



FINAL Meeting Minutes

**Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee
CONFERENCE CALL**

**Thursday, April 5, 2007
2:00 - 3:30**

PRCC Committee 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

Participants (*denotes PRCC HSC member)

*Kirk Truscott, WDFW	*Jerry Marco, CCT
*Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD	Keely Murdoch, YN
Tom Dresser, Grant PUD	Denny Rohr, facilitator
*Tom Scribner, YN	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD

Action Items:

- **The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreed that the fish resource managers would do a risk assessment and identify measures that would reduce the risks of a summer Chinook fishery in the Entiat River prior to a PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee decision about whether the Entiat program would be part of Grant PUD’s summer Chinook mitigation responsibility.**

I. Agenda Review – Rohr welcomed participants and presented an outline of the meeting agenda.

II. Summer Chinook Program – Percentage Tributary Split - Entiat Program (*report from Russell on Grant’s position; Russell will have review information to the committee prior to conf call*) – Langshaw provided an overview of Grant PUD concerns over summer Chinook production in the Entiat River. Grant PUD is concerned that available facilities to accommodate 100,000 yearling spring Chinook are unknown and is not supportive of building new facilities, particularly for an experimental fishery with a potential impact to ESA-listed species. Langshaw further noted the availability of facilities which could capture unharvested adults (required to minimize interaction with wild spring Chinook) are uncertain. Scribner questioned the basis of Grant PUD’s concerns of impacts to non-target taxa. The ability to capture unharvested adults is uncertain, stated Langshaw. If capturing adults proves to be difficult, then Grant PUD would likely be held financially responsible for fixing the problem. Scribner asked if Grant PUD’s concerns would be alleviated if the resource managers were willing to take the risk and not make Grant PUD liable for associated costs. Langshaw noted that assurances would be needed that Grant PUD would not be liable for any fixes and that, in a tributary in which Grant PUD is not responsible for monitoring; there would be limited M&E activities. Truscott noted it is a legitimate issue to provide an assessment of the effect of a summer Chinook fishery on non-target species. Grant PUD is also concerned with the financial risk involved with fixing, monitoring and/or expanding the program. If the program does not result in a successful fishery and results in more fish on the spawning grounds, it would likely affect listed species, noted Langshaw. K. Murdoch validated

Grant PUD's concerns, but noted that if fish are adequately acclimated and a fish ladder is provided it would help alleviate some of those concerns. Langshaw agreed, but stated that existing facilities that meet that criteria are unknown, reiterating that Grant PUD would not commit capital funds to build new facilities in the Entiat for an unproven and experimental program. If existing facilities were used for the program, and down the road the program seems to be working, then new facilities could possibly be discussed, stated Langshaw. K. Murdoch noted the Entiat community would likely be more supportive of a summer Chinook program than White River residents are of a spring Chinook supplementation program, particularly if it only meant construction of a small acclimation facility with a fish ladder. She also stated that property is less expensive in the Entiat basin than it is on the Wenatchee River. Marco discussed the possibility of the Entiat being selected as a reference stream, which could result in spawning or competing of uncaptured summer Chinook adults with the reference population. Marco suggested the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee defer the issue to the Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team (HETT). The HETT is meeting April 9 and 10 and are scheduled to discuss the potential Entiat summer Chinook program, stated Langshaw. K. Murdoch noted it is a working group meeting to discuss references streams, but if there is time, further discussion about the potential Entiat program could occur. Truscott stated that spawning ground surveys done by USFWS should be looked at to determine spawning overlap. Murdoch noted the existence of an overlap between summer and spring Chinook in the Wenatchee River. Truscott suggested the Joint Fishery Parties make a concerted effort to conduct a risk evaluation and further develop diversion measures to address those risks. Langshaw and Marco indicated support for that approach. Because the spring Chinook Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) will be developed before those for summer Chinook, the risk analysis should occur prior to working on an HGMP for Entiat summer Chinook, stated Langshaw. Truscott noted that implementation of a summer Chinook production program in the Entiat is a PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee decision, and stated it would be difficult to alleviate all of Grant PUD's concerns. Once potential risks are evaluated and a plan to divert the potential risks and impacts, further discussion could occur. Scribner clarified that there is more M&E being conducted for summer Chinook than is indicated in Langshaw's list of concerns. Langshaw questioned whether there is enough data being collected to detect impacts, noting intensive monitoring, genetics studies, etc. would be required to do a full evaluation. The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreed that the resource managers would do a risk assessment and identify measures that would reduce the risks prior to a PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee decision about whether the Entiat program would be part of Grant PUD's summer Chinook mitigation responsibility. Langshaw suggested looking at the Turtle Rock program to examine where the fish are spawning. Scribner noted that a JFP meeting is scheduled for April 17 where further discussion will occur. Langshaw requested involvement when risks are being assessed. Truscott noted that fisheries managers need to put together the information for the analysis and that the time frame under which it could be accomplished is likely what would be discussed on April 17. Rohr requested an update on that discussion be provided at the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee April 19 meeting.

III. Potential Over-winter Acclimation at Dryden and Carlton Ponds (*Russell researched this subject as requested by Tom S, and will report on his findings*) – Langshaw spoke with Chelan and Douglas PUDs concerning the Dryden and Carlton facilities. Based on those discussions, Langshaw noted that while water temperature at Carlton would likely be too cold to keep it free from ice, Dryden seems to be a feasible over-winter acclimation site and should be further evaluated. Scribner requested Langshaw take an immediate look at how the groundwater necessary to keep the screens open in the winter at Dryden would be achieved. Marco noted his support for looking at over-wintering at both sites. Truscott stated that a water-warming program on the Chiwawa could be a model for the Carlton program (located at the Methow Fish Hatchery). Langshaw will provide an update on the Dryden and Carlton facilities at the April 19 meeting.

IV. Brief Updates

- a. Section 10 Permit status – Not yet issued.
- b. Status of Fish Transport - Transport of BY05 fish to net pens from Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery and AquaSeed Inc. is now complete. Three loads of fish (18 to a

- pound) from LWS had 55 mortalities. The fish transported to the net pens from AquaSeed had a higher mortality (5,500). Truscott noted that the AquaSeed fish (11 to a pound) suffered from post-transfer mortality. A report on the fish indicated the mortality was likely caused by smoltification and not from BKD.
- c. Rotary screw trap installation – operation is awaiting the Section 10 permit.
 - d. Newsletter mailing – 720 newsletters were mailed to White River and Nason Creek residents and landowners on March 30, 2007.
 - e. Using net pen fish for efficiency tests - Langshaw noted his concern with using net pen fish when it is unknown whether they are active migrants and suggested taking hatchery fish from the Wenatchee River smolt trap near Lake Wenatchee. This method could require additional permitting due to ESA issues. Scribner and Murdoch will explore using captured fish from the smolt trap near Lake Wenatchee for efficiency trials. Murdoch will also discuss permitting issues with NMFS and communicate the information to the subcommittee.
 - f. May 17 public meeting – a draft agenda is being developed.

V. Next Meeting, April 19, 2007, Grant PUD SeaTac Office, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm