



Steering Committee Meeting FINAL Summary

Monday, March 15th, 2021 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Remote Access Only

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81267961479>

Meeting ID: 812 6796 1479

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81267961479# US (Tacoma)

+16699006833,,81267961479# US (San Jose)

More information: tpokorny@co.jefferson.wa.us

Welcome/Introductions

Tami Pokorny, JCPH; Jill Silver, 10,000 Years Institute; Mark Thurston, JCPW; Bridget Kaminski-Richardson, DNR; Frank Hanson, ONRC; Garrett Dalan, TNC; Julie Ann Koehlinger, Hoh Tribe; Kim Bray, Hoh Tribe; Wendy Largent, Hoh Tribe; Mara Zimmerman, CSP; Mike Ericsson, NSD; Noelle Nordstrom, Landowner; Raena Anderson, 10,000 Years Institute; Theresa Powell, WDFW; Rich Osborne, UW ONRC; Tim Abbe, NSD; Alec Harrison, WFL; Luke Kelly, TU

Agenda Changes/Additions

No changes or additions

Approval of the February 22, 2021 Draft Meeting Summary

Jill had a couple edits, and she will send to Tami. Tami will send updated draft meeting summary with March 15 meeting summary for approval at April's meeting.

Announcements/Comments

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Desired Conditions Introduction & Discussion – Mike Ericsson, Natural System Design

Mike explained that one of the sections in the Resiliency plan will be a section on Desired Future Conditions. Specifically speaking of river processes, road access, and land use in the short, intermediate, and long term. This is a collaborative process.



Hoh River Resiliency Plan PHASE I

Desired short term future condition. Ideas: 1) Address the chronic emergency actions, re: roads. 2) Slow channel migration rates. Restoration of river processes, road access to river, land use

Long term Ideas: Large forested islands in the river, great habitat throughout, sustainable populations of all of our anadromous species, etc.

Jill noted the need for riparian forest treatments, conifer release in alder dominated stands (passive restoration). Mike and Tim explained the need for large trees and mature timber, benefiting forest and river.

Long term desired future condition idea: A healthy mature forested buffer between the river and the Upper Hoh Road. The group generally agreed, with no notable objections. Discussion followed regarding moving the road. It has been explored, but unstable slopes, ESA species, etc. make it unlikely. Coming from the H1000 Rd has similar challenges.

Jill suggested the riprap doesn't need to move; build a riparian buffer riverward away from the road. Tim agreed, if the road is at the valley margin. This can be challenging, regulatory wise.

Public access – Desired future condition:

Does the group want to see more public access points along the river/Upper Hoh Rd?

Mara noted that there are many others not present that would want to weigh in on this question. In general, there is relatively good access to the river. Boat launches are a challenge, and some have been lost or severely eroded in recent past due to river migration.

Jill discussed an idea for trail and bike access to the park, off of H3100 Rd. Wendy noted a lot of people accessing the park are looking for a trail and this could be a good alternative. Must consider parking, wetlands, etc. Tim noted that many existing parking at trailheads in the area are limited (consider parking). Bridget noted that boat launches need space for trailers. The entity managing boat launches need capacity and funding to maintain the site (e.g. maintenance, garbage, outhouses). Jill noted that trails and boat launches are an education opportunity. Tim noted the importance of the funding and the commitment of the responsible entity that manages these sites.

Wendy shared that the tribe is developing Tsunami escape route access, and they have been in discussions with ONP. Perhaps there is an opportunity to combine these projects together. They are also looking at similar elements (parking, education points, etc.).

Tim noted that a similar effort is underway to develop a trail up the Dosewallips River corridor that connects to USFS and ONP.

Desired future condition – Land use?

Tim shared that he and Mike has some ideas of stable sites for land use/development, which would promote less development in hazard zones or environmentally sensitive areas. Jill noted that some of these areas (e.g. gravel pit), may be a tough sell (e.g. gravel is a scarce resource in the region). Tim gave an example of where it can work, with communities and gravel mining.

Western Federal Lands Project Update and Discussion

Alec Harrison gave an update on the Upper Hoh Rd project:

The project will include MP 3-11, box culvert replacement at MP 4, tower creek bridge, canyon creek bridge, each 120' long. Also, road/stream treatments: engineered logjams (ELJs consisting of dolos/log bundles). Also, additional mitigation work: 24 log bundle channel plugs at Rock Creek/lower Morgan's Crossing.

Three years/seasons to complete work. year one: Canyon Creek bridge and begin installing channel plugs, start ELJs 3 at Tower Creek and at MP 4.

Season two and three: Tower Creek bridge, and additional ELJs (1/3 per year).

Currently selecting trees to harvest for ELJs, clearing/grubbing. Trees come down and clearing done by April 1. Bridge work begins in May. ELJ work window is July 15 – Aug 31 (in-water work window). Channel plugs – no in-water work window for channel plugs, begin in May. In-water work window is same for each year.

Alec noted message(s)/question(s) regarding invasive plants, and he shared that the contract has clauses about weed free materials and equipment cleaning and inspection. All material must be certified as weed free (rock, mulch, geotextiles, etc.).

Tim asked if there would be wash stations on site. Alec answered that they are not required to have wash stations on site. Federal highways staff will do the inspections.

Jill noted that every one of the sites on Upper Hoh Road has invasive plant seed banks, and ~\$100,000 has been invested to date to treat for invasive plants in this section. Jill noted they have prevented the spread of new invasive, including spotted jewelweed, queen anne's lace, wild chervil, reed canary grass. Canyon Creek specifically has spotted jewelweed and reed canary grass. These seedbanks can't be treated yet, and these will be disturbed and moved during construction. The Hoh River is a demonstration site of where 20 years of management and treatment of invasive plants has worked. Jill recommended that they do not go ahead and do the grubbing next week. Alec asked if the act of clearing itself is of concern. Jill answered, in summary: machinery disturbs the soil and the soil is then hazardous and should be considered unusual. Jill and Alec will connect offline and continue the conversation

Mike asked a question about the modeling work that went into the channel plugs. Were there any structural stability and/or scour calculations for the channel plugs? Alec will talk to hydraulic engineer and share with Mike. Tim noted that there is some concern that the channel plug work will impact the highly productive Lindner side channel. Theresa noted that she just shared the mitigation report and it may help clarify. Alec noted that the channel plugs are intended to allow water to flow through them.

Jill asked for clarification on location of the planned channel plugs. Theresa will send the 70% design report and this information should help answer some questions. Alec is not aware of any signification changes between the 70-90% designs.



Tami asked, what is the best option for the public to reach out. Alec will be sending out a weekly update via email (get on email list). Alec is the main point of contact. Alec will try to

Middle Hoh River Preliminary Design Ideas (SRFB Project Design Selection) – All

Mike explained that the five potential sites that could be developed for a SRFB project proposal have been narrowed down to two sites: Lindner Side Channel and Tower Creek Site. Mike made clear that these are just concept ideas at this point and more of a conversation starter vs formal recommendations.

1) Lindner Creek Side Channel Complex concept approach:

- Limit avulsion potential down Lindner Side Channel Complex using ELJs to limit side channel ability to widen and take more flow, as well as roughen the channel to further discourage avulsion.
- Get side channel off existing rip rap bank encouraging flow in channel to south of existing channel adjacent to Jefferson County Public Works building.
- Array of ELJs downstream of inlets for increased roughness and habitat enhancement.

The historical tree planting work (by Hoh Tribe and PCSC) at the upper reach looks very good. Jill noted invasive in the reach (e.g. scotch broom, herb Robert) that need to be considered when planning and implementing this concept. Tim noted that this is very similar to the Upper Quinault River work.

Mara asked how this concept is promoting natural processes and salmon habitat (vs enhancement work). Mike and Tim answered that this concept would act as a salmon habitat protection project, to maintain the habitat that currently exist, while also addressing threat to County's shop and the Upper Hoh Road.

Jill shared some background on this section of river and recommended that the group consider promoting multi-thread channels in this reach to meet objectives.

2) Tower Creek Side Channel Complex Concept Approach:

- Re-engage historic side channels by strategic, limited excavations at the side channel inlet to introduce more flow more frequently
- Place ELJs in the mainstem channel right bank to deflect channel flows toward excavated inlets, additional ELJs at the inlet to backwater flow increasing head and maintaining connection
- Smaller ELJs further down side channels to improve habitat complexity and discourage mainstem occupation
- Note – this area is a known highly productive spawning reach of the mainstem channel

Mara noted the high use of this reach by the public (boaters and bank anglers), and this should be considered if/when developing project any further



Hoh River Resiliency Plan PHASE I

Bridget noted that installing ELJs on state owned aquatic lands includes a public safety checklist and review to maintain public safety.

Salmon Recovery Conference Presentation – Tami

Tami noted that the Salmon Recovery Conference has invited a presentation on this project

News and Projects Updates – All

The project newsletter is being drafted, and a draft will be shared soon.

Luke shared an update regarding the Owl Creek project and TU will soon award the contract to the winning engineering contractor

Kim Bray introduced herself as a new Hoh Tribe staff in the Water Quality Monitoring Program

Announcements/Comments

None

Next Agenda

Monday, April 19, 1pm – 3:00 pm Remote Only

Adjourn