

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, April 22, 2010
Cedars Inn, East Wenatchee, Washington

Attendees

PRCC HSC Members

Bill Gale, USFWS
Russell Langshaw, (alt) GCPUD
Keely Murdoch, (alt) YN
Todd Pearsons, GCPUD
Kris Petersen, NMFS
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Others

Pat Burdick, GCPUD
Frank Davidson, Jacobs Engineering
Sam Dilly, Chelan PUD (last discussion only)
Joe Miller, Chelan PUD (last discussion only)
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
David Allison, Jacobs Engineering
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Patrick Donovan, Facilitator

Actions

1. Elizabeth and Patrick will coordinate with NMFS and Grant PUD to reach agreement on neutral language concerning comments on the February meeting summary.
2. Elizabeth will distribute a copy of the draft final Nason Creek water assessment study to the HSC.
3. Elizabeth will follow up with Denny to check the status of the joint meeting between the PRCC, HSC, and Habitat Subcommittee.
4. Elizabeth will pull together all relevant materials on the mass marking discussion including the SOA agreed on by the PRCC Policy Group and distribute to the HSC.
5. HSC members will follow up within their respective organization to make sure all next steps and assignments on the mass marking issue (if any) are clearly understood.
6. Elizabeth will check in on the status of the PR Hatchery SOA being developed by Grant PUD and WDFW and find out whether it is planned to go to the HSC or PRCC for consideration.
7. Bill will check in with Kate on the Nason Wetlands project process and will provide an update to the HSC during their May meeting.
8. Elizabeth will check on the timing of the fry to smolt policy process.
9. Keely, Tom, and Elizabeth will work together to check the status of the YKFP's proposal to bring 2M green eggs to the PR Hatchery, and get a copy of their master plan for circulation to the HSC.
10. Keely will confirm that all volitionally released fish have actually left Biddles Pond.
11. HSC JFP members will check within their respective organizations confirm that all internal processes are aligned to finalize the implementation plan.
12. Mike will finish the WR adult management plan and will send it to Elizabeth for circulation to HSC.
13. Russell and Elizabeth will work together on a schedule for the WR Work Group to make sure that the processes milestones are clearly identified so the HSC knows when to expect information and recommendations on the McComas design.
14. Grant PUD will gather the following information to support additional discussions of the WR BOD during the HSC's May meeting: 1) Location; 2) Vessel types; and 3) Overall program approach.
15. Elizabeth will follow up with all HSC members prior to their May meeting to discuss information needs and outstanding issues with the WR BOD and the Eastbank Hatchery proposal.

Decisions

1. The HSC agreed on a release strategy for fish in Lake Wenatchee net pens, which includes two down lake releases and one up lake release, with the first down lake release from the net pen that experienced fish escapement. Furthermore, the HSC agreed that the release should take place by no later than May 15, 2010.
2. The HSC voted on and approve the Sockeye HGMP for submittal to NOAA.
3. The HSC voted on and approve the March meeting summary.

FINAL Meeting Summary

I. Action Items Review & Other Committee Updates

- A. Updates from the PRCC** – At the request of the PRCC Elizabeth attended their May meeting to provide an update on the following: (1) update on White River (WR) acclimation; and (2) update on other HSC work. The PRCC expressed continued support for use of the McComas site as an overwinter acclimation facility, supplemented by early spring acclimation higher in the WR system as possible. The PRCC questioned whether the HSC was comfortable with the McComas site; Elizabeth reported that while the McComas site is recognized as a compromise, all HSC members continue to support its use to get the program moving forward. To better coordinate between committees, the PRCC is planning a joint meeting between them, the HSC and the Habitat Subcommittee. The intent of this meeting will be to share WR basin updates and to make sure all committees are on the same page. Elizabeth will follow up with Denny to check the status of the joint meeting. Per the request of the PRCC, Elizabeth will provide written updates on decisions, action items, and key discussion points from the HSC monthly meetings to the PRCC for review at their monthly meetings. PRCC meetings generally are the Wednesday following HSC meetings.
- B. Updates from the PAC** – The Priest Rapids (PR) Policy Committee approved an SOA on the PR Hatchery mass fish marking dispute. The SOA calls for the Coded Wire Tagging (CWT) program portion of the M&E Plan for the Grant PUD PR Hatchery fall Chinook releases to increase from 200K to 600K, consistent with the recommendations of the U.S.-v-Oregon parties. The agreement also calls for a release of 600K CWT only (no ad-clip), beginning with the brood year 2009 for release in spring 2010. HSC members anticipate they will be asked to work on follow-up items including power analyses and other analyses to determine optimal mark rates and types to meet M&E objectives. The HSC was asked to check in with their respective PR Policy Committee representative to ensure that any next steps or follow-up assignments on mass marking are clear.

- C. Updates from the Habitat Committee** – The Habitat Committee is discussing a project that would reconnect the Nason Wetlands – located above the Boyce/Youngsman site – to Nason Creek. When project design is further along YN and/or Grant PUD will provide a presentation on the proposed Nason Creek wetland project, highlighting any potential impacts on the Nason Creek hatchery facility. Bill will contact Kate to provide an update on the Nason Creek wetlands project during their May meeting.
- D. Updates from Fall Chinook Working Group** – The next Fall Chinook Work Group meeting is the week of April 26, 2010 and will focus on coordinating studies with the Hanford Reach Work Group.
- E. Action Items Review:** The following items were discussed in substance:
- WR water rights support letter – Elizabeth distributed the WR water rights support letter to the HSC after the April meeting. WDFW is working with the Department of Ecology to answer questions they have regarding the support letter. Letters still are needed.
 - Fall Chinook mass marking – WDFW requested that this action item remain open to allow for follow-up to the SOA agreed upon by the PR Policy Committee.
 - Captive Brood Information Gathering and Decision Process – WDFW and Grant PUD are pulling together and analyzing the last pieces of information. WDFW will provide the estimates to Elizabeth for distribution to the HSC; one paper will cover both the comparison of captive brood performance to the 2007 HGMP and projected further captive brood production.
 - March Meeting Summary – The HSC made editorial comments and approved the March meeting summary as revised and projected on the screen.

II. Fall Chinook Updates

- A. Priest Rapids Hatchery Redesign** – Grant PUD and WDFW are making progress towards agreement on the PR Hatchery rebuild. An SOA has been developed and is being reviewed internally by WDFW. It is unclear if the final SOA will be considered by the PRCC or HSC. Elizabeth will work with WDFW and Grant PUD and Denny to find out the plans for consideration of the SOA and resolution of the PR Hatchery rebuild issues.
- B. PR Hatchery Smolt to Fry Issue** – HSC members were reminded of the PAC's request to revise the fry-production component of Grant PUD's fall Chinook mitigation requirement (approximately 1.0M fry) to an equivalent sub-yearling production. Before the HSC discusses any technical issues around this request, Grant PUD has requested policy-level discussions because of the implications any change may have for existing agreements, including the FERC license. HSC

members noted that changes may be covered by the adaptive management portions of the agreements. Elizabeth will check with Tom Dresser on what discussions have taken place within the PR Policy Committee and when any policy-level action is likely.

- C. Priest Rapids Fall Chinook Brood Stock** – The HSC reviewed the Fall Chinook brood stock obligations table produced by WDFW. The HSC requested that WDFW provide funding sources for all obligations shown in the table. Keely, Tom, and Elizabeth will work together to check the status of the YKFP’s proposal to collect 2M green eggs at the PR Hatchery, in addition to obtaining a copy of their master plan for circulation to the HSC. The HSC reaffirmed that a proposal from YKFP should be provided no later than June 15, 2010.

The CCT reiterated concerns that collection of NORs in the OLAF could have unacceptable adverse impacts on the number of NORs reaching the upper basin. The HSC was reminded that during their March meeting they agreed that the past 10 years of data on the volunteer channel should be reviewed to determine the actual number of returning NORs (if any) and to see if efficiencies can’t be gleaned from changes in how the PRH volunteer trap is operated so as to better identify and collect returning NORs there. Mike and Russell will coordinate on gathering historical estimates for the PRH volunteer channel and what potential new information might be available this year based on the new otolith markings. The JFP will further discuss this issue during their May meeting.

- III. Sockeye HGMP** – The HSC voted on and approved the Sockeye HGMP as revised and projected on the screen.

- IV. Acclimation Updates**

- A. Methow Acclimation** – The first-year trial of acclimation at Biddle’s pond resulted in very little mortality. All fish were volitionally released during the week of April 19. A metric of in pond survival will be calculated based on downstream PIT tag detections.

- B. Acclimation in the WR** – The Tall Timbers site did not water up in time for acclimation. Instead, 10K fish were acclimated at the McComas site and the remaining fish were placed in three net pens in Lake Wenatchee. The net at the McComas site did not work as expected and fish quickly escaped. Release of the net pen fish is planned for the first part of May. One of the net pens had a predator intrusion (otters), resulting in additional fish loss. The HSC will debrief on these experiences to carry lessons learned forward into next year’s acclimation strategies. Grant PUD and WDFW will use a mark-recapture technique to estimate the remaining tag groups to preserve the ability to gather

as much of the data contemplated by the study plan as possible. The HSC agreed to the following release strategy for Lake Wenatchee. Two down lake releases and one net pen release, with all release to be complete by May 15. If weather conditions prevent down lake release, Grant PUD should postpone the transport rather than release additional fish at the net pen site. Russell will provide an update on release from net pens during May meeting.

V. White River Program Updates

A. Update and Review of Project Status Report

- Status report -- Grant PUD's efforts in the past month has primarily focused on the public outreach efforts and setting up acclimation activities for 2010. There have been difficulties with test well No. 2 at the McComas site, it will be abandoned and a third test well will be drilled in 2010.
- Section 10 Permit, Status – Section 10 permit coverage for spring Chinook expires at the end of May. Grant PUD has requested an extension from NMFS. NMFS will make a decision on the extension before June.
- Spring Chinook HGMP – The public comment period on the Spring Chinook HGMP almost closed; few comments have been received so far, but often comments come in at the end of the period. NMFS will provide an update at the May meeting.
- Stakeholder Outreach Process & WR Working Group – The WR Work Group toured the Eastbank, Blackbird, and McComas sites on April 20. The Work Group was able to see all aspects of the different sites. The WR was appreciative of representatives from the JFP attending the tour (including NMFS). The nature of the Work Group questions asked during the tour indicate high interest in natural-style ponds and similar vessel and may indicate that Grant PUD and the HSC should look for a way to include those types of vessels in the McComas site design. The Work Group process is lagging a little behind the process for development of the WR Basis of Design; Grant PUD hopes to have completed the Work Group process and have the Work Group's input for the HSC to consider by the June meeting at the latest. The HSC discussed the importance of bringing the Work Group input into the Basis of Design process, to enable a good discussion of the Basis of Design and allow HSC members to make decisions.

VI. White River Basis of Design (BOD) – The WR BOD presentation is to explain the conceptual design and key design directions proposed for the McComas facility and ask for HSC input and decisions to guide more detailed facility design. The BOD will help the HSC establish and reach agreement on key aspects of facility design early in the process, so future check-ins can simply update against the initial directional design agreements. A final HSC vote on the BOD is tentatively scheduled for July 2010.

A. White River BOD Presentation – Frank Davidson of Jacobs Engineering presented the WR BOD. The BOD criteria are consistent with the WR HGMP requirements and standards. The BOD presentation covers volume requirements, vessel types, water supplies, facility location and design, predator control, and other aspects of the facility. The presentation is attached. The anticipated path forward on the BOD is as follows:

- HSC to provide comments by June 17, 2010
- Grant PUD to provide response to HSC comments by July 1, 2010
- HSC decisions by July 15, 2010

B. HSC Comments and Clarifications on the BOD

- The WR BOD considers both the single onsite acclimation facility and the offsite, up river facilities that will be used for final term rearing.
- Since the water intake requires dual pumps, the facility design should include whether two back up pumps are needed in case of a double pump failure.
- There are schedule challenges associated with the WR BOD review timeline, since the final proposal on design basis will not be available until after the WR Stakeholder Working Group completes its process. HSC members expressed concern about investing time in reviewing a design before the Working Group process is complete and there is a more certain proposal. Grant PUD indicated that a decision on the BOD is needed by July 2010 to stay on schedule.
- Grant PUD explained that a formal vessel proposal will be presented to the HSC once the Work Group has released their recommendations, but, in the meantime, it appears that the Work Group will recommend more natural design elements, similar to Back Bird Pond. The HSC discussed the pros and cons of a natural site design (e.g. uncovered earthen or engineered ponds) versus a design that includes overwinter acclimation and covered vessels. WDFW advised that without overhead cover, ponds will freeze, which makes it difficult to identify and treat fish health problems. HSC members asked for clarification about who would be making the decisions about vessel types. Grant PUD clarified that their understanding is that the HSC will make the decision, or, if the HSC cannot agree elevate the issue through Dispute Resolution channels.
- Grant PUD asked if the HSC should take a step back and have a conversation to consider whether overwinter acclimation is really needed at the site for all fish; if adult holding, incubation, and early rearing occur at other facilities, is it possible that early spring acclimation and smaller sites could result in benefits similar to full overwinter acclimation. The JFP felt strongly that overwinter acclimation is the most conservative approach to fish management and will give fish the best chance of survival. Additionally, long-term space at other facilities is not guaranteed. The JPF felt that it is the best approach to provide for full overwinter acclimation of the full WR requirement at the facility; if requirements

(either for numbers of fish or for density) change over time, the space likely can be used by another program.

- HSC members had questions about the location of the facility on the site and whether it needed to be adjacent to the River or would be better located further from the bridge.

- C. Path Forward & Next Steps** – Grant PUD will provide the HSC with a calendar identifying when the WR Work Group recommendations on the McComas acclimation design will be available. In anticipation of these recommendations coming out, the HSC expressed the need to further discuss and reach agreement on the following: 1) Process timeline for integrating comments and recommendations from WR Working Group into the BOD; 2) Vessel type or combinations of types; and 4) Location of the proposed acclimation facility on the site. Elizabeth will follow up with all HSC members to determine if there are additional concerns with the WR BOD and to explore what information and materials are needed to support a robust discussion during the May meeting.

VII. Nason Creek Updates & Discussion

- A. Update and Review of Project Status Report** – Grant PUD’s work in the past month has primarily focused on the public outreach efforts, ongoing work to explore use of the Eastbank facility (see discussion below) and the water treatment report.

- B. Update on Water Treatment Report/ BOD Progress** – Todd indicated that the Fresh Water Institute’s water treatment report is complete and will be sent out to HSC following the April meeting.

- VIII. Other Grant PUD Status and Pending Issues Reports** – Elizabeth and Patrick distributed the current Grant PUD status and pending issue reports and noted a number activities that have taken place within the following Grant PUD supplementation programs: 1) Cassimar-Bar and Methow Steelhead; 2) Coho; 3) Methow spring and summer Chinook; 4) Okanogan spring and summer Chinook; 5) PRH fall Chinook; 6) Sockeye; and 7) Wenatchee summer Chinook.

- IX. NTTOC Presentation** – Todd briefed the HSC on a draft presentation on the Non-Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC) Risk Assessment process, which will be given at the State of the Salmon conference in early May in Portland. The HSC reviewed the draft presentation. The HSC briefly discussed the appropriateness of combining the risk of multiple programs as it makes the assumption that the risks are additive, which may inflate the actual level of risk.

I. Eastbank Feasibility Study Update

- A. Eastbank Feasibility Study Presentation** – Todd presented and updated a proposed decision process and timeline. Work is continuing with Chelan PUD to explore the feasibility of modifying the Eastbank hatchery facility to accommodate adult holding, spawning, incubation, and rearing prior to acclimation for Grant PUD’s 250K Nason Creek spring Chinook, 150K WR spring Chinook, 278K Wenatchee summer Chinook, and 278K Methow summer Chinook. The modifications would include a +10% facility design overage.

While Eastbank expansion is being studied, parallel efforts continue on other facilities (Nason Creek; Gloyd Springs) in case the Eastbank effort falls through. Even if Eastbank works out, separate facilities will be needed in the basins for overwinter and early spring acclimation. In order for Grant PUD mitigation to come into Eastbank they will be required to show some level of water conservation; the current idea is to achieve some of that conservation through the use of re-circulated water for summer Chinook. Grant PUD is requesting the HSC’s consideration of the following: 1) Adult holding, spawning, and incubation at Eastbank according to HGMP criteria (no recirculation); and 2) Rearing prior to acclimation using recirculation of water for summer Chinook. The timeframe for modification of new incubation, chiller, and adult holding facilities is 2010-12, so a HSC decision would be needed relatively quickly. Early rearing modification would be contingent upon the outcome of 2X re-use pilot and HCP/HSC approval in fall 2010.

B. HSC Comments and Questions

- The HSC discussed the process for bringing potential design modification issues forward to both committees (HSC and HCP). The current plan is that design modification information would be routed first through the HSC, with the HCP included when necessary (e.g. critical votes, decisions, etc).
- Chelan PUD clarified that if approved, both Grant and Chelan PUD’s summer Chinook production at Eastbank would go to a 2X re-use.
- USFWS expressed concern that if water issues already exist at Eastbank – which are driving the need for the program to be transition to a re-circulated water system – then adding more production may not be feasible when taking into account projected trends in water supply.
- The HSC discussed and agreed that the following near-term information would be needed to inform future decisions are as follows: how much water currently exists, how much water is being saved with re-circ in the existing HCP program, and how much water will be needed when Grant PUD transitions production to Eastbank.

A. Path Forward – A decision is needed by the June HSC meeting or sooner on adult holding, spawning, and incubation at Eastbank according to HGMP criteria (no recirculation). In the long term, an HSC decision is desired by fall 2010 on rearing prior to acclimation (recirculation of water for summer Chinook). HSC requested more of a plan (i.e. existing, new, needed holding capacity, fish numbers, volumes, etc.). The HSC agreed that additional discussion was needed during their May meeting around the issues and options for dealing with bio-security at the Eastbank facility, in addition to how this can be achieved while staying aligned with the HGMP objectives.

X. Wrap-Up / Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. – Cedars Inn

B. Potential April Meeting Agenda Items

- WR Basis of Design
- Gloyd Springs Basis of Design
- Eastbank Feasibility Study Updates
- Mass marking and PR Hatchery redesign updates
- Program status reports
- WR Workgroup process progress
- WR and Nason spring Chinook HGMP