

Mike T. Kane

From: Martin Fisher [mfisher@jsanet.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 2:37 PM
To: Mike T. Kane
Cc: John Soden
Subject: FW: Peshastin Creek at SR 97 MP 182

Below is WSDOT's statement of their willingness towards the Peshastin Creek realignment study.

Martin

From: Belmont, Claton [mailto:BelmonC@wsdot.wa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, October 22, 2009 2:34 PM
To: Martin Fisher
Cc: Sarles, Dan (NCR); Berg, Kirk; Bierschbach, David; White, Megan; Zirkle, Karen; Williams, Joseph
Subject: RE: Peshastin Creek at SR 97 MP 182

Martin,

In response to your inquiry below, WSDOT is open to the concept of restoring Peshastin Creek to its historic channel on the west side of US 97 in the MP 182 vicinity. WSDOT recognizes the habitat benefits that restoration of the old channel will provide for fish including ESA listed species that utilize Peshastin Creek.

Among items discussed last May were issues such as liability for flood damage to private property since the highway now acts as a dike, retaining the ability to widen the highway in the future, and the long term costs associated with maintaining additional stream crossings.

At this time WSDOT has no funding to participate in the study or future construction. Currently this section of the creek and highway does not qualify for funding under the Chronic Environmental Deficiency (CED) program. However, we would like to review and comment on the alternatives analysis if the study goes forward.

In summary, WSDOT is willing to allow a well designed reconnection of the old channel at this location that meets the transportation needs. As this effort moves forward please keep us informed.

Thank you,

Claton Belmont
Region Environmental Manager
WSDOT, NC Region
phone (509) 667-3055

From: Martin Fisher [mailto:mfisher@jsanet.com]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2009 10:51 AM
To: Belmont, Claton; Zirkle, Karen; Williams, Joseph
Subject: Peshastin Creek at SR 97 MP 182

Back in May we had a meeting to discuss the possibility of relocating Peshastin Creek back to its historic channel near MP 182 on SR 97 at the location where there was significant erosion of the highway. Since then Chelan County Natural Resource Dept has applied to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for a grant to do an alternatives analysis for the site and develop 30% plans for the preferred alternative. The SRFB likes the project and is interested in funding it;

however, the review panel is concerned with the willingness of the landowners to accept a project that would partially or fully reroute flow through the historic channel.

To alleviate the SRFB's concerns, we're contacting all the landowners to verify that they're open to allowing a project to be built, but that their final approval would be contingent on the findings of the study funded by the SRFB grant. Basically we're just verifying that it's possible to do a reconnection project there and the study isn't a waste of time.

WSDOT is one of the land owners that we need to verify would be open to a reconnection project. During the meeting in May I had the sense that WSDOT was willing to allow a well planned and designed project, but may not be able to assist financially. Is this an accurate assessment? Is it also accurate to say that if the design of the project was able to reduce long term maintenance costs, similar to how CED projects improve habitat and reduce maintenance costs, then WSDOT might be able to contribute to assisting with the final design (30% to final PS&E part) or partially funding construction? Any significant construction project would be several years from now.

Can you send an e-mail, or letter, that states WSDOT's level of willingness to allow a well designed reconnection project at this location, that we can then forward on to the SRFB review panel?

Thanks,
Martin

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