

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Tall Timbers Ranch

27875 White River Rd, Leavenworth, WA 98826-9557

Attendees

Bill Gale, USFWS
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Russell Langshaw (alt) GCPUD
Keely Murdoch (alt), YN
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Bob Pfeifer, WDFW
Tom Scribner, YN
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Patrick Donovan, Facilitator

Action Items

1. Patrick will follow up with Kim Hyatt to get an electronic version of the document entitled the “Okanogan Fish and Water Management Tool Project Assessments: Record of Management Strategy and Decisions for the 2005-2006 Fish-and-Water Year,” for distribution to the HSC and HCP.
2. Elizabeth will complete and distribute to the HSC for their final approval, revision summaries for past HSC meeting summaries (November 2008–February 2009).
3. Patrick will continue to add dates to the HSC calendar as they are submitted.
4. Elizabeth will follow up with Kris to determine if she has any final comments on the Nason Creek SOA.
5. Elizabeth will follow up with Ali Wick to determine the status of the HETT’s risk assessment template for the NTTOC combined assessment process.
6. Todd will send WDFW revised language as discussed and agreed upon for the Fall Chinook HGMP.
7. Todd will re-submit the Fall Chinook HGMP - as amended - to NOAA with a cover letter outlining the revised language.
8. Elizabeth will contact Kris to determine NOAA’s HGMP review and response timeline.
9. Jeff will send WDFW’s “pre-conceptual” Priest Rapids Hatchery drawings to Grant PUD and Elizabeth by October 30, 2009 for distribution to the HSC.
10. Grant PUD will conduct a feasibility and cost analyses of WDFW’s “pre-conceptual” Priest Rapids Hatchery drawings.

11. Tom will arrange to have YKFP present their proposal to move the YKFP's Yakima River fall Chinook program to the Priest Rapids Hatchery.
12. Elizabeth will draft an SOA identifying Carlton Pond as an alternate acclimation site, modeled after the Dryden LB SOA.
13. Kirk will send monthly reports on steelhead at the Cassimer Bar program to Elizabeth for distribution to the HSC.
14. Elizabeth will follow up with the HSC prior to the November meeting to collect suggestions for key areas of compression within the Nason Creek Hatchery implementation schedule.

Decisions

1. The HSC voted on and approved the Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plans as revised during the meeting.

Meeting Summary

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review** – Elizabeth McManus welcomed the Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) and reviewed the agenda items.

- II. Action Items Review & Other Committee Updates** – Elizabeth reviewed and provided updates to the action items identified during the September HSC meeting. The following items were discussed in substance:
 - A. PRCC Review/Approval of HSC Documents**: Elizabeth confirmed with Denny Rohr that the PRCC reviewed and approved the HSC's Operating Procedures with one edit. The edit was to the flow chart on committee and subcommittee responsibilities and was to make the language on the Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees more consistent. Furthermore, the PRCC has clarified that SOAs drafted by the HSC will only need to be reviewed by the PRCC if they address issues that the FERC license specifically indicates are under the preview of the PRCC.

 - B. Fall Chinook Workgroup**: The HSC discussed and agreed to hear monthly updates on the Fall Chinook Workgroup, specifically those updates concerning the Priest Rapids Hatchery and any M&E activities relevant to the PRCC (i.e. those pertaining to lamprey, sturgeon, or bull trout).

 - C. September Meeting Summary**: The HSC reviewed the September meeting summary and made a small number of corrections and clarifications. The revised

summary was then approved by the HSC. (A redline/strikeout draft showing changes and clarifications made will be posted to the secure HSC website.)

III. Non-Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC)

- A. Update and Discussion of Draft List Of Expert Panelists and Letter of Interest for the Assessment Exercise** - The HCP finalized the list of expert panelists and letter of interest to experts. At their October 13, 2009 meeting, the HETT created a risk assessment template, which will be filled out to provide factual background information for panelists. The HSC discussed and agreed that the assessment template should be distributed to the HCP and HSC prior to its distribution to the panelists. Elizabeth will follow up with Ali Wick to determine the status of the risk assessment template.
- B. Path Forward/ Next Steps** – The HSC agreed to hear an update on the combined risk assessment process at the next meeting.

IV. Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E Plan

- A. Remaining Issues and Discussion** - Todd briefed the HSC on the current status of the Fall Chinook HGMP and M&E plans. The HSC discussed and agreed to add language within the Fall Chinook HGMP requiring Grant PUD to consult WDFW and the JFP prior to executing the option to collect broodstock from the left bank ladder of the Priest Rapids Dam.
 - B. Voting and Next Steps** - The HSC voted on and approved the Fall Chinook HGMP & M&E plans as revised during the meeting. WDFW's approval is contingent upon further review of the added language. Todd will distribute the revised language to Jeff and Bob. Todd will re-submit the HGMP as amended to NOAA with a cover letter outlining the revised language.
- V. Sockeye HGMP** - Todd briefed the HSC on the status of the sockeye HGMP, which relies on a sockeye reintroduction plan developed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance's (ONA). The HSC discussed and agreed to review and vote on the Sockeye HGMP during their November meeting. Elizabeth will send a follow up email to the HSC reminding them to download and review the last version (September 30) of the Sockeye HGMP.

VI. Update on Remaining Plans (HGMPs, APPs and M&Es) – Todd provided a status update on Grant PUD’s HGMPs, APPs and M&E plans. To date all Grant PUD’s plans have been submitted to NOAA. It is the HSC’s general understanding that NOAA’s HGMP review and response process will entail a high-level review of each plan and the distribution of a corresponding response letter to its creator spelling out the contents of the plan. Drafting agencies will be responsible for confirming the accuracy of NOAA’s response letter. Elizabeth will contact Kris to determine NOAA’s HGMP review and response timeline specific to Grant PUD.

VII. Priest Rapids Hatchery Design

A. Update and Discussion of Site Visit by WDFW, USFWS, and Grant PUD – Jeff briefed the HSC on the outcome of a site visit of the Priest Rapids Hatchery on September 30, 2009 by WDFW, USFWS, and Grant PUD. The site visit was organized to provide an opportunity for further discussion of design concerns, fish handling issues, and site constraints. As a result of the site visit WDFW indicated during a follow up meeting on October 19, 2009 they would draw back concerns with the hatchery’s location, but continue to request that Grant PUD revise the hatchery’s design so as to mechanize fish handling at the adult trap and holding pond (including providing for use of anesthetic). Jeff will send WDFW’s “pre-conceptual” Priest Rapids Hatchery drawings to both Grant PUD and Elizabeth by October 30, 2009 for distribution to the HSC for review. Based on these drawings, Grant PUD will be able to develop specific estimates of the cost and time that changes to the facility design would add to the process. Todd indicated that completion of the hatchery rebuild will be delayed by any changes; the question is just by how much. There is a very small construction window at Priest Rapids, which complicates the scheduling and progress. The HSC recommended Grant PUD to counter any delays in the Priest Rapids hatchery rebuild with visible progress in other projects (i.e. the Nason Creek Hatchery).

B. Path Forward or Next Steps – The HSC discussed and agreed to have Grant PUD conduct a feasibility and cost analysis of WDFW’s “pre-conceptual” Priest Rapids Hatchery drawings and to provide a written response addressing any corresponding delays in the hatchery’s construction. The HSC further discussed and agreed that if agreement could not be reached on the suggested hatchery design changes that raising the issues to the PRCC was still a possibility. November agenda item: HSC update and review of Grant PUD’s time and cost estimates regarding WDFW’s “pre-conceptual” drawings for the Priest Rapids Hatchery.

VIII. YKFP Yakima River Fall Chinook Proposal

- A. Update/ discussion of YKFP's Proposal:** Tom briefed the HSC on recent discussions between the Yakama/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP) and Grant PUD regarding a proposal to move the egg collection for the YKFP's Yakima River 1.7-million fall Chinook program to the Priest Rapids Hatchery. The YKFP's proposal would require a design change to the hatchery, adding capacity for additional brood holding.
- B. Path Forward/ Next Steps -** The HSC agreed to have the YKFP present their proposal to move the YKFP's Yakima River fall Chinook program to the Priest Rapids Hatchery and an update on the YN's summer Chinook re-introduction program during the November HSC meeting. The HSC discussed and agreed that future discussions were needed around the potential to prioritize programs receiving eggs from the Priest Rapids Hatchery.

IX. Dryden Left Bank and Carlton

- A. Update/ discussion of HCP's discussion of Dryden Left Bank -** The HCP is moving forward with an SOA on Dryden LB mirroring that of the HSC's. Grant PUD requested drawings of the Dryden LB pond from Chelan PUD and is currently assessing potential intake locations. The HSC discussed and agreed to hear an update on the HCP's Dryden LB SOA process during their November meeting.
 - B. Update/ Discussion of Carlton Pond –** Todd updated the HSC on recent discussion between Grant, Chelan and Douglas PUDs regarding the Carlton pond as an alternate acclimation site, similar to the plan for the Dryden LB pond. Grant PUD requested drawings from Chelan PUD and upon receiving them will evaluate the technical aspects of overwintering at Carlton Pond. Elizabeth will draft an SOA on exploration of the Carlton Pond as an acclimation site, modeled after the SOA on the Dryden LB pond.
- X. Update on the Cassimer Bar Fish Program and Fish Kill -** Kirk briefed the HSC on the status of the Cassimer Bar fish program. The CCT has just started generating monthly status reports for the program (for Grant PUD) and will begin to provide monthly updates to the HSC. Kirk further addressed a steelhead mortality event that occurred on September 21, 2009. A power outage at the facility followed by a pump malfunction led to deficient oxygen levels and resulted in loss of approximately 5,500 steelhead. CCT notified NOAA within 48 hours of the mortality event.

- XI. Progress on Finding Multi-Species Acclimation Sites in the Upper Methow** – Tom provided the HSC with an update on the YN’s draft multi-species acclimation plan for the upper Methow. The YN is moving forward with the implementation of their acclimation plan. The HSC discussed key parameters of an appropriate acclimation site within the Upper Methow and suggested that it be located above Fog Horn Dam. The HSC agreed to further discuss how best to frame the multi-species acclimations site within the Methow Spring Chinook HGMP. Tom will provide Grant PUD with updates on the multi-species acclimation sites in the Upper Methow to include within the status reports available on the secure website.
- XII. Progress on Detailed Study Plan for Acclimation Activities for the White River Spring Chinook BY 2008** – Russell briefed the HSC on the draft study plan for acclimation activities for the White River spring Chinook BY 2008. The draft study plan reflects previously discussed release locations (i.e., net pens, downstream of Lake Wenatchee near the lake outlet, and rivermile 11.5) in addition to a new location at McComas. Elizabeth will follow up with Kris to update her on the HSC’s discussion of the release locations and whether they are covered by existing permits. The HSC discussed options for transporting fish to the potential release locations and recommended that Grant PUD consider transporting fish via “Fly Box”, which entails fish being dipped out of net pens and flown by helicopter to the release sites. The HSC discussed and agreed to have Russell provide monthly updates on acclimation activities for the White River spring Chinook BY 2008.
- XIII. Discussion of HSC Review of Implementation Schedules** – The HSC briefly considered the Nason Creek Hatchery implementation schedule and agreed to review the schedule in more detail at the November meeting with an eye towards identifying key areas where timeframes could be compressed. Permitting and the overall hatchery construction timeframe were identified as key areas of focus. Jeff will explore WDFW’s relationship with the Washington State Department of Ecology to determine if the Nason Creek Hatchery permitting process can be expedited. Elizabeth will follow up with the HSC prior to the November meeting to collect suggestions for key areas of compression within the implementation schedule. The HSC discussed and agreed to have Grant PUD provide a breakdown of the assumptions that have gone into creating the anticipated construction timeframe for each component of the Nason Creek Hatchery. The HSC also agreed to review the White River implementation schedule during their November meeting.
- XIV. FWI’s Nason Creek Water Assessment** – Todd briefed the HSC on the outcome of Fresh Water Institute’s (FWI’s) Nason Creek water source assessment on October 12,

2009. FWI's assessment focused on Ozone and UV as the two primary methods of water treatment. The variation in water transparency will be the primary factor determining which water treatment method is used. The final assessment will include recommendations on backup/alternative water sources for the hatchery. The HSC agreed to hear an update on the final conclusions of FWI's water source assessment during their January meeting. As part of this discussion the HSC revisited the issue of the experimental design component of the Nason Creek facility. The HSC reviewed their SOA on the issue and confirmed key dimensions of that previous agreement including that the hatchery will be designed to run on all treated water for the specified life stages in the SOA, any experiment will not begin until after the hatchery "shake down" is complete which will be years after beginning operations, and that the details of the experiment will be defined in part by what is learned during shake down, but that depending on the experimental results there is the potential that the JFP might agree to less water treatment over time.

XV. Facilitator Evaluation – The HSC carried out a facilitator evaluation in accordance with their operating procedures. Results of the evaluation were combined and presented to Elizabeth and Patrick in matrix form (see attached). The results of the evaluation were satisfactory and no change in facilitation is requested for the next year.

XVI. Wrap-Up / Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2009 – Cedars Inn

B. Review of October Meeting Agenda Items

- Review of Nason Creek and White River implementation schedules.
- Sockeye HGMP – Voting.
- Update on Priest Rapids Hatchery design issues, and decision to elevate to the PRCC (if needed).
- Update on NTOC combined risk assessment process, specifically the risk assessment template.
- Presentation on the YKFP's proposal to move the Yakima River fall Chinook program to the Priest Rapids Hatchery.
- Update on the Dryden LB process.
- Update on acclimation activities for the White River spring Chinook BY 2008.
- Update on the Fall Chinook workgroup.

XVII. Site Visits - After the formal meeting, many of the HSC members adjourned to visit a number of current and potential future activity sites in the upper White River and Nason

Creek areas. These include: Tall Timbers Ranch and McComas acclimation sites, Boyce-Youngsman site (i.e. Nason Creek hatchery site), and the White River rotary screw trap site.