



Date: January 25, 2007
To: Habitat Advisory Group (HAG)
From: Tom Martin
Subject: HAG Meeting Summary for September 08, 2006 - 10:00 AM

Attendees:

Members attending:		
Brian Peck, USFWS	Bart Madison, Conservation Groups	Tom Martin, Tacoma Power
Hal Beecher, WDFW		
Others attending:		
Mark LaRiviere, Tacoma Power	Larry Unzelman, Lewis County	Bill Van der Hoeft, Lewis County
Members absent:		
Dennis Hadaller, Lewis County Commissioner		

Summary

The Habitat Advisory Group (HAG) meeting was held at the USFWS office in Lacey, Washington.

The meeting summary from the May 19, 2006 meeting was approved by the HAG.

Tom reviewed the completed purchase of the two properties at Massey Bar- the Worden and Berlin Trust properties. Tom said the total price, not including the cost of the options or closing costs, was \$278,000. Mark discussed these two properties and the WDFW easement on these properties.

Tom handed out a spreadsheet with information on the properties under consideration. He asked for comment and feedback on the format and content. Larry and Mark reviewed the properties on the spreadsheet using the orthophotos of the properties.

The following properties were discussed: Truth Alternatives Ministries, George Ross, Jackson Highway, LLC, the three properties on Hwy. 506 near Vader, Wasser Winters, Wharton and Strand properties at Otter Creek, property owned by members of the Cowlitz Tribe, and Merel Jenkins. The Jackson Highway LLC property was given a lower priority by the group. The property owned by the numerous Cowlitz Tribe members will be monitored to see if it goes on sale. The HAG

members gave the go-ahead to continue working towards purchase and/or obtaining easements on the remainder of the aforementioned properties.

Mark discussed the meeting with the LCFRB consultant, Tetra Tech, working on habitat enhancement on the lower Cowlitz. He said they are considering reconnecting some of the old Toledo Sand and Gravel pits to the river to provide habitat. Brian discussed the experience USFWS had on the Wynoochee River doing the same thing. He said it was not very successful due to predation on the juvenile salmonids in the ponds by the sea-run cutthroat trout and bass. Mark said he would pass on this information to Merri Martz of Tetra Tech.

Mark and Tom talked about gravel augmentation. They noted that about 1000 yards of gravel were been mined from the gravel bar adjacent to the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery intake in August. The gravel was piled next to the river in accordance with the HPA issued by WDFW. Mark said that it would take a flow of about 14, 000 cfs to move this gravel downstream.

Mark discussed the large woody debris (LWD) program. He reviewed the baseline report that had been completed and approved by FERC. He reviewed the three types of woody debris on the river. He said that 622 lineal feet of LWD has been placed on the river banks next to the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery on August 7th.

Action Items

Tom then reviewed that action items or tasks from this meeting. They are

Produce orthophotos with property lines for the properties currently under consideration – Larry

Monitor the property owned by the members of the Cowlitz Tribe in case it is put up for sale – Larry and Ted

Assess properties targeted for purchase for habitat improvements or restoration – Tom, Mark and Ted

Still pending action item:

Find out more from Debbie Young about studies showing that properties with buffers are worth more than those without – Tom

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 25, 2007 at 10:00 AM at USFWS Office in Lacey.

cc: P. McCarty
D. Young
M. LaRiviere
Ted Lyons
Larry Unzelman