

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Craig Busack, NMFS (via phone for agenda item I)

Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)

Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD (alt)

Todd Pearsons, GPUD

Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Jeremy Cram, WDFW

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator

Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

- A. Approved the April meeting summary as amended, pending NMFS approval.
- B. Approved the Methow Adult Management Plan in concept.

Actions

1. WDFW will move ahead with organizing staff at Tumwater Dam to begin broodstock collection activities.
2. WDFW will contact CPUD to confirm that they are comfortable collecting Chiwawa fish under the Chiwawa program permit, and if the new Nason Creek permit is issued then those fish would be used for the Nason Creek program.
3. WDFW will check to see if there is any historical White River data prior to 1958 (e.g., USFWS spawning ground surveys).
4. GPUD will update the White River spring Chinook productivity presentation for the next HSC meeting.
5. Ross Strategic will circulate the revised decision tree packet with a request for HSC members to review the data table in advance of substantive discussion during the June meeting.
6. HSC members will review the draft Wenatchee M&E Report and provide comments.
7. Ross Strategic will request e-mail approval of the draft 2014 Wenatchee M&E Report by 6/1.
8. Ross Strategic will add presentations from HSC meetings to the Boxnet site.
9. 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)
10. CCT will circulate its Chief Joseph hatchery program workshop report with the HSC. (status: carried over from previous meeting summary)

I. Permit Updates

- A. Spring Chinook HGMP Re-initiation** – NMFS has not finalized the permit under the re-

initiated HGMP and biological opinion to allow compositing of Nason Creek spring Chinook. GPUD management will not carry out activities not covered under existing permit.

- GPUD management requested that NMFS’s concurrence (that planned broodstock collection activities are covered under permit) originate on NMFS letterhead, from senior NMFS management.
 - NMFS noted that high-level correspondence on NMFS letterhead will require additional time to complete and may lead to permit delays.
- CCT, YN and WDFW noted that under the existing CPUD Chiwawa program permit approximately 80 Chiwawa adults can be collected at Tumwater Dam and retained for broodstock. Therefore, broodstock collection for Nason Creek can proceed under this permit and the GPUD Nason Creek Permit for Nason origin fish; the fish would be transferred to Eastbank for genetic typing and Nason Creek and Chiwawa natural-origin fish would be retained for broodstock. Chiwawa fish could be held pending issuance of a new Nason Creek program permit; if/when the new GPUD permit is issued these fish would be used for the Nason Creek program, and additional Chiwawa NORs would be collected to fulfill both programs. GPUD would need a new permit before any composite spawning occurred.

B. USFWS Consultation Update – NMFS will no longer issue new permits until completing USFWS consultations. NMFS identified this as a significant gap in the permitting process, but the current permit process for the Nason permit won’t be delayed by this future provision.

C. Next Steps

- WDFW will move ahead with organizing staff at Tumwater Dam to begin broodstock collection activities.
- WDFW will contact CPUD to confirm that they are comfortable collecting Chiwawa fish under the Chiwawa program permit, and if the new Nason Creek permit is issued then those fish would be used for the Nason Creek program.
- NMFS will finish permits

II. Updates

A. PRCC – The PRCC will meet during the week of 5/25. The PRCC approved the HSC’s remote acclimation SOA and will continue to review HSC SOAs.

B. HSC-HC – The Methow Adult Management Plan was approved in concept during the May HC meeting. A revised draft of the plan with updated run escapement numbers will be circulated; the document will continue to be updated as run sizes change. The HC also reviewed the five year M&E report.

- HSC members affirmed the HC’s conceptual approval of the Methow Adult Management Plan.

III. Life Cycle Models as Recovery Tools

- A. Presentation from WDFW** – Jeremy Cram provided an overview of life cycle modeling, accounting for within-basin factors and out-of-basin factors. The presentation included project goals, prospective modeling, sample model outputs, available data, model resolution, and upcoming products. Jeremy also provided the following information in response to HSC questions and comments:
- A draft spring Chinook model should be available later in 2015. This will include habitat, hatchery and multiple production areas using one year of Nason Creek over-winter survival data.
 - The ability to predict adult returns based on modeling has hatchery management implications, especially the ability to run scenarios for broodstock collection and the size of conservation programs.

IV. White River Productivity

- A. Productivity Estimate by Life-Stage** – GPUD updated its presentation on White River spring Chinook productivity using additional/supplementary data as suggested by HSC members. The NRR data from the draft annual report suggests that the White River natural rate of return is sustainable in the absence of a hatchery, whereas the modeled NRR indicates that the population is far below sustainable.
- GPUD noted that there are two years of paired release data for the captive brood data and several years of rotary trap data. Both sets of data indicate low lake survival and this suggests that the NRR data may be biased. One explanation for the disparate results of the NRR and modelled NRR is that the observed NRR does not account for carcass recovery bias which could artificially inflate NRR.
 - Regarding significant changes during the past 30 years:
 - WDFW commented that Tumwater Dam modifications during the mid to late 1980's included a new adult fish ladder.
 - WDFW noted that climate change is a potential variable that has contributed to White River spring Chinook productivity changes during the last thirty years. What were previously drought-like conditions are becoming more normal, rather than an anecdotal data point, and will become increasingly significant in the future.
 - CCT commented that increased development and increased nutrient cycling from septic tanks are also potential contributing variables.
 - CCT noted that if a population is not at replacement level, fish managers must balance productivity and abundance in the interim, and the appropriate ratio is difficult to decide upon.
- B. Next Steps**
- WDFW will check for any historical White River data prior to 1958 (e.g., USFWS spawning ground surveys).
 - GPUD will update the White River spring Chinook productivity presentation for the next HSC meeting.

V. White River Acclimation

- A. Update on Temporary Acclimation** – The White River fish were released and all signs were positive. Grant PUD will provide a more detailed update during the June HSC meeting.

VI. White River and Nason Creek Rotary Traps

- A. 2014 Reports** – The comment period for the 2014 rotary trap reports is closed; the reports will be finalized and added to the 2014 M&E report as appendices.

VII. White River Planning

- A. Questions for 2026 Technical Committee** – HSC members reviewed the 2026 decision tree and associated question/data table.
- WDFW suggested that the HSC concentrate on identifying data gaps that need to be bridged prior to 2026. Some of the gaps are ongoing and the data will be forthcoming (e.g., the reproductive success study). Other work will require funding commitments.
- B. Next Steps**
- Ross Strategic will circulate the revised decision tree packet with a request for HSC members to review the data table in advance of substantive discussion during the June meeting.

VIII. Meeting Summary Review

- A. April Meeting Summary** – HSC members approved the April meeting summary, pending NMFS approval.

IX. Wenatchee M&E Report Review

- A. Document Review** – The draft 2014 Wenatchee M&E Report was circulated with the HSC on 5/4. The report is due to NMFS on 6/1, and comments on the report are also due by 6/1. GPUD would like to meet the submittal deadline as closely as possible.
- CCT requested to discuss reporting of Okanogan summer Chinook data during the next HSC meeting (i.e., whether to issue as a separate report or to include as an appendix to the M&E report).
 - WDFW noted that during the 5/20 HC meeting, the Committee discussed adjusting the timeline for annual M&E report review to improve the process for submitting comments and report approval.
- B. Next Steps**
- HSC members will review the draft Wenatchee M&E Report and provide comments.
 - Ross Strategic will request e-mail approval of the draft 2014 Wenatchee M&E Report by 6/1.

X. HETT Update

- A. M&E Appendices** – HETT members divided responsibilities for completing the M&E plan appendices. The appendices are scheduled to be completed in June; the HETT will meet in July and then forward the appendices to the HSC for review and adoption in the M&E plan.

XI. Joint HC/HSC Meeting Topics

- A. Update on PUD Discussions** – GPUD reiterated its interest in having issues of mutual committee interest discussed in joint session.
 - YN commented that there is precedence for joint discussions among the tributary subcommittees, and if PUDs are entering into joint agreements or developing joint M&E plans then discussions on these topics should occur jointly.
 - WDFW noted that there is need to identify cross-committee topics and then agree upon which committee should take the lead.

XII. HSC Boxnet Updates

- A. Review of Content** – Ross Strategic reminded HSC members that the Boxnet site is now re-organized and requested feedback on the contents of the Boxnet folders and overall organization.
 - YN requested that presentations from HSC meetings be added to the Boxnet site.
- B. Next Steps**
 - Ross Strategic will add presentations from HSC meetings to the Boxnet site.

XIII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

- A. Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 18, 2015
- B. Potential June Meeting Agenda Items**
 - White River 2026 planning
 - White River productivity
 - GPUD hatchery updates

Meeting Materials

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

- May meeting agenda
- April Nason Creek rotary trap report
- April White River rotary trap report
- Revised White River decision tree
- Methow Basin Spring Chinook Adult Management Plan: 2015
- CPUD and GPUD March M&E Report
- March Nason Creek Rotary Trap Summary
- March White River Rotary Trap Summary