

**April 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 welcomed those in attendance and began the meeting with a round of introductions.

- **Approve January 2016 EWPU Meeting Minutes**

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

New business items to add to the agenda are the Shoreline update and a Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) update. The April 2016 agenda was reviewed and accepted as edited.

**Entiat Landowner Steering Committee:**

- **WDFW Update on Fisheries and 2016 Forecast**

*(Attachment 3: Adult Salmon Returns: Actual & Forecast)*

*(Attachment 4: 2014/2015 Upper Columbia Steelhead Fishery)*

*(Attachment 5: 2015 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook & Sockeye Fishery)*

Bob Whitehall: The Spring Chinook are still coming. The forecast bounces around. The estimates can differ from the folks doing the counts. The predictions for fish runs will be lower because of the warmer ocean conditions. The Escapement rules are very clear about the ratio between native fish and hatchery fish. We are watching the numbers closely to make sure the Chinook won't get added to the endangered list.

Differing funding information is continually coming in. A bill for funding fisheries in the coming year at a million and a half was passed by the Governor, but only one extension on it for now. We would like to take it to the legislature and get it renewed for the next 6 years. I don't think the legislature knows what the impact of the fisheries is on our community. We are working on getting the bill passed for the long term.

Jason S: Travis's emails showed the sockeye might not happen this year and the steelhead was low. They finally made their goal of a full release. I have contact information for Travis and would be happy to get that to you.

Mike K: What fish were in trouble?

Bob W: The Chinook. We need to get the native counts back up. In region 5, on the lower Columbia, the hatchery run is healthy and good, but the native run is not good.

Tom D: I'm wondering about the fishing, angler hours, after steelhead.

Bob W: Since I've been on the board to get fishing open, folks don't realize how many fish are hatchery fish.

- **Entiat Annual Report Update**

Jason S: The Annual Report went out at the end of February. They should have been delivered to your mailboxes. We have not had a lot of feedback. Did you hear any feedback? Anything else you would like to see in next year's report, please let me know and it will be incorporated.

Karin W: Thanks to Tracy for the newspaper article.

Jason S: We are open to all the feedback you want to give. We want to make it answer all the information needs you have.

- **Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)**

Mike K: We've talked about the Voluntary Stewardship Program a few times. The VSP is to help landowners protect the critical areas on a voluntary basis so it doesn't become a mandatory program. We have staff and a work group developing a draft form and will put it to the technical panel for review on an informal basis.

How do we track the program? We've provided a lot of information for the landowners to track the habitat improvements. How do we track the VSP improvements and see what is different at the 5 - 10 year check in?

We had a good discussion with the Cascadia Conservation District Board a couple of weeks ago. One of the new board members said, "What is voluntary about this?" We can work together to keep it from going down a regulatory path.

We are working with Cascadia and NRCS to try to stream line this. There will be some time and paperwork to develop this program on your farm. We expect to have a clearer picture after the state tech reviews what we have so far. This is a great opportunity to work through the details from now through October.

The tech team is new to this program. I think there will be bumps in the road as we work through this process. I hope to have more details in a few months.

Mike C: From Cascadia's perspective, we've rallied through the different county folks, and shared ideas. Confidentiality of the information is an area of concern. We are trying

to figure out if we go by the water area, WRIA, so that specific landowners are not mentioned.

Mike K: In the end, the VSP program will focus on standards that will be held to, such as how well we are protecting our critical areas. Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife said to use LIDAR mapping to track the success or failure. That may emerge as the highest priority from the tech panel. Arbitrary start date of July 2011, the map shows the amount of riparian area. Go back in 2021, after ten years, and look at the current maps to see what has happened. That may be one of the issues it comes down to.

- **Discuss Update on Plan Presentation**

Jason S: I want to propose that we go back and look at the development of the WRIA plan, compare that with what has been done since it began. I'm not sure the story of the development is known and understood as it should be. Is it okay if I call or email to start a discussion about this? I want to keep this group going and keep our goals moving forward.

Mike K: There is an implementation plan. Take a look at that part in the master plan. Can we continue to work on the actions? With water resources, the reserve, is there anything we ought to be doing on that? In the Wenatchee, we are processing water rights. Is this a need in the Entiat too?

Jason S: I've breezed through the plan, it is important that we have a check in like that. The goal is to have a power point review at the July meeting.

Mike C: You have the instream minimum flows. Maybe some new topics would be roads or upland priorities. What are the next steps?

Bob W: It would be good to tie in the county flood control. The water storage is an issue.

Mike C: You are in support of the update?

- **Master Shoreline Update**

Mike K: I used to give Master Shoreline updates, but the plan was put on hold. There was a discussion with the Department of Ecology (DOE). We are updating the old draft plan and trying to move it from the DNR to the planning department. The planning department will release the plan for public comment. It is good to give comments now.

Jason S: There are Entiat Habitat Sub Committee (EHSC), design teams and other events that are ways to provide discussion with the landowners on the details.

Mike K: Let me talk to the planning department about attending these events to see if we can set up some workshops.

Mike C: Does the draft plan show what has changed from the original?

Mike K: No. You open it as a new document. We want to make sure they are what we think they are. Maybe we could have an Entiat landowner meeting and make some sense of the comments we may want to provide.

Mike C: Is the landowner steering committee still meeting?

Jason S: Yes, ad hoc. That's another group to include.

- **Discussion of Stream Gages and Flood Responses**

*(Attachment 6: Entiat Flood Risk - power point)*

*(Attachment 7: Weather Website Informational Handout)*

Katherine Rowden: As of a couple of days ago, the snowpack is pretty close to average. We might get some early run-off on the burned areas. The soil is really saturated. Landslides are a concern and can happen up to 7 years after a burn when the roots finally rot away and the trees go down. Flash floods are a concern as well. 1972 was an extreme year for rain and saturation.

Rain gages were placed at Tommy Creek and Cottonwood Stream. If you are interested in watching the weather flood watch, there is a weather and hazards data viewer on line. The DOE website to access and watch the flood stages is listed on the handout. We hope to do more surveying around the bridges. Stream gage readings and river forecasts can be seen at [Water.weather.gov](http://Water.weather.gov). Please share the website and how to find the forecasts for the streams you need to watch. Updates are made several times a day.

Karin W: Can we watch and compare current to previous years' weather?

Katherine R: I don't think it is that easy to do. You can watch for 1 and 3 hour gage readings, but there are limitations on the gages. They are not winterized. They can give bad data with snow melt, freezing, and storms that miss the gages. The office is working on a threat matrix. They will let us know more information later.

The terminology is a challenge. We try to do a 2 – 3 day outlook and will put out a flash flood watch when needed. Flash flood warnings will activate the emergency alert systems through the FCC system. Warnings are sent to TV stations, radio stations and cell phones. It would be good if the folks in the lower Entiat Valley had a phone tree in place to call the folks in the higher areas where there isn't any phone and radio reception. High flows and debris are concerns. Public Works is monitoring the scour around bridges and staging equipment and materials.

Pamela N: Do you have a timeline on the threat matrix?

Katherine R: By the thunderstorm season.

Doug England: Are we getting some feedback from the radar equipment?

Katherine R: I've not heard. I'm not allowed to lobby for the radar. Local folks can go to their legislators in support of it.

Mike C: We have the flood damage report from the Forest Service. I have it scanned and can send it to anyone that may want it. The work described was road repair and some levee work.

Katherine R: Should anyone want to contact me, my phone number and email are on the handout.

- **Chelan-Douglas Land Trust Update:**

*(Attachment 8: Entiat River Salmon Recovery Conservation – power point)*

Mickey Fleming: I'll give a brief update on the Land Trust efforts in the Entiat. The Land Trust has been working on salmon recovery since the early 2000's. *(Mickey went through her Power Point presentation with pictures of the efforts made.)* The primary goal is intact and functioning for the protection of habitat.

There are a couple of things we've been working on. It's been three years since we started coming to the EWPU meetings. We've been protecting the flood plains and channel migration. We ended up owning some of the upper side for this purpose. Jackie Blanchfield is listing the four lots we are selling and giving out a certificate of exemption. The Bremmer property was the Priest Rapids Committee sale. Money went back to the funders. The other four will be held in trust and used to purchase alternative properties.

Removal of structures in the flood plain in connection with the restoration projects, the Bremmer land was where the river was trying to go back to. The question was, what to do with the house? We put ads in the Entiat Lookout and on the radio. There was no response. We finally sold the house, and it is to be moved a few miles down the road.

Mike K: Congratulations on the sale.

Mike C: I was out on the property, and it is inundated with water again.

Jason S: Thank you Mickey!

### **Habitat:**

- **2017/2018 Project Development Update**

Jason S: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is leading the NEPA process now. The scoping period was in February and March. They are working on the draft. There

will be a chance for public comment when it comes out. If there are specific comments or questions, please come and ask me, I'll find the answers.

A public meeting is being planned to share the updates, possibly in the summer. We are currently moving to some finalized designs. We are looking at the high flows and putting things where they need to be. The plan is to do construction in 2017. I'm happy to provide the development of the NEPA process and the BPA updates to those who have questions.

Mike K: Where is the Conservation District at with the flood risks and projects? There were some questions at the January meeting.

Mike C: In terms of the forest, the project design consideration is toward the 100 year flood and structure, not the fish. Another report will be more specific about fish numbers. The emergency response plans, wildfire protection plan, flood control zone, is a multi-faceted process. The NEPA process slowed the planning and designing. We will be meeting with the landowners as the plans are better settled.

Mike K: I was thinking about the public meeting and the public risk.

Mike C: Coordination with the public development.

Mike K: Folks want to know if there is fear about the fish projects amplifying problems in the lower Entiat. Some places should help with the problems, but it can cut both ways.

Jason S: We will be working with folks to set a public meeting and we will keep updating at events and provide information when it's available.

Mike C: The permit and NEPA process should, pending no problems, have the permits sent in August. The permit review can be done in the winter.

Karin W: It is hard for me to understand how the Stormy Creek 100 year flood cfs numbers come into play.

Mike C: The numbers they use are for runoff predictions.

Katherine R: A model is used to do the predictions quickly. But they have a rule of thumb to go by in the models.

Mike C: There is a lot of difference in the information between the agencies and stakeholders. It would be good to bring them all together.

Mike K: There is a big discrepancy between the calculations. I'd like to see those come together. It is hard to understand how the Forest Service came to some of their numbers.

Mike C: NEPA scoping is for the Forest Service components, and now BPA is doing the same for our projects. It gets confusing.

Jason S: Are there other project questions or comments? We'll move on to the next agenda item.

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

- 1. Habitat Monitoring Presentation and Discussion**

- (Attachment 9: The Entiat IMW – Results to Date – power point)*

Pamela Nelle: I'm showing the collaborative presentation today. This shows what data we have to date. The goal of the habitat work is to increase stream complexity. We had a plan to monitor and the plan is half way completed now. The study will be finished in 2021. We want to achieve a reach scale. We are looking to see geomorphic change detection. We have not seen a huge change in the river bed.

The thing that will change the data is a large flood. The fish need a good quality of cover for protection. Twenty-four sites have been sampled for fish and growth showing the fish response to added habitat. The main stem areas of monitoring and data collecting for the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) are the Entiat River and the Mad River.

Mike C: We will not see the effect of the 2015 projects until 2018?

Tom Degroseillier: We will see results in two or three years. We want to produce more smolts.

Pamela N: You can model in the flow and conditions.

Mike C: To what extent do you consider ocean conditions?

Pamela N: The NW Fisheries can be added. Steelhead are very complicated and hard to predict. *(Pamela went through the remaining Power Point presentation and conclusion.)*

Katherine R: Fishery people are taking into account that we have had more water this year than in other years.

Mike C: It is hard to determine flood plain connectivity during a drought. A few wells went dry for a few folks in the lower Entiat River area last year.

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

Jason S: The next Planning Unit meeting is on July 6, 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 July 6, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

**List of Attachments**

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