CCNRD Response to the RTT August 22, 2007 Recommendations

Peshastin Pipeline

This project is one aspect of a very important effort to increase flows in lower Peshastin Creek. The RTT appreciated the project sponsor including the flow information requested during the pre-proposal workshop.

There would be very high biological benefit to restoring natural flow levels in lower Peshastin Creek. The proposal acknowledges that the 1.2 cfs in this project may not be adequate to provide full passage by all species and life stages. Therefore, efforts should continue, above and beyond this piping project, to keep more water in lower Peshastin Creek. Steps should be taken, in concert with this project, to accomplish natural flow levels by implementing other options. The option of pumping the water from the Wenatchee River (as characterized in the proposal) would have more biological benefit, may be more cost effective per cfs, and would allow for natural flow levels in Peshastin Creek.

Another approach to improving instream flow in Peshastin Creek was mentioned in the SRFB application. That approach involved pumping from the Wenatchee River into the Peshastin Canal to allow water to flow down the lower reach of Peshastin Creek before being diverted. That approach was briefly described in the "Peshastin Subbasin Needs and Alternatives" study completed by Anchor & EES Consulting in 2007. However that approach has not been studied in detail and the feasibility of constructing a pump station is not certain because of landowner willingness and power costs. The construction costs may also be much higher than first listed because of property acquisition issues. The construction of a pipeline to complete piping the lower 3 miles of the Peshastin Canal would be necessary even if the pump station was constructed because the water saved would reduce the construction and power costs of the pump station.

NRCS has documented that the gaskets for the Hancor pipe identified in the proposal can leak and some of the water savings would be lost if that happened. The pipe is rated at 10 psi but has been known to leak at lower pressures. NRCS Washington is in the process of designating the pipe an unapproved material. The RTT also suggests that the pipe needs to be compatible with the potential pumping project that might happen in the future. The size of the pipe could be reduced if on-farm efficiencies were implemented first. The water savings should be placed in trust for perpetuity, instead of only 25 years.

Due to RTT recommendations we will not use the Hancor pipe. This exact type of pipe will identified following the engineering analysis and will potentially be Corrugated High Density Polyethylene Pipe or Double Walled High Density Polyethylene Pipe.