



PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Conference Call

February 9 9 a.m.

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)
Dave Carie, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Carl Merkle, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
Chris Carlson, Grant PUD
Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., facilitator

Conference Call Participants:

Tom Scribner, YN
Dave Carie, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT
Mike Delarm NOAA Fisheries
Kirk Truscott, WDFW
Denny Rohr, facilitator
Russ Langshaw, Grant PUD
Chris Carlson, Grant PUD
Tom Dresser, Grant PUD
Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD

FINAL MINUTES

AGENDA

Discussion regarding the White River and BY2005 F2s, including incubation, rearing, acclimation, etc.

ACTION ITEMS

MEETING MINUTES

NOAA Fisheries updated members on the agency's internal meeting held Feb. 8 concerning the captive brood program in the White River. The agency directed Grant PUD to continue the program as outlined in the Biological Opinion, with a focus on minimizing the footprint of the program, particularly concerning concrete in flood plain. The agency also added that acclimation needs to be portable temporary or side channel with a naturally designed facility and portable weir. NOAA Fisheries indicated that the agency will be consistent on the message to move forward. YN asked if contingency NOAA and the JFP may go in the BiOp if the WR stray rate has compromised the uniqueness of the UCR spring-run Chinook population in the WR. Chelan PUD clarified that the TRT does not consider the WR a separate population. NOAA clarified that sub-component of the Wenatchee stock is the WR, strong proponents of not homogenizing stock structure of what's left in the WR. NOAA Fisheries is strongly committed to a tributary specific program in the WR. Grant PUD difficulties in acquiring property, whether it's a naturalized design or not. Not getting support from individuals in the WR Basin in relation to property acquisition. Weir if this is a captive brood program, what kind of weir needs to be installed? Fish are

coming, significant egg-take this fall. What do we do? NOAA Fisheries stated the agency understands the local concerns in the WR Basin, but directed Grant to take its "best shot" to work with the locals. Grant PUD is also questioning that conservation easements acquired through HCP or PRCC Habitat funds will have allowance to develop parcels of property for supplementation facilities. WDFW questioned Chelan PUD

300,000-500,000 eggs limited to 115,000
pre-smolt 50,000

Currently working on expanding AquaSeed which will increase rearing 100,000 for pre-smolt. low to mod.
ELISA
150,000 smolts under BiOp

Proposal if release strategies to deal with excess fish:

- 1) Rear portion (115,000) on chilled water and acclimate in Lake Wenatchee net pens.
- 2) Rear 170,000 to 200,000 in non-chilled incubators at AquaSeed, eye-up and transport to remote-site incubators on White River. That handles 315,000, with a proposal that any excess eggs will be taken green to remote-site incubators in the WR

Grant PUD indicated that while Grant may be able to weir the fish, but acclimation is an issue. Temporary raceways have been suggested, but water issues.

Have to have (remote-site incubators) RSI's up and running by August. Even if the JFP found a site immediately, contract and bidding issues delay.

YN suggested that the JFP give Grant a contingency plan within two to three weeks, but not be the Feb. 16 meeting.

Hurd Creek modifications would have taken one year and \$2 million to rear an extra 50,000 fish for one year. It's not a long-term resolution to the excess fish.

YN acknowledged that the JFP needs to address the time and capital investment issues faced by Grant PUD. NOAA Fisheries reiterated the need to address both of those issues.

The JFP agreed to meet Tuesday, Feb. 14, 1 p.m., prior to the Feb. 16 PRCC Hatchery meeting to discuss rearing for 150,000 fish from egg to smolt stage, in addition to BKD management issues and the pros and cons of using high ELISA excess fish is appropriate.

Grant PUD indicated that it is moving forward with finding property in the WR basin to construct a shed for the RSI that would have appropriate electrical infrastructure and water rights.