

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, July 16, 2015
Wenatchee, Washington
Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Craig Busack, NMFS (via phone)
Bill Gale, USFWS
Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

- A. Approved the May meeting summary and June conference call summary.
- B. Canceled the August HSC meeting.

Actions

1. NMFS will try to schedule a meeting with USFWS and the PUDs during the week of 7/27 to discuss the Methow Spring Chinook biop.
 2. NMFS will look into circulating the draft biop on northeast Oregon hatchery programs (currently out for agency review).
 3. Ross Strategic will send a reminder to the HSC to submit comments on the draft GPUD 2016 M&E Implementation Plan.
 4. WDFW will circulate a recent presentation from invasive species staff.
 5. Ross Strategic will incorporate revisions to the White River data table and circulate the revised document with the HSC.
 6. WDFW will check to see if there is any historical White River data prior to 1958 (e.g., USFWS spawning ground surveys). (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)
 7. GPUD will update the White River spring Chinook productivity presentation for the next HSC meeting. (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)
 8. WDFW will contact state invasive species staff to determine the timeline for development of a New Zealand Mud Snail protocol. (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)
 9. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC. (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)
- I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review**
- A. PAC** – PAC recently forwarded a response to GPUD’s questions on ACOE activities at Ringold Hatchery.
 - B. HSC-HC** – [Summary of joint HSC-HC/PRCC-HSC discussions is available in the July HSC

meeting summary]

- C. **PRCC** – The Fish Passage Center’s evaluation of the 2015 survival study plan is critical of the plan, in particular the fish on/fish off operations at the Priest Rapids powerhouse and Wanapum juvenile bypass.
- D. **Meeting Summary Review** – HSC approved the May meeting summary and June conference call summary as amended.

II. **Permit Updates**

- A. **NMFS** – NMFS staff is working on completing the Wenatchee steelhead biological opinion. Due to ongoing litigation, other NMFS activities in the Upper Columbia have been limited. The most recent activity was a project to calculate Methow spring Chinook gene flow.
 - For the Methow spring Chinook biop, PUD and USFWS agreement on new gene flow guidelines and monitoring are needed. GPUD suggested that setting a permit condition for the monitoring plan to be completed within 90 days of permit issuance was necessary for planning and timeliness purposes. NMFS and USFWS noted that 90 days is not sufficient time to develop a monitoring plan. GPUD said that a Methow Hatchery monitoring plan has been in place for a long time and had been reviewed, reported upon, and approved by USFWS annually so time for development of a new plan is not necessary unless the current plan is inefficient or insufficient. USFWS is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to determine BOR’s ongoing monitoring activities in the Methow, since some of these activities could answer hatchery-related monitoring questions.
- B. **Next Steps**
 - NMFS will try to schedule a meeting with USFWS and the PUDs during the week of 7/27 to discuss the Methow Spring Chinook biop.
 - NMFS will look into circulating the draft biop on northeast Oregon hatchery programs (currently out for agency review).

III. **GPUD 2016 M&E Implementation Plan**

- A. **Draft 2016 Implementation Plan** – The draft GPUD 2016 M&E implementation plan is largely the same as the 2015 plan; changes to the 2016 plan are included in tracked changes in the draft circulated with the HSC on 7/14 for 30 day review.
- B. **Next Steps**
 - Ross Strategic will send a reminder to the HSC to submit comments on the draft GPUD 2016 M&E Implementation Plan.

IV. **AFS Presentations** – GPUD provided a preview of three presentations scheduled for the August AFS meeting in Portland:

- A. **Density Dependence and Artificial Propagation** – This presentation examines the relative influence of density-dependence and artificial propagation on productivity in the natural environment. The presentation shows several possible approaches to the problem of

separating the two key variables (hatchery-origin spawner abundance and total spawner abundance at high abundance).

- B. Wanapum Fracture: Lessons Learned** – This presentation examines the response to the Wanapum Dam fracture and key lessons learned in several areas, including: Communication, phased/adaptive approach, trap and transport, temporary fish passage design, and monitoring.
- C. Conversion Rate, Travel Time, and Survival of Adult Salmon and Steelhead through the Wanapum Dam Emergency Fish Passage System** – This presentation provides information on challenges related to: Monitoring passage, interim fish passage plan, historical performance and metrics, real-time monitoring and evaluating, and observations and results.

V. Wenatchee Rotary Traps

- A. Trap Status** – Nason Creek and White River rotary trap operations were temporarily suspended as GPUD and YN finalized contracting (HSC members were updated on trap operations status via e-mail). The White River trap is not inhibited by water temperature issues or low flow; however mid-July White River discharge levels are approximately 10% of average for mid-July. Nason Creek flows are also extremely low and will likely prevent trapping operations within the next few days. Temperatures in Nason Creek are also approaching limits for fish tagging and handling.

VI. White River Planning

- A. Questions for 2026 Technical Committee** – HSC members revised the draft table associated with the White River decision tree.
- B. Path Forward and Next Steps**
 - Ross Strategic will incorporate revisions to the White River data table and circulate the revised document with the HSC.

VII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- A. Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 17, 2015
- B. Potential June Meeting Agenda Items**
 - Yakama Nation Coho hatchery
 - Priest Rapids Hatchery M&E Report
 - White River planning

Meeting Materials

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

Priest Rapids Hatchery

- May 2015 PUD Hatchery Progress Report
- July HSC Agenda

- 2016 GPUD M&E Implementation Plan
- White River June rotary trap summary
- Nason Creek June rotary trap summary