

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Bill Gale, USFWS (via phone)
Peter Graf, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD
Todd Pearsons, GPUD
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Dave Duvall, GPUD
Ian Hunter, GPUD
Kim Hyatt, Fisheries & Oceans Canada (via phone)
Cory Kamphaus, YN
Alene Underwood, CPUD (via phone)
Catherine Willard, CPUD (via phone)
Howie Wright, ONA (via phone)

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

- A. Rescheduled the October HSC meeting to 10/22 (to coordinate with HCP-HC).

Actions

1. Ross Strategic will work with HCP-HC facilitators to schedule a joint discussion of spring Chinook permitting at Goat Wall in October (discussion could occur either in the HCP-HC or PRCC-HSC).
2. YN will contact Craig Busack with details on YN's question about permitting at Goat Wall (whether tagging and acclimation at Goat Wall is allowable under the existing permit), prior to the October meeting.
3. Ross Strategic will add the approved 2016 Wenatchee M&E Implementation Plan to the Boxnet site.
4. Ross Strategic will send a reminder to the HSC to submit comments on the draft PRH Annual M&E Report approximately 10 days before the close of the 30 day comment period.
5. WDFW will contact life cycle model staff (Jeremy Cram) to determine: 1) If there is a list of data needs and 2) Whether modeling staff are prepared to present a White River-specific modeling update.
6. GPUD will update the White River spring Chinook productivity presentation for circulation with the HSC (note: not for broader circulation).
7. YN will write up a description of its request to collect coho broodstock at the Priest Rapids OLAF (number of fish, collection days, and collection duration).
8. 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)
9. WDFW will circulate a recent presentation from invasive species staff. (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)

10. 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)
11. 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. HCP-HC** – YN is working to resolve permitting related to tagging and transfer of spring Chinook at the Goat Wall site, in particular whether those activities are allowed under the existing NMFS permit. [A summary of joint HCP-HC/PRCC-HSC discussions is available in the September HCP meeting summary]
- B. Next Steps**
 - YN will contact Craig Busack with details on YN’s question about permitting at Goat Wall (whether tagging and acclimation at Goat Wall is allowable under the existing permit), prior to the October meeting.
 - Ross Strategic will work with HCP-HC facilitators to schedule a joint discussion of spring Chinook permitting at Goat Wall in October (discussion could occur either in the HCP-HC or PRCC-HSC).
- C. Fall Chinook Working Group** – The Hanford Reach protection program begins 10/15. Spawning ground surveys on Vernita Bar will begin shortly thereafter.
- D. AFS Symposium Recap** – The organizers of the multi-day session on hatchery-wild interactions are considering compiling the presentations into a book. A write-up of the session will also be available on the AFS website.
- E. 2016 Wenatchee M&E Implementation Plan** – The 2016 plan was finalized and will be uploaded to the PRCC HSC Boxnet site.
- F. Meeting Summary Review** – HSC deferred approval of the July meeting summary.

II. Permit Updates

- A. NMFS & USFWS** – A joint consultation meeting occurred in August, during which time NOAA and USFWS provided permit updates.

III. Wanapum Spillway Update

- A. Update on Spillway Repairs** – GPUD (Ian Hunter) provided an overview of the Wanapum Dam monolith fracture, the repair process, and the temporary modifications for fish passage during low water.

IV. Draft PRH Annual M&E Report

- A. Review Process** – The draft PRH Annual M&E Report was circulated with HSC members on 10/15 for 30 day review. Table 57 of the report illustrates PNI data in several ways. The NOAA draft model for estimating PNI for populations with multiple hatcheries was not used in the report; if the NOAA method is formalized and adopted, it will likely be used for future PNI calculations.

B. Next Steps

- Ross Strategic will send a reminder to the HSC to submit comments on the draft PRH Annual M&E Report approximately 10 days before the close of the 30 day comment period.

V. Nason and Carlton Facility Water Status

- A. Water Availability** – Due to ongoing drought conditions GPUD is working with ECY water permitting staff to ensure adequate water supplies to the Nason and Carlton acclimation facilities. At the Nason Creek Acclimation Facility, since the groundwater and surface water rights are decoupled, GPUD can use groundwater to fill the facility (likely no more than one day). At Carlton the groundwater and surface water right are coupled and therefore groundwater cannot be used for consumptive purposes when restrictions are in effect. ECY determined that certain agricultural water trust rights in the Methow were available for purchase and that GPUD’s needs were important enough to apply those water rights toward the Carlton facility. GPUD used the agricultural water right to fill the Carlton facility and on 10/1 will begin water flow through the system as a non-consumptive water right. GPUD is working with ECY to extend the agricultural water right permanently in the future, under certain conditions.

VI. White River Planning

A. Data Needs and Gaps Analysis for 2026 Technical Committee

- CCT commented that NMFS is in the process of the five year status review and will likely release the results within the next two months. The results might suggest NMFS’s interpretation of VSP criteria.
- WDFW noted that the life cycle model, as a data source, has several components – including a Wenatchee Basin-specific model. It is also unclear the degree to which the model reflects reality, since according to the model the number of genetically differentiated White River spring Chinook should currently be zero.
- GPUD suggested attempting to identify the most significant issues in existing data sets, in particular any underlying reasons why the life stage-specific models and the NRR data do not match well (i.e., is there a problem with the model, or is there a bias in the NRR data – likely carcass recovery bias).
- CCT suggested using the NOR estimates from spawning ground surveys and their associated broodyear contributions, then apply the average SAR for the Wenatchee Basin to the other subpopulations. This would provide an estimated number of smolts needed for White River production. To consider the lake effect, use the smolt production estimates from the rotary trap and adults for the associated broodyear, and calculate the SAR to return that number of adults.
- WDFW commented that there may never be enough data from the White River to adequately inform management.
- GPUD noted that the Upper Wenatchee Basin is one of the most data-rich areas of the world for spring Chinook and other fish management bodies have been required

to make decisions about hatchery programs using far less data.

B. Next Steps

- WDFW will contact life cycle model staff (Jeremy Cram) to determine: 1) If there is a list of data needs and 2) Whether modeling staff are prepared to present a White River-specific modeling update.
- GPUD will update the White River spring Chinook productivity presentation for circulation with the HSC (note: not for broader circulation).

VII. YN Coho Broodstock Collection

- A. Broodstock Collection Needs** – The Columbia River coho run was predicted at approximately 700,000 fish but the actual returns are dismal. Early run counts at Bonneville Dam have already peaked and are rapidly declining. In previous low water years in the Wenatchee Basin, fish typically held in the Columbia River until a rain event before moving up the basin, but at this point there are relatively few fish even in the Columbia River. YN is requesting to trap coho at Priest Rapids Dam.
- YN will write up a description of its request to collect coho broodstock at the Priest Rapids OLAFT (number of fish, collection days, and collection duration).

VIII. Okanagan Sockeye Program

- A. Peer Review & Hatchery Progress** – ONA representatives provided an overview of their long-term project to re-introduce sockeye into Skaha Lake. The presentation included background information on ONA's territory, member bands, mission, and the historical range of Okanagan Sockeye. ONA reviewed its four key research questions on the re-introduction project and key accomplishments/milestones since the project concept was outlined in 1997. ONA summarized 2015 hatchery releases, thermal marking, and 2015 broodstock plans, and broodstock from the Penticton weir.
- B. Questions and Comments/Responses to Comments**
- ONA will meet its domestic escapement objective for wild Osoyoos fish. For Skaha, the Penticton Channel is essentially for flood control and has been in a degraded state for decades; available evidence suggests that approximately 20,000 spawners would support escapement from the channel.
 - Spawning platforms in the Penticton Channel provide sockeye spawning habitat.
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada is working on a paper on productive capacity comparisons that includes data that can be incorporated into the spawning capacity estimate for Penticton Channel. This will set new escapement goals for the Osoyoos wild population and should provide an ability to determine the level of natural sockeye production in the system.
 - Okanagan Lake outflows are currently within the seasonally accepted range for access and spawning. Winter flows will be a tougher issue.

IX. YN Coho Program

A. New YN Coho Facility and Acclimation Sites – YN provided a presentation on site and facility development, including: The various projects needs and purposes, conceptual designs for acclimation and hatchery sites, status of the permitting processes, and implementation timelines for operations.

B. Questions and Comments/Responses to Comments

- All of the proposed YN sites will be built, the only question being timing.
- The Methow Basin is the designated upland natural area for the Colville Confederated Tribes and non-CCT facilities and sites in the basin is a politically charged issue that could affect site completion (depending on the site).

X. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2015

B. Potential October Meeting Agenda Items

- Yakama Nation Coho hatchery

Meeting Materials

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

- September HSC Agenda
- July M&E progress report for PUD hatchery programs
- White River August rotary trap summary
- Nason Creek August rotary trap summary