



PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Conference Call

May 16, 2006

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Peterson/Mike Delarm, NOAA Fisheries
Kirk Truscott, Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW)
Tom Scribner, Yakama Nation (YN)
Jerry Marco, Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT)

Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
Dave Carie, US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., facilitator

Conference Call Participants:

Dave Carie, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, WDFW
Jerry Marco, CCT
Denny Rohr, facilitator
Russ Langshaw, Grant PUD
Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

FINAL MINUTES

Agenda:

- A. Discussion of Grant PUD proposal that all BY05 White River spring-run Chinook be tagged with coded-wire tags (CWTs) in a unique location (e.g., adipose fin).

Action Items:

- ✓ Grant PUD will draft an agreement statement for the CWT-tagging protocol and distribute to the subcommittee by Wednesday, May 24.
- ✓ Grant PUD will re-send the agreement statement for transfer of the 57,000 fish from AquaSeed to the Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery on Tuesday, May 16.

Decision Summary:

- ✓ **Grant PUD, WDFW, CCT, and USFWS agreed on CWT-tagging now, with a PIT-tagging protocol and study developed later this fall for different release groups (ELISA and release type) to gather data concerning migration behavior and smolt-to-smolt survival. Langshaw will send an agreement statement later this week. NOAA Fisheries and Yakama Nation will be contacted.**
- ✓ **Grant PUD, WDFW, CCT and USFWS agreed that CWT-tagging at both locations by different crews, if necessary, should happen in a close time-frame.**

MEETING MINUTES

Grant PUD is looking for a decision concerning tagging of BY05 White River spring-run Chinook. Grant PUD staff proposes using a unique CWT location (body tag instead of a snout tag) to identify them as White River fish when they are captured. USFWS staff at the Little White Salmon/Willard National Fish

Hatchery wants to tag the fish in June. Grant PUD staff stated that without a specific study identified, it makes more sense to CWT-tag than to PIT-tag the fish. If the subcommittee provides a sampling protocol in the future, the fish can PIT-tagged at a later date. Grant PUD staff would also like to differentiate ELISA groups through tagging. In addition, the fish remaining at AquaSeed would be CWT-tagged at a later date.

WDFW indicated that tagging in June is appropriate, but questioned why the fish at AquaSeed would be tagged later, when they could possibly reach sizes of up to 25 per pound. Grant PUD staff explained that the USFWS crew won't be available until a later date to tag the fish at AquaSeed, and noted that tagging in the adipose fin is a little more time-consuming and costly. WDFW concurred that all of the fish need to be CWT-tagged, but also suggested PIT-tagging an appropriate number of the fish so staff can statistically evaluate smolt-to-smolt and ELISA group survival values. Grant PUD explained that there are three raceways at Little White Salmon for segregated rearing. WDFW suggested segregating by release strategy (acclimated and direct-release) and tagged appropriately. Grant PUD staff stated they could PIT-tag 10,000 of each ELISA group, but noted it would be difficult to keep them segregated from the rest of the population. Grant questioned how much would be gained by such an approach because confounding factors make inferences difficult. Since there are only three raceways, it is possible to have two groups of low-ELISA fish, one of below-low ELISA fish, and have two potential releases of the lows. WDFW suggested equal numbers in each group of acclimated and direct-release groups, providing quicker data. USFWS and WDFW agreed that PIT-tags are a more accurate way to gather data concerning migration behavior and smolt-to-smolt survival. Grant PUD reiterated that without a specific study, staff is hesitant to PIT-tag these fish, noting that Douglas PUD is not PIT-tagging any fish this year, and Chelan PUD is only PIT-tagging 25,000 for a specific study. Grant PUD staff suggested working on developing a study, but to move forward with CWT-tagging. USFWS recommended CWT-tagging now and PIT-tagging a subset later this fall after a study is identified.

Grant PUD, WDFW, CCT, and USFWS agreed on CWT-tagging now, with a PIT-tagging protocol and study developed later this fall for different release groups (ELISA and release type) to gather data concerning migration behavior and smolt-to-smolt survival. Langshaw will send an agreement statement later this week. NOAA Fisheries and Yakama Nation will be contacted.

WDFW questioned whether there is value in PIT-tagging high-ELISA fish at AquaSeed. Grant agreed it would be useful. WDFW also noted that to avoid a tagging delay at AquaSeed, different crews could do the CWT-tagging at the Little White Salmon and at AquaSeed. Grant PUD requested suggestions for possible crews.

Grant PUD, WDFW, CCT and USFWS agreed that CWT-tagging at both locations by different crews, if necessary, should happen in a close time-frame.

WDFW questioned when the agreement statement for the transfer of 57,000 fish from AquaSeed to Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery would be re-sent to PRCC Hatchery members (following edits to the original document from NOAA Fisheries). Grant indicated the statement would be re-sent today, May 16, 2006.

Rohr indicated an agreement statement for the CWT-tagging will be distributed to the subcommittee by Wednesday, May 24.

Dave Carie noted he is unable to attend the two-day combined meeting on May 24 and 25 (Brian Cates will fill in). Jerry Marco is only able to attend the first day.

Rohr discussed the June 21 public outreach meeting with the committee. More details of the meeting will be sent to the committee members for their review. This will be an evening meeting held in Leavenworth with the specific location to be determined.