



Chelan County Natural Resource Department

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October 23, 2009

To: Salmon Recovery Funding Board State Review Panel;

From: Michael Kane, Chelan County Natural Resource Department

Re: Peshastin Creek Reconnection Alternatives Analysis

As directed in feedback from The State Review Panel, I contacted the Washington State Department of Transportation and landowners along the disconnected oxbow to determine the level of interest in the proposal to fund an alternatives analysis for reconnecting this side channel.

Of the landowners I was able to speak with, 5 out of 6 were interested in the proposal and signed Landowner Acknowledgement Forms (attached). The one who wasn't interested is the owner of the parcel along the east side of the middle portion of the oxbow where there are no residences, only an ever-growing collection of debris. This owner was the only landowner not interested in a similar proposal made in 2002. That effort was initiated by WDFW Area Biologist, Bob Steele and landowner Randy Betz.

Contact was not successful with the Jack Ruth property, but Randy Betz (neighbor) was going to follow up with current residences (renters?) to find location of owner.

Landowners voiced concerns over bringing potential flood flows across their property, but were at the same time supportive of conducting an alternatives analysis and helping Peshastin Creek to better provide salmon and steelhead habitat. They felt it was worth studying to see what options existed to improve habitat. Despite the lack of current interest by a single landowner, an alternatives analysis could still be completed and meetings with landowners arranged to discuss those alternatives. A project of this scale, with this many landowners could require purchasing conservation easements and/or real property.

Thanks for considering this additional information,

Michael Kane