: Some things depend on circumstances. I don't believe there is that much wood right now, but with the fires, there will be partial logs in the river. This is a better way to pick up debris coming down than having it all come across. If you can reduce the amount coming down, that should help.

Wes C: There is a lot of wood going in!

Keith Vradenberg: I have a lot of pictures. If we don't get the huge rains, we won't have a problem. Once the undergrowth is established, it will help prevent problems. We need to monitor and maintain the projects. It is a better outcome.

Chris C: We've been monitoring our project and not one of the 900 logs has moved a half a foot. The cable is holding it in place.

Wes C: When we have a major flood, the cables will break and go downstream. The best thing I've heard is that there will not be any more cable used.

Chris C: The rebar used in these new projects can have the same effect.

Mike C: We are trying to increase the flood plain connection. We want the river to meander and slow the floods down. Part of the process is to get away from the straightening of the river.

Project C – Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group – Jason Lundgren
(Attachment 10: Proj. Area C - CCFEG)

Jason L: There are three endangered species in the Entiat River. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has conducted assessments over the years. There are a lot of different scientists involved with these projects. Please keep in mind that many of them are also recreationists.

The Entiat River is an intensively monitored stream. We are trying our hardest to spend dollars wisely in our field for the best results. That is one of the reasons you see people in the river flagging. We are trying to make these human made structures replicate the ones structures that occur naturally.

We've been working around the Stormy Preserve. We are working on smaller projects and working with the Land Trust in an area that is a little more than half a mile in size. The small projects were scaled back because of construction impacts on recreationists. The log jams are to provide habitat and slow the river flow. Other jams were designed to sort gravel and sediment. This puts more water on the flood plain, as a benefit for the downstream landowners.

To improve boater safety and reduce the carbon footprint on the land, most of our structures are along the left bank. We will be doing intensive riparian restoration along our projects sites.

Project E – Deskin Property – Cascadia Conservation District - Mike Cushman
(Attachment 11: 2016/2017 Proj. E&F – Middle Entiat IMW Imp.)

Jason S: We will skip ahead to Project E and F. Due to time constraints, a mile will remain untreated at the top of Gray Reach.

Mike C: *(Mike went through the PowerPoint presentation for Projects E and F.)* Project E is .3 miles of river to be treated, and a large wood structure to be installed. The project is left bank oriented, so we won't need to cross the river with heavy equipment. There are bank erosion concerns, so we are addressing that. Chinook like low flows and steelhead like faster flows.

Two excavators will be used on these projects. The pile systems get us away from backfill with gravel. The bottom two wood jams will be built with the helicopter use. The jams constructed by helicopter are less destructive to the thin riparian growth. Riparian plantings will help with water temperature and encourage fish habitat. It also gives the boaters more room to get through.

Project F – Cascadia Conservation District – Mike Cushman

Mike C: Project F is .6 miles of treatment. The intent of the upper portion is to alleviate some of the concerns for the roads and homes. Deflector jams would deflect the water away from roads and homes, and slow the velocity down. The design is pile based and slash seeded for instant habitat.

- **House Relocation Project**

Mike C: The Chelan Douglas Land Trust has acquired the Enlow property. We are trying to salvage the home. We are currently working with folks from the Carlton Complex Rebuild, for possible relocation of the house. We would like to salvage as much of it as possible for these rebuilds in Carlton. The details are not hammered out yet, but use of items left over can go out for bid opportunities. Stay tuned, if you or someone you know has an interest please contact me. We will be publicizing this through the Wenatchee World.

Designers have had to delay their efforts due to the house relocation efforts. Whether this happens or not, we would like to make a beaver complex. This property is inundated annually, making this a good opportunity. The complex structure uses 12" to 18" in diameter logs, driven down about 18 feet. They are designed for scour.

Wes C: Does the design use rods?

Steve K: Pile, then logs interlaced, then pins and a top layer.

Chris C: The logs are driven into the ground a third of the length of the log.

Jim S: What kind of wood is used for the pilings?

Steve K: Douglas fir.

Upper Stillwaters Habitat Enhancement Project – Yakama Nations – Chris Clemons

(Attachment 12: Upper Stillwaters Preliminary Design)

Mike R: Yakama Nations is sponsoring a project in the Upper Stillwaters with the Forest Service.

Emily J: The project comment period closed October 2.

Chris C: We are doing a joint project with the Forest Service. In 2012, we did an assessment from RM 24 up to Hamburger Falls. From the project list, 12-14 projects were designed. After the BAER assessments, we went back to reassess the project areas. As it stands now, 3 project areas doable. There will be a field trip coming up on October 28 with the Forest Service interdisciplinary team. The first couple of sheets give an overview. Page 3 and 4 are dewatering. Page 6 is where the project starts. The signal peak area is at RM 27.5. The channel was disconnected over the years. We hope to reconnect it. The channel is already there.

Mike R: Does it hold seasonal water?

Chris C: The channel is well defined. The grade is there. We would go through the channel and rough it up a little and put in a couple of jams.

Page 8 is the second of the peak locations. Long rickrack along the bank, heavy with vegetation. The amount of disturbance with pulling rickrack out was frowned on. We will have a rickrack treatment. The agreed treatment is to have a cable collar around the log, laying it down on the rickrack. The boulder would be attached to the logs.

Page 9 is the second rickrack treatment, similar to the first one. We may use helicopters to place the project.

Page 10 shows the treatment down-stream in the burn location, which is on Forest Service property. We would add covering over the pools to provide complexity. These are the 30% designs until the field trip. A decision will be made by April of next year and implementation in 2016.

Jim S: Where is that in the process?

Chris C: I don't know exactly. Congress will designate at that time.

Jim S: Will that impact the other projects? How will that impact the fishing and recreation?

Emily J: Congress has to designate is a wild and scenic river. I don't know when the last time Congress did that.

Jim S: So we don't need to worry about it?

Emily J: Correct.

Wes C: What about the permitting process? Who is the lead agency on permitting?

Chris C: Through the Forest Service. We may seek permitting through Chelan County.

Mike C: Is there a fishing exempt permit?

Chris C: During the 2012 project, the access was so overgrown, we had to get the permits, also on private property.

Wes C: The downstream properties?

Chris C: The river right did not apply, only to the private landowners.

Wes C: They are not cabeling, but still artificially connecting the logs together?

Chris C: They are connected with bolts and epoxy. It is a lot of work. The programmatic process will weigh in or against it. The Federal Fish and Wildlife did not sign off on the cable usage, but NOAA did. So the cable will not be used.

The timeline is 2016. We are staging wood for this in the upper Wenatchee area. We may stage some in the Preston Reach area. The cultural resource work should be taking place in the Wenatchee area.

Mike R: Are there any other questions?

Meeting Close-out, Evaluation and Adjournment

Mike R: The next Planning Unit meeting is on January 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 next year, on January 6, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

List of Attachments

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