



Meeting Minutes

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee

Thursday, May 22, 2008
Douglas PUD Auditorium
Wenatchee, WA

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Members

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

ATTENDEES: (*Denotes PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Member)

David Carie, USFWS*(by phone)	Jerry Marco, CCT*
Tom Scribner, YN*(by phone)	George Thompson, GCPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN*	Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Bob Pfeifer, WDFW	Chris Carlson, GCPUD
Greg Ferguson, Sea Springs	Debbie Williams, GCPUD
Dave Duvall, GCPUD	Denny Rohr, Facilitator
Julie Pyper, Chelan PUD (by phone)	

Action Items:

- **Ferguson will e-mail the Draft Facility Alternatives spreadsheet to Scribner.**
- **Grant PUD will present an acclimation site presentation at the June PRCC Hatchery meeting.**
- **Williams will determine if the FINAL Annual Trapping Report has been sent to the PRCC Hatchery committee.**

Decision Summary:

- **If consensus on the 12 year Sockeye Plan cannot be reached by PRCC Hatchery members after ONA gives their technical review presentation to the HCP in July, PRCC Hatchery members give approval to elevate this issue to the PRCC.**
- **Rohr will contact the HCP regarding a joint meeting in July with the PRCC HSC for the ONA presentation.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Agenda was reviewed with no additions made.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** –
 - March 20, 2008 meeting – Approved
 - April 17, 2008 meeting - Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed.
- V. **Fall Chinook**
 - A **Priest Rapids Hatchery design/VE study update** - Carlson explained that Grant PUD and WDFW have held several meetings regarding hatchery design. Grant PUD staff and engineering consultants have concluded that because significant changes are not being made to the hatchery, the VE study will not be conducted. Because WDFW is comfortable with the current design of the fish release channels, the original proposed design will not be used. Nichols and Carlson will meet with Jacobs Engineering next week to review hatchery designs developed to meet the mitigation needs of Grant PUD only. Grant PUD will present final hatchery designs to the PRCC Hatchery subcommittee upon completion. The foundation for the avian predation structure designed for the adult channel sections will be built into the concrete during the hatchery construction. If predator issues arise in the future, the foundation will be available for net installation. The Corp. expressed interested in Grant PUD raising 1.7 million fish to contribute to their mitigation last week during a meeting in Portland, and are currently looking for O & M monies to fund that production. Grant PUD has given the Corp an August 01, 2008 deadline to finalize their decision. Carlson noted the Corps optimism that the project would move ahead.
 - B **HGMP**
 - **Objectives** - Grant PUD continues work on all HGMPs. Internal discussion regarding how HSRG recommendations and WDOE anti-degradation requirements will affect HGMPs is ongoing.
 - **M & E** - Carlson noted that Murdoch’s comments regarding metrics for the Priest Rapids Hatchery M & E haven’t been incorporated yet, and are under review by Langshaw.
- VI. **Summer Chinook**

A **HGMP** - Scribner asked for review of Grant PUD proposed acclimation sites. **Ferguson will e-mail the Draft Facility Alternatives spreadsheet to Scribner.** Marco questioned if HGMPs are being developed prematurely based on preliminary HSRG recommendations. He noted a management strategy to develop a summer Chinook program above Rocky Reach Dam is one of the HSRGs recommendations, even though it is evident from the AHA model that the Methow couldn't sustain a wild population without a hatchery supplementation program. Marco stated the Colville's will not support mainstream collection because it is basically mining a population to maintain the Methow population. Collection of brood at Wells probably won't happen, stated Marco, because collecting adipose-present summer Chinook of unknown origin is not acceptable to the Colville's. Ferguson and PRCC Hatchery members discussed issues related to each acclimation site. (Refer to attached Draft Facility Alternatives spreadsheet). WDFW has urged Grant PUD to not take juveniles to acclimation sites until natural spawning in the river is complete. WDFW is concerned that diseases can be transmitted by spawning adults in the acclimation ponds. Pfeifer noted the risk of disease is lower when fewer adults are in the river. Ferguson noted it is unlikely that vast quantities of water will be found at Gloyd Springs, and other sites will be looked at for over wintering. Dryden Right Bank is a priority for Wenatchee over wintering acclimation. A water study will be undertaken to evaluate ground water capacity by Anchor Environmental at Dryden Right Bank. Scribner questioned why Dryden Right Bank has fewer issues than Dryden Pond. Ferguson stated because of minimal stream flow impact issues. Other program functions could also be performed at Dryden Right Bank, such as, adult holding, incubation of summer and spring Chinook, including Nason Creek, and also rearing. Anchor Environmental will conduct impact studies on other wells near Dryden Right Bank. Depending on HSRG recommendations, timelines will be developed for these sites. Methow acclimation continues to focus on Carlton Pond. **Grant PUD will present an acclimation site presentation at the June PRCC Hatchery meeting.**

VII. **Spring Chinook**

A **Spring Chinook management in Wenatchee Basin white paper (Yakama Nation-WDFW)** - Pfeifer explained that meetings were recently held with Heather Bartlett (WDFW) and the JFP regarding development of a comprehensive spring Chinook management plan for the Wenatchee basin, and some progress is being made. He hopes that resolution with the

Yakamas will be reached after an upcoming meeting with Steve Parker (YN). WDFW will allow Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, and the PRCC HSC to review the document after an agreement is reached, or it is clear when any significant issues are resolved between WDFW and the Yakama Nation. WDFW doesn't expect any major changes in the smolt production program management after the white paper is made public. Marco questioned if the white paper includes the Leavenworth Hatchery program. Pfeifer noted there are 2-3 paragraphs on the topic, noting the USFWS has scheduled a local meeting to discuss the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery program in the first week of June. Pfeifer noted some of the topics in the white paper's Table of Contents include: treatment of escapement goals, how we might meet TRT viability objectives, brood collection options to meet mitigation goals, and adult management options. Pfeifer noted that after AHA modeling, HSRG recommendations and WDFW findings were very similar. ESA permit modifications will have to be made to accomplish many of the things recommended in the draft.

B White River

- **HGMP – Section 10** – Work is ongoing.
- **Rotary screw trap** - Rohr e-mailed the White River screw trap summary to PRCC HSC committee. Murdoch stated a Chiwawa-style debris deflection system was installed on the 8' trap in the White River. Due to heavy debris loads coming down the river, the cone was pulled for two days. Murdoch noted the run is dwindling. Efficiencies with the 8 ft. rotary trap vs. the 5 ft. rotary trap are roughly double what were seen last year, Murdoch stated. Lights were installed on the Nason Creek 5 ft. rotary trap to facilitate work after dark. The Nason Creek trap was also pulled during high flows, and hasn't been able to run since. High RPMs of the rotary trap is causing de-scaling of the smolts Carlson explained that because the White River didn't have a lot of fish trapped in the past, it is difficult to get replicates to complete efficiency trials. Murdoch stated that efficiencies should be higher with the use of the 8 ft. trap. The 8 ft. trap belongs to the Yakama Nation, Murdoch expects it to last the season, but notes it is not ideal for long term use because of its age. Carlson stated Dresser was agreeable to Grant PUD building an 8 ft. trap for future use. Murdoch noted that efficiencies must remain lower than 20%. The annual trapping report has been prepared by Yakama Nation. **Williams will**

determine if the FINAL Annual Trapping Report has been sent to the PRCC Hatchery committee.

Murdoch noted the recent installation of a PIT tag antennae array at Nason Creek.

- **Short term temporary acclimation** – PRCC HSC members were e-mailed the White River Short Term Acclimation Report on 5/21/08. Ferguson stated Grant PUD has been working diligently to find acclimation sites in the White River. It has not been determined how WDOE anti-degradation studies will impact Grant PUD acclimation sites in the future. Ferguson noted access is an issue with sites upstream of the Sears Creek Bridge. WDFW owns property at this location and would allow low tech short term acclimation sites on their property. Scribner and Murdoch support testing acclimation sites before placement of fish. River seining will be tested at RM 11-Tall Timbers. Ferguson noted it is unlikely that other sites will have fish placed in them next April. PRCC Hatchery members decided that because of ownership issues, the lower White River oxbow site will not be utilized for acclimation. Ferguson questioned if the oxbow should be presented to the PRCC Habitat subcommittee as a future habitat project site. Use of a fixed seine within the river will be experimented with this summer using 20,000 fish. Marco questioned if it is possible to test with a larger seine that can accommodate more than 20,000. Ferguson didn't know of any reason that it couldn't be expanded in the future. Mesh size will be critical. The size of the fish in the river will help determine the size of mesh for the seine. Predation needs to be addressed. Ferguson explained that spring Chinook Lake Wenatchee net pen acclimation capacity numbers have changed. In the past all spring Chinook were acclimated in net pens or all were direct planted by truck. In the future, 110,000 spring Chinook will be acclimated in net pens at Lake Wenatchee and the remainder will be used to evaluate other acclimation strategies. The M & E plan hasn't been completed for the RM 11 site. As the in river seine concept is developed, Murdoch would like the committee to agree on the metrics of success for a study plan that include survival as one criteria of success. Ferguson questioned who would develop the study plan, and who will operate the site. Discussion will continue at the June PRCC HSC

meeting. **Scribner requested Grant PUD present a spring Chinook White River acclimation plan by the June PRCC HSC meeting.** PRCC Hatchery members approved of Grant PUD's decision to move forward with two acclimation tests at the RM-11 site on the White River. Marco noted the objective is short term acclimation in the White River, as opposed to net pen acclimation. He suggests leaving the numbers open ended, so they can be adjusted as comfort levels are reached with temporary acclimation sites. Adaptive management should be implemented once success of test sites has been determined. The PRCC Hatchery subcommittee is committed to acclimation in the White River by spring 2009.

- C **Nason Creek HGMP development** - Murdoch questioned what the timeline for HGMP development is. Dotson noted the PRCC Hatchery committee had previously agreed that HGMP development would wait until the WDFW-Yakama white paper is provided to Grant PUD and the PRCC Hatchery committee. Pfeifer stated WDFW realizes the spring Chinook permit expires in 2011, and is hoping to have the white paper developed within the next two months.

- **Rotary screw trap** – see discussion above.

VIII. **Sockeye**

- A **NMFS Letter** – Rohr noted he has had no contact from Petersen (NOAA) regarding the letter.
- B **Skaha Lake 12-year. Sockeye Study Plan Presentation** – A 12 year Skaha Lake Sockeye presentation was given by Duvall and Carlson. At the conclusion of the presentation, Carlson asked the PRCC Hatchery members for their support and questioned if this program fulfills Grant PUDs sockeye mitigation. Carlson stated O & M is currently shared by Chelan PUD, but Grant PUD is committed to funding the entire program if necessary. Estimated fry to smolt survival will be determined for BY2008. Marco noted obligation is in smolt production and questioned if the hatchery will be built to produce enough smolt to meet Grant PUD mitigation and if enough broodstock would be available to produce the brood. Carlson stated that the new hatchery will have the capacity to produce 5 million fry. Chelan PUD's mitigation obligation is 491,000 fry. In July, ONA will give a technical review to the HCP, noted Pyper. Scribner expressed his nervousness with this plan, stating, "In the HCP, they are looking for mitigation for lost sockeye adults, and ONA is not a signatory of the HCP." "The Yakama Nation will not sign off on a long term commitment to build hatcheries that don't

utilize SARs for the criteria to determine the success of the program. It isn't good enough to just produce the required 1,143,000 smolts if they don't convert to adults," stated Scribner. Dotson replied, "Grant PUD and the PRCC Hatchery subcommittee strive, per the 2006 Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement, to produce 1,143,000 smolts, not adults. Everyone involved agrees that adult return is the ultimate goal of any program, but conditions out of Grant's control (ocean, harvest, etc.) would make it impossible to use adult returns as the only criteria for success." Looking at adult returns is a part of evaluating a program, but the SSA doesn't use a set SAR as the determining factor if a program is working or not. Carlson explained that the number of smolts produced for out-migration is based on an agreement calculated by the parties to produce the desired amount of returning adults. Duvall stated an M & E is part of the program as was an agenda item of today's discussion. Grant PUD sent a letter to NMFS requesting that they determine if the study plan developed by ONA suffice as the HGMP. To date, Grant PUD has not received a response for their request from NMFS. Flow augmentation and habitat improvement are also mentioned as possible alternatives to hatchery released fish, according to the Settlement Agreement. Because of minimal success in the Wenatchee Basin, the Okanogan was looked at to produce the smolts required to meet Grant PUD mitigation. Scriber does not believe the Settlement Agreement needs to be re-opened because of this issue. Marco suggested using the M & E plan to determine if the program is returning adults to Skaha Lake or the Okanogan Basin. The M & E is to be updated every 5 yrs. After 12 years, the success of the program will be determined, and also if it will be continued. Marco stated, "This same argument could be made with the flow tools management plan. You can't tell if adult returns are part of the habitat success." Carlson noted these issues were addressed in the BAMP agreement, and that the smolt numbers were determined there. Scribner noted the BAMP smolt calculation is based on the return of adults. Dotson stated, "After M & E evaluations are looked at, Grant PUD will then determine if the program is successful." Marco explained that all fish are otolith marked, and broodstock sub-sampling would show if Skaha adults are being seen. When asked the difference between the Wenatchee and Okanogan sockeye programs. Scribner expressed his concern with the size of the investment, stating a Wenatchee program could be a smaller, more adaptive program. Carlson clarified that the 15 million dollar price tag is for the entire 12 year program, not just the hatchery development. Marco suggests the PRCC Hatchery committee

wait to discuss this issue until after ONA gives their technical review presentation to the HCP committee in July. Duvall noted that SAR data will be presented by ONA at the meeting. **If consensus on the 12 year Sockeye Plan cannot be reached by PRCC Hatchery members after ONA gives their technical review presentation to the HCP in July, PRCC Hatchery members give approval to elevate this issue to the PRCC. Rohr will contact the HCP regarding a joint meeting in July with the PRCC HSC for the ONA presentation.**

C **M & E Plan approval** – See discussion above.

IX. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 19, 2008 – Wenatchee, TBD