

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2014

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Matt Cooper, USFWS (alt)
Bill Gale, USFWS
Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)
Lynn Hatcher, NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD (alt)

Other Participants

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

- A. Approved the October meeting summary as amended, pending CCT approval.
- B. Cancelled the December HSC meeting and moved the date of the January meeting to 1/21 to coincide with HCP-HC meeting.

Actions

1. YN will revise the 2016 release proposal and distribute the revised version to the HSC by 12/3. HSC members will provide comments to YN by 12/17. YN will send a revised version prior to the January HSC meeting for decision. HSC members will review and comment on the SOA on the same timeline as the 2016 release proposal.
2. YN will incorporate DPUD's text on adaptive management into the 2016 release proposal.
3. YN will develop a power analysis for determine sample rates for adult returns to the Methow Hatchery from remote acclimation.
4. WDFW will check on the timing of the Agency's composite broodstock collection SOA review.
5. WDFW will contact state invasive species staff to determine the timeline for development of a New Zealand Mud Snail protocol.
6. WDFW will revise the draft broodstock collection protocol and distribute it to the committees by 2/1/15.
7. YN will compile existing White River M&E or study activities; HSC members will forward any potential activities of interest to YN.
8. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC (status: carried over from April meeting summary).
9. Ross Strategic will revise and distribute the White River program decision tree.

I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review

- A. Fall Chinook Working Group Update** – The IFS/IFP report was distributed to the Fall Chinook Working Group for 90 day review. The final report is due to Ecology in April

2015.

II. Methow Spring Chinook

- A. YN 2016 Release Proposal** – YN’s 2016 release proposal includes near-term objectives, adult return rates and adult management, an M&E plan, and an adaptive management component. During the 11/20 HCP-HC meeting, DPUD discussed adding text to the section of the proposal dealing with adaptive management. The proposed text advocates setting up the remote acclimation as a study design so it can be tested; this would be helpful during the permitting process. During the October HSC meeting, committee members discussed focusing the adult numbers around a capacity estimate; however after further discussions with WDFW, YN concluded there was not enough data to develop an empirical carrying capacity estimate. WDFW suggested apportioning carrying capacity by NOR percentages. For the next version of the proposal YN will use the recovery goal and attempt to parse it out by regions in the Methow.
- GPUD noted that during the 2013 AFS symposium in Vancouver DPUD presented on carrying capacity of spring Chinook and summer steelhead in the Methow Basin. Most of the estimates converged around a narrow band and would provide a good basis for evaluating carrying capacity.
 - HSC members commented that an SOA on remote acclimation is warranted, given the multi-year commitment and that consultation on the role of remote acclimation sites has not yet occurred.
 - GPUD suggested that YN request a 10 year permit from NOAA with appropriate off-ramps.
 - WDFW noted that the permitting process is to ensure that use of remote acclimation sites has been analyzed and is covered by permit; the HSC has the latitude to make design changes.
 - NOAA commented that the level of detail provided in the proposal is not necessary for permitting. NOAA has decided on a separate biological opinion and permit for all of the remote acclimation sites, as this will help the PUDs resolve coverage issues when fish leave their custody.
 - USFWS reminded committee members that NOAA will also need to engage USFWS in consultation.
 - NOAA noted that a supplemental NEPA EA with 30 day public review is required.
 - GPUD commented that in order to avoid lethal sampling a different marking scheme might be needed, to determine the number of fish acclimated at Goat Wall that return to Methow Hatchery.
 - WDFW noted that this will depend on the level of sampling required; if adult returns to the hatchery are low, a 100% sample might be needed.
 - USFWS suggested a power analysis could be appropriate to determine the sample rates needed to identify adult returns.
 - YN commented that lessons and data from Chewuch acclimation are difficult to

compare or export to Methow acclimation due to lack of difference in spawning distribution in the Chewuch (the main issue in the Chewuch is straying).

- WDFW emphasized with the remote acclimation sites the importance of prioritizing the progeny of wild by wild parents.
- GPUD suggested setting a minimum benchmark of 20% sampling, with a sliding scale depending on run size.
- GPUD supported the adaptive management discussions in the 11/20 HCP-HC meeting, as well as the suggestion to look at carrying capacity to estimate the number of fish needed in the reach. GPUD also suggested adding the data on juvenile survival (the data table provided previously to the HSC which shows post-2010 releases at Wolf Creek).

B. Next Steps

- YN will revise the 2016 release proposal and distribute the revised version to the HSC by 12/3. HSC members will provide comments to YN by 12/17. YN will send a revised version prior to the January HSC meeting for decision. HSC members will review and comment on the SOA on the same timeline as the 2016 release proposal.
- YN will incorporate DPUD's text on adaptive management into the 2016 release proposal.
- YN will develop a power analysis to determine sample rates for adult returns to the Methow Hatchery from remote acclimation.

III. Composite Broodstock Collection

- A. Update on Draft Supplemental Biological Opinion** – NOAA, GPUD, CPUD, and WDFW met in October to discuss concerns expressed by USFWS. NOAA completed an attachment to the draft letter that responds to USFWS's genetic concerns around bull trout and is now waiting for USFWS's response. USFWS is formalizing its response letter and will submit it to NOAA.

IV. Priest Rapids Hatchery

- A. Draft 2014 Annual M&E Report** – The draft PRH M&E report was distributed to the HSC on 10/22 for 30 day review.
- B. OLAFT and Alternative Broodstock Collection** – 2014 ABC activities did not garner as much participation as 2013; people preferred to fish in-season and keep what they caught. OLAFT collection yielded a total of approximately 1,000 broodstock collected for higher proportion natural origin fish. On 11/12 and 11/13 GPUD conducted real time otolith sampling, reading, and alternative mating strategies. Refining the logistics for sampling and reading was an ongoing process, and at the end GPUD spawned enough adults to produce approximately 3 million hatchery x natural origin progeny, full results will not be available until otolith results are returned.
- C. Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring** – sampling for aquatic invasive species occurs at GPUD boat ramps and other areas in the project, including the boat ramp immediately above Priest Rapids Dam, which is the next most likely location for New Zealand Mud

Snails above Ringold Hatchery.

- WDFW commented that state invasive species monitoring to-date has focused on Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels. The State of Washington is forming a working group to begin formalizing a monitoring protocol for New Zealand Mud Snails.
- USFWS emphasized the importance of a timely monitoring effort.

D. Next Steps

- WDFW will contact state invasive species staff to determine the timeline for development of a New Zealand Mud Snail protocol.

V. Broodstock Collection Protocol

A. Revisions to Draft Protocol – WDFW received comments from DPUD. The distribution date for all four committees is 2/1/15, for review and discussion during the February 2015 committee meetings and voting at the March committee meetings.

B. Next Steps

- WDFW will revise the draft broodstock collection protocol and distribute it to the committees by 2/1/15.

VI. White River Spring Chinook

A. Path to 2026 Decision – HSC members reviewed the draft decision tree distributed in advance of the meeting.

- NOAA commented that the agency is working on a system to update the Stock Status report annually, rather than every five years.
- GPUD noted that the questions related to whether an adult-based supplementation program in the White River would increase the probability of meeting VSP criteria will be provided to the expert review panel (not answered by the HSC).
- WDFW noted that changes in capacity will indicate whether a White River program is viable. For example, climate change models project continued snowpack loss and prevailing precipitation in the form of rain; among other things, this will affect timing and intensity of runoff.
- USFWS commented that PUD M&E for genetics combined with reproductive success study samples should provide enough information to answer the question on genetic differentiation. The RSS samples would be used to establish the baseline and natural origin samples from the PUD's M&E program would be used for comparison against the baseline.
- WDFW reiterated the need to identify data gaps, and then figure out how to address those gaps.

B. Next Steps

- Ross Strategic will revise the draft White River decision tree.
- YN will compile existing White River M&E or study activities; HSC members will forward any potential activities of interest to YN.

VII. Permit Updates

A. NMFS Permit Updates

- NMFS has added M&E language to the Wenatchee steelhead biop to determine the magnitude of the residualism issue. The Wenatchee steelhead biop and Section 10 permit are going through QA/QC; WDFW’s General Counsel is reviewing and estimates 2-3 weeks for completion of review.
- The Okanogan spring Chinook biop was completed and transfers have already occurred. Craig Busack will meet with YN to go over the Methow acclimation sites so the effects analysis can be completed. Craig also brought up five issues:
 - M&E equity in the Methow (who pays for what?)
 - Adult management: What to do with adult hatchery returns to acclimation sites?
 - YN remote acclimation sites
 - A general statement “other sites as approved by HCs” is no longer sufficient for the permit
 - Supplemental NEPA analysis
- NMFS is working on a Methow steelhead biop and is waiting for the fishery plan from WDFW.
- NMFS is aiming to complete summer and fall Chinook biop and permits by spring 2015.

VIII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2015

B. Potential January Meeting Agenda Items

- Composite broodstock collection
- Broodstock collection protocols
- Methow remote acclimation
- White River spring Chinook program

Meeting Materials

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

- November meeting agenda
- White River decision tree
- Draft October meeting summary
- YN Goal Wall Acclimation Proposal
- Goat Wall Acclimation SOA
- Final 2013 Hatchery M&E report
- Priest Rapids Hatchery M&E monthly update for October 2014
- Nason Creek October Rotary Trap Summary
- White River October Rotary Trap Summary
- Press release from the Coastal Conservation Association
- PR Hydroelectric Project Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan 2012 Annual Report

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- 2013 annual report and sampling protocol for aquatic invasive species monitoring at Leavenworth, Entiat, and Winthrop hatcheries