

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

GPUD Wenatchee Office

Meeting Summary

PRCC HSC Members

Brett Farman, NOAA (via phone)

Bill Gale, USFWS

Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)

Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation

Mike Tonseth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Curt Dotson, GPUD (via phone)

Eric Lauver, GPUD

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD

Pat Wyena, Wanapum Tribe (via phone)

Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator

Andy Chinn, Facilitator

Decisions

The HSC approved the June and July meeting summaries as amended.

Actions

1. Ross Strategic will circulate the revised draft Coho SOA with the HSC once the draft is finalized.
2. WDFW will look into any existing guidance around management of fish overages.

I. Updates and Meeting Summary Review

- A. June and July Meeting Summaries** – HSC members approved the March and May meeting summaries as amended, pending WDFW approval (for July).

II. Coho NNI

- A. Update on PRCC discussions and SOA** – Elizabeth reported that PRCC and HSC members in attendance at the joint August PRCC/HSC meeting agreed that YN's presentation satisfied the requirement for an evaluation of the Coho program, in accordance with SOA 2007-16. GPUD and YN continue their discussions around a draft SOA on the Coho program evaluation and will circulate it with the HSC for review and voting, most likely at the October HSC meeting.
 - CCT suggested an annual presentation on the Coho program, similar to the presentation for the sockeye program.
 - GPUD noted that consistency between programs from the new approach will be helpful.
 - CCT noted that the SOA's description of how GPUD meets its mitigation is important to CCT because of potential Coho activities in the Methow.
- B. Next Steps**
 - Ross Strategic will circulate the revised draft Coho SOA with the HSC once the draft is finalized.

III. Nason Acclimation Facility

- A. Update on Intake Performance** – There is significant gravel buildup on one side of the intake screen and a large scour hole on the other side. GPUD is planning to relocate approximately 17 cubic yards of the deposited gravel to the scoured side of the intake. The in-river work will include positioning some large boulders to hold the gravel in place to prevent further movement and protect the intake pipe. Because no redds have been found in the vicinity of the intake and the small amount of material to be moved GPUD believes the work will not affect listed fish. GPUD will also analyze the depth of scour to determine if the river would scour more deeply if the intake were not in place. The presentation is available [here](#).

IV. White River Rotary Trap

- A. Large Diameter Trap** – YN installed the second, larger diameter smolt trap on August 9 and has been performing well at low water and is already catching fish. Details are included in the August smolt trap [report](#).
- HSC members noted that it will be helpful to have a complete brood class to look at when considering results of the revised smolt trapping setup.
 - YN reiterated that the intention of the revised trapping setup is to improve the flow efficiency model while not increasing fish handling above the 20% threshold.
 - Members reviewed the August monthly trap summary and noted that fish captures have increased but efficiency trials were unable to be conducted because of the 50 fish minimum requirement. HSC members discussed the difficulty in conducting efficiency trials in the White River even with the additional trap due to the 50 fish minimum guidelines. Members agreed that this would be an issue to track and discuss going forward.

V. Nason Acclimation Program

- A. BY2016 Overage** – During marking, WDFW discovered an overage of both safety net and conservation program fish. WDFW decided to (1) mark wild by wild fish in excess of the conservation program goal as safety net fish and (2) to transfer the excess hatchery by hatchery fish to Banks Lake, rather than cull fish.
- YN commented that these types of decisions should come to the HSC rather than be made unilaterally by WDFW. In addition, the Chiwawa program is short of wild by wild fish and a longer conversation is needed around how to handle fish when one program has too many and another is short.
 - GPUD stated that they were not familiar with the management decision framework whereby excess conservation fish are marked as safety net fish and asked if the Wenatchee spring Chinook programs are being managed at the individual program-component level or the population level. GPUD requested that in future meetings the committee review that framework and discuss whether it is appropriate for the Wenatchee/Nason Program.
 - WDFW noted that there are avenues that the HSC can take to minimize this type of outcome in the future.

B. Next Steps

- WDFW will look into any existing guidance around management of fish overages.

VI. Wrap Up and Next Steps

A. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2017

B. Potential Agenda Items:

- Coho NNI

Meeting Materials

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

- September meeting agenda
- Draft June and July meeting summaries
- August White River rotary trap summary
- August Nason Creek rotary trap summary