



MEETING

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, October 18, 2007

9:00 – 2:00

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 (* indicates PRCC HSC member)

*Tom Scribner, YN	*Kris Petersen, NMFS (by phone)
*Dave Carie, USFWS	Greg Ferguson, Sea Springs Inc.
*Kirk Truscott, WDFW	Rick Klinge, Douglas PUD
*Jerry Marco, CCT (by phone)	Denny Rohr, facilitator
*Russell Langshaw, Curt Dotson, Grant PUD	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

ACTION ITEMS:

- Langshaw will provide a list of questions concerning gaps in the White River/Nason Creek HGMP issues to the JFP.
- Marco will send to Petersen and Rohr the HCP SOA addressing Okanogan Basin Spring Chinook.
- Langshaw will make a determination on the appropriate number of PIT-tagged spring Chinook smolts for over-winter acclimation evaluation at White River RM 10.5. The revised proposal will be re-sent to members.
- The Nov. 6 HGMP meeting is cancelled and the JFP committed to scheduling a meeting prior to the Nov. 15 regular HSC meeting.
- Langshaw will provide to the PRCC HSC all future meeting minutes from Priest Rapids Hatchery fall Chinook M&E discussions between members of the Hanford Reach Working Group M&E Subcommittee.

DECISION SUMMARY:

- Members agreed that working group minutes will be sent to all meeting participants with a request for comments within 30 days.
- Members approved the revised Douglas/Grant PUD hatchery sharing request memo, dated September 25, 2007, reflecting a request for BY2008.
- Members affirmed approval of the coho obligation SOA 2007-16.

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

II. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed members.

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- III. **Agenda Review** – Marco requested Okanogan Basin Spring Chinook be added to the agenda.
- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes -**
- August 15, 2007 Public Meeting – Petersen noted she was not present at the meeting. **Approved.**
 - September 20, 2007 – **Approved** with revisions from K. Truscott.
 - October 4, 2007 conf. call – **Approved** by CCT, YN, USFWS, WDFW, Grant PUD with revisions from K. Truscott (Petersen/NMFS sent K. Truscott revisions Oct. 18 for approval)

Members discussed whether formal approval is required of working group minutes by working group participants. Members agreed that working group minutes will be sent to participants with a request for comments in 30 days.

- V. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items. Lowry will send Aug. 16 WG meeting minutes to Keely Murdoch. Petersen noted that the action item involving Priest Rapids Hatchery upgrades needs to include HGMP development.
- VI. **Okanogan Basin Spring Chinook** – Marco stated that the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement language concerning the Okanogan Basin spring Chinook hatchery compensation is required to be assessed by the PRCC in 2007. Marco suggested the PRCC HSC review a Statement of Agreement currently under development by the HCP Hatchery Subcommittee. Langshaw noted that it is Grant PUD's intent to be consistent with the HCP process concerning Okanogan basin Spring Chinook. Determining if there is a program and then most appropriate means to satisfy required compensation. The SOA changed significantly following the Oct. 17 HCP meeting, and now only addresses the long-term hatchery program, stated Marco, noting the appropriate hatchery compensation issue will be resolved at a later date. Marco will send the HCP SOA addressing Okanogan Basin Spring Chinook to Rohr and to Petersen. Rohr will assign an SOA number and incorporate into the PRCC process.
- VII. **ACTION: Douglas/Grant Interlocal Agreement**
 (continued discussion: Updated agreement memo sent to committee members on September 24th for consideration at October 18th meeting) – Langshaw noted that the broodyear request was changed from 2007 to 2008. Members reviewed the memo and **approved** the revised document, dated September 25, 2007. Truscott noted that there is a high probability that the spring Chinook production program will come under similar constraints in future years. Langshaw noted that Grant PUD and Douglas PUD are scheduling a meeting to discuss future facility modifications, noting infrastructure improvements will be in place by the required date in 2011.
- VIII. **Summer Chinook Program** - Dotson distributed a draft summer Chinook HGMP to participants. The draft will be reviewed by PRCC HSC members during a 30-day comment period. Dotson noted that M&E objectives have not yet been included. Deadline for comment is Nov. 18, 2007, but members were urged to provide comments by the Nov. 15 PRCC HSC meeting for purposes of discussion.
- Program Goals – Dotson noted program goals are outlined in the distributed HGMP, which was distributed to the PRCC HSC for a 30-day review period.
 - Entiat Fishery – see above
 - Location of Acclimation Sites – see above
 - Update: Further investigation of over-winter acclimation at Dryden and Carlton Ponds – Dotson stated that a consultant has been hired to determine feasibility of

using these ponds for over-winter acclimation. Grant PUD staff is currently installing pressure sensors to determine water availability and de-icing issues. Grant PUD is working with both Chelan and Douglas PUDs to determine feasibility of using the ponds for over-winter acclimation. Updates and evaluations will be provided to the PRCC HSC as the information becomes available. Ferguson noted that because the HGMP assumes the summer Chinook are reared at Gloyd Springs Hatchery with acclimation occurring at existing sites, a key is whether over-winter acclimation can occur there. Scribner asked whether water rights, minimum flows, icing and other uncertain variables will be determined by next spring. Dotson stated that those determinations depend on water conditions in 2007-2008. Ferguson stated that one full year of data will be needed for full evaluation. Dotson also stated it is Grant PUD's goal to design a facility which considers potential minimum flow criteria currently being developed by WDOE. Ferguson provided information on water temperature needs and preliminary information on Gloyd Springs Hatchery. A formal presentation on the proposed hatchery will be provided in the future.

IX. Priest Rapids Hatchery

- Update of facility design – Langshaw stated that 90% design completion is scheduled for January 2008, noting Grant PUD's required production obligations will be a priority over the Corps' John Day production requests. Langshaw also stated that staff is not sure if they can meet mitigation goals this year, but that every effort is being made to do so. Management of carcasses is currently being assessed by WDOE and Grant PUD has contracted an outside rendering plant to take care of carcasses in 2007. Prior management has involved burying the carcasses in a pit. The method is no longer allowed by WDOE.

(Rick Klinge departs meeting)

- Hanford Reach Working Group update – The 2007 spawning experiment has been terminated, stated Langshaw, citing low returns of fall Chinook as one of the primary reasons. Low returns would make results of the experiment questionable because high-elevation spawning is correlated with abundance. Additionally, the experiment will not occur because consensus on what constitutes success of experimental operations could not be reached among the Parties of the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement (HRFCPPA). Furthermore, the near-term forecast is for low flows which would limit Grant PUD's ability to reach and maintain consistent treatments. Reverse load factoring will be the operating protocol for the 2007-2008 spawning season, stated Langshaw. Truscott asked if the PRCC is involved in decision-making concerning HRFCPPA issues and if the PRCC's involvement would have had an effect on the decision to terminate the experiment. Langshaw clarified that all PRCC agencies are represented in the Hanford Reach Technical Working Group (HRWG), but that the PRCC membership is the decision-making body as required in the Settlement Agreement. The HRWG is responsible for developing and approving study plans, noted Langshaw. Truscott stated that defining the decision-making process needs to occur within the HRWG. The Priest Rapids Project 401 Certification requires a third group (Fall Chinook Working Group) which includes non-signatory Parties to the HRFCPP, noted Langshaw. The matter will be further discussed at the Oct. 19, 2007 meeting of the Hanford Reach Working Group. Truscott expressed concern that the PRCC HSC is not engaged in the Priest Rapids Hatchery fall Chinook M&E development process and requested that the PRCC HSC provide technical expertise on the full set of M&E objectives. Truscott also requested that the PRCC HSC receive minutes from the HRWG M&E subcommittee meetings. Langshaw noted that Paul Hoffarth of WDFW has been fully involved with M&E development. Current issues involve use of a reference stream for evaluation and impacts to non-target taxa. A meeting is being scheduled with both Hoffarth and Todd Pearsons.

Langshaw committed to providing meeting minutes from all future M&E-related meeting.

- HGMP and M&E Plan – Grant PUD is moving forward with fall Chinook HGMP development. The goal is for a first draft to be distributed in January 2008. The Committee approved the timeline.

X. **AFFIRMATION: SOA 2007-16, PRCC and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee SOA on Grant PUD's Coho Obligation** – The PRCC approved the SOA on Sept. 25, 2007. Copies were distributed with minor PRCC revisions. The PRCC HSC affirmed and finalized the SOA.

XI. **Scheduling and Planning Review**

- White River HGMP Development – Nov 6 Meeting Review – Ferguson presented a flow chart and list of questions which will require discussion at the Nov. 6 meeting, including questions involving abundance objectives and adult management. Discussion occurred on how a viable population is defined, with Truscott stating that the White River population is considered a major spawning aggregate rather than a sub-population, noting a minimum size for a major spawning aggregate has not been defined by the ICTRT. Scribner stated that some of the details concerning abundance objectives need to be handled at a later date by the JFP. Truscott noted that for HGMP purposes, abundance goals should be measured on a Wenatchee Basin population-based level, followed by a minimum population which is habitat (tributary) specific. Ferguson noted that the TRT is recommending no minimum population, but rather a maximum of three generations of supplementation. Scribner noted that such discussions need to occur outside the White River HGMP. Truscott suggested using the Recovery Plan's minimum criteria for a large viable population (2,000 adults), and then parsing out abundance based on intrinsic potential of each major spawning aggregate (17% for White River). Participants discussed adult management questions, including whether Chiwawa strays can be removed from the White River to reduce impacts, and whether hatchery returns can be removed from both the White River and Nason Creek. Langshaw stated that if strays or program fish cannot be removed, then the impacts must be determined and the options identified within the HGMP. Members discussed the level of detail required within an HGMP. By not defining and answering specific questions within the HGMP, options will be limited, noted Langshaw. Scribner expressed concern that some of the questions posed by Ferguson are "in-season" questions which cannot be answered in the plan, noting flexibility needs to be built into the process for decisions to be made down the road by resource managers. Langshaw supports flexibility in the HGMP, but believes a process or outline for decision-making needs to be part of the HGMP in order to limit program impacts. Scribner supported that approach, but noted some decisions cannot be made at this point and that they are resource manager rather than public decisions. He further stated that how the goals of the program are reached are not necessarily agreed upon between resource entities, but understands that decisions must be made because fish are "on-station" and need to be dealt with. He reiterated that they are not PRCC HSC decisions to make. Langshaw noted that the PRCC HSC's role is to provide technical expertise on hatchery issues and that the PRCC makes the policy decisions. Scribner noted that much of the science surrounding supplementation is theoretical and therefore less technical. *(Kris Petersen notes she has joined the meeting by phone and was following the discussion).* Petersen agrees with Scribner, and said that this group was not going to be able to resolve the issues and further discussion at this time was not going to be helpful.. A JFP meeting needs to occur prior to Nov. 15 regular PRCC HSC meeting, stated Petersen. Rohr stated that the Nov. 6 meeting was scheduled in order to answer questions needed to complete the HGMP and to

meet the Nov. 15 submission deadline defined by the PRCC HSC. Petersen stated she would be unable to attend the Nov. 6 meeting. Rohr asked if the PRCC HSC should meet in Portland in order to accommodate NMFS's travel limitations. Truscott noted that while the technical resource agency members in the JFP can make recommendations, those recommendations must be presented to policy level staff, noting that convening policy staff can be difficult. Ferguson's outlined questions for the White River program are the appropriate platform for JFP discussion followed by a PRCC HSC determination on how to use those decisions to implement the specific hatchery program outlined in the HGMP, stated Truscott. Scribner noted that some of the information needed for the HGMP has been provided today, but noted the HGMP does not need to have the level of detail outlined in the questions. Scribner stated that while the HSRG will review the HGMP after its submittal, the HSRG can only make recommendations. Dotson asked if the policy level staff of the JFP will make the recommendations on what should be included in the HGMP. Truscott stated that his hope is that the JFP technical staff will determine definitive answers that are consistent with recovery. Scribner noted that the Yakama Nation will bring policy staff to the JFP meeting. Truscott noted that the Nov. 15 HGMP deadline can be adjusted, but that doing so will adjust NMFS' permitting process for the program. He also stated that it is more important that the HGMP serve as a well-thought-out plan to help NMFS evaluate the program, noting the importance of having NMFS at the table to determine the level of specific decisions outlined in the HGMP. Part of those decisions will be determined by what monitoring and evaluation reveals, stated Truscott. The JFP will get to a point where it can't provide further specificity and will stop where there isn't enough concrete information to go any further, stated Petersen. Langshaw requested a more concise outline of what the JFP will discuss. Langshaw will provide a list of questions concerning HGMP issues to the JFP. Ferguson suggested Lars Moberg be invited to the meeting. Petersen stated that only JFP members should be present, with policy members invited if individual agencies believe it is necessary. She further stated that it is premature to invite NMFS policy staff to the meeting. Scribner stated that for political reasons, it is not appropriate for Grant PUD scientists to be present at the meeting. Truscott agreed and that the JFP needs to take a consensus approach to the decisions at question. Langshaw agreed to that approach, noting that Grant PUD wants a definitive answer on what should be in the HGMP in order to avoid potential litigation. Langshaw also noted that Grant PUD requests that all technical issues be considered prior to decisions being made and that the deadline for submission also be considered. Truscott noted that the consequence of not answering specific questions will need to be considered by policy level staff, in addition to how many options will be outlined. Langshaw will be kept abreast of the JFP discussion and the outcome will be considered at the PRCC HSC level. Truscott stated his belief that the public will not have an issue with the Nov. 15 submission date not being met. Langshaw stated that the public needs to be told that the Nov. 15 will likely not be met. Scribner committed to holding the JFP meeting in November.

Members agree to cancel the Nov. 6 HGMP meeting.

- Nason Creek HGMP Development (see HGMP discussion above)
- Sockeye HGMP Development – Langshaw is working on a Statement of Agreement (SOA) as it relates to use of the 12-Year ONA Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye to Skaha Lake Study Plan to satisfy the requirement for an HGMP in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Scribner noted his concern on whether the ONA program will fulfill Grant PUD's mitigation requirements. The SOA being drafted addresses only the HGMP determination. Mitigation issues can be discussed and agreed upon at a later date, stated Langshaw.
- Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP development (see Agenda Item IX).

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- Summer Chinook HGMP Development (see Agenda Item VIII).

XII. **Review/Update of USFS Proposal for Acclimation at RM 10.5** – Ferguson provided a conceptual design for the enclosure net planned for this site. Langshaw stated that a tour of the site will occur on Tuesday, Oct. 23, with a second tour scheduled tentatively for Friday, Oct. 26. Staff from WDFW, USFS, YN, Grant PUD and members of the public will visit the site to discuss the best way to get the fish to the enclosure net and other logistical issues. USFS (which owns the property where the side channel site is located) has been supportive of using the enclosure net at the site to acclimate spring Chinook beginning in March 2008. A special-use permit may potentially be required, as well as a Shoreline Management Act permit from Chelan County, stated Langshaw. Options to be considered include a 4-inch, non-collapsible pipe to flush the fish approximately 700 feet from tanks to the side channel site. Weather could be an issue as the transfer would occur in early to mid-March. Members discussed marking or use of GPS to allow identification of the trail after snowfall. Langshaw also distributed a White River spring Chinook marking strategy for BY06. As of Oct. 1, 2007 there are 144,834 BY06 White River spring Chinook which will need to be acclimated and released starting in March 2008. Under the proposal, a total of 20,000 fish will be used for evaluation of acclimation at the RM 10.5 site. These fish will be marked with a coded-wire tag (CWT). Of those fish, 5,000 will also receive a PIT-tag to determine migration timing and smolt-to-smolt evaluations. Truscott noted that the number of fish PIT-tagged may need to be adjusted and suggested using Chiwawa smolt-to-smolt survival to guide the number. Langshaw will examine the data and make a determination and re-send the proposal to Subcommittee members. Following the tour and finalization of a plan to move the fish, the proposal will be revised and formally submitted to the USFS.

XIII. White River Update

- A. BKD and Acclimation Evaluations – (see above RM 10.5 site)
- B. Brood Collection – Brood has already been collected and a contract for genetic analysis is in process, stated Langshaw. Samples will be collected on Oct. 24-25. Following contract finalization (4 to 6 weeks), analysis will begin. After analysis, any non-wild-by-wild brood can be incorporated into the F₂ program for acclimation and release as smolts.
- C. F1 and F2 Rearing by USFWS – The agenda item was inadvertently left off the US v OR tables for September, but are back on for approval this month, noted Langshaw. All indications are that approval will be received, stated Langshaw. Designs for F1 effluent treatment are nearly complete. Jacobs engineering is working with a water treatment expert.
- D. Rotary Screw Trap Operations – Langshaw distributed the September trapping summaries for both the White River and Nason Creek. Eight wild spring Chinook sub-yearlings were trapped in September, bringing the yearly wild sub-yearling catch to 33. No wild yearlings were trapped in September, but total for the year is 169. Half of the fish caught in September were mini-jacks, stated Langshaw, noting that on average the hatchery precocious fish were the smallest subset and the wild precocious fish were the largest.
- E. Site Evaluation – No updates.

XIV. Nason Creek Update – A test well at the Boyce property did not indicate sufficient water for a rearing site. Bedrock was reached at approximately 300 feet but only about eight feet (stated eight but it is 12) of potentially productive gravels were found, stated Langshaw. A pump test will be conducted on the gravels to determine if there is sufficient water for development of an acclimation site. A total of six wells have been drilled in the Upper Wenatchee Basin and none have resulted in sufficient water for a rearing facility. Locating a site for the Nason Creek program is proving very difficult, stated Langshaw. Evaluations continue.

- XV. Updates – Drohr – a letter was sent Sept. 28 from the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust to Bob Lohn of NMFS and Jeff Koenings of WDFW requesting a policy meeting to discuss the White River spring Chinook program. The issue will be discussed at the afternoon working group meeting. Members also discussed comments received to the HGMP. Langshaw is working on a draft response to individuals that provided comments.
- XVI. Next Meeting: November 15, 2007 Leavenworth