



“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
May 13, 2026
4:00pm-6:45pm
Entiat Fire Station – 2200 Entiat Way
Facilitator: Mark Ingman, Cascadia CD

4:00 Meeting Start and Roundtable

Mark Ingman, CCD

Verónica Arroyo-Pérez, CCD

Holly Krake, Entiat USFS

James Honanie, Entiat USFS

Matt Abrahamse, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Morgan Davies, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Chris Butler, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Jack Owen, Okanogan Conservation District

James Hudson, Yakama Nation Fisheries

Nate Schmitt, WA Dept Fish and Wildlife

Mike Kaputa, Chelan County

- Feasibility work with MacKenzie ditch association up at potato creek

- Upcoming water resources project will come back with more details.

Chuck Largent, Resident

Bob Whitehall, Resident

Keith Vradenburg, Entiat Irrigation District

Larry Selden, Resident

Andrea Kachulis, USFS

Laurie Benson, Trust for Public Land

Peter Dykstra, Trust for Public Land

Tim Aemmer, Resident

Alan Schmidt, Resident

Spencer Thomas, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

Steve Kolk, USBR

Leuk W., Resident

Brad Hawkins, Chelan County Commissioner

Janine Castro, Portland State University

Jason Lundgren, Cascade Fisheries

Ryan, Natural Systems Design

Amber Jackson, Dept of Ecology

Kelsey Mach - Geosyntec

José Vasquez, USFWS

Jason Breidert – Colville Tribe

4:20 Forest Health and Road Updates, Holly Krake and James Honanie

Spencer: Do you need help with monitoring this summer?

Holly: Yes, we need help figuring out what areas have damage so we can go out and fix it.

Keith: Which of these roads will be closed this summer?

Holly: We are not planning on doing closures on any of them. The closure order for the Tilikum lookout has been lifted this past week.

Owen: Does this go for the entire Wenatchee-Okanogan Forest?

Holly: We have federal DOT funding, so yes they are all on the same timeline.

Bob Whitehall: Where's the trailhead parking lot going to be for Cottonwood?

Holly: Over the next couple of weeks, we will come up with a plan depending on what we can clear in that area.

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Mike K: What kind of insect go after white bark pine?

Holly: A couple things and they like going after the younger trees. It is not ideal habitat for white bark pine, but it is habitat, we are looking for better places.

Mike K: How do these numbers compare to previous years? (regarding staffing update for fire season)

James Honanie: Honestly, they have declined in the past years, but because some people stepped into crucial positions, we were able to hire others

4:45 Fish Need Floodplains, Janine Castro

James Hudson: Question about floodplain stripping, how do you know that boundary (of when its worth it—available floodplain)?

Janine: There is some anecdotal information out there. I like to take the bare earth approach. How deep can the water be before we can start washing away the soil? 10x the channel width wide enough that would support a floodplain, if it got narrower than 6x the channel width that was probably too narrow. A paper that I read yesterday said 10-20x. but that will depend on vegetation and other factors.

Mark: A lot of floodplain projects we reference tend to be in Oregon. Our RCO office informed me there's few similar projects in WA. Do you have any thoughts of why Oregon has more projects or why there aren't more in general?

Janine: There are a lot of projects, probably hundreds. It comes down to the forest service, why there was an abundance in Oregon. It isn't just folks out here doing it but it's probably just what we hear. They also get called different things. They don't have to be huge projects for them to be classified as connecting the floodplains.

5:35 Upper Columbia Action Effectiveness Monitoring Project, Matt A. Chris B. Yakama Nation Fisheries

Q: Other than size (growth) is there a good way to measure their health? What kind of factors affect the survivability of the fish?

Matt: With length and width data you can find average conditions. There are so many factors. One of the things we are looking at is to check if we are looking at enough data. Some of the true survival data is really work intensive, so we were trying to see how far we could get with minimal monitoring.

Alan: Do you try to predict how much pre-spawn mortality there will be?

Matt: No

Morgan Davies: How do you do your surveys?

Matt: We do not use perfect controls but include some controls.

Whitehall: Our fish don't really get to spend much time off the main Entiat, now on the project that was done up silver falls, box canyon is starting to fill up with logs like before the 70s fire. When salmon can't move through there (wood jams) again, what are you guys going to do there?

James Hudson: We can't bring an excavator every year, but when we do, we keep a lot of the large logs. That's the goal to have the pools and have some connection

Whitehall: I would love to have my grandkids fish in the Entiat. But we just can't seem to get them (fish) to get up there.

Mark: there is an issue of how the fish are going to move through the lower 15 miles of the Entiat with warm water in the summer and few if any true holding spots.

Mark: Monitoring funding is hard to get so there is not a lot of monitoring.

6:00 Update on Acquisition of Chinook Forest Partners Properties in the Entiat Watershed, Mike Kaputa and Peter Dykstra

Steve Kolk: When you convey it (parcel) to the forest service, do you put any management conditions on it?

Peter: No, they won't and can't take it if we put anything on it, but the transferred parcel takes on the conditions and management of the existing FS parcels that are adjacent to the transferred parcel.

Steve: Are they required to maintain ownership?

Peter: Not required, but this is a very long process, it's about leading to better management.

Chuck: is there compensation for the county when they turn land from private to public?

Mike K: Nope. In general, these lands have not been that attractive for private sector for access reasons. The county would do better from a tax perspective from development that was closer to infrastructure.

6:30-45 Final questions & call for topic for next meeting

Next meeting will be:

The Wednesday following Veterans Day:

November 18th, Wednesday, 4-6:30 PM, Entiat Fire Station and Zoom

Send agenda topic/speaker requests to marki@cascadiacd.org or call 509-906-1545