

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Bill Gale, USFWS

Lynn Hatcher, NMFS

Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation

Todd Pearsons, GPUD

Tom Scribner, Yakama Nation (via phone)

Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Eric Lauver, GPUD (via phone)

Shannon Lowry, GPUD

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator

Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

- A. Approved the March meeting summary, April meeting summary, and April conference call summary.

Actions

1. GPUD will circulate the draft 2015 White River temporary acclimation plan prior to the July HSC meeting for review and discussion.
2. YN will circulate the most recent version of the draft SOA on composite broodstock collection.
3. WDFW will draft a letter summarizing its concerns around the draft SOA on composite broodstock collection and circulate it with the HSC.
4. NMFS will report on its internal meetings around an effects analysis on composite broodstock collection during the June HSC meeting.
5. WDFW will continue to work with NMFS to resolve the permit coverage situation for GPUD fall Chinook produced at Priest Rapids Hatchery and released from Ringold.
6. YN will look into capacity at Cle Elum Hatchery, Prosser and Marion Drain as potential fall back locations for adult holding of ACOE fall Chinook produced at Priest Rapids Hatchery.
7. HSC members will provide comments on the draft PRH M&E 2014-2015 Implementation Plan to GPUD and the HSC will vote on the plan during the June meeting.
8. HSC members will comment on the Wenatchee M&E report through the HCP process, keeping in mind that GPUD programs are included in the report.
9. YN will forward the 2013 rotary trap report to the HSC when available (status: carried over from April meeting summary).
10. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC (status: carried over from April meeting summary).
11. GPUD will look into options for HSC document storage and access (status: in progress).

HSC Meeting Summary

I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review

- A. **PRCC Update** – The PRCC has been meeting twice per week to work out issues associated with the monolith fracture at Wanapum Dam. CCT recognizes and appreciates GPUD and WDFW’s level of effort to overcome the problems associated with the fracture.
- B. **Wanapum Dam Update** – Fish ladder modifications are functioning as planned and area irrigators have received their water. Conversion rate for acoustic tagged spring Chinook between Priest Rapids and Rock Island Dam is 100%, and travel time is within the established standard. GPUD is also collecting behavioral data at the weir and the ramp, with over 4,000 fish observed going over the ramp and no mortalities. No bull trout have been observed. Trap and haul operations were suspended on May 6 per PRCC direction; GPUD and WDFW continue planning for phase two of trap and haul, if necessary. The PRCC agrees that trap and haul operations are not necessary unless both ladders at Wanapum Dam prove inoperable. GPUD continues to work on the ramp systems, including regular maintenance in the evening or at night, and early morning.
- C. **PAC Update**
 - GPUD requested further information on ACOE’s environmental assessment of activities at Ringold Hatchery. There was no response to this request.
 - WDFW is developing a draft HGMP which will be sent to PAC for initial review toward the end of May. WDFW will send an advance copy to GPUD if feasible. The initial review period will be 30 days.
- D. **Fall Chinook Working Group** – The FCWG is finalizing several reports based on work done.
- E. **Meeting Summary Review** – HSC approved the March meeting summary, April meeting summary, and April conference call summary.

II. **Carlton Update**

- A. **Fish Release** – All fish at the Carlton facility were pushed out on 5/14. In general the fish did not want to use either of the two volitional release pipes. Facility staff used several dam board configurations and ultimately had to seine the fish and force them to exit via the lower pipe. 10,000 fish are PIT tagged and will be monitored.
 - WDFW noted that given the size of the fish, this year’s release should not be considered an indication of future behavior.

III. **White River Temporary Acclimation**

- A. **Release Update** – The White River Bridge Site was configured as in previous years, with 12 acclimation tanks. The acclimation tanks were stocked on 3/11 and the net pens were stocked on 3/18; fish were held for six weeks with no significant mortality events. One river otter was observed near the net pens, and there was a hole in one of the net pens. Fisheries science center staff took precocity samples prior to release. The draft report on outmigration survival will be included as part one of the 2015 acclimation plan. GPUD will submit the 2015 plan to the HSC in July, for approval in August. For

2015 GPUD has 99,000 fish on-station at LWSNFH. Some die-off is expected, and no changes to the temporary acclimation configuration of tanks and net pens are anticipated in 2015.

- CCT noted that the May 13 release date for net pen fish appears to be later than for other spring Chinook in the upper Columbia. If fish are held too long in the interest of increasing homing fidelity, the benefit will be negated because the fish will have already smolted.
- GPUD commented that the HSC will discuss an earlier release date during the July meeting.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- GPUD will circulate the draft 2015 White River temporary acclimation plan prior to the July HSC meeting for review and discussion.

IV. Composite Broodstock Collection

A. Status of Draft SOA – WDFW and YN continued to discuss various issues with the draft SOA following the April HSC meeting. In early May, YN received extensive edits from WDFW and YN responded with additional edits. On 5/20 WDFW responded with additional revisions and YN has not yet had time to review.

- WDFW clarified that the agency is not opposed to NOAA performing an effects analysis for compositing. However, WDFW considers the draft SOA to be pre-decisional and WDFW does not believe compositing is the only path to meeting mitigation.
- USFWS expressed concern with lack of transparency in that YN and WDFW have exchanged SOA revisions without consulting the HSC, including revisions provided by individuals who are not HSC members.
- YN agreed with USFWS' transparency concerns and stated its willingness to delay a vote on the SOA until the June HSC meeting.
- GPUD noted that thus far it has withheld taking a position on the SOA for two reasons: 1) GPUD is not privy to the specific conversations that have taken place between YN and WDFW, and 2) GPUD is a co-permittee with WDFW and therefore feels it would be premature to vote without full knowledge of WDFW's concerns.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- YN will circulate the most recent version of the draft SOA on composite broodstock collection.
- WDFW will draft a letter summarizing its concerns around the draft SOA on composite broodstock collection and circulate it with the HSC.
- NMFS will report on its internal meetings around an effects analysis on composite broodstock collection during the June HSC meeting.

V. Wenatchee Rotary Traps

A. 2013 Reports – GPUD reported that it received responses from YN on its list of

questions about rotary trap operations; some of the questions were answered directly and others were answered in the 2013 rotary trap reports. GPUD notes that the draft 2013 reports are very well done, and appreciated YN's thoughtful responses to the questions.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- YN will circulate the draft 2013 rotary trap reports to the HSC once additional revisions are complete.

VI. Broodstock Collection

A. Draft 2014 Broodstock Collection Memo – The final unresolved section of the draft 2014 broodstock collection memo is related to permit coverage concerns for the 3.5 million ACOE fall Chinook produced at Priest Rapids Hatchery and released at Ringold. There is currently no permit coverage but WDFW has been working with NMFS to determine a path for obtaining permit coverage. After the fish have been sorted into surplus they become the responsibility of WDFW and ACOE; WDFW does not believe there is a high risk for litigation. GPUD is interested in a letter from NMFS conferring permit coverage for these activities.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- WDFW will continue to work with NMFS to resolve the permit coverage situation for ACOE fall Chinook produced at Priest Rapids Hatchery and released from Ringold.
- YN will look into capacity at Cle Elum Hatchery, Prosser and Marion Drain as potential fall back locations for adult holding of ACOE fall Chinook produced at Priest Rapids Hatchery.

VII. Priest Rapids Hatchery M&E

A. Draft PRH M&E 2014-2015 Implementation Plan – The draft implementation plan was distributed to HSC members on 5/13. GPUD requests a vote on the plan during the June meeting. The plan is similar to the 2013-2014 plan, a key difference being GPUD's proposed carcass "drift" evaluation.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- HSC members will provide comments on the draft PRH M&E 2014-2015 Implementation Plan to GPUD and the HSC will vote on the plan during the June meeting.

VIII. Wenatchee M&E Report

A. Status of Draft Report – GPUD intends to follow the same schedule for draft report approval as the HCP. The report includes a separate Nason Creek program and shared programs for summer Chinook in the Methow and Wenatchee.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- HSC members will comment on the Wenatchee M&E report through the HCP process, keeping in mind that GPUD programs are included in the report.

IX. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, June 19, 2014

B. Potential June Meeting Agenda Items

- PRH M&E 2014-2015 Implementation Plan
- Nason Creek broodstock collection
- Status of NMFS discussions on compositing
- Wanapum Dam update

Meeting Materials

The following documents were provided to HSC members in advance of this meeting:

Priest Rapids Hatchery

- PRH M&E 2014-2015 Implementation Plan
- May HSC Agenda
- GPUD abstracts on carrying capacity from AFS symposium
- Nason Creek April rotary trap summary
- White River April rotary trap summary
- Priest Rapids Hatchery April M&E Update
- April 2014 White River report