



“To voluntarily bring people together to improve communication, reduce conflicts, address problems, reach consensus, and implement actions to improve natural resource management on associated private and public lands in the Entiat WRIA

46”

Entiat Watershed Planning Unit Meeting

December 10, 2025

4:00pm-6:45pm

Entiat Fire Station – 2200 Entiat Way

Facilitator: Mark Ingman, Cascadia CD

4:10 Round Table

Mark Ingman – Cascadia Conservation District, facilitator

Stormy Creek low tech restoration completed this summer, activated 900 ft side channel, with 30 BDAS and log structures, used post-fire wood, hopefully will get folks out there as a tour site. We’re continuing with Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project with 30% design completed

Keith Van der Broek – fish monitoring in Entiat

Greg Fraser- US Fish and wildlife

Sarah Fesenmyer – Bureau of Reclamation

Steve Kolk – Upper Columbia Bureau of Reclamation

Christopher Cuhacian– Bureau of Reclamation

James Hudson – Yakama Nation Fisheries

Dick Burkenpas – Entiat Resident

Charlie Cronk - USFS Entiat

Joe Kelly – Local landowner

Mike Kane – Chelan County Natural Resources Department

A salmon recovery project is continuing for the Wilson Side Channel project near the hatchery

Chris Butler - Yakama Nation Fisheries

Mickey Fleming – CDLT, Conservation Director, landowner in Entiat since 2000

Mike Kaputa – Director, Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Larry Seldon – Entiat resident

John Spencer – Fire Specialist USFS Entiat

Holly Krake - Entiat and Chelan USFS, PIO1 Wildfire District Ranger

Josh Verellen – AFMO Fuels, USFS

Brad Hawkins – Commissioner District 3

Spencer Thomas - Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Association

Ryan Niemeyer - Upper Salmon Recovery Board, volunteer for the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Association

Patrick Haggerty – Cascadia CD, Forest and Wildfire Manager

Tim Aemmer – local resident

Matt Holland - Chelan County Natural Resources Department

4:30 Lower Sugarloaf Fire Recap and Q&A Session – Josh Verellen, Holly Krake, John Spencer, USFS

Q - How are you getting the fire burnt timber out of there?

Holly - Haul route is over Entiat Ridge and then on to the Peshastin side. There is less disturbance to get the timber to pavement soonest, so that is the route. Entiat hasn't harvested timber in 27 years, so this is good news

Q - Is that log deck up in Entiat in Duncan hill road part of that sell?

Holly - That was off the Pomas fire, and that was commercial firewood decks that were sold earlier in the year, and the purchaser will haul them out in the spring. There are three commercial firewood decks in Entiat and they will all be hauled in the spring.

Keith - Is there anywhere on the riparian corridors that got burned?

Holly – doesn't know how many acres of riparian reserve were impacted

Josh – We saw some areas that were untouched and some that were very black from the fires

Holly – White bark pine got listed as endangered species and we received got some funding to protect the surviving white park pine that was impacted by the fire

Q - Will the road network be open on a normal schedule?

Holly - Main Tillicum Road will be priority, we hope so. About \$400,000 is road related work to protect the emergency nature of the roads so hopefully that puts us in good shape for repair.

Q - Would that work be happening in the summer?

Holly – We may need to have some closures while doing repair but trying to open as fast as we can

James - Looking at the pictures, it doesn't look like it really got down into the riparian areas

John S: It did get down there, but it wasn't as affected

Mark I - What does the slope do for fire progression?

Josh - Fire preheats slope above it, heat rises and preheats fuel up the slope

Mike - Talking about land purchasing, look at the counties assessors list to see county's ownership of land that has been bought and acquired.

Q - Did you do any fall burning?

Josh - No, just pile burns

Brad Hawkins – what happens with the smaller diameter trees once removed?

Josh - We cut them down and build a pile and burn in the fall, all burned on site

Q - Will those be burned fall of 26? How long do you let them sit to dry out?

Josh – We will burn the piles anywhere between 1-2 years after they're cut and made.

Brad - Is that considered slash?

Josh - No, slash is more logging related. This will just be considered thin-hand pile burning

Patrick - CCD has worked with partners including FS, county and public works, to do estimates of risk to public property. We're currently doing some assessments of any projects that could be done to mitigate after-fire risks, like flooding.

Holly - I'll pass around some flyers from our county emergency management about post fire flooding risks, especially with Entiat predicted to peak. English and Spanish are available.

Q - What are they predicting the peak to be?

Holly- Somewhere around 4300 cfs

Grand Coulee Mitigation Plan – Greg Fraser, USFW

Brad – Is there a possibility of fish ladders at Grand Coulee dam?

Greg – Its too massive of a structure, it's not practical. The Tribes get (live) fish from the hatchery and release them upstream and have seen some returns, getting smolts through Lake Roosevelt is a challenge with warmer temperatures and disease. Tribal communities upstream of the dam are really pushing to get fish back (above Grand Coulee). The amount of river that we blocked by Grand Coulee dam, we can't fully offset with hatcheries.

Sarah – The Bureau of Reclamation is supporting the Tribes in making some of this work happen.

James - Since Grand Coulee, there have been many additional dams.

Chris - Chief Joseph (dam) and up, the fish are blocked

Q - How do these hatchery salmon compete with the native salmon?

Greg - The wild salmon haven't done very well, so the hatchery salmon are mitigation fish, ideally those fish won't compete or intermingle, they have different genetics. Ideally the hatchery fish will be harvested and come back to the hatchery and won't be spawning in the rivers. The first years of hatchery production, the fish didn't come back in high numbers, but year after year, the hatchery fish are better adapted to hatchery life and not as competitive to wild salmon.

Q - Are the salmon that I'm seeing near my house wild?

Greg – Most of those are wild

Q - The numbers that you showed, are those just the ones coming back?

Greg - Everything that has come back, including those that have been harvested is what is listed in the chart (on screen).

Q - Wasn't part of the reason that Entiat (hatchery) changed from spring to summer chinook competition reasons?

Greg - All basins had spring chinook, but we wanted to have one basin that wasn't producing spring chinook, so we switched to summer. There is not a big competition between hatchery and native fish.

Q - Why did you want to have one basin without spring chinook?

Greg - We wanted to have one with only wild salmon.

Intro to Fish Habitat Restoration in the Entiat River – Steve Kolk, U.S Bureau of Reclamation

Q – What was the thought of putting log structures on lower Entiat, there's no spawning there.

Steve - It was for holding, adding some hydrologic diversity. There were no pools. It was straight shot, with no diversity. When they first started working, they had the forest service boundary as a hard stop.

Q - Where do you come up with these names? (Project names)

Steve - Used to use people's names, or local feature or river miles.

Christopher - Most watersheds are very narrow in bottom and then expand at the top like a funnel shape, but Entiat is very different shape, without much widening at the headwaters. So, it's not in general as flashy or sketchy of a system so it probably leads to being a place where you can do more projects. In the latest projects you have done, it's been 5-6 years that those have been built. We are another 10 years from design with more learning and science. What do you predict will be different in the future? Would we do more since we have more knowledge?

Steve - General trend is bigger bite out of the river each time. In the middle Entiat we were trying to get it to meander more across its entire floodplain. As science continues to build it's not only how you build the jams, trying to take more or have a bigger influence on the

river to achieve whichever desired results are. The log structures are for doing different things, so it depends.

James - Early projects were kind of afraid of rivers power, but now it's more about harnessing the power to get it to do what it historically has done

Joe – Is there an overview yet of the log jams in middle Entiat?

Steve - Later presentations will get to that point

Habitat Responses to Middle Entiat Restoration – Matt, Chelan County Natural Resources Department

Greg - Are you monitoring temp? Are you doing thermal imagery when you are flying?

Matt - We don't have temp monitoring equipment in the Entiat, there is some in the Wenatchee. We do have a thermal drone, got it recently, some data has been collected but we are still trying to find the best effective way to separate that data and see that at a larger scale.

Mark - We flew with a contractor 66 miles of Entiat and some of the Mad River, that was done early September of 2023 so that imagery is available, found some warm side channels and you can compare the data spatially.

If you build ELJ's, will it bring more fish? – Carlos Polivka, USFS and Keith van der Broek & Stine Griep, Hinchinbrook Inc

Q - Did you see movement between structures in the day/night?

Keith - Both species did move across the river and oftentimes driven by time of day. Fish are able to move across the river and go back to the same site without getting flushed down the stream

Chris - Have you seen your survival rate over at Rock Reach Dam? It's good data.

Keith – We have found some tagged fish leave the system, but it's more of a numbers challenge to see them tracked through the dams—a lot of tags are needed to see the fish get recorded via the dams.

James: When was your first year pit tagging?

Keith: 2023

Status update for spring and summer Chinook – Greg Fraser, USFWS

Greg – Announcement: Seasonal jobs are open!

Q - Where do you dump carcasses?

Greg - Upstream of the forest service boundary

Q - Have you looked at the numbers of the out migration of the numbers you are releasing?

Greg - Yes and ocean conditions for that year have the most determining factor for how many come back

6:40 Final comments & questions

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.