



Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, March 16, 2006

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Grant PUD SeaTac Offices

PR Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen/Mike DeLarm, NMFS

Tom Scribner, YN

Dave Carie, USFWS

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Jerry Marco, CCT

Kirk Truscott, WDFW

Russell Langshaw, GPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - II. Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes
 - A. Dec. 15
 - B. Feb. 16
 - III. Meeting Management: Draft Meeting Protocols
 - IV. Special-Use Permit Meeting of March 9, 2006
 - A. Explanation/Review
 - B. Key Points
 - C. Summary
 - V. Discussion of White River
 - A. Special-Use Permit
 - B. Program Direction
 - C. Review of Subcommittee Decisions
 - Collection
 - Egg Take
 - Incubation
 - Rearing
 - Acclimation
 - ReleaseSubjects needing additional discussion
 - VI. White River Public Outreach
 - A. White River captive brood program review
 - B. Public outreach program review
 - VII. White River Topics for Subcommittee Discussion
 - A. Little White Salmon
 - B. Transportation Recirculation for BY04 F2s
 - C. AquaSeed BY05 Contingencies
- Discussion of Nason Creek
- A. Special-Use Permit
 - B. Weir
 - C. Update on Acclimation Rearing Sites

Next Meeting, April 20, 10:00 am, location TBA

Attendees:

Jerry Marco, CCT (by phone); Kirk Truscott, WDFW; Tom Scribner, YN; Kris Petersen, NOAA Fisheries; Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD; Tom Dresser, Grant PUD (by phone); Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD; Denny Rohr, facilitator; Dave Carie, USFWS (by phone); Cameron Thomas, USFS; Rick Klinge, Douglas PUD (by phone); Tom Kahler, Douglas PUD (by phone); Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD (by phone)

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS:

- Grant PUD list of questions for JFP discussion concerning the White River program.
- White River 17-acre parcel map
- Scope of Work for Microsatellite Analysis of BY04 White River Spring Chinook and Other UCR Spring Chinook Stocks by Eric Lauver per the subcommittee's request.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Grant PUD will update and distribute to subcommittee members the Gantt scheduling chart for both Nason Creek and White River.
- Cam Thomas will draft a letter for the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee. The letter will be reviewed by the committee, altered to meet the needs of Grant PUD and then will be sent to members of the public showing interest in the White River program. The draft letter will be stating that the subcommittee is formally withdrawing the proposal submitted by Grant PUD on October 4, 2005. The letter will also state that other approaches are being considered in the interim that do not require extensive infrastructure (concrete). It will also state that Grant may need to reconsider the site currently proposed for a project site with extensive infrastructure at a future date, should no other suitable options be identified to meet program needs
- Rohr will send the NOAA Fisheries plan for genetic review to subcommittee members.

FINAL MINUTES:

Welcome and Introductions: Rohr welcomed attendees.

Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes - Dec. 15, Feb. 16 minutes finalized (WDFW requested minor change to Feb. 16 minutes).

Meeting Management: Draft Meeting Protocols: Under construction

March 9 Special-Use Permit Meeting – Grant PUD submitted a proposal for a special-use permit for a Nason Creek weir and White River rearing and acclimation facilities on USFS property in October 2005. Grant PUD's intent was to begin evaluation and therefore submitted a proposal for a permit. In February 2006 NOAA Fisheries requested a meeting to discuss the proposal prior to a decision by USFS. Attendees discussed both proposals and determined that USFS needs to be more involved in the subcommittee process including developing proposals and facility designs. Attendees also suggested that the WR application be withdrawn and that a and less intrusive methods be fully considered before a proposal requiring extensive infrastructure be proposed. Officially withdrawing the proposal for the White River site was suggested. Withdrawing the proposal would be a positive message to the public showing that they are being heard. Discussion also occurred concerning a more naturalized facility design. Subcommittee members were asked for a decision concerning withdrawal of the current proposal, followed by a submission of a proposal to do a feasibility study for ground-water evaluation. USFS indicated that action on such a proposal could come by summer. Grant PUD indicated that even if a feasibility study is done, it doesn't guarantee that a facility can be built or even be a viable project. Grant PUD needs some assurance that if money is spent on the evaluation and NEPA processing, that the project will ultimately be approved through the permit process. Forest Service stated that any NEPA would include a full range of alternatives and that the decision on which alternative to select resides with the Forest Service Deciding official. Subcommittee members were polled on whether they agreed that any design with concrete raceways is now off

the table. **All subcommittee members were in agreement that concrete raceways will not be used in design of the rearing and acclimation facilities.** NOAA indicated that the JFP will discuss whether the program will be viable, with a balance between meaningful survival and acceptable infrastructure. Grant PUD will meet with USFS on what an acceptable design may look like and will continue to assess possible sites. USFS suggested that concerned members of the public be involved in what an acceptable design looks like. **Subcommittee members agreed to formally withdraw the proposal for the special-use permit. WDFW recommended that all permits be approved by the subcommittee prior to submission.**

Further discussion occurred concerning a minimized footprint of the Nason Creek weir. USFS suggested a minimized out-of-river infrastructure in keeping with the river's "Scenic Retention" designation, a land-use allocation which strives to preserve the travel corridor as an "untouched" scenic route. There were discussions about re-submitting the proposal for the weir with minimized infrastructure. USFS and Grant PUD will meet with engineers to investigate feasibility and develop a new design, in addition to working with the Washington State Department of Transportation on development. Grant PUD requested clarification on NEPA connected actions and whether a weir can exist on Nason Creek without an acclimation facility. USFS indicated that it is likely that both can exist independently. **(Dave Carie leaves discussion).**

V. Discussion of White River

A. **Special-Use Permit** – Discussion occurred on how to formally withdraw the proposal for the special-use permit. NOAA suggested publicizing withdrawal of the permit, in addition to plans for a revised proposal and how the overall program fits into the Salmon Recovery Plan. YN suggested sending a letter to concerned citizens and to the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit. Cam Thomas will draft a letter and send to Rohr for distribution.

B. **Program direction**

C. **Review of decisions - Overall**

- a. **Collection – Captive brood F1 egg take** through 2009, then transition to adult-based supplementation. JFP is scheduled to meet March 30 to discuss the program from a resource management standpoint.
- b. **150k production goal under HGMP** – Subcommittee is in agreement that this is the current production goal of the program.
- c. **Weir** – Grant PUD requests clarification on the objectives of the weir. The subcommittee agreed that in light of the obstacles currently being faced by the program, the subcommittee is not looking at a weir for the purpose of excluding strays. The weir, or another type of live-capture collection device, will be designed for adult broodstock collection and enumeration evaluation. Management of strays can occur if incidentally captured during broodstock collection. Subcommittee members requested that design engineers (LGL) provide an evaluation of alternative collection devices for broodstock collection and enumeration evaluation.
- d. **Acclimation/Release** – yearlings with overwinter, if possible. Subcommittee is in agreement.

Life Stages

- a. **Collection** – adult collection for adult-based supplementation generally beginning in 2012 or 2013.
- b. **Egg take** – redd pumping – The HGMP specifies that 1,700 or 1,063 eggs from up to 50 families of known wild-by-wild crosses. Subcommittee is in agreement that the number in the HGMP should reflect the current production goal of 150,000 smolts. Adult-based: 111 adults based on HGMP. Subcommittee is in agreement once the specifics are clarified.
- c. **Incubation** – segregated for ELISA and chilled water to mimic natural temperature regime. Subcommittee is in agreement.

- d. **Rearing/Acclimation** – HGMP criteria for flow and density index (turnover rate: 1.0 requires 8 cfs vs. 1.5 requires 11 cfs), ELISA segregation, temperature (<55F), pathogen-free water, naturalized design – JFP will further discuss.
- e. **Release** – volitional if possible and evaluation of alternative release strategies. Two differentially marked groups with one group released directly from lake from net pens in early May – second group would be pre-smolt release upriver late March, early April. Grant PUD indicated that in the future they will request evaluating alternative fry release strategies.
- f. **Release of 1,650 BY04 fish at East Bank.** Plan was to release just upstream of log jam site. YN suggested release as close as possible to log jam, using a seine to guide them to the desired location. Discussion occurred about consideration of a site further up the river, at the Forest Service engineered log structure near Tall Timbers. Grant PUD agreed to pursue the FS site as an alternative. Release is scheduled for next week.
- g. **White River property** – Grant PUD has made a counter-offer on the 17-acre parcel and has until next Wednesday to present to Commission. While the parcel has potential, permitting, adjacent landowners, and public support present a challenge. Subcommittee members suggested moving slowly in terms of proposing development of the land to the public. Habitat restoration on the parcel was discussed. WDFW expressed concern that the message sent by purchasing property in the floodplain for a proposed acclimation facility is counter to the current plan for the program (i.e. naturalized design outside of the floodplain). The subcommittee discussed the possibility of purchasing the property with NNI habitat funds. Grant PUD was unsure whether the purchase could occur with NNI funds. Grant PUD questioned whether this location is an appropriate site for a potential acclimation facility. **The primary questions were if its location in the basin (one mile from the mouth) was acceptable and whether an early release was acceptable if the ponds flooded. With the exception of the concerns expressed by WDFW about public perception of floodplain development, subcommittee members agreed the site would be an acceptable for an acclimation facility as a default location if no other upper basin locations were available.**

White River Public Outreach:

- **WR Captive Brood Program Review:** Discussion of an independent genetic review is gaining momentum. Grant PUD's proposal is that the subcommittee act as the board which selects the independent scientific review experts. A list of experts has been submitted by Dick Whitney. NOAA Fisheries indicated that it is beginning a review (led by Jim Waldo) that will address the concerns of stakeholders. The review of all applicable programs is predicted to take 24 months. Rohr will send the review outline to subcommittee members. Grant PUD will discuss internally if the objective of NOAA's review equals

Little White: USFWS stated that the agency is meeting internally today to make a final decision. ELISA values are being discussed. YN clarified that culling for disease is acceptable and not an issue. WDFW will discuss culling internally next week. WDFW stated that fish that cannot be accommodated (>200,000) at Little White could possibly be reared to a markable size at AquaSeed and released as fry in the White River Basin. Grant PUD indicated its concern in releasing unknown high-ELISA fry with wild fish because of disease transmission. When more is known about the ELISA levels, further discussion among subcommittee members will occur. **(Carie updated subcommittee members prior to his departure on USFWS' decision to allow use of the Little White Salmon NFH. Grant PUD will contact hatchery staff concerning details for contracting and the transfer (509-538-2755)).**

Transportation Recirculation for BY04 F2s. Pumps are on the tanks which will re-circulate water during the transport and tempering process.

AquaSeed BY05 Contingencies. What are the contingencies if none of the 21 families are WxWs? In BY02 there were only three families. WDFW stated that if they are not WxWs, then they would go to the Chiwawa program. NOAA Fisheries indicated that until the results are available, it's difficult to talk about contingencies. What is the optimal number of families? Is there a way to increase the number of families by incorporating BY05s? NOAA Fisheries will discuss the contingencies internally.

Nason Creek: Grant PUD and USFS will meet with engineers to discuss a new design for the Nason Creek weir. In the meantime, the proposal for the special-use permit will be placed on hold rather than a request for action. YN indicated that the agency will work to assure that the design modifications happen in a timely matter. Grant PUD requested an estimated time-frame from USFS on the application. USFS estimated eight months as a rough timeline. CCT asked how the timeline affects the BiOp requirements. Grant PUD clarified that the BiOp allows seven years for full development of the Nason Creek program so design modifications at this stage will not interfere with production timelines. YN suggested updating the Project schedule for both Nason Creek and White River.

Acclimation site update: Grant PUD met with Chelan County and discussed shoreline regulations and riparian buffer. It appears the setback on the Nason Creek property will be an estimated 30 feet, allowing a buildable terrace. Chelan County has indicated its support for the facility.

Scope of Work for Microsatellite Analysis of BY04 White River Spring Chinook and Other UCR Spring Chinook Stocks by Eric Lauver, per the subcommittee's request – WDFW expressed concern that Grant PUD staff may not be allowed to collect samples from listed juveniles and transported to a non-WDFW lab. NOAA requested that a list of permits being used to collect samples be compiled. Grant PUD suggested a staff biologist discuss the study with the subcommittee in the near future.

Next meeting: April 20 – 10 a.m. location TBD