



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
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PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday November 16, 2006

9:00 – 4:00

Chelan PUD

3rd Financial Conference Room - Wenatchee

PR Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS

Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch YN

Dave Carie, USFWS

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Jerry Marco, CCT

Kirk Truscott, WDFW

Russell Langshaw, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting attendees: Keely Murdoch, YN; Kris Petersen, NMFS; Jerry Marco, CCT; Tom Dresser, Grant PUD; Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD; Chris Carlson, Grant PUD; Mike Nicholls, Grant PUD; Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD; David Allison, Jacobs Civil; Kirk Truscott, WDFW; Tom Scribner, YN (by phone)

FINAL MEETING MINUTES:

Distributed Items:

- Priest Rapids Hatchery Rebuild Design Drawings
- Draft Statement of Agreement on documentation of PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreements
- Proposed splits for the summer Chinook program by population.
- Agreement statement authorizing a percentage split (Omak Creek – 20,000; Wells – 80,000) for the steelhead production program (shown by Russ Langshaw on projector screen)
- Agreement statement approving transfer, rearing and release of 150,000 Wells BY05 steelhead to Ringold Hatchery.
- WDFW recommendation for BY06 White River Captive Broodstock (Kirk Truscott will send electronically to Tom Scribner).
- White paper on Grant PUD's proposal on measurement of carrying capacity presented to the HETT on Nov. 14.
- WDFW draft proposed disposition of BY05 White River Spring Chinook F₁ broodstock.

Action Items:

- **The PRH design team will bring the adult holding facility design to the December 21 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting.**
- **David Allison will distribute PRH drawings to Bryan Nordlund.**
- **The subcommittee agreed to begin using the draft agreement statement, but will not vote on the agreement statement template until the next meeting. Any comments on the document should be distributed 10 days prior to the next meeting.**
- **Langshaw, Truscott, Marco, Murdoch and will work with Casey Baldwin on making a recommendation for splits of Grant PUD's summer Chinook program for presentation at the next PRCC HSC meeting. Truscott will gather EDT, Marco will look at the BAMP. Langshaw will research the appendices of HCP documents to determine where production will stand in 2013.**
- **The agreement statement for splitting the steelhead program requirements between the Wells and Omak Creek hatcheries will be distributed to the PRCC HSC, with a vote taken at the Dec. 21 meeting.**

- Russell Langshaw will have comments distributed to the PRCC HSC on WDFW's BY06 White River Captive Broodstock proposal by Wednesday, Nov. 22.
- Kirk Truscott will send a copy of WDFW's BY06 White River Captive Broodstock proposal electronically to Tom Scribner.
- A draft White River/Nason Creek spring Chinook program newsletter will be drafted by Grant PUD and distributed to the HSC 10 days prior to mailing (following transmission of the Section 10 permit).
- Langshaw will have a release strategy proposal for BY 06 White River spring Chinook to the subcommittee by the December meeting.
- Dresser will distribute by Dec. 11 an agreement statement authorizing an extension of time for development of the summer Chinook HGMP.
- Langshaw will draft an agreement statement concerning WDFW's proposal for disposition of BY05 White River spring Chinook F₁ broodstock for subcommittee review.

Decision Summary:

- The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreed to begin using the draft agreement statement, but put off approval of the agreement statement template until the next meeting. Any comments on the document should be distributed 10 days prior to the next meeting.
- The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreed to provide any applicable information concerning agreement statements to internal staff, but that decisions (unless irresolvable issues arise) will be made on a subcommittee level.
- The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee approved the BY05 Study Steelhead Transfer and Rearing Agreement Statement with elimination of paragraph three of the Statement Section and requested modification of paragraph two of the Background Section.
- The PRCC HSC agreed to support WDFW's proposal to conduct DNA analysis on redds 9 and 15 and separate redds 10 and 14 (wild by unknowns) until genetic testing is complete. Additional juvenile fish which have been identified as having hatchery influence will be incorporated into AquaSeed F₂s at large and released with F₂s currently on station. The PRCC HSC agreed to that approach. The PRCC HSC also agreed that fish can be PIT-tagged while the agreement is being drafted.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Review – Committee agreed to move up discussion on Priest Rapids Hatchery
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - B. Approval of October 3, 2006 Conference Call - Approved pending approval from Kirk, Kris and Jerry.
- IV. **Priest Rapids Hatchery** – Chris Carlson provided an update on the Priest Rapids Hatchery. Staff is in the process of coordinating the finalized general hatchery operations plan with the current construction schedules. Design of the adult weir (for Phase 1 Construction) is nearly complete. The design team is now focusing on making the design “crew friendly.” Once WDFW agrees to the construction schedule, the PRCC HSC will be consulted. Grant PUD FWWQ and engineering staff is working closely with WDFW on incorporating their ideas on more efficient operational use of the barrier weir. **The design team will bring the adult holding facility design to the December 21 PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting. The distributed drawings will be sent to Bryan Nordlund of NMFS.** Since 1991 Grant PUD has collected eggs, reared and released 1.7 million John Day mitigation fish for COE. Dresser noted that the Corps of Engineers (COE) approached Grant PUD concerning available production space at the modified facility for an additional 17.3 million fall Chinook. Grant PUD staff has notified COE that the additional space would not be

available and is also requesting information on COE's intentions concerning the current John Day mitigation fish program. The egg take for that program affects other programs at the facility. Truscott noted that the full PRH program (Grant PUD mitigation requirements, WDFW's egg collections, and the 1.7 million John Day mitigation fish) is very successful in terms of existing densities and that WDFW is reluctant to see those density levels change by adding additional programs. Any plan that results in deviation from existing rearing densities, would likely require further discussion on how that would affect the current program. David Allison of Jacobs Civil Inc. noted that lower densities would occur for juveniles in the modified facility, but that additional COE production would affect holding and egg take capacity. Every drop of well water is being used, noted Allison and maintaining current densities with additional fish would be difficult. Grant PUD designed a holding facility for 8,000 adults, stated Dresser. If WDFW wants to continue the egg take from the 4,000 fish, it will also affect densities. Because the construction window is very short (July to August), Grant PUD staff is striving to keep the facility operational for the current program. Water supply line rerouting complicates the construction process and finding a window that does not interrupt current production. Grant PUD noted their appreciation of WDFW PRH crew's collaborative approach in planning for modifications. An updated HGMP incorporating the M&E portion of production is also under development. The PRCC HSC will be sent modules of construction phases as they are finalized. The final drawings should be available in the spring for submission to FERC and the appropriate permitting agencies.

- V. **Agreement Statement Protocol** (added to agenda) – Petersen requested more efficient documentation of PRCC HSC agreements. A proposed draft establishing uniform methodology for documenting the PRCC HSC agreements was distributed. Under this protocol, any proposed agreement would be distributed 10 days prior to a vote. Petersen noted that advanced notice allows time for internal staff to make appropriate decisions. Truscott noted that 10 days may not be enough time for decisions concerning internal coordination, but that compiling such agreements helps track progress based on decisions made among subcommittee members. Langshaw expressed appreciation of Petersen's draft agreement statement and requested that such statements include enough background information that the document would stand alone. Petersen also asked whether a back-up facilitator would be appropriate in the case that the PRCC HSC current facilitator is not available. Also discussed was protocol for dispute resolution. Dresser noted that decision need to be made in a timely manner for program deadlines to be met. Langshaw noted that the agreement statements come after considerable discussion both internally and among the PRCC HSC members, and are, in effect, formalization of an agreement that has already been reached. Scribner expressed concern that too much detail may be presented in an agreement. Once the agreement statement is drafted, however, there is opportunity for further modification in subsequent discussion, noted Marco. Langshaw stated his concern that the agreement statement as drafted may be limiting and requested approval of the template be put off until the December meeting. **The subcommittee agreed to begin using the draft agreement statement, but put off approval of the agreement statement template until the next meeting. Any comments on the document should be distributed 10 days prior to the next meeting.** Following discussion on whether agreement statements should be reviewed by the PRCC, **the subcommittee agreed to provide any applicable information concerning agreement statements to internal staff, but that decisions (unless irresolvable issues arise) will be made on a subcommittee level.**

VI. **Summer Chinook Program** –

- A. *Program Schedule* – The Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSA) outlines a specific schedule for all covered species programs, including development of an HGMP 12 months from signing of the SSA (Feb. 10, 2006), 18 months for site evaluation and selection, two years for design and permitting, and two years for construction completion, with a total of six and one half years for implementation of the program. Grant PUD is proposing that the PRCC HSC agree to extend the timeframe for development of the HGMP for summer Chinook. **Dresser will distribute by Dec. 11 an agreement statement authorizing an extension of time for development of the summer Chinook HGMP.** Grant PUD legal counsel will be consulted concerning who has the authority to extend any timeframe in the SSA. Dresser noted that if the program is conducted at the Chief Joe facility (which has a current HGMP for summer Chinooks raised at that facility) the timeline could be met. Langshaw reminded members that because summer Chinook production is a program under the SSA, decisions are by consensus with the PRCC. Truscott distributed a document proposing splits for the program by population providing information on estimated spawning populations for 2001 through 2005

(2003 was omitted due to large pre-spawn mortality in the Similkameen River). Wenatchee has about 42 percent of total spawners, Okanogan has 45 percent, and the balance is in the Methow River. Langshaw requested hatchery composition percentages of those populations. K. Murdoch asked whether the distribution reflects the available habitat or is an artifact of current hatchery programs. Truscott said little data is available. Truscott noted the document was not a recommendation, but rather a way to begin discussion concerning splitting Grant's mitigation by populations. Langshaw requested looking at future programs and what is expected in terms of distribution of hatchery programs after 2013. Marco stated splits can be adjusted as M&E for the programs provide applicable information. Truscott noted there are other ways to adjust spawning composition other than adjusting programs, harvest as one example. K. Murdoch questioned whether these proportions should be kept or if some populations are already closer to desired levels because of existing habitat improvements. Truscott suggested working with Casey Baldwin on Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment (EDT) analysis for adult spawner capacities for different populations to assist in making a decision concerning splits for the program. Once the splits are determined, land and water research would begin for possible rearing and/or acclimation facility sites. Marco also suggested using numbers available in the BAMP, and noted that Grant PUD's obligation would be part of the existing Chief Joseph production program. **Langshaw, Truscott, Marco, Murdoch and will work with Casey Baldwin on making a recommendation for splits of Grant PUD's summer Chinook program for presentation at the next PRCC HSC meeting. Truscott will gather EDT analysis, Marco will look at the BAMP, and Langshaw will research the appendices of HCP documents to determine where production will stand in 2013.**

- B. *Adult collection* – Petersen noted that identifying adult collection methods depends on the apportioning of production, in addition to the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) review of current programs and resulting recommendations. The report will likely be released in a year or so. Truscott also recommended discussion on the composition of the broodstock for broodstock collection protocol. Marco noted that information will be in the HGMP.
- C. *Decision: Rearing and Acclimation Siting* – The JFP has recommended tributary specific rearing and acclimation. Grant PUD is concerned about the feasibility of that approach and requested discussion on the possibility of downstream rearing and over-winter acclimation on the tributary. Subcommittee members agreed that over-winter acclimation is critical, with some groundwater influence, if possible. K. Murdoch noted there is no current information in YN's coho program on how tributary rearing would contribute to the success of the program. Review of hatchery facilities by the HSRG and USFWS could potentially open possible rearing facilities, stated Langshaw. CCT supports downstream rearing and over-winter acclimation, said Marco. Petersen requested waiting until production apportionment is established to vote on the issue. K. Murdoch noted that adult broodstock holding and egg incubation needs to be considered when deciding on rearing on the lower river. Langshaw noted that downstream doesn't necessarily mean lower river. Once the split is established, Grant PUD can begin to explore land acquisition possibilities. Current groundwater research is already in place for one possible site. Petersen stated that while she is comfortable with a delay in the HGMP timeline, it should not delay the overall schedule and requested that the agreement statement make that clarification.
- D. *Decision: Percentage Tributary Split* (see above)

VII. **Steelhead Program**

- A. *Discussion of Wells/Omak Creek Split of Production Levels* – While Grant PUD views CCT's Omak Creek program as an opportunity to transition to a more locally adapted program, some JFP members are concerned about the uncertainties of the Omak Creek program and how it would affect Grant PUD's mitigation requirements. Grant PUD is proposing splitting the program, with 80,000 steelhead raised at Wells Hatchery and 20,000 raised at Omak Creek. Petersen cautioned that the HSRG review, the Federal BiOp remand, and other recovery processes may result in alterations of the Wells Hatchery program. Additionally, ESA permitting issues covering the Omak Creek program could also potentially be a problem. Dresser noted that as a non-Federal project, the Federal remand requirements could be in conflict with Grant PUD's obligations under FERC and the Biological Opinion for the Priest Rapids Project. Petersen agreed to express Grant PUD's concerns with NMFS policy staff.

Langshaw stated that the desire for one program is financial and logistic-based, but splitting the program is not off the table.

- B. *Decision: Statement of Agreement* – **The agreement statement for splitting the steelhead program requirements between the Wells and Omak Creek hatcheries will be distributed to the PRCC HSC with a vote taken at the Dec. 21 meeting.**

VIII. **Wells Steelhead Survival Study Fish**

- A. *Status/Discussion of Transfer to Ringold Hatchery* – Following discussion among the JFP, Grant PUD has agreed to transfer 150,000 steelhead from Wells Hatchery to Ringold Hatchery, and to fund rearing and release of those fish by contract with WDFW. Petersen requested that paragraph two of the background section of the distributed agreement statement be revised to state, “Grant PUD was required to collect broodyear 2005 steelhead eggs by the PRCC under Biological Opinion RPA #1.” The subcommittee also discussed paragraph three of the statement section of the agreement. Truscott requested that paragraph 3 as currently written (“*If a similar situation arises in the future, the PRCC HSC agrees that it is willing to discuss using “excess” production/study fish to meet mitigation requirements*”) be removed and put into a separate agreement statement stating that in a year where there is a production shortfall, then Grant PUD could use study fish to meet mitigation requirements.
- B. *Decision: Statement of Agreement* - **The subcommittee approved the BY05 Study Steelhead Transfer and Rearing Agreement Statement with the requested changes.**

IX. **Nason Creek Updates**

- A. *Weir* - Status of WSDOT Review of Weir Plans – WSDOT has approved the preliminary design for access to the site. Removability and installation in the stream is also being addressed. A cable-wench driven tram (removable at the end of the season) would convey the fish from the trap into the transport box system which will be pulled up the slope to the truck.
- B. *Cascade Gardens* – Two wells were drilled to 120 feet. Based on sediments and geologically survey, both holes are being drawdown tested. Grant PUD staff is waiting for screens to be built to do the pump test. They are also waiting on a variance from Chelan County on a county easement across the property. Grant PUD requested that Chelan County Commissioners roll the easement into the property to create more space for building and design. Chelan County replied with a request that the Nason Creek spring Chinook program be justified prior to consideration of the variance. Following discussion, Kris Petersen requested that Tom Dresser obtain a formal request from Chelan County which would allow NMFS to proceed with providing such justification. The upland survey information is being conducted. Allison discussed possible discharge issues and how they relate to concerns about nutrients in the water.
- C. *Squadroni Property* – Permits are in place for the infiltration gallery, but Jacobs Civil is waiting for the property owner to renew ingress/egress rights. Once the weather cooperates and a three- to five-day period of normal stream flows occur, the drawdown test can be completed for the infiltration gallery.

Petersen asked if work is being done on Nason Creek HGMP. A rough outline has been developed and work is ongoing, stated Dresser. Petersen asked when the HGMP is expected to be completed. Dresser noted that workload is an issue.

X. **Discussion of Scientific Review of White River Program**

- A. *American Rivers Letter Dated October, 2006* – The PRCC HSC acknowledged receipt of a letter from American Rivers regarding the White River spring Chinook program.
- B. *Review/Discussion of Meetings, Events, Data Review* – The PRCC HSC discussed release of a newsletter following transmission of the Section 10 permit, updating stakeholders on the public comment period and any activities in the Nason Creek area. **A draft newsletter will be distributed to the PRCC HSC following transmission of the Section 10 permit.**

- C. *Discussion/Update of Waldo Process* – NMFS has issued an invitation to discuss scientific review of the White River spring Chinook program. NMFS will request clarification of questions which will be addressed in the review at the Nov. 30 meeting. A request has been made that Dick Whitney be invited to the meeting. The Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) is a body that the Northwest Power Planning Council and NMFS created to discuss scientific issues related to salmon recovery. Petersen stated that NMFS has the ability to help scope what the questions will be, noting additionally that Chelan County is looking for funding. Grant PUD has also been approached about funding, stated Dresser, but the District has determined it will not fund the review, because the program is a requirement under the Biological Opinion. Rollie Schmitt (former NMFS Director of Habitat Conservation and White River resident) was also invited to the meeting. Petersen noted that the Section 10 permit application submitted by Grant, WDFW and YN is for three years with the intent that it covers the minimal activities of the program while the HGMP is developed, incorporating public reaction to the program. The Kusters property was never directly linked to the Section 10 permit application as an acclimation site, stated Petersen, noting the property was purchased with the acknowledgement that it floods and is still a viable site to move the program forward. Grant PUD staff is concerned the property has flooded three times in two years, stated Dresser, noting the District is getting pressure from stakeholders. Dresser also noted the lack of White River properties available for acquisition. Petersen suggested the owners of Tall Timbers be approached again concerning location of acclimation facilities. Grant PUD staff is also concerned about obtaining permitting on the Kusters property. Petersen is working with internal staff on the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Plan to convey that the program is consistent with the plan and that the UCSRB board believes the hatchery program can be successful.
- D. *Joint PRCC/HCP Meeting in January w/Waldo and Mobrand* - Chelan PUD is planning or has given Mobrand their M&E plan, stated Petersen.

XI. **Sockeye Program** – Grant PUD is working with Okanagan Nation Alliance to develop a long-term contract to fund (with a possible cost-share with Chelan County) the entire 12-year (begun in 2004) of the Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye into Skaha Lake. Grant PUD is requesting guidance from the PRCC HSC on how the program can meet Grant PUD's mitigation requirements. Truscott questioned whether production is adequate to meet both Chelan and Grant PUD production requirements. Dresser stated that, as of now, there is adequate production, but expansion of the program could meet future production levels. A total of 22,000 sockeye passed Wells Dam this year, with peak live and dead count on the spawning grounds at 6,500 to 7,000. ONA spawned 656 females and 690 males, collecting 1.6 million eggs. ONA is currently working on a hatchery feasibility study. The SSA requires a production plan by February 2008. Truscott suggested discussion of the program at the January combined PRCC/HSC subcommittee meeting.

XII. **White River**

A. **Marking Update**

1. *AquaSeed, Little White Salmon Marking* – Fish are differentially marked between facilities but not ELISA groups. Low and below lows are one tag code and moderate and highs are another tag code. Langshaw stated neither release strategy (direct release or net pens) is desirable, so measuring success of these groups is limited. Langshaw suggested evaluating release of BY06 (300,000), where there is potential for fry plants, direct plants, early off-channel volitional release, net pens, etc. Langshaw requested guidance on types of releases, release groups, etc. Petersen stated that several release strategies with fish marked for evaluation would be appropriate, and requested the proposal in writing. K. Murdoch suggested the volitional releases would have less impact on wild fish. Once an estimate of eyed-eggs is determined, staff will have better idea of available space and appropriate release strategies. Petersen requested that when considering release strategies and locations and potential impacts on naturally rearing fish, putting juveniles in good habitat in the White River would make sense this year. Petersen also suggested documenting through snorkeling that there are not a lot of fish rearing in the WR and densities are low and using these

fish to backfill might be more acceptable to stakeholders. K. Murdoch noted snorkeling at night in the winter is the best way to determine if there is a population of naturally rearing fish. Once that determination is made, then discussion can occur. Langshaw will distribute a release strategy proposal for BY 06 White River spring Chinook to the subcommittee by the December 21 meeting. Truscott requested further discussion on PIT-tagging BY05 White River spring Chinook. Petersen noted that because net pens are a possible long-term solution, comparing direct plant and net pen release strategies could be beneficial.

B. Unfertilized egg transfer

1. *Transfer Update* – For the first 162 females (75% total) spawned, egg survival to eyed egg was 84.9% for eggs brought to Little White Salmon NFH and 86.9% for eggs held at AquaSeed. OD values were high; 1% very low, 8% low, 23% moderate, 21% moderate-high and 47% in the high ELISA group. Langshaw noted that LWS has agreed to rear moderates and highs. Space is available at LWS for 375,000 marking-sized (55mm fl) fish, reared at a .06 rearing density.
2. *ELISA Levels* – (see above)

C. LWSNFH Potential Rearing Capacity – Status – (see above)

D. Proposal RE Alternative Release Strategies for Smolts in Excess of 150,000 – Status - (see above)

E. White River HGMP/Permit

1. Status of Federal Register Notice - the Section 10 Environmental Assessment and NEPA are under review by the NMFS Northwest regional office, stated Petersen, noting the permit has been signed by NMFS assistant regional director Rob Walton and that further review was requested by deputy regional administrator Joe Scordino. Grant PUD expressed its appreciation for Kris Petersen's efforts in moving the section 10 permit forward.
2. Public Comment Period - Once the permit is posted to the Federal Register, a 30-day comment period will begin.

F. Net Pens Update

1. Status of Permit - A meeting with WDOE, Chelan County and WDFW is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 17 to discuss net pen permitting. WDOE will likely permit under its general water quality permit, noted Langshaw. An e-mail update concerning the outcome of the meeting will be sent. Langshaw will look into the necessary pounds of food for 150,000 fish.

G. Egg Pumping

3. Status – See below
4. WDFW: Fry Trapping/Proposal for Collection - Truscott distributed a proposal for pre-freshet fry trapping. Because eggs were not extracted discussion need to occur on how to collect fry to get wild-by-wild progeny. Staff is looking at redd data and is trying to segregate both temporally and spatially to maximize the probability families are wild by wild and which collection method will be most effective. WDFW crews are currently determining whether redds have moved or covered following recent high water. WDFW is proposing installing a minimum of four redd caps at the time of emergence. Based on the success of that capping, the remaining broodstock would be collected as fry in the

vicinity of the target redds. K. Murdoch noted that some YN fry trapping in the Yakima River resulted in sediment deposition within fry emergence traps, resulting in potential suffocation of the redd. K. Murdoch stated that careful attention would need to be made to actual location of the redd and the nearby sediment. Carlson stated that a budget for fry trapping is being developed between Grant PUD and WDFW. Petersen noted that in conversations with NR Director Steve Brown several weeks ago it was acknowledged this method would be more expensive than redd pumping (for which no permit was in place). Truscott estimated the fry trap would be in place 2-3 days if properly timed with temperature units (TUs). While acknowledging the necessity of the work, Grant PUD staff continues to have concerns with the methodology. The contract process with Grant PUD will move forward, stated Dresser. **Comments on WDFW's recommendation for BY06 White River spring Chinook fry collection proposal will be distributed by Langshaw by Wednesday, Nov. 22.** Based on those comments, Petersen will make a determination, but noted the Section 10 Environmental Assessment and NEPA are under review by the NMFS Northwest regional office.

H. M&E

1. *Status of Proposed Alternative to Reference Streams* – The HETT is continuing discussion of Grant PUD's proposed alternative to reference streams. Petersen noted that the technical experts reviewing the proposal have determined that reference streams are necessary for measuring carrying capacity. Langshaw agreed that it's difficult to do without reference streams, but believes there should be an alternative. While Grant PUD staff has concerns about detecting the impact of artificially propagated fish with reference streams, it also believes two M&E programs moving forward side by side would be positive for the program. K. Murdoch noted that GCPUDs approach may be a valuable in addition to reference streams. Petersen expressed concern that too much time is being spent on something that may not have substantive value, and reiterated that the scientific value of reference streams has already been determined. Langshaw noted the potential of a proposal that would manipulate the proportion of spawners on spawning grounds to look at production as a continuous variable and its ability to detect long-term impacts. Petersen noted that developing a monitoring plan is important to show the public the program is being scientifically evaluated and that data collection is occurring. Langshaw noted that Grant PUD isn't disagreeing with the current M&E objectives and acknowledges the need to show the public there is a plan.

I. Online Database for White River Program -

1. *Status* – Grant PUD staff will present further information concerning the database at the next meeting. Truscott noted that the database is critical for WDFW to meet its contractual reporting obligations.

J. WDFW pedigree report

1. *Review WDFW proposal* – Truscott distributed a draft disposition of BY05 White River spring Chinook F₁ broodstock proposal. Two of the 21 BY05 White River redds sampled in 2005 were categorized as being wild-by-wild crosses. The remaining 19 redds were categorized as having hatchery or unknown origin. Seventeen redds are a product of non-White River hatchery-origin or unknown spawners. Because of the known hatchery contribution and/or risk of inclusion of non-White River gene components from unknown parents, WDFW is

recommending those juveniles from BY 05 F₁ broodstock and including them in the BY 05 F₂ progeny currently rearing at AquaSeed for release into the White River in spring 2007. The remaining two redds represent primary wild-by-wild crosses. WDFW is recommending retaining them for additional evaluation. Scribner questioned if WDFW is certain that the F₂s at AquaSeed are wild-by-wild. Truscott stated that it is only by observation, rather than by genetic analysis. Scribner noted concern about the stray rate and the possibility they are unknowns or unknowns-by-hatchery crosses. Truscott stated that WDFW didn't have a stray issue until 2001. Langshaw confirmed there wasn't much of a straying problem in 1998 and 1999, and that the chance they are wild by wild is strong. Scribner noted that YN has concerns about whether a double generation of F₂s producing viable smolts will return and spawn and questioned whether there is data on how fish put through the program twice have done. Langshaw stated that family survival could be looked at for that portion of the F₂s, but that it would be difficult and nothing could be inferred from the information. Petersen noted NMFS genetics program manager Mike Ford concurred that the approach is not ideal, but possibly necessary. Dresser stated that the proposal to put a generation through twice needs to be explained to the public in layman's terms. Truscott noted that there are limited options with the F₁ population. Langshaw agreed with NMFS and WDFW's acknowledgement and reemphasized that the situation is less than ideal, but given the circumstances WDFW's proposal is likely the best option. Truscott noted that genetically testing the necessary 146 additional samples from redds 9 and 16 to sort out wild by wilds would be at an additional cost. Petersen stated that Mike Ford is reviewing the raw data from WDFW to see the comparison with the baseline, and that if future DNA analysis is required, discussion needs to occur on which lab will do the analysis. Petersen recommended consistency and said she would ask Mike Ford next week if his review would identify the origin of unknowns. Grant PUD will discuss with WDFW funding of the additional genetic analysis. Truscott is asking the PRCC HSC for concurrence on using the wild by wilds and the two redds with multiple pairings and the identified redds with only one pairing (9 and 13) and PIT-tagging and sampling all, while waiting for Ford's review. **Following internal discussion Grant PUD agreed to support WDFW's proposal to conduct DNA analysis on redds 9 and 15 and separate redds 10 and 14 (wild by unknowns) until genetic testing is complete. Additional juvenile fish which have been identified as having hatchery influence will be incorporated into AquaSeed F₂s at large and released with F₂s currently on station. The PRCC HSC agreed to that approach. Langshaw will draft an agreement statement for subcommittee review. The PRCC HSC also agreed that fish can be PIT-tagged while the agreement is being drafted.**

2. Decision: which families will be incorporated into the program? (see above)

K. Further updates

Draft 401 was issued on Nov. 8. Comments are due by Dec. 8 (the date was later extended to Jan. 8). WDOE does not have to address any of those comments and may or may not incorporate them, stated Dresser, noting the FEIS will like be issued soon (was issued Nov. 17). If

the 401 is not challenged and following release of the FEIS, a license could be issued by next summer.

Petersen noted that a draft of the new RPAs under the Biological Opinion have been provided to her for review.

PRCC Habitat – Approved projects include Omak Creek culvert replacement, Skookumchuck land acquisition, Fulton Diversion Dam Passage Modification, and LiDAR (flights have been completed and a workshop is being arranged to discuss data usage). A proposal to purchase 65 acres in Nason Creek was approved, but Chelan County Commissioners recently stated that they would like to see a coordinated approach to salmon recovery and would therefore like to see the Nason Creek land purchase proposal formally evaluated as part of watershed planning and other salmon recovery efforts. Petersen stated she will discuss the issue with PRCC Habitat representative Dale Bambrick.

Dresser invited subcommittee members to visit the Project and ongoing construction work related to safer fish passage, including the Wanapum Future Unit Bypass, the Off-Ladder Fish Trap, and installation of the second Advanced Turbine.

XIII. Next Meeting, December 21, Wenatchee (location TBD) – 9:30 a.m.