

SOA 2010-05
Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee
Statement of Agreement on Water Rights

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: 9/2/2010

Approved by PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: 9/16/2010

Approved by PRCC: The PRCC was consulted and determined that they do not need to approve this SOA

Statement

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) agrees with and approves of the following statements:

1. The non-consumptive water withdrawal of 1 cfs from March through May at the White River Bridge Site for short-term acclimation activities is of beneficial use (supply water to acclimation tanks), provides an environmental benefit (acclimation of spring Chinook salmon), and will have no significant impacts to the aquatic environment (short bypass reach (less than 50 ft), withdrawal is less than 1 percent of any mean monthly flow for the White River). Additional detail is provided in Attachment A.
2. The non-consumptive water withdrawal of 2 cfs from March through May at the River Mile (RM) 11 Site along the White River for short-term acclimation activities is of beneficial use (supply water to side channel and to acclimation tanks), provides an environmental benefit (acclimation of spring Chinook salmon), and will have no significant impacts to the aquatic environment (short bypass reach for tanks (less than 50 ft), 1500 ft bypass reach for side channel, and withdrawal is less than 1 percent of any mean monthly flow for the White River). Additional detail is provided in Attachment A.
3. The non-consumptive water withdrawal of 7.5 cfs surface water and 120 gpm groundwater at the White River Bridge Site for long-term acclimation activities is of beneficial use (supply water to acclimation vessels and de-ice intake screens), provides an environmental benefit (acclimation of spring Chinook salmon), and will have no significant impacts to the aquatic environment (short bypass reach, less than 300 feet, and less than 3 percent of any mean monthly flow for the White River). Additional detail is provided in Attachment B.
4. The non-consumptive water withdrawal (11.5 cfs surface water, up to 600 gpm groundwater) at the Boyce/Youngsman Site along Nason Creek for long-term

hatchery supplementation activities is of beneficial use (water supply for hatchery facility), provides an environmental benefit (acclimation of spring Chinook salmon), and will have no significant impacts to the aquatic environment (short bypass reach, less than 300 feet, and less than 11 percent any mean monthly flow for Nason Creek). This water right will likely be amended to smaller amounts to support only acclimation activities if the Eastbank Hatchery provides juvenile rearing (per the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee via vote to approve juvenile rearing of Grant PUD's Nason Creek spring Chinook program at Eastbank Hatchery at its July 26, 2010 meeting). Additional detail is provided in attachment C.

This SOA will be the basis of PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee¹ support of the use of these water rights for acclimation of Spring Chinook.

Background

In January of 2010 Grant PUD submitted its first water right application to the Washington State Department of Ecology (WDOE) for the long-term acclimation facility at the White River Bridge Site; Grant PUD followed with an additional application for the Nason Creek facility at the Boyce/Youngsman Site, and anticipates submitting two additional applications for the short-term acclimation activities at the White River Bridge and RM 11 sites. These water rights must be obtained before Grant PUD's supplementation programs can begin operation.

While the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries support this water right application, please note that listed bull trout, spring Chinook and steelhead have been documented in the area of these site locations. Accordingly, we suggest that Ecology consider the potential presence of these species in executing the subject water right applications. In addition, the effects of these proposed water right applications on bull trout, spring Chinook salmon and steelhead have not been analyzed within the scope of the Endangered Species Act.

¹ The HSC is comprised of representatives from NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Yakama Nation, Confederated Colville Tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Grant County PUD.