

PUBLIC MEETING
PRCC HATCHERY SUBCOMMITTEE

Saturday, August 26, 2006
9:00 – 12:00
Lake Wenatchee Recreational Center
14400 Chiwawa Loop Rd.

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Denny Rohr, PRCC Facilitator
- II. Agenda Review
- III. NASON CREEK DISCUSSION
 - A. Why are we here: Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
 - B. What are we doing: Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD
- IV. WHITE RIVER UPDATE
 - A. Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD
- V. Closing Comments

FINAL MINUTES

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Denny Rohr, PRCC Facilitator** – Rohr welcomed attendees on behalf of the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Hatchery Subcommittee and introduced subcommittee members in attendance, including Kris Petersen of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Kirk Truscott of Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Tom Dresser and Russell Langshaw of Grant County Public Utility District, and Keely Murdoch of Yakama Nation. Rohr also encouraged attendees to use the following contact avenues for further information about the program: www.gcpud.org/stewardship/whiteriver.html; call 1-800-422-3199, ext. 2248, or e-mail *smorfor@gcpud.org*.
- II. Agenda Review**
- III. NASON CREEK DISCUSSION**

UCR spring Chinook salmon supplementation
Nason Creek/White River public meeting
FINAL minutes
August 26, 2006

- A. **Presentation: Why are we here? Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation** – Murdoch provided background on the Wenatchee Basin Upper Columbia River spring Chinook salmon supplementation program. Efforts to restore Wenatchee Basin spring Chinook began in 1999 when the species was listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Requirements of the program are covered under the May 2004 Biological Opinion issued by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service for the Priest Rapids Project, which is part of Grant PUD's comprehensive mitigation program, including the 2006 Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement, and the 2004 Hanford Reach Agreement - agreements which are supported by regional fish managers, including National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Colville Confederated Tribes, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Yakama Nation. Murdoch explained that supplementation is an action which increases adult abundance in addition to being an important tool for recovery and mitigation for hydropower impacts, including fish loss through Grant County PUD's Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams.

Audience Question/Comment: Are all agencies supportive of supplementation?

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: Fishery managers are in agreement that this is the best way now to recover the Wenatchee spring Chinook population.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: The fishery managers recognize the uncertainties in terms of the program's long-term success. When compared to a conventional hatchery program, supplementation is our best enhancement effort.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Monitoring the hatchery programs are an important component and will aid in our understanding of the uncertainties of hatchery supplementation.

Audience Question/Comment: Has anyone done a study on the bull trout population in Lake Wenatchee?

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is conducting telemetry studies, but no one from that agency is in attendance at today's meeting.

Audience Question/Comment: The abundant bull trout population eats spring Chinook salmon. The program will not succeed because of that abundance.

Audience Question/Comment: How many spring Chinook will be affected by bull trout in the Wenatchee?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: I don't personally know of any models that have looked at predation effects

of bull trout on Nason Creek Upper Columbia River spring Chinook. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can address that issue. (Rohr noted that information would be provided to those concerned at a later date).

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: The species we're talking about today is spring Chinook. It is true that coho, spring Chinook and bull trout have historically been in these waters and that these species work out their places in these streams. I agree that the bull trout population here is robust.

Audience Question/Comment: Because bull trout aren't being caught there is no balance.

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: Certainly bull trout will feed on spring Chinook salmon and other small fish, but we're working on an ecological balance between all of the species.

Presentation – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: Nason Creek was possibly the largest producer of spring Chinook in the region. Until habitat is improved and the population can be wholly self sustaining, supplementation will help maintain population abundance and spatial diversity. From 1981 to 2005, an average 257 natural origin adult spring Chinook return to spawn in Nason Creek, ranging from a low of 18 fish in the mid 1990s to a high of 746 in the mid 1980s. While recent returns have improved, data indicates that the species is dangerously depressed. Nason Creek spring Chinook have low productivity and the species will not likely recover on its own. It is also not enough to weather downturns in survival due to drought or ocean conditions. The fish that spawned in 2001 may have the lowest adult replacement rate yet (approx 0.05), but data will not be complete until 2007.

Audience Question/Comment: What is the cause of the decline?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: 2001 was an extremely low flow year. We're working on ongoing habitat improvement, supplementation, and improvements on the mainstem, such as installation of advanced turbines and fish bypass units.

Audience Question/Comment: Define spawning escapement.

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: It is the term used to designate the number of fish that make it back to the tributary to spawn.

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: It's important to differentiate escapement from the word 'run,' which are those fish which attempt to make it up the river, but don't all make it to the spawning grounds, from "escapement," which is just those that make it to the spawning grounds.

Audience Question/Comment: I liken spring Chinook restoration to cattle ranching. There is no brood herd, so why are we fishing on spawning grounds? At some point we have to look at man's effect on declining species. Aside from those harvested under treaty rights, the rest of us shouldn't touch them.

Audience Question/Comment: Were there any fish laws that changed during those 20 years?

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: Some of the fishing in the lower river changed in the late 1990s. Historically, there were not a lot of restrictions, so harvest was impacting natural origin stock. Now we operate fisheries much more conservatively. Some runs are abundant, some are not. Fish managers have really stepped up to the plate in not targeting depressed stocks, while allowing fisheries on stocks that are abundant, such as summer Chinook. Upper Columbia River spring Chinook stocks have not been targeted in lower river fisheries in many years.

Audience Question/Comment: Did heavy logging in the 1980s on the Little Wenatchee, White and Chiwawa affect spawning beds?

Answer – Cameron Thomas, U.S. Forest Service: We conduct sediment sampling. On the Chiwawa, there are naturally high sediments with little change. Lower in the basin, where there was a lot of logging, the tributaries are smaller and at a lower elevation where spring Chinook don't spawn. We have also done sampling in Nason Creek. The earliest was in 1993 to 1995 after the high waters in 1990. Some reaches were below 20 percent fine material, some just above. The 1990 flood probably put a lot of that sediment in. We did just one set of samples last year and are doing them again this year. The average is 17% on Nason Creek, but I wouldn't draw any conclusions from that.

B. Presentation: What are we doing? Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD -

There are three fundamental needs for adult-based supplementation programs: 1) a way to capture and a place to hold adults until spawned, 2) a place to incubate and rear their offspring, and 3) a place to acclimate and release juveniles. Grant PUD purchased two parcels earlier this year. One parcel is along the White River, and the other location is along Nason Creek. Grant PUD is interested in two other parcels. One parcel, a potential weir sight, is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the second parcel is in private ownership and could be a potential acclimation site. It is about 1.25 miles upriver from Lake Wenatchee. A weir needs to be located as low as possible on the river.

Audience Question/Comment: What interest do the utilities have in this program?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Grant PUD owns and operates Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams and those projects cause fish mortality. The Nason Creek spring Chinook program is one of several being implemented to mitigate for those losses. Grant PUD has mitigation requirements, including 95% fish survival and implementation of habitat projects. Supplementation is a way to help Grant PUD mitigate for those species affected by dam passage. Other utilities with requirements include Douglas and Chelan PUDs. The requirement for this program is outlined in the May 2004 Biological Opinion issued by National Marine Fisheries Service.

Audience Question/Comment: Have you thought of doing away with the dam? Maybe that would be easier.

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: The Priest Rapids Project serves many power purchasers. The Project is one of the largest facilities in the nation for power production.

Audience Question/Comment: What is the holding pond where Butcher Creek enters Nason Creek?

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: It was originally a beaver pond with a Washington State Department of Transportation footing. Now, the Yakamas use it as a coho acclimation site.

Audience Question/Comment: There are many unintentional dams in this area, e.g., Rainy Creek, Sears Creek, etc. These affect flows significantly. Do you know the hatchery property on the White River flooded during the spring?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: There are potential habitat funds which can be used for such projects. We're aware of the flooding on that property.

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Several abandoned channels are targeted for reconnection by Chelan County. The Cascade Gardens parcel is on U.S. Forest Service-managed property with a Washington State Department of Transportation easement. The weir is to collect adults and potentially manage returning fish. Escapement goals will drive the percentage captured.

Audience Question/Comment: Will you be catching both native and hatchery fish?

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: We want to create a stock that is best for the population. We will collect some natural original fish from Nason

Creek. The percentage depends on the size of the run. The criteria for NOAA include a minimum percentage - likely a total broodstock need of about 150 fish. Minimum criteria for natural origin fish would be 30 to 50 percent, depending on the run. And the collection would happen in a minimum amount of time. The weir would not obstruct movement of any other species of fish. The weir is designed to be as minimally intrusive to meet the goal of supplementation. The site was picked for its location in the river.

Audience Question/Comment: Isn't that where the debate is?

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: It is an uncertainty. A hatchery stock that hasn't had a chance to go through the natural selection process in the river won't reproduce in the river. We're trying to conduct a program that addresses that situation.

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: That is exactly how the Chiwawa River supplementation program works, which I believe is a successful program.

Audience Answer - Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: The supplementation program has not hindered natural production and has provided additional hatchery origin fish coming back to spawn. The question that we haven't evaluated properly is, "Has it increased the run size?" We're in the process of doing that through a monitoring and evaluation program.

Audience Question/Comment: I hope you will also examine fish fitness.

Audience Answer - Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: We're trying to answer the uncertainty of, "When hatchery fish come back, do they spawn successfully?" The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, with BPA (Bonneville Power Administration) funding, is trying to answer that question with Chinook. Some of the new science shows that there are potential impacts from just one generation in the hatchery. I think everybody here recognizes that supplementation programs are experimental and that monitoring and evaluating them is essential.

Audience Question/Comment: What is the ratio of spawning cross (male to female):

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Generally one to one.

Audience Question/Comment: Are there any other salmon spawning in Nason?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Coho, steelhead, and spring Chinook.

Audience Question/Comment: On the White River, there is a population of sockeye. I understand they will have to be gotten rid of for the spring Chinook to survive?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Not at all. In fact it will assist in the program's success.

Audience Question/Comment: Can Tumwater Dam be used for collection?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: There is that possibility, but the technology to do so is not available currently. We are looking at it.

Answer – Joe Miller, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Promising genetic markers make collection at Tumwater a possibility. As a management tool, genetic markers are being used more and more. We hope that at some point we can collect at Tumwater. But at this point it's not ready to go.

Audience Question/Comment: Will the population go extinct before that happens?

Answer – Joe Miller, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: We are optimistic that the supplementation program will be successful.

Audience Question/Comment: Can (Chuck) Peven speak to the straying in the Chiwawa?

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Our monitoring and evaluation information in the past five years has shown a fairly large percentage of Chiwawa fish are coming back to the White River, Nason Creek, and the upper Wenatchee River. We are currently trying to manage the water supply system differently which we believe is causing the straying. A weir on Nason Creek could determine which are Chiwawa fish and return them to the proper stream.

Audience Question/Comment: It seems that there should be coordination between Chelan, Douglas and Grant PUDs on evaluation.

Answer – Russ Langshaw, Grant PUD: The three utilities do work together.

Answer – Cameron Thomas, U.S. Forest Service: There are coordinated monitoring efforts; an overarching framework for the watershed. There is also a clearing house meeting held in the spring to communicate about which studies are being examined.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board has a regional technical team which is a key coordination group.

Audience Question/Comment: When someone is on the property, we would like them to be in marked vehicles. And please ask before trespassing on private property.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Certainly.

Audience Question/Comment: Is monitoring of the program done independently? Including development of the study design?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Grant PUD sends out requests for proposals and receives submissions from the agencies and tribes. The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee decides what information needs to be gathered. Grant PUD then drafts a study plan which is in turn reviewed by the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee for its objectives. Grant PUD then goes through the process of getting the work done.

Audience Question/Comment: Is there anyone on the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee who doubts the supplementation program?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Sure some of us have questions, but the group is working together in a very professional setting.

Audience Question/Comment: Are there people who think there are other things that would be more effective than supplementation?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: The Priest Rapids Project has impacts on Endangered Species Act listed species. Grant PUD has to mitigate for fish loss through the Project. Supplementation has been identified as the best tool for that mitigation.

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: Grant PUD has a different role on the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee than the other fish managers, but the managers all endorse supplementation as one tool toward salmon recovery. We all recognize the uncertainties with supplementation, but as a concept, the fish managers agree that supplementation is appropriate and that it is the best tool to boost the population.

Audience Question/Comment: How did we go from 40 Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (identified in the May 2004 Biological Opinion issued by National Marine Fisheries Service) for mitigation, to selecting supplementation as the only one that will be used or will work?

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: The Biological Opinion is on operation of Priest Rapids Project. The White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook supplementation programs are only two of the 40 alternatives.

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Other Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives include performance standards at the Project, installation of advanced turbines at Wanapum, construction of juvenile bypass facilities at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams, and alternative spill patterns at the Project. Grant PUD is implementing all 40 alternatives.

Audience Question/Comment: Does the Biological Opinion mandate supplementation?

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: In this case it does because National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that the Project is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an ESA-listed species. In this consultation, if Grant PUD does all of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives, their activities covered by the BiOp won't jeopardize the species. This meeting today is for us to get your input for this program to succeed. We very honestly want and need your help to make it a success.

Audience Question/Comment: A lot of us believe that you are willing to destroy a waterway for this mandate.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We do consider the impacts of all our activities. Sometimes they are overlooked, but we try to evaluate all potential impacts and then address them.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: The agencies involved in these projects recognize that supplementation in and of itself is not going to recover a listed stock. Habitat restoration is also critical to the process. The utilities all have habitat mitigation requirements as well.

Audience Question/Comment: What can the public do to help boost the population?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Our request is that we want to the public to stay involved. Some of those who have been involved in the White River program have seen it change significantly in the last year, based on what we heard from the public.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Another option for the public is to become involved in the watershed planning that is being led by Chelan County.

Audience Question/Comment: A channel reconnection program could potentially have an effect on the design of the weir. Are you aware of that?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The issue was discussed recently within the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee and we should begin discussions with Chelan County about coordinating efforts.

Audience Question/Comment: Salmon recovery is complex and can cause a disconnect between those working on it. I am looking forward to the day we take a good look at how things work together. Please encourage landowners to get involved in the process.

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The weir design was developed in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service as part of the permit application process.

Audience Question/Comment: How would this weir affect flood waters?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It would hopefully minimize the impacts to flows. The pickets have inflatable bladders that can be deflated to let flows and debris go over the top of the weir.

Answer – Cameron Thomas, U.S. Forest Service: The abutment design would not impede flood flow.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: When not trapping, most of the weir is removable.

Audience Question/Comment: Who are the permitting agencies and what is the permitting process?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: There are about 25 needed permits, including JARPAs (Joint Aquatic Resource Permits Application), SEPAs (State Environmental Policy Act), and Biological Assessments. It is a very intensive and lengthy process.

Audience Question/Comment: Aren't you exempt from permitting through the FERC process?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: No, in fact our bar is probably a little higher.

Audience Question/Comment: If the side channel is restored what will happen with the weir?

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We hope to work with Chelan County to do both projects.

Audience Answer – Mike Kaputa, Chelan County: The Coles Corner project will retain 80 to 90 percent of the flow in Nason Creek.

Audience Question/Comment: Will the weir cause a build-up of silt?

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: This is designed to be at stream-bed level, so it is not likely to happen.

Audience Question/Comment: With weirs on Nason Creek, White River and Chiwawa River, is one planned for the Little Wenatchee River?

Langshaw, Grant PUD: To my knowledge, no. And the White River weir is under discussion.

Audience Question/Comment: Will there be additional mitigation at the weir site and is it a possibility that the land could be turned over to Chelan Douglas Land Trust?

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: As part of the permitting process, we will have to mitigate for impacts to the weir site. Lands involved with habitat restoration and purchased with Grant PUD Habitat Funds could be held by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.

Audience Question/Comment: Will the weir be operated seven days a week?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: The weir would not necessarily need to be operated seven days a week. For example, the Chiwawa weir is up for four days and down for three days each week.

Audience Question/Comment: How long does it take to collect the 150 fish?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Generally it would be mid-June through first week in August when fish start spawning.

Audience Question/Comment: Is Nason Creek rafted in summer? Will the holding pens be in the way?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Not very often in the particular stretch being considered for the weir. The holding pens for the rearing and acclimation site are not in the river.

Answer – Cameron Thomas, USFS: The stretch of the river will be well signed.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Safety issues are paramount and factored into the design. The weir will also be staffed during operation.

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The potential rearing site is on a terrace approximately 30 feet above the channel. What kind of vessels will be used has not been determined. There would be a small office for staff and a broodstock holding/spawning area. An existing shed would be used for storage. Water will be pumped from a well or from the surface of Nason Creek to a head box and flow by gravity to the rest of the facility. The only structure in the stream at this site would be the intake and outflow structures.

Audience Question/Comment: The property is basically residential. What will the aesthetics be like?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The intent is to minimize impacts. There will be a one-story structure and fencing for security. The intent is to work with adjacent and local landowners to minimize impacts.

Audience Question/Comment: At what point is a SEPA checklist done?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: These are just concepts for discussions. SEPA is down the road and will happen prior to any construction.

Audience Question/Comment: We are adjacent landowners. Surveyors have been on our private land.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD – To my knowledge, surveys have not been conducted at this location yet.

Answer - Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: I will follow-up to make sure landowners are notified when staff is on their property.

Audience Answer - Mike Kaputa, Chelan County: It could have been Bureau of Reclamation or Chelan County staff.

Audience Question/Comment: What kind of blowers will be used (for aeration and degassing) and will they cause a noise issue?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Typically, degassing towers are used where water is pumped to the top of a tower and gravity flows down, so there shouldn't be a noise issue.

Audience Question/Comment: Will you be non-consumptive user of water?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: That is our objective.

Audience Question/Comment: Would you discharge water into the stream?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: If the water right is non-consumptive, then only water that has come from the stream.

Audience Question/Comment: Would chemicals be used?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It depends on the particular facilities. There is potential for chemical use.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: It would be compliant with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Audience Question/Comment: How long will this process take?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Likely two to three years.

Audience Question/Comment: Can this facility be used for other species?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Each fish species has different requirements; facilities could potentially be used for another species. Based on the size of the parcel and design of the facility, however, it will like be used solely for spring Chinook.

Audience Question/Comment: Would the Yakama Nation use the weir to trap coho?

Answer – Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation: The weir could be used to trap other species, but for the Yakama Nation to use it for the coho program, extensive permitting would have to take place.

Audience Question/Comment: Will someone be living in the building prior to construction?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Grant is having internal discussions on how to handle the facility until construction begins

Audience Question/Comment: What is the total cost for this project?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: There is no estimate yet. It's hard to predict because we're not into final design stage.

Audience Question/Comment: How does presence of this facility affect re-opening of sport fishing?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Getting the species off the ESA list is the best route to opening sport fishing, but this facility would not preclude fishery opportunities.

Audience Question/Comment: Would it operate year round?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: That hasn't been discussed yet. It would not if used just for overwinter acclimation, but to conduct a full program, it would need to operate year round.

Audience Question/Comment: Could this be a full-blown hatchery?

Audience Question/Comment: Could Indians be involved in its operation?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It could be a full-blown hatchery and there is the potential for any number of tribes, agencies and other governmental entities to be involved.

Audience Question/Comment: Has the Section 10 permit been submitted?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The Hatchery Genetic Management Plan is being worked on. We hope to have it done for the Nason Creek program in a year, minimum.

Audience Question/Comment: Is it the hope that these facilities would be temporary?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: That is everyone's goal, but as with any structure there is some permanence.

Audience Question/Comment: What kind of variances will be required?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: There are two conditions: 200 foot setback or based on mean width of property.

Audience Answer – Mike Kaputa, Chelan County: For lots that are shallow or unusually shaped, the standard is 25 percent of the lot width.

Audience Question/Comment: Where would the entrance be?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It depends on the ultimate facility design.

Audience Answer – Mike Kaputa, Chelan County: There is a public process where everyone within 300 feet of the property would be notified as part of the permitting process.

Audience Question/Comment: What were the results of Chiwawa monitoring?

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Supplementation has not reduced natural productivity, but what we can't say is if it has added to the population. We are now asking that question.

Audience Question/Comment: Why not wait until you are sure the Chiwawa program has done some good before you implement the Nason Creek program?

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Grant PUD could use the information learned from the Chiwawa program. From my perspective, there was no reason not to move forward with Nason Creek supplementation based on the information gained from the Chiwawa program.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We have seven years from the issuance of the Biological Opinion to commence production. Monitoring is system-dependent; meaning results from the Chiwawa wouldn't necessarily apply to Nason Creek.

Audience Question/Comment: What if the monitoring is not working or indicates negative affects.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Adaptive management will be used. The Chiwawa program is a good example. They are seeing strays so they are addressing that issue.

Audience Question/Comment: What numbers are being collected at the Chiwawa?

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: About 379.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: The actuals are less than that because of total run size; because a certain number have to be natural origin.

Audience Question/Comment: That's been happening for 17 years?

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: For the past five or six years, we have only put the weir in the river four days a week. This year it was delayed because of high flows.

Audience Question/Comment: You've been gathering data for 17 years and can only say that supplementation has not reduced natural productivity.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: We've learned a lot about asking the right questions and gathering the right information.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Monitoring and evaluation for these programs are on the cutting edge. There is no work like that going on in any other hatchery programs.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, WDFW: Although the program has been operating for 17 years, spring Chinook have 5- to 6-year life histories, therefore it requires many years of data collection (multiple generations) before conclusions regarding efficacy can be made.

Audience Question/Comment: How much data is available from old hatchery facilities in the early 1900s?

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: The first hatchery was in Tumwater Canyon and they operated it for very few years and then moved the hatchery to Leavenworth, because they couldn't get the fish up there. That hatchery operated for about 10 years, but harvest was so heavy, there were very few coming back to the Wenatchee Basin. They brought in eggs from places as far away as Oregon. It's been shown that that method is ineffective.

Audience Question/Comment: It seems prudent to be cautious.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We are being cautious.

Audience Question/Comment: Sounds like you are committing to an idea you are not sure works. I would rather you wait for the Chiwawa program's data.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Nason Creek supplementation is the decision at this point. These are the tools we will use.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: There is definitely a risk behind doing nothing. The sharp decline started well before any supplementation efforts were underway in the Wenatchee Basin.

Audience Question/Comment: Where do contributing (hatchery) fish go? I would like to see a study on whether the Leavenworth hatchery fish got in to the White River and contributed to the decline.

Answer – Kris Petersen, NMFS: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife is conducting that study.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: And it will be addressed in the monitoring and evaluation plans.

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The concept shown at the meeting for acclimation facilities is based on a request from a landowner interested in helping with acclimation efforts and who wanted to see what the ponds would look like. Between the property purchased and the land used in cooperation with a private landowner we could accommodate acclimation for the program. Fish are reared for one year and transferred to ponds at smolt-size.

Audience Question/Comment: What kind of data is there for distribution with adult fish moving up or down the stream for spawning in relation to the acclimation site?

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: There is no particular data available for Nason Creek. In some cases it is restricted to areas around the acclimation site. It depends on conditions associated with acclimation.

Answer – Kirk Truscott, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife: Fish will find spawning habitat.

Audience Question/Comment: What is the size of the acclimation ponds?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: They are about 35 x 40 to 60 feet, and about 4 feet deep.

Audience Question/Comment: Is the location in the flood plain?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: I believe these locations are out of the flood plain.

Audience Question/Comment: Are there acclimation facilities in the Wenatchee Basin outside of the coho program?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: The Chiwawa River is used as acclimation site for spring Chinook.

Audience Answer – Chuck Peven, Chelan PUD: Steelhead are reared at Turtle Rock and trucked to the release site. Summer Chinook are acclimated just downstream from Dryden.

Audience Question/Comment: What about predators?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: There has to be a compromise. We can't keep all predators out, so we have to address them through a variety of methods. It's site dependent. The Yakama Nation has worked with pond shape and there is some indication that it can deter predators.

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Next steps are obtaining Washington State Department of Transportation comments on the weir site, submission of proposal to the U.S. Forest Service for use of the site, groundwater testing for quantity and quality, continuation of the permitting process, and collection of baseline data.

Audience Question/Comment: Will you have to write an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment?

Answer – Cameron Thomas, U.S. Forest Service: It depends on the project and where the property is and who owns it. Either one has a lengthy comment period.

Audience Question/Comment: Is Grant PUD the lead agency under SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act)?

Answer - Darrell Pock, Grant PUD: Yes, Grant PUD is the lead agency for the project.

Audience Question/Comment: How will waste be dealt with?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It will likely be removed.

Audience Question/Comment: There is perceived degradation in Lake Wenatchee. People speculate it is caused by the net pens. We would feel better about a project like this if we could determine what's causing the water quality problems in Lake Wenatchee.

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Grant PUD will likely have stringent water quality requirements and testing will occur above and below the site. We are moving forward on groundwater testing at the Cascade Gardens property to determine if it is an appropriate site. We want the public to know that Grant PUD staff will be conducting both water testing and weed control over the next weeks.

Audience Question/Comment: Please make sure the well-drillers have a way to communicate about the project.

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: We appreciate your comments.

Audience Question/Comment: There is a house that is being constructed just below the Cascade Gardens site. Will it affect their construction?

Answer – Tom Dresser, Grant PUD: Not sure. Let us look in to it.

Audience Question/Comment: Thank you for taking the time to be here and carefully answering our questions.

Answer- Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We are definitely committed to further meetings. The public is welcome to attend the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meetings (meeting dates and agendas are posted at www.gcpud.org/stewardship/whiteriver.html). We want to keep people involved and have them participate.

Question/Comment from Ron Walter, Chelan County Commissioner: You had deliberation following the June meeting about having a citizen committee provide input on the design process. There are many groups working on salmon recovery. Lots of people have a lot of knowledge about these watersheds. I am requesting that Grant County PUD gets citizens involved in the development of the designs. You today are asking buy-in by these folks as your public outreach model. But I would like the model to involve these citizens in the planning, it will give you a much better process and you will get there faster. We realize you have fish that need to be put in the river, but please involve people in the long-range plans.

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We appreciate your comments. We discussed public involvement at great length. The process of advisory groups has some legal issues. We think this is an effective way to incorporate everyone's opinions rather than just a small group. All of these designs at this point are conceptual. The supplementation program isn't conceptual, but how we do it is. That's where we want public involvement. In the future these meetings could involve design input. We are definitely committed to public involvement.

IV. WHITE RIVER UPDATE - Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD

Wildlife, vegetation and cultural surveys have been completed (on a Grant PUD-owned 17-acre parcel on the White River), and a Section 10 permit for ESA coverage was submitted.

Kris Petersen, NMFS: This program is operated as a safety net program. Because there are White River fish that need to be released, they need Endangered Species Act coverage for that release. Because of this, NOAA directed Grant PUD, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Yakama Nation to apply for short-term, temporary Endangered Species Act permit (three years) to cover minimal activities (release of fish on station, minimal broodstock collection, and minimal monitoring, including juvenile monitoring with a smolt trap). Grant PUD has submitted the application. It will be reviewed very soon and NOAA is moving forward with the process to issue a temporary permit to get Endangered Species Act coverage while we step back and take a look at what is appropriate for

the White River program and talk to the public and gather their input. We hope to have the permit out for public comment within the next month. Through this process, we have been hearing that folks want us to slow down, so that is exactly what the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee has agreed to do. The permit will be available on NOAA's website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>. We will notify the public when the comment period opens.

Audience Question/Comment: Thank you for honoring everyone here who has a questions and concerns. I learned a lot today.

Answer - Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We appreciate that.

Question/Comment – Gordon Congdon – Chelan-Douglas Land

Trust: Can you address independent scientific review?

Answer - Kris Petersen, NMFS: We have seen the request from Chelan County for independent scientific review. The oversight committee would be responsible for reviewing the request. There is a hatchery reform review group evaluating hatchery programs to see if it is being managed in the best way to achieve objects. It's hard to know exactly what you are looking for.

Question/Comment – Gordon Congdon – Chelan-Douglas Land

Trust: We want a true independent review. While I suspect that a review may not change anything currently being done, I believe there are legitimate scientific questions that need to be answered. I compliment that you have addressed many of the questions we have, but this is the most fundamental request - is this (supplementation) the best way ahead? This is a commitment of millions of dollars and I believe it is prudent to do an independent scientific review.

Question/Comment – Mike Kaputa – Chelan County: We submitted a request to the ISAB (Independent Scientific Advisory Board) about a week and a half ago. We informed the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee. We see it is a benefit to the project because it is a peer review. The other part of the request is that we talk in public about that review. Seems to me this would only benefit the project.

Answer - Kris Petersen, NMFS: I personally struggle with this, because peer review is among experts from tribes, agencies, etc. This program has been in the works with Grant PUD for 10 years. It's had a tremendous amount of wide peer review during that decade. I'm not sure who you mean by peer? There are always those who either agree or disagree with hatchery programs.

Question/Comment – Gordon Congdon – Chelan-Douglas Land

Trust: There is a process to identify what the independent scientific review is. A panel and advisory group were created to provide a more

independent review. I think there is a process to determine what the review would consist of. I think Chelan County's approach is a good one.

Answer - Kris Petersen, NMFS: Our agency is considering the request.

Question/Comment – Mike Kaputa – Chelan County: What do you mean considering?

Answer - Kris Petersen, NMFS: Considering the appropriate question behind the review.

Question/Comment – Gordon Congdon – Chelan-Douglas Land Trust: We initially thought we would like to see this focused on the best way to recover salmon in the White River, and is what is proposed the best way?

Audience Question/Comment: I think the point of the independent scientific review is that someone outside of the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee circle take a look at the program and give perspective.

Audience Question/Comment: There is no way a fish is going to get here if we don't take steps to help them get here. I want to thank Grant PUD and the Yakama Nation on the fact that they came to an agreement recently on the Wanapum and Priest Rapids facility. In that agreement (the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement and the Hanford Reach Agreement), dam fish passage was worked out which help the fish to get here. Let's keep working on the bigger issues, including ocean issues.

Audience Question/Comment: Who owns Nason Creek and White River?

Answer – Cameron Thomas, U.S. Forest Service: Much of the land is publicly owned and managed by the US Forest Service. The public has a strong say in how it gets managed.

Question/Comment – John Soest: I am speaking on behalf of several environmental groups, including Conservation Northwest, American Rivers, NCW Audubon, Sierra Club. (Soest reads a letter from American Rivers). This is not only a local issue, but a statewide and national issue (because of the Wild & Scenic designation).

Presentation – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: Please stay involved and visit Grant PUD's website for further information about PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting dates, agendas and meeting minutes, in addition to today's presentations and Nason Creek and White River spring Chinook supplementation program background information.

Audience Question/Comment: We are calling for an independent review, not because we don't trust the scientists in our public agencies, but because of things that happen above the people on the ground. The review is to make sure that the program is happening in the best interest of the public and the ecosystem.

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We recognize the public's call for an independent scientific review. The review Kris Petersen referred to is underway and moving up-river. It is based on the Hatchery Scientific Review Group's work in Puget Sound and is being conducted by some of the same participants. It was a good review and was well-received in the Puget Sound area.

Audience Question/Comment: What is the current status of development of property on the White River and any related erosion control?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: It would likely be used for acclimation and the infrastructure associated with it. And yes, erosion control is being considered.

Audience Question/Comment: What plans are there for net pens?

Answer – Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD: We plan to use the net pens in Lake Wenatchee at the mouth of the White River for those fish currently on station that need to be acclimated.

Petersen, NMFS: If anyone has an alternative idea, please let the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee know. Certainly what we know is that acclimation near the area where fish need to return to is the most desirable for the success of the program.

V. Closing Comments – Rohr stated that plans are being considered for holding a meeting west of the Cascade mountains, due to the large number of local property owners who live in that region. Rohr also asked attendees to provide contact information. Notification about upcoming meetings will be sent through direct mail to all residents and concerned citizens who provide a mailing address.