



MEETING

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Howard Johnson Motel

Leavenworth, WA

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

Kris Petersen, NMFS	David Carie, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Russell Langshaw, GCPUD
Tom Scribner, Keely Murdoch, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Kirk Truscott, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC HSC member)

Kris Petersen, NMFS*	Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD
Jerry Marco, CCT*	David Carie, USFWS*
Keely Murdoch, YN*	Tom Scribner, YN (by phone)*
Kirk Truscott, WDFW* (by phone)	Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD*
Greg Ferguson (by phone)	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Denny Rohr, Facilitator*	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
Debbie Williams, Grant PUD	

Action Items:

- The HSC will review the Section 10 reporting requirements outline and provide edits and comments to Lenz with further discussion at the next meeting.
- Langshaw will distribute the White River and Nason Creek November screw-trap summaries.
- Langshaw will distribute the draft White River spring Chinook F1 transfer protocol after USFWS reviews.

Decision Summary:

- The PRCC HSC recommends to the PRCC that the Okanogan Spring Chinook Statement Agreement 2007-17 be approved.

Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Rohr welcomed attendees.

- II. Agenda Review – Marco requested that all final reports concerning Okanogan Spring Chinook projects be posted on the Colville Confederated Tribe web page. Members approved.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Nov. 15 HSC meeting – Approved
- IV. Action Items Review – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. Priest Rapids Hatchery Egg Update (Russ) – Langshaw stated, 5.1 million eggs are currently in the incubators at Priest Rapids Hatchery with 12 hens left in the pond. The egg take goal is 5.7 million, leaving the program 600,000 short of goal. Fisheries managers met Dec. 5, 2007 to discuss how eggs would be divided amongst hatcheries. A determination will be made soon regarding the 2 million eggs that are needed from the Corp to cover the John Day mitigation program. Eggs that would have been reared at Ringold will be distributed to make up shortages of other programs.

Section 10 Reporting Requirements (Ben) – Lenz, developed an outline of the White River spring Chinook activities to be included in the annual report as required by the Section 10 Permit. The outline was originally requested by Petersen. Upon review of the outline, she commented that for organization and identification purposes, a title, author, and date need to be included on all documents distributed to the committee. Petersen will review the outline and compare it to other ESA reports, looking for content and consistency. Murdoch stated the importance of avoiding redundancy in reporting among all agencies. Langshaw stated that Grant PUD planned on briefly summarizing information from final annual reports from WDFW, Yakama Nation, and USFWS and incorporating them into a final Section 10 report. Annual reports are due by March of each year noted Langshaw. **Lenz would like e-mail comments back regarding the outline, with discussion to continue at the next HSC meeting.** Langshaw noted that the annual release report is due Dec.15, 2007. It is being reviewed by Dresser and will be distributed to NMFS and the PRCC HSC by the end of the week. 144,000 BY06 yearling spring Chinook are on station at LWS. They will be transported to and released from the Lake Wenatchee net pens in spring 2008. It is anticipated that no subyearlings will be released in 2008. Scribner questioned if there was any smolt-to-smolt survival data from fish released in 2007. Langshaw noted none of these fish were PIT tagged and didn't think there was any data regarding the 2007 release. The 2008 release of White River spring Chinook will include 30,000 PIT-tagged fish.

- VI. Nason Creek Spring Chinook Update (Russ)
 - A. Screwtrap operations – Murdoch reported the screw trap was removed on or around Dec. 7, 2007 after a rain on snow event that caused high flows. Langshaw noted that 254 BY 06 subyearlings and 1 precocial male were trapped. Langshaw will e-mail the Nason Creek report to committee members today.
 - B. Water evaluations – No change.
- VII. Okanogan Spring Chinook SOA (Jerry) – Marco and Langshaw have been working on a final draft of the Okanogan spring Chinook SOA. Marco asked if the PRCC had given the PRCC HSC final authorization to approve this SOA. Lowry referred back to

the PRCC 11/28/07 meeting minutes stating, "Assessment was delegated to the hatchery committee, but final approval will be provided by the PRCC". Marco expressed concern with the HSC making a formal agreement regarding the SOA. Petersen stated Grant PUD would be out of compliance with the Settlement Agreement if the SOA is not approved by Dec. 31, 2007. PRCC HSC members reviewed the draft written by Marco and Langshaw. Scribner questioned the differences between this SOA and that of the HCP. Langshaw stated that in concept, the SOAs are similar but the language is different from the HCP version to be more consistent with language in the Settlement Agreement and previous SOAs. Petersen questioned the timing of negotiating O & M funds prior to knowing what M & E actions would be required. Cost sharing agreements are negotiated as a percentage of total operating cost, including M & E, Langshaw stated. Grant and Chelan PUDs use the same method of negotiating cost share, stated Pyper. Marco noted that the only difference between the SOAs is there is no NNI contribution in the HCP. Marco questioned the program performance goals outlined in Section 4 of the draft SOA. The committee discussed appropriate language of the SOA. Petersen and Marco felt that Section 3 contradicted Section 4 of the draft and should be deleted. The consensus of the HSC was to strike Section 4 from the draft written by Marco and Langshaw. **The PRCC HSC will submit the Okanogan Spring Chinook SOA 2007-17 for approval by the PRCC at the next PRCC meeting.** Scribner asked why 2019 was chosen as the year Grant PUD would meet mitigation of spring Chinook. Langshaw stated it was one year after the next round of spring Chinook survival studies. Truscott stated that all language should be consistent between the agencies when SOAs are written regarding mitigation of the same species.

VIII. White River Spring Chinook Update/Discussion (Russ)

- A. Net pens – The JARPA is complete and has been submitted stated Langshaw. The permit will be published followed by a 30-day public comment period. The Chelan County Commission will then decide if the permit is to be granted. A 45-day comment period is also allowed by the Department of Ecology. Grant PUD is working on a water quality plan similar to Chelan PUD's program. Launching of the net pens will happen from the state park. Langshaw is anticipating all remaining BY06 fish will be released from net pens.
- B. Tagging protocol BY 06/07 – See attached White River spring Chinook marking strategy for brood year 2006 and 2007. The most significant change is coded-wire tags (CWTs) for BY07. Approval will be requested from the PRCC HSC before marking of the BY07 fish. Murdoch questioned if all fish would be counted at Tumwater and if they were ad-present. Langshaw stated he thought monitoring would occur at Tumwater and the fish would be kept ad-present. Petersen requested that adequate sampling be done to know how many hatchery fish return. Petersen stated Grant PUD would need to fund future sampling if it isn't done at Tumwater. Grant PUD is prepared to fund M & E of the White River program as needed, noted Langshaw. Carie stated that recovering carcasses from the White River is very difficult. **Langshaw asked for review and comments back from the HSC on White River spring Chinook marking strategy for brood year 2006 and 2007 prior to the next meeting to facilitate a draft SOA.**
- C. Genetics – Langshaw stated the BY06 genetics contract is in Mike Ford's hands and NMFS contracting. When Grant receives it back from Ford the contract must be approved by the Grant PUD commission (it was determined after the meeting that commission approval is not required because of the contract dollar amount). We must have the results in time to incorporate any fish with hatchery influence into the second

generation release. The fish are currently segregated by collection date and location but they will need to be combined to make space for BY 07 F1's. After genetics testing is complete, fish will be sorted at the time of transfer to LWS. Following this protocol will require no need for extra handling of the fish.

- D. Screwtrap operations update – Langshaw stated there were 7 wild subyearling spring Chinook and 7 hatchery spring Chinook trapped. Murdoch reported the trap was removed on Dec. 5, 2007. The trap wasn't able to be used for half of the month because of low water. Nov. 16, 2007 was the final trapping date. Petersen asked if the traps were in good repair when they were pulled. The White River trap was alright stated Murdoch. She noted the Nason Creek trap had collected a large amount of debris but seemed to be alright. Petersen stated repair should happen during winter months so the traps are ready to go in the spring. Murdoch stated additional funding requests would be asked of Grant PUD if trap repairs exceeded Yakama Nation budgetary amounts. Dotson noted that if Grant PUD will be asked for repair funds, Yakama Nation should request the funds as soon as possible due to the amount of time funding requests take.
- E. Program Summary (Tom) – Dresser is continuing work on the White River program summary.
- F. **ACTION ITEM:** Transfer protocol for move to Little White Salmon NFH. – The transfer protocol has been given to Speros Doulos by Langshaw for review. The PRCC HSC will be asked for approval of the protocol before transfer of the White River spring Chinook starts. Transfer will start in April with half of each brood year per trip being independently moved. BY03 has 3 adult fish and will be moved with BY04 because there are not many fish. The transfer will start with half of BY07, followed by half of BY06 and so forth until all brood years are transferred. The transfer will start with younger fish because they're more abundant. Mortality impacts would be greater in older brood years because there aren't many fish in each of these years. Grant PUD will coordinate with ODFW, because they have extensive prior experience transferring fish. Grant PUD's transfer will be consistent with that of ODFW's transfer protocol. The raceways become available at LWSNFH in late March and will be prepared before transfer begins in April. **Langshaw will distribute a transfer protocol for the move of White River spring Chinook F1s to Little White Salmon NFH to PRCC HSC members upon review by USFWS staff.**
- IX. Steelhead Program (Russ) – A misunderstanding between Grant PUD and the CCT regarding the expected expansion date of the CCT Steelhead Program was noted by Langshaw. Langshaw stated he received program clarification and submitted a request to Douglas PUD for 80,000 steelhead smolts to be raised at the Wells Hatchery. Petersen expressed NMFS eagerness to get the CCT Okanogan stock program started and offered her assistance. Marco stated the CCT are still in the early stages and don't expect to be ready to move forward until 2009 or 2010.
- X. JFP HGMP Meeting/Discussion
 - A. White River and Nason Creek – Rohr stated that no meeting has been scheduled yet by the JFP. Langshaw expressed Grant PUD's concern at the amount of time it is taking to schedule a meeting and questioned if Grant PUD would be held accountable for not meeting the HGMP deadline. Langshaw asked the PRCC HSC if Grant PUD should move forward and incorporate what we think is the best option for the

program. Grant PUD is required to develop the HGMP in consultation with the PRCC HSC. One way to move forward would be to remove Yakama Nation and WDFW from the permit application and have Grant PUD as sole applicant. This would accelerate issuance of the permit and allow the JFP to come to a consensus after the permit application is submitted.. Petersen stated all parties have not been able to meet, but she had individual meetings with the YN and WDFW in the last two weeks and stated progress is being made. She has not been able to meet with CCT and USFWS. Petersen didn't believe removing WDFW and the Yakama Nation from the application would expedite the process any faster. She feels all agencies need to be part of the process and appreciates Grant PUD's comments regarding missed HGMP deadlines. Truscott stated that WDFW has made multiple attempts to get members of the JFP together. Dotson wanted meeting minutes to reflect that Grant PUD is trying to meet HGMP deadlines, but were unable to do so because the JFP hasn't been able to coordinate a meeting date. Petersen duly noted his request and stated "on this issue, that is good enough".

XI. Scheduling and Planning Review

- A. White River HGMP development - covered above
- B. Nason Creek HGMP development – covered above
- C. Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP/M & E development – Ferguson has provided a draft HGMP to Grant PUD. He has requested edits and comments by Jan.15, 2008. Grant PUD will present a draft to the PRCC HSC at the Jan.17, 2008 meeting with a request for 30-day review. M&E development is underway.
- D. **ACTION ITEM:** Summer Chinook HGMP development – Dotson stated the preliminary draft HGMP was provided for 60-day (30 -day review with an additional 30-day review given) review with Dec. 15, 2007 being the deadline. Dotson noted that the tables and data in the HGMP were supplied by WDFW, with the most recent data being gathered in 2006. Tables will be incorporated into the next draft. Grant PUD would like to issue a draft to the PRCC HSC prior to the February meeting. Truscott and Scribner's comments are being incorporated into the HGMP. Petersen noted she has discussed NMFS's comments with Truscott and they are incorporated into WDFW's comments. Marco stated his comments would be forwarded to Dotson on Dec. 14, 2007. Dotson stated the tremendous value of the comments received to date by WDFW, because of their knowledge of the other programs. Comments will be sent to Dotson and Ferguson.

XII. Sockeye

- A. NMFS Letter (Kris) – Grant PUD has requested a formal determination from NMFS on whether an ESA permit will be needed for the Okanagan Nation Alliance's 12-Year Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye into the Skaha Lake program. Petersen stated that Grant PUD's letter is under review by NMFS staff.

XIII. Next Meeting: January 17, 2007 – Rohr will schedule meeting to coordinate with the date and location of the HCP meeting. The February 21, 2008 meeting will be held in Leavenworth due to the Working Group meeting that follows the HSC meeting.