



MEETING

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Howard Johnson Motel

Leavenworth

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	Mike Nicholls, Grant PUD
David Carie*, USFWS	Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD
Kirk Truscott*, WDFW	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Greg Ferguson, Sea Springs Inc.	Tom Dresser, Grant PUD (by phone)
Tom Scribner*, YN (by phone)	Denny Rohr, facilitator
Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD	Debbie Williams, Grant PUD
Ben Lenz, Grant PUD	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

DISTRIBUTED ITEMS:

- White River October 2007 Trapping Summary
- Okanogan Spring Chinook Statement of Agreement

ACTION ITEMS:

- Lenz will develop an outline of Section 10 reporting requirements and distribute to PRCC HSC members by e-mail.
- Dresser will work on language concerning White River activities and distribute to PRCC HSC members for review.
- Langshaw will provide for subcommittee review a transfer protocol for the move of F1 White River spring Chinook from AquaSeed to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery starting in May 2008.
- Lowry will distribute the Nason Creek screw trap report for October to PRCC HSC members.
- The PRCC HSC comment period for the summer Chinook HGMP is extended to Dec. 15, 2007. The document will be distributed electronically to all members following today's meeting.
- Ferguson will distribute T. Scribner's comments to the Priest Rapids Summer Chinook HGMP to Grant PUD staff.

DECISION SUMMARY:

- **Members approved the transfer of F1 White River spring Chinook from AquaSeed to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery beginning in May 2008.**

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees and introduced Grant PUD FWWQ Administrative Assistant Debbie Williams.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr reviewed the agenda. No additions or changes were made.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - July 19 HSC meeting (YN approval needed) – approved.
 - July 19 HSC working group meeting (YN approval needed) – approved.
 - Oct. 4 HSC CC (NMFS approval needed) - approved.
 - Oct. 18 HSC meeting – approved with revisions from WDFW, NMFS.
 - Oct. 18 HSC working group meeting – approved.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Update Presentation (GPUD engineer Mike Nicholls)** – Nicholls updated members on PRH modification design status, providing a description of widening of an existing road, barrier panels which will be seasonally deployed (year round with the exception of broodstock collection), spawning channel modifications, new adult holding ponds, and the adult trap section and pescalator lift. Members discussed logistics of the pescalator and sorting pool. Nicholls explained that the pescalator lifts fish from the channel into the distribution flume to either pond 1, pond 2 or the surplus tote. Nicholls noted that systems have been designed to minimize handling of the fish. Nicholls also presented designs for the two adult holding ponds and new raceways. There are four banks of six raceways, stated Nicholls, which allows increased efficiency in collecting morts, collecting and sampling fish, and feeding. Nicholls also discussed improvements to the pond tailbox sections, and netting (avian predation protection) and support wires over the rearing ponds. Nicholls noted that potential wind and icing issues are being addressed regarding the netting. Release channel modifications were also discussed, which include weirs which control hydraulics and flows affecting fish movement. Nicholls noted that current designs are focused on Grant PUD's mitigation program only, which does not require renovation of the incubation building. Nicholls also updated members on scheduling for the modifications. Project design is scheduled to be 90% completed by April 2008. Permitting for the project could potentially take four years (2008-2012), noted Nicholls, followed by contract development (August 2012), and construction (August 2012-September 2015). Nicholls noted that continuing production at the facility during construction requires that plumbing modifications/connections occur during July and August when water systems are not in use. It is estimated that three summer work windows will be required pushing completion of the modifications to an estimated September-November 2015. Nicholls requested assistance from PRCC agency representatives concerning expediting the permitting process, including early discussion concerning any potential impact concerns by permitting agencies. Ferguson asked if a value engineering (VE) study would be considered once 90% design is completed. Nicholls stated that such a study could be conducted during the permitting process timeframe. He also noted that working with WDFW during the design process has streamlined the process, but that a potential VE study could also be discussed. Truscott expressed his concern over the release channel orifice walls and asked how many locations have constructed this type of release channel. Nicholls is unaware of any others. Nicholls

stated that above Pond 2 there is potential to add auxiliary flow for the system to help move fish through the system, noting that not using orifice walls could strand fish moving through the channel. During the design process, Grant PUD and WDFW Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) staff has discussed the release channel designs and concerns over fish movement through the channel. Truscott stated the importance of unobstructed movement of juveniles through the channel and questioned whether there are alternatives to maintaining depth and velocity through the channel without using orifice walls. Nicholls noted that because changing the slope is not possible, the orifice walls were the next best solution, along with smoothed walls and rounded corners. Velocity of water within the channel will depend on water depth, stated Nicholls, noting that additional water at the top end could assist with moving fish through the channel. Langshaw stated injuries to fish likely depend on how quickly water is moving through the orifice and asked if shutting the water off and letting it drain would be a better approach. Nicholls stated that a standard draining system would be started following removal of stop-logs. Truscott noted he would contact PRH staff concerning the issue.

- Fall Chinook broodstock collection update – Dotson stated that Priest Rapids Hatchery staff have sufficient broodstock to collect Grant PUD's required 5 million eggs. The PRCC has given its approval to close the Off Ladder Fish Trap for the season.

VI. Section 10 Reporting Requirements (Ben) – Grant PUD is developing an outline of White River spring Chinook activities, which will be included in an annual report as required by the Section 10 Permit, stated Lenz. Grant PUD staff will coordinate the collection of data from all involved agencies (WDFW, Yakama Nation). Truscott noted the need for clarification on what the report will include. **Petersen requested that Grant PUD develop an outline of what activities will be included in the report and present it in advance to PRCC HSC. Lenz will develop the outline and e-mail it to members.**

VII. Cryogenics (Ben) – A total of 180 milt straws were collected from BY05 jacks at AquaSeed during the first two days in November. Representative samples were collected from five families (17 individuals). A total of 500 samples have been collected over three years. Lenz plans to test the samples for fertilization rates starting next year. The sperm has not been used yet to fertilize eggs, stated Lenz. Langshaw noted that if determining fertilization rates are the objective of the tests, eggs could be used from fish other than the captive brood to minimize risk. Members discussed the difficulty of making a decision to use frozen sperm on eggs as valuable as those in the White River spring Chinook captive brood program. PRCC HSC discussion will continue at a later time.

VIII. Nason Creek Spring Chinook Update (Ben)

- Pump test results – A pump test will not occur on the Boyce property this year. Dresser provided background on water evaluation efforts on the Boyce property to date. Following review of surrounding well logs and a geophysical survey, a decision was made to dig a 12-inch well on the property. While an 11-foot gravel layer was reached the decision was made to continue drilling which resulted in location of a basalt layer. A pump test of the 11-foot gravel layer cannot be conducted at this time because the well driller was unable to remove the casing and winter weather began. Dresser stated that another contractor with more heavy-duty equipment will likely be utilized in late spring or early summer to remove the casing and continue with a pump test. Grant PUD's ingress/egress permission expires at the end of this month, so Grant PUD staff will work to extend those permissions for further testing next summer. Langshaw noted that

ground water availability will likely be limited to approximately 250 gpm and therefore only appropriate for acclimation, adult holding, incubation, and de-icing. Ferguson asked why intake of surface water could not be used for a rearing facility. Langshaw stated that possibility has not been ruled out and that water evaluations will continue next summer on the site and an adjacent piece of property, which would likely be suitable for facilities. Dresser noted that maintaining Grant PUD's relationship with the landowner and other property owners in Nason Creek is critical.

- Screw-trap operations – Langshaw noted that the Nason Creek screw-trap collected a total of 152 BY06 subyearling spring Chinook in October, with a mean fork length of 85.4 mm. A total of 73 juvenile steelhead were captured in October. Of these fish, 1 was classified as a fry (<50 mm) and 72 were classified as parr (>50 mm). The steelhead fry was 46 mm in fork length and the mean fork length for parr was 82.5 mm.

IX. White River Spring Chinook Update/Discussion (Russ) –

- Short-term acclimation – Following a tour of the RM 10.5 site in October, a determination was made that the site is likely inappropriate for upriver short-term acclimation because of icing water availability issues. The site doesn't appear viable until discharge is greater than 1000 cfs. Historic hydrographs suggest late winter flows are approximately 300 cfs and don't reach 1000 cfs until the first spring freshet, which generally doesn't occur until April. Langshaw will re-visit the site in February/March of 2008 to assess the possibility of using the site in the future. Other short-term temporary acclimation sites will continue to be evaluated, stated Langshaw, noting pressure sensors have been installed at those sites. Participants discussed alternatives for releasing smolts in spring 2008. Petersen and Truscott approved acclimating the smolts originally intended for RM 10.5, in the net pens in Lake Wenatchee rather than direct planted. Pyper asked for clarification on use of the net pens (owned by Chelan PUD). Grant PUD and Chelan PUD have only one remaining in the agreement (2008) for use of the net pens, confirmed Langshaw.
- Net pens – Langshaw recently discussed launching of the net pens from the state park boat launch with state park staff. The site could likely be used as long as the launch is not obstructed for too long and snow removal is conducted by Grant PUD. Transporting the pens and fish from the boat launch could be difficult, stated Langshaw, noting the shoreline permit will be submitted to Chelan County this week (it could be interpreted that the pens are being used outside of Chelan PUD's existing permit and the launch location has been changed, requiring a shoreline permit determination). The permit application also identifies emergency direct release sites and associated activities. Scribner suggested using circular tanks for acclimation and release of 10,000 smolts in the upriver spawning area. Langshaw stated that such an approach would be difficult and expensive and not part of the long-term objective. Truscott and Langshaw also noted the limited opportunity for location of the tanks.
- Tagging protocol – Langshaw will eliminate the extra 10,000 tags proposed for the RM 10.5 fish from the proposal. Fish will be marked in December. Ferguson asked if there wouldn't be value in tagging fish which may potentially be truck-planted in the White River. Petersen stated that spring Chinook direct plans were not successful in the Tucannan River, noting acclimation is very important to spring Chinook.

- Rearing and brood collection update – Langshaw stated that Grant PUD and BPA staff met at the Bonneville Hatchery concerning potential capacity for the White River spring Chinook program. Space is not currently available for transfer of the F1 fish, stated Langshaw and Grant PUD is moving forward with an agreement with USFWS to move the F1 program to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (LWSNFH) in Cook, WA. Effluent treatment designs are being developed for the Willard facility of the LWSNFH complex. Some fish will likely move in May 2008, stated Langshaw. If the transfer is successful, the remainder of the fish will be moved following nine-month notification to AquaSeed, where the fish are currently located. Langshaw noted that Bonneville has had success with moving fish after they are identified as maturing fish with no mortality issues, noting his comfort with moving fish from AquaSeed in a phased approach to ensure no significant mortality will occur. **Langshaw will provide for the PRCC HSC's review a transfer protocol for the move of F1 White River spring Chinook from AquaSeed to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery starting in May 2008.** Members discussed fish health efforts at the Bonneville facility. Langshaw stated that the USFWS is looking for formal support from the PRCC HSC to move the full program from AquaSeed to LWS. Scribner approved the transfer. Truscott asked if all of those who have programs at LWSNFH are on board with the transfer of the White River F1s. Langshaw noted that the move is in the production tables for US v. OR. Carie approved the transfer. Truscott stated his support for the transition of the F1s from AquaSeed to LWSNFH, following review of the transfer protocols. Petersen also stated her support of the transfer. (*Scribner departs conference call*). Marco stated his support later in the meeting
- Genetics – With this year's egg take there was not discernable difference between the eggs from LWSNFH and AquaSeed. Eyed-egg takes totaled 58,512 from LWSNFH and 58,271 from AquaSeed. Langshaw noted that mortality for F2s was at a high of 0.06% and a low of 0% with an average of 0.04% for the month of October. Petersen requested PRCC HSC review of the monthly reports from USFWS LWSNFH staff. Truscott stated that the report distributed by WDFW (currently distributed to NMFS) incorporates the information. Petersen agreed that the current WDFW report would suffice. The genetic analysis contract with NOAA Fisheries should be approved within the next three weeks, stated Langshaw.
- Screw-trap operations update – During the month of October, 15 wild spring Chinook subyearlings were trapped at the White River smolt trap, three of which were found to be precocial males. Of those wild Chinook that were not precocial, the mean fork length was 98.1 mm, while the mean fork length for precocial fish was 119.6 mm. Since none of the precocial fish possessed CWTs, it was assumed they were of wild origin. In addition to the wild component of the October catch, 16 hatchery Chinook (CWT's present) were captured, with a mean fork length of 101.8 mm. Other salmonids represented in October's catch were five rainbow/steelhead trout, three bull trout, and two cutthroat trout. There were no mortalities at the White River trap during the month of October.
- Position statement – Dresser has drafted a White River spring Chinook position statement following lingering misperceptions about the intent of the program. The position statement outlines which facilities are being considered for the White River basin. A recent WenatcheeOutdoors.org article included factual errors about the program, including the intent to build a full hatchery facility. Dresser requested feedback from subcommittee members. Petersen asked if the issues aren't already addressed in the White River/Nason Creek newsletter and on Grant PUD's website and noted her concern with getting consensus on a position

statement. She agreed to discuss it with NMFS internal staff. Langshaw indicated general language is in the newsletter and suggested using more clear language, with a list of alternatives as to what is and is not being proposed for the program. Truscott also suggested continuing education concerning specific activities proposed for the project, but noted his concern with getting consensus at a policy level for a position statement. Scribner noted that a direct approach in future newsletters is appropriate. Petersen suggested that in addition to mailing to the address database, hard copies be distributed to places frequented by people interested in fish and wildlife issues. **Dresser will work on language and distribute to PRCC HSC members next week.** Carie suggested always referring back to the previous information which has been provided to the public to reinforce that the message has been consistent each time it is delivered. Lenz also suggested providing information about the program in the Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit newsletter. *(Dresser departs conference line)*. Ferguson suggested distribution of a White River facilities planning document. Rohr urged that all information distributed to the public be clear and succinct.

(Jerry Marco joins call)

- X. Okanogan Spring Chinook SOA** – Rohr distributed an Okanogan Spring Chinook Statement of Agreement (SOA). Marco stated that edits to a similar SOA for the HCP were requested on Nov. 14, noting those changes will also be incorporated into the Priest Rapids SOA. Marco noted that as required by the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSA), the PRCC will approve any SOA regarding decisions under that agreement. However, the PRCC requested that the Hatchery Subcommittee review the SOA and provide their recommendation. The SOA requests approval of Okanogan Basin spring Chinook as a Covered Species requiring hatchery compensation from Grant PUD if the Colville Tribes' (CCT's) Chief Joseph Hatchery Program is approved and funded. At a HCP meeting held Nov. 14, edits were requested and will be discussed between CCT and Chelan PUD. Marco noted the first paragraph of each SOA is similar, with the exception of the respective HCP/SSA agreements. Members discussed whether how the programs are funded is relevant to the SOA. Langshaw requested that Grant PUD be involved in discussions concerning edits to the SOA language as it relates to both the HCP and PRCC programs. Consistent language concerning implementation of programs involving the same fish species is important, stated Truscott. Petersen stated that all parties need to understand how the adjustments will be made (cost share formula or obligation based on number of fish). Marco noted that with the exception of Langshaw, all HCP and PRCC HSC members are the same and that following re-drafting of the HCP SOA, the information can be shared with Langshaw. Langshaw asked if there was a potential for production numbers to change and Marco replied the plan is for production to remain constant. Rohr suggested further discussion off-line.
- XI. Steelhead Program (Russell)** – Langshaw noted that Grant PUD's steelhead program is currently apportioned to both CCT (Cassimar-Bar Hatchery) and Douglas PUD (Methow Hatchery). Because CCT is expanding its steelhead program, Grant PUD is determining whether or not co-funding the CCT program would exceed its 100,000 annual requirement (by an estimated 12,000 smolts). Grant PUD is unable to pay for more than its mitigation requirement as it would be considered "gifting" of public funds, noted Langshaw. Grant PUD is looking for a determination by the PRCC HSC on where the program should go, prior to a request being made to Douglas PUD. Langshaw noted that increasing the take for brood is currently under discussion by CCT and NMFS, which may have an affect on Grant PUD's program. Currently, 20,000 fish are being produced for Grant PUD by the CCT program. Marco noted that the three-step program for Chief Joseph Hatchery includes permitting. Langshaw and Truscott agreed that the permit authorization for steelhead production in the Upper Columbia is not currently being exceeded. Truscott stated that WDFW is

not willing to adjust the Wells Hatchery program until the CCT steelhead program is assessed. Marco acknowledged that the PRCC HSC will assess CCT's program prior to any program adjustments being made at the Wells facility, but noted that CCT is potentially interested in co-funding with Grant PUD for the steelhead program. Marking of the fish is also an issue with the additional fish, stated Langshaw. Permit holders must manage broodstock and the related egg-take to stay within a reasonable 10% excess of the mitigation requirement, stated Petersen. Truscott noted that Wells staff consistently works to stay within the required number of production fish. Further discussion will occur off-line.

XII. JFP HGMP Meeting/Discussion - White River and Nason Creek – Langshaw previously distributed a list of questions that need to be addressed by the JFP. Truscott noted that the meeting (which will include policy level staff) has not yet been scheduled. Truscott is attempting to arrange the meeting prior to the end of November. An initial meeting will be held between policy and technical staff from both the Yakama Nation and WDFW to discuss spring Chinook management in the Wenatchee Basin.

XIII. Scheduling and Planning Review

- White River HGMP development – Further development is on hold until the JFP holds its meeting to answer questions needed for the HGMP.
- Nason Creek HGMP development - Further development is on hold until the JFP holds its meeting to answer questions needed for the HGMP.
- Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP development – Langshaw noted that Grant PUD is meeting with WDFW on Monday, Nov. 19 to continue work on the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) component of the HGMP. Ferguson requested a determination from the PRCC HSC concerning whether the program is integrated or isolated. Ferguson noted the potential gene flow between the hatchery and wild population in addition to approximately 9% Priest Rapids Hatchery origin contribution to the Hanford Reach fall Chinook spawning population each year. Based on preliminary data, natural origin contribution to the hatchery brood is 25% to 50% per year (based on the number of CWTs and fish released). Variability of those numbers needs to be studied. Otolith data would definitively determine hatchery contribution, noted Langshaw. The program is currently conducted as both integrated and isolated, stated Langshaw, noting no effort is made to manage wild fish into the brood and fish are released directly from the hatchery. Because making the switch from one to the other would cause fundamental changes to the program, the PRCC HSC needs to determine which way to go for purposes of the HGMP, stated Langshaw. If the numbers are correct, the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) would consider PRH a properly managed program based on the Proportion Natural Influence (PNI), stated Langshaw. Petersen suggested as a first step confirming what is in the broodstock and on the spawning ground through otolith and historic data, this year if possible. Truscott noted that by necessity it is an integrated program, because the spawning grounds cannot be controlled.
- ACTION ITEM: Summer Chinook HGMP development – The Priest Rapids Summer Chinook HGMP was distributed on Oct. 18, 2007 for a 30-day comment period. Comments have been received by Tom Scribner, which will be distributed by Ferguson to Grant PUD. CCT, NMFS, USFWS, and WDFW requested additional time for review, and members agreed to extend the comment period to Dec. 15, 2007. The document will be distributed electronically to all members. Members discussed program scheduling

information. Scribner was previously provided a Gantt chart based on the SSA requirements. Dotson noted that site evaluations are currently being undertaken by Grant PUD, though evaluation is not required until the HGMP is approved. Scribner noted that submission of the HGMP is already late (a six-month extension to August 10, 2007 was approved by the PRCC HSC). Grant PUD's objective is to meet the deadline requirements under the SSA, stated Langshaw, noting that unknown time-frames to permit the program may affect that objective. Truscott noted that the timeframe provided reflects only those activities under Grant PUD's control (site evaluation and construction). Scribner also questioned why the Entiat program is not mentioned in the summary of the HGMP and is not referenced until page 11. Truscott noted that the PRCC HSC determined that spawning overlap between summer and spring Chinook in the Entiat eliminated the possibility of 10% of Grant PUD's program being released into that stream. The JFP considered the issue and determined a pilot study, using existing infrastructure, would be required to demonstrate the ability to remove adult hatchery summers from the spawning grounds to minimize that overlap. The required infrastructure is not available, thus an evaluation cannot be conducted and so releasing hatchery summer Chinook into the Entiat is not supported by the PRCC HSC. Pyper noted that while Grant PUD and the PRCC HSC are working on the feasibility of using the Carlton and Dryden facilities for acclimating summer Chinook, further discussions need to occur both within the HCP realm and also between Grant and Chelan PUD. Chelan is open to collaborating with Grant PUD, but needs to consider its own current production and production beyond 2013, stated Pyper, noting that Chelan PUD will provide comments to the Grant PUD summer Chinook HGMP concerning potential use of Chelan PUD facilities and related permitting issues. Chelan PUD is confident that the collaborative process will work, stated Pyper. Petersen noted that any out-of-date data should be replaced in the HGMP. Some pertinent CWT data is not yet available and cannot be included, noted Langshaw.

- Sockeye HGMP/Grant PUD letter to NMFS update – Grant PUD provided a letter to NMFS asking for concurrence on use of the ONA 12-year Reintroduction of Sockeye into Skaha Lake as a substitution for a sockeye HGMP. Petersen noted she has discussed this with internal NMFS staff and there is some concern over the issue. Further discussion will occur.

XIV. Summer Chinook Program

- Chelan PUD pilot re-circulation program – Dotson noted that Grant PUD is holding discussions with Chelan PUD concerning cost-sharing with Chelan PUD in regard to its potential re-circulation program pilot study.

XV. Next Meeting: December 13, 2007 in Leavenworth. A public working group meeting will be held the same day from 2 to 4 p.m.