

Memorandum

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees and Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee Document Date: February 17, 2023

From: Tracy Hillman, HCP Hatchery Committees Chairman and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Facilitator

cc: Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, LLC

Re: Final Minutes of the January 18, 2023, HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meetings

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) and Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee's Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) meetings were held virtually on Webex, on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

Long-Term

Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

- Kirk Truscott will work with Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation staff to develop a model that addresses the probability of encountering natural-origin return Okanogan River spring Chinook Salmon at Wells Dam (Item I-A). *(Note: This item is ongoing; expected completion date to be determined.)*
- Kirk Truscott will determine the number of scales that should be collected from spring Chinook Salmon at Wells Dam for elemental signature analysis to discern Okanogan River spring Chinook Salmon from Methow River spring Chinook Salmon (Item I-A). *(Note: This item is ongoing; completion depends on the outcome of the previous action item.)*
- Keely Murdoch and Mike Tonseth will obtain estimates of pre-spawn mortality from Andrew Murdoch to update the retrospective analysis for Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon (Item I-A). *(Note: This item is ongoing; expected completion date to be determined.)*
- Members of the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC will provide feedback to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)-revised version of questions on recalculation for Policy Committees (Item I-A). *(Note: This item is ongoing.)*

Near-Term (to be completed by next meeting)

Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

- Mike Tonseth will work with Matt Cooper to distribute an analysis showing feasibility of the Methow spring Chinook Salmon Outplanting Plan based on historical run size data and proportionate natural influence targets (Item I-A). (*Note: This item is ongoing.*)
- PUD authors and contractors contributing to the 2023 Broodstock Collection Protocols will make revisions to the shared version, in preparation for distribution for Committee review on February 3, 2023.

Decision Summary

- The Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC approved Chelan PUD's and Grant PUD's Statements of Agreement (SOAs) regarding their Sockeye Salmon programs.

Agreements

- Members of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC agreed to the use of the Multivariate Auto-Regressive State-Space Model to adjust older (1987 to 2003) Wenatchee steelhead escapement time-series data so they can be compared directly with the newer (2004 to present) escapement data.

Review Items

- The Draft 2023 Wells HCP Action Plan was distributed for review on Tuesday, January 17, with comments and questions due to Tom Kahler by Monday, January 23, 2023.
- The Draft 2023 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan was distributed on Tuesday, January 31, for discussion in the February 15 meeting.

Finalized Documents

- The final SOA regarding Chelan PUD's Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Obligation Through Release Year 2041 was approved in today's meeting, and a final version will be distributed and filed following the meeting.
- The final SOA regarding Grant PUD's Sockeye Salmon program (SOA 2023-01) was approved in today's meeting and will be distributed following PRCC approval.
- The final report entitled, *Recalculation of Mid-Columbia River PUD Hatchery Production, 2024-2033: A Compilation of Relevant Documents* was distributed on February 1, 2023.

I. Welcome

A. Agenda, Approval of Past Minutes, Action Item Review

Tracy Hillman welcomed the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC, reviewed the agenda, and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The discussion on Methow spring Chinook Salmon adult outplanting was postponed to the next meeting. The agenda was approved without additional changes.

Action items from the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC meeting on December 21, 2022, were reviewed. *(Note: Italicized text below corresponds to action items from the previous meeting.)*

Long-Term

Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

- *Kirk Truscott will work with Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation staff to develop a model that addresses the probability of encountering natural-origin return Okanogan River spring Chinook Salmon at Wells Dam (Item I-A). (Note: This item is ongoing; expected completion date to be determined.)*
- *Kirk Truscott will determine the number of scales that should be collected from spring Chinook Salmon at Wells Dam for elemental signature analysis to discern Okanogan River spring Chinook Salmon from Methow River spring Chinook Salmon (Item I-A). (Note: This item is ongoing; completion depends on the outcome of the previous action item.)*
- *Keely Murdoch and Mike Tonseth will obtain estimates of pre-spawn mortality from Andrew Murdoch to update the retrospective analysis for Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon (Item I-A). (Note: This item is ongoing; a presentation will be given in early 2023.)*
- *Members of the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC will provide feedback to the WDFW-revised version of questions on recalculation for Policy Committees prior to the next meeting (Item I-A). (Note: This item is ongoing.)*

Near-Term (to be completed by next meeting)

Joint HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC

- *Todd Pearsons and Catherine Willard will revise Grant and Chelan PUD's draft SOAs on Sockeye Salmon obligations for approval in an upcoming meeting (Item I-A).*
The SOAs have been revised and approval will be sought in today's meeting.
- *Mike Tonseth will work with Matt Cooper to distribute an analysis showing feasibility of the Methow spring Chinook Salmon outplanting plan based on historical run size data and proportionate natural influence targets (Item I-A).*
Cooper said this item is ongoing.

- *Members of the HCP-HC and PRCC HSC will review materials provided by Kevin See (WDFW) on a proposed approach for updating and merging existing Wenatchee steelhead spawning escapement time-series data for further discussion in the January 18, 2023, meeting.*

This topic will be discussed and approval for using the method will be sought in today's meeting.

II. Joint HCP-HC and PRCC HSC

A. DECISION: Approval of Grant PUD, Chelan PUD the Okanagan Sockeye Program SOAs

Tracy Hillman noted that Grant PUD has been working with HCP-HC and PRCC HSC members outside of the meeting forum to craft the language in this SOA.

Rod O'Connor reviewed highlights of the SOA and noted that Tom Dresser (Grant PUD) had done much of the work resulting in the revisions shown today, so any questions could be referred to him. The highlights of this version of the SOA included the following:

- A 20-year timeframe (2021 through 2041)
- The PUDs would support continuing monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Commitment to a 10-year comprehensive check-in report
- Consideration of a program to collect broodstock and/or gametes to support hatchery production in years when conditions are prohibitive or limited in the Okanagan River
- Continuing discussion to resolve differences related to credit for natural-origin production as a result of reintroduction applied to hatchery production obligations

Catherine Willard showed the SOA for Chelan PUD, which was similar in scope but includes a shortened background section.

All representatives of the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCPs-HCs and PRCC HSC approved the SOAs for Grant PUD and Chelan PUD. (Mike Tonseth did not attend the meeting but approved on behalf of WDFW via email prior to the meeting).

B. 2023 Broodstock Collection Protocols Development

Larissa Rohrbach said that work on the 2023 Broodstock Collection Protocols is ongoing within a draft that has been shared with authors and necessary staff. A draft is needed by February 3, 2023, for distribution to the HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC ahead of the February meeting. The group viewed recent updates during the meeting and noted more work will be done by authors in the coming weeks. No major changes to broodstock collection approaches have been recommended for discussion.

III. RI/RR HCP-HC

A. Reporting Wenatchee Steelhead Abundance in 2023

Tracy Hillman reviewed this topic for the meeting attendees. In the December 21, 2022, meeting, Kevin See (WDFW) presented a crosswalk model (Multivariate Auto-Regressive State-Space) that adjusts older (1987 to 2003) Wenatchee steelhead spawning escapement data so they can be compared directly with newer (2004 to present) spawning escapement data (summarized in the December 21, 2022, meeting minutes with See's presentation and a white paper explaining the methods attached to the minutes). Hillman asked whether anyone had questions about the crosswalk model. There were no questions.

All Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCPs-HCs and PRCC HSC representatives in attendance agreed to using the model developed by See to bridge datasets for future analyses. These adjusted data will be included in the *2022 Annual Report for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Chelan and Grant County PUDs Hatchery Programs* (the Hatchery M&E Report). Hillman said the documentation provided by See would be attached to the annual report for context.

IV. Wells HCP-HC

A. 2023 Wells HCP Action Plan

Tom Kahler noted that it is not a requirement of the HCP to share and request approval of the PUDs' annual Action Plans, but the PUDs have been preparing these documents to show the HCP Committees what they plan to accomplish in the coming year and to allow the Committees an opportunity to provide input on whether anything is missing or anything seems unrealistic. The intent is to document accurately the activities and ensure everyone is aware about what the PUDs intend to do in the upcoming year.

Key components of the 2023 Wells HCP Action Plan include the following:

1. Ongoing Hatchery M&E Plan implementation
2. Finalizing the 10-Year Comprehensive Report. Kahler is finishing work that was left incomplete with the departure of key staff.
3. Updating the 5-Year M&E Plan. This action describes a process for updating a plan as a result of recommendations given in the 10-Year Comprehensive Report, and Douglas PUD is hopeful that the suggested schedule is realistic for those events. It would be ideal to wrap up the 10-Year Comprehensive Report before addressing changes to the M&E Plan.
4. Implementation of precocity assessments
5. Completion of the report on the Twisp juvenile population study (steelhead and spring Chinook Salmon). Douglas PUD worked with WDFW on electrofishing in the Twisp River to develop juvenile population estimates. This was a trial of concept for an alternative

methodology for deriving population estimates in response to the discrepancies between juvenile population estimates derived from the Twisp rotary screw trap, and estimates derived from the lower Methow rotary screw trap.

6. Revising Broodstock Collection Protocols for 2023
7. Ongoing activities in support of the Fish-Water Management Tool in Canada
8. Forward movement on the Methow Steelhead Reproductive Success Study to distribute a report before updates are made to the M&E Plan
9. Ongoing support for Chief Joseph Hatchery production
10. Routine work to obtain annual permits from WDFW for operation of the two hatcheries
11. Evaluation of the steelhead conservation program and the Methow and safety-net steelhead releases will occur in 2023. This is a new item for summer steelhead production resulting from the recalculation process. The final SOA (dated July 20, 2022) resulting from the recalculation process states, "Additionally, the JFP commit to jointly, with Douglas PUD, developing a formal evaluation of the conservation programs currently operating in the Twisp and upper Methow, as well as an evaluation of the Wells Methow Safety-net and Columbia River Safety-net releases. This evaluation will include off-ramps should data suggest continuance of the current strategy poses a risk to the population." This component of the Wells Action Plan formalizes the commitment and timing to work on this issue.
12. Development of an M&E plan for Methow summer Chinook releases is another new item as a result of recalculation process. The final SOA (dated July 20, 2022) resulting from the recalculation process states, "Marking schemes for the two summer Chinook NNI release groups will facilitate comparisons of SARs, migration behavior, and spawner distribution between the two Douglas PUD release groups and with Grant PUD's fish released from the Carlton Acclimation Facility. The JFP and Douglas PUD commit to jointly developing a formal monitoring and evaluation plan for the Douglas PUD Methow Basin summer Chinook releases. Further, Douglas PUD will be responsible for monitoring their Methow Basin summer Chinook releases, and the JFP and Douglas PUD commit to evaluating the performance of the releases annually on the comparisons described above to determine if either strategy warrants continuation or whether or not an alternate strategy is required. Annual evaluations will begin with juvenile releases in 2024 and adult returns in 2025." Douglas PUD would like to determine what the M&E Plan will be for this comparison, ideally by the second half of the year and no later than September.

Kahler said any questions or comments can be directed to him. The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will discuss formal approval of the plan in next Tuesday's meeting (January 24, 2023). If there are suggested changes, Douglas PUD wants to know about them by Monday in preparation for that meeting.

V. Administration

A. Next Meetings

The next regular HCP-HCs and PRCC HSC meetings will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 15; Wednesday, March 15, 2023; and Wednesday, April 19, 2023. The HCP-HC and PRCC HSC agreed they would meet virtually from December through February.

VI. Attachments

Attachment A: List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
Larissa Rohrbach ^o	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillman ^o	BioAnalysts, Inc.
Scott Hopkins ^{*o}	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard ^{*o}	Chelan PUD
Kirk Truscott ^{*‡o}	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Betsy Bamberger ^o	Douglas PUD
Tom Kahler ^{*o}	Douglas PUD
Rod O'Connor ^{*‡o}	Grant PUD
Todd Pearsons ^{‡o}	Grant PUD
Tim Taylor ^o	Grant PUD
Brett Farman ^{*‡o}	National Marine Fisheries Service
Ben Goodman ^o	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Katy Shelby ^o	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlie Snow ^o	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch ^{*‡}	Yakama Nation
Charles Frady ^o	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Matt Cooper ^{*‡o}	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Clifford Smith ^o	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-HCs member or alternate

‡ Denotes PRCC HSC member or alternate

^o Joined by Webex