

ENTIAT WATERSHED PLANNING UNIT MEETING MINUTES
Entiat Grange Hall, 14108 Kinzel St., Entiat, WA 98822
May 1, 2019
10:00 a.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 10:04 a.m. and welcomed those in attendance, followed by a round of introductions.

Approve February 2019 EWPU Meeting Minutes: The minutes were attached to the emailed meeting reminder for review. The February minutes were approved.

ENTIAT WATER RESERVE UPDATE

Chelan County: Mike Kaputa, Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD); and Trevor Hutton, Department of Ecology (DOE) Water Resources; discussed the progress and the process of pending water right applications in Chelan County.

DOE looks for input from landowners regarding existing water applications and their interest in moving forward with the process in the effort to identify priority basins across the state. The same information is sought for other watersheds where reserve data is being collected. For now, the work that was done in the Entiat to establish the reserve puts the Entiat in a good place.

Question: Does the Planning Unit and Entiat community want DOE to process pending water right applications?

Answer: The process is good to go through, helps update the County/DOE records, and is important to the landowners in the valley.

The topic will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

ENTIAT WATERSHED DROUGHT PROJECTIONS

Drought Overview: (*Attachment 3: Drought Presentation*) Trevor asked folks to give DOE feedback about any drought concerns they may have. Water Resources Program slides were presented with information about the Washington State definition of drought, recent trends in precipitation and temperatures, and what happens during drought conditions. The group discussed their concerns about having enough water for orchards, the fish hatchery and resources to fight fires during drought seasons. Trevor will be in the Kittitas, Methow and Okanogan areas talking about drought next week.

The group further discussed drought preparedness and stream flow data recorded from existing gages still in place. Ken presented a few slides of the gage readings recorded so far and a slide of the graph.

ENTIAT PLANNING UNIT UPDATES

Cougar Creek Spring Public Outreach: USFS and Chelan County Emergency Management and Public Works have prepared signage and outreach materials warning mushroom hunters and hikers of post-fire debris flows in the event of a rain storm. These areas have little to no cell phone coverage with one road for ingress and egress.

USFS Project Updates, Permits, Other: Mariah Mayfield brought material to hand out. Folks are finding a few mushrooms along the streams. Permits for commercial mushroom picking are on sale at the Forest Service office. Private use permits are free. There are designated areas with garbage and toilets available for commercial pickers. If any impacts to riparian areas are noticed, please contact the office in Wenatchee or in Chelan.

Post fire outreach signs for dispersed camping areas regarding potential flooding have been put up. Other Forest Service work includes trail maintenance, bridge replacement, culvert replacement, and water guards installed on roads.

Restoration projects on USFS land to be implemented this year are Stormy Project Area A by the Yakama Nation, at RM 28; and two side channels on Chelan-Douglas Land Trust property. Projects for 2020 will be in the planning process this October.

Middle Entiat Projects: The Bremmer Levee Project Area B by Chelan County, Project Area A by the Yakama Nation, and Project Area E by Cascadia will be implemented this summer, 2019. Helicopter flights to move logs to project sites begins July 8-12. Construction is set for July 15 through August 10. Information will be presented at the Entiat 75 year celebration, Cascadia's newsletter, the Entiat Lookout, and information will be sent in the mail. Folks will be detoured away from the river during construction and the river will be closed during the Helicopter work July 8-12. Most of the work in Project Area E will be on one side of the bank, while the Yakama and County projects will have a channel spanning bridge to construction access to both banks.

Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishermen: Daniel Hammond and Bruce Merighi attended the meeting representing the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishermen (WVFF) group. They are interested in coordinating with other groups to improve fish habitat for salmon and steelhead. They offered assistance with data collection and species identification, as well as financial resources for informational signage. They asked to be notified when project work is planned.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP): The County is working toward improving grower representation and feedback. The Commissioners plan to appoint two growers in their areas. The position would include outreach efforts, attendance at quarterly meetings, and a two year term. Numbers showing gains and losses for different watersheds needs proofing for accuracy. The next steps would be to put together a memo to the commissioners, get their approval and do the outreach.

ROUNDTABLE UPDATES, MEETING CLOSE-OUT AND ADJOURNMENT

A trail project is going on in the Stehekin with the helicopter flying logs up to the project site from the Bremmer Levee project area.

The Washington Fish & Wildlife are beginning discussions to use fish stocking products with Yakama Nation. There may be some work done in the future. The smolt migration is looking pretty good right now compared to last year, as observed in the lower Entiat Fish Trap operations. The fish count seems better and the ocean conditions are helping to put things in the right position. The steelhead are low in numbers.

Watch for information on flying aerial imagery to be conducted in the next month for low flow data collection on the river in the Middle Entiat project area. Cascadia will send notice through the mail and direct phone calls to effected landowners. This information will be used to observe project effects before and after project implementation.

Mike thanked everyone for coming. Conversations on drought conditions would be good to have at the next meeting. It will be good to hear what other areas are doing in other areas on the state.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 p.m.

List of Attachments

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