

Date/Time: Monday, November 14, 2011, 3:00 PM

Location: Swauk Teanaway Grange

Attendees: Kittitas County IWRMP Land Use and Economic Analysis Citizens Advisory Committee:
Jill Arango, David Gerth, Anna Lael, Jason Ridlon, Tracy Rooney, Jan Sharar, Art Solbakken, Cynthia Wilkerson
Kittitas County: *Paul Jewell, Kirk Holmes*
URS: *John Knutson, Will Guyton, Julie Blakeslee (via teleconference)*
PRR: *Amy Danberg (via teleconference)*
Cascade Economics: *Mike Taylor (via teleconference)*

Subject: **IWRMP Ecosystem and Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Land Use and Economic Analysis Project—Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting No. 3**

Meeting Purpose: Review and Identify Additional Land Use and Economic Concerns and Benefits

Welcome & Introductions

- Will Guyton welcomed the committee members, and the committee members provided a roundtable self-introduction.

Meeting Purpose and Agenda

- Will reviewed the meeting agenda with the CAC Members.

Discuss Land Use and Economic Analyses Example Approaches

- Julie Blakeslee explained the Land Use Analysis process for this project. The Land Use Analysis will evaluate the differences in land use between the current zoning and the proposed zoning, providing a quantitative number of acreage that is being converted and a qualitative assessment of changes in land use (e.g., increases or decreases in public access, recreational access, environmental protection, grazing opportunities).
- Tracy Rooney asked if the land use and economic analysis would have any impact on the valuation of the land in the Teanaway when setting a purchase price. Jill Arango and Paul Jewell explained that there will be an appraisal of the targeted lands for purchase that will be outside of this project.
- Jan Sharar asked for the land use and economic analysis to consider the impacts of lands designated as Critical Areas (constraints on future development).
- Mike Taylor defined an Economic Impacts Analysis and explained the process for this project. The Economic Impacts Analysis will review the totality of costs or benefits associated with the proposed changes. Qualitative changes for socioeconomic groups will be analyzed to determine their monetary impacts or benefits, using common terms that can be measured.
- Tracy asked how many years' worth of data would be reviewed for the Economic Impact Analysis when considering impacts to timber production. Mike responded that he typically looks at about 10 to 15 years of financial data regarding agricultural and timber products (e.g., excise taxes, timber prices, timber receipts).

Discuss Land Use and Economic Analyses Example Approaches (continued)

- Cynthia Wilkerson asked how the Economic Analysis would account for the financial benefits specific to Kittitas County when considering ecosystem improvements that result from the TWPEC. Mike stated that he would use existing research and data available to help him generate financial data on a per capita basis for Kittitas County.
- Mike stated that there will be some concerns from the CAC that he will be able to measure in dollars, some concerns that he will only be able to measure in the direction of change (increase or decrease), and some concerns that he cannot address, given his scope for this project. The overall goal is to address the costs and benefits and where they accrue, with an eye toward who the affected entities are.
- Mike presented a list of economic impacts by category, demonstrating the elements that will be covered during the Economic Impact Analysis. Julie also provided highlights to the CAC's potential considerations table, showing the elements that she will be reviewing as part of the Land Use Analysis.
- John Knutson recommended that the items on the CAC's potential considerations table that could not be addressed at a detailed level through the Land Use and Economic Impact Analyses be consolidated and submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation and the WA State Dept. of Ecology as a list of further concerns. This list could also include the CAC's recommended or desired outcome.

Wild and Scenic River Designation Discussion

- Julie provided a brief review of the Wild and Scenic River Designation, the different classifications within the designation, and examples of the other rivers within Washington that carry this designation and their classifications.

Recreational Benefits and Impacts Discussion

- Julie provided some examples of the types of recreational impacts that will be analyzed as part of the Land Use Analysis. Julie will focus on existing recreational data from the public land owners (e.g., USFS, BLM), private sector recreational activities, and user data for these areas.

Review, Revise, and Append Potential Land Use and Economic Considerations Table

- Will led a roundtable discussion to gather any additional thoughts and concerns regarding land use changes and economic benefits and potential impacts of the TWPEC proposal from the CAC.
- Mike stated that he will be looking into secondary impacts of the changes. The secondary impacts are the impacts to other entities resulting from the ripple effect of the changes (e.g., commercial business impacts due to changes in recreation, effects on wages and employment).
- Jill Arango recommended that Mike talk to the Chamber of Commerce or another economic development group to see if there are any potential projects on the horizon that would be impacted by the TWPEC.
- Cynthia stated the importance of ensuring that the CAC's concerns were considered in the all of the components of the TWPEC.
- David Gerth expressed his concern that the "Checkerboard" area (Taneum/Manastash area) targeted for acquisition will not be further analyzed as part of the Land Use and Economic Analyses. Julie stated that she is not sure that the Land Use and Economic analyses will be able to fully address that concern.
- Jill stated that the PILT program for the state is changing, and recommended that it be researched to determine the impacts.

Review, Revise, and Append Potential Land Use and Economic Considerations Table

- In summary, the additional concerns were as follows:
 - Potential for loss or delay of future utility improvements (e.g., broadband internet) due to the removal of developable land.
 - Some residents may be opposed to increases in residential land values.
 - Impacts to the biomass industry potential.
 - Impacts to roads in the AFLC lands, whether they will be maintained or closed.
 - Considering secondary forest products beyond what is listed.

Next Meeting Dates & Topics

- Will presented the current outline for upcoming CAC meetings. The next CAC meeting was tentatively scheduled for the end of December in Ellensburg; however, this is being delayed until the completion of the Land Use and Economic Analyses. At this next meeting, the Committee will be reviewing the Land Use and Economic Analyses and discuss possible economic compensation strategies.