

## Memorandum

---

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCP  
Coordinating Committees

Date: October 25, 2022

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: **Final Minutes of the September 27, 2022, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting**

---

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met in person at the Wanapum Dam Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington, on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

### Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will verify dates and times the Rock Island Adult Ladder Tailrace Entrance (TRE) was closed while calculating adult conversion rates for the 2021 Rock Island Dam Confirmation Survival Study (Item I-C).
3. Chelan PUD will provide a synopsis of the engineering options considered to meet the minimum 1.0-foot head differential target at all four entrances at the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway during high spring flows in the Columbia River (Item I-C).
4. Chelan PUD will compile and distribute available historical fish ladder count data for the month of December at Rocky Reach Dam, with regard to Chelan PUD's request to begin the 2022/2023 adult fishway winter maintenance outage at Rocky Reach Dam on December 1, 2022 (1 month earlier than usual), to allow more time to complete required ladder repair work (Item IV-A). (*Note: Lance Keller provided these data on October 19, 2022, which were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris that same day.*)
5. Chelan PUD will request approval to begin the 2022/2023 adult fishway winter maintenance outage at Rocky Reach Dam on December 1, 2022, during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2022 (Item IV-A).
6. Chelan PUD will review how project operations at Rocky Reach Dam in 2022 compare to previous years, with regard to the volatility in the 2022 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass subyearling daily index counts (Item IV-B).
7. Chelan PUD will request approval of the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2022 Fish Spill Report* (2022 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report) during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2022 (Item IV-B).
8. The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, will be held from 12:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., in person at Douglas PUD in East Wenatchee, Washington (Item V-A).

9. Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA) will confirm with Bryan Nordlund (Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee [PRCC] Facilitator) the proposed HCP Coordinating Committees meetings on November 15 and December 16, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to be held via conference call, with the PRCC meetings to follow; and once confirmed, will verify these dates and times work for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) representative. The schedule adjustments are to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays (Item V-A). *(Note: Nordlund and Kirk Truscott verified these dates and times work for the PRCC and the CTCR, respectively.)*

## Decision Summary

1. There were no HCP Decision Items approved during today's meeting.

## Agreements

1. There were no HCP Agreements discussed during today's meeting.

## Review Items

1. HCP Plan Species comments received during the Rock Island relicensing process were provided by Chelan PUD and distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 24, 2022. The Yakama Nation's (YN's) categorization of YN comments were distributed on July 25, 2022.
2. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 1134-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on August 31, 2022, and is available for a 30-day review with comments due to Tom Kahler by Friday, September 30, 2022 (Item III-A).
3. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 86-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on September 12, 2022, and is available for a 30-day review with comments due to Tom Kahler by Wednesday, October 12, 2022 (Item III-A).
4. The draft 2022 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on September 22, 2022, and is available for review with comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, October 24, 2022 (Item IV-B).

## Finalized Documents

1. There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

## I. Welcome

### A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP Coordinating Committees and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Tom Kahler added 2023 Wells HCP No Net Impact (NNI) Comprehensive Progress Report.

### B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft August 16, 2022, meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said there is one outstanding comment to address under Chelan PUD's agenda item *HCP Plan Species Comments – Prioritization of Topics*. Geris asked Keely Murdoch to verify language that was added to clarify a statement made by K. Murdoch. K. Murdoch approved the edits and further clarified that this was a question she posed to Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Manager). Geris also added distribution of the draft 2022 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report to the minutes. All other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the August 16, 2022, meeting minutes as revised. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) abstained because a representative did not participate in the August 16, 2022, meeting.

### C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 16, 2022, and follow-up discussions were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on August 16, 2022*):

1. *Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).*

This action item will be discussed during today's meeting and will also be carried forward.

2. *NMFS will discuss internally options available for the HCP renewal process to inform Rock Island relicensing discussions (Item I-C).*

Scott Carlon said NMFS continues to discuss the renewal process and has not yet decided on a path forward. One option might be that NMFS initiates consultation on a new license assuming one is issued that would cover the estimated 50-year license. This Biological Opinion would include Endangered Species Act coverage for the gap period. Another option is to wait until the expiration of the HCP approaches and then arrange to initiate consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at that time. Extending the HCP will likely be the same as creating a new HCP because it will involve National Environmental Policy Act and Record of Decision consultation, which would likely result in new conservation measures. Currently, NMFS is less interested in the latter option.

3. *Chelan PUD will verify dates and times the Rock Island Adult Ladder TRE was closed while calculating adult conversion rates for the 2021 Rock Island Dam Confirmation Survival Study (Item I-C).*

This action item will be carried forward.

4. *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Douglas PUD will provide updates regarding the Methow River Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Detection Raft (Methow PIT Raft) to the HCP Coordinating Committees as needed and as they become available (Item I-C).*

Chad Jackson said WDFW coordinated with Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Douglas PUD, and the Methow PIT Raft is now on hold indefinitely. Andrew Murdoch said WDFW is exploring alternate locations for the raft in the lower reaches of the river. Douglas PUD had nothing further to add.

5. *Chelan PUD will provide a synopsis of the engineering options considered to meet the minimum 1.0-foot head differential target at all four entrances at the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway during high spring flows in the Columbia River (Item I-C).*

This action item will be carried forward.

6. *Anchor QEA will add Patrick Verhey (WDFW) to the HCP Coordinating Committees secondary email distribution list and will coordinate visitor access for Verhey to the HCP Coordinating Committees extranet site (Item VI-A).*

Kristi Geris completed these items following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 16, 2022.

7. *Douglas PUD will look into hosting the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2022 (Item VI-B).*

Tom Kahler confirmed the video conference room is reserved for the entire day.

## II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

### A. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update (Tracy Hillman)

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees meeting on September 8, 2022:

- *Time Extension:* The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Chelan County Natural Resources Department on the Lower Chiwawa River Floodplain Reconnection and Instream Enhancement Project. Because of challenges of scheduling meetings with landowners and stakeholders, the sponsor indicated that they need additional time to complete the Draft Concept Development Report. Therefore, they asked to extend the contract from November 30, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee agreed to extend the contract to December 31, 2022.
- *Scope Change:* The Wells HCP Tributary Committee received a request from Cascade Fisheries for a scope change on the Mission Project Wood Amendment. The sponsor asked to use

remaining funds (approximately \$18,462) to expand the project into Little Bridge and Poorman Creeks in the Twisp River watershed. The expanded scope will allow the sponsor to fell a total of 160 streamside trees directly into 6.5 miles of stream in reaches on the two streams. The Wells HCP Tributary Committee approved the scope change. The total cost of the project does not change as a result of this scope change.

- *Methow 3R Floodplain Feasibility Project Discussion:* The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation joined the meeting to discuss the Methow 3R Floodplain Feasibility Project, which is a 1-mile reach located on the Methow River between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop. The purpose of the study is to evaluate potential restoration opportunities, conduct landowner outreach, model stream hydraulics, evaluate potential biological benefits, and estimate costs. The sponsor identified a suite of design elements and estimated costs and concluded that the feasibility study indicates a high potential to expand thermal refuge, habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity, and riparian conditions while managing risks. The Wells HCP Tributary Committee is reviewing the restoration elements and will determine whether they want to participate in future design phases.
- *Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project Discussion:* Cascade Fisheries joined the meeting to discuss the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project. The purpose of this project is to conduct an appraisal of the 20.5-acre floodplain located on lower Peshastin Creek and develop conceptual restoration designs. The appraisal will be completed by the end of September 2022, and they shared three different restoration alternatives with the Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committee. Alternatives range from addition of wood to increase habitat complexity within the main channel of Peshastin Creek to floodplain reconnection, side channel creation, riparian enhancement, and instream habitat complexity restoration. The Rocky Reach HCP Tributary Committee is currently reviewing the three alternatives and will provide feedback to the sponsor soon.
- *Next Meeting:* The HCP Tributary Committees will not officially meet in October 2022. Some members of the HCP Tributary Committee will participate in site tours in Canada on October 12 and 13, 2022. The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on November 10, 2022.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on September 21, 2022 (*Note: Joint HCP Hatchery Committees/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "Joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Goat Wall Acclimation Proposal (Joint):* The YN provided responses to comments on their proposal to continue spring Chinook Salmon acclimation at the Goat Wall Acclimation site in the Methow Basin. Additional questions and comments were identified during the meeting.

The YN will respond to those questions in a revised response to comments. In addition, some members need more time to review responses to comments. Therefore, the Committees will vote on the proposal during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on November 16, 2022.

- *10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Report (Joint)*: The PUDs are completing their responses to comments and preparing summaries for the 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery M&E Report. The report should be finalized by the end of 2022.
- *2022 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Joint)*: Now that the PUDs have approved production numbers for release years 2024 to 2033, WDFW and the PUDs are updating the 2022 Broodstock Collection Protocols. These updates will be completed prior to the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on October 19, 2022. Members will review and hopefully approve the protocols during the meeting on October 19, 2022.
- *Chelan PUD's 2023 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD described their proposed 2023 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan. Changes from the previous version included adding specific text regarding spring Chinook Salmon redd and carcass surveys conducted in Icicle Creek and discontinuing steelhead redd surveys in the Wenatchee River. Chelan PUD proposes to use mark-recapture surveys to estimate steelhead spawning escapement within the mainstem Wenatchee River. Members recommended that the Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team (HETT) review the mark-recapture approach and report back to the HCP Hatchery Committees. Chelan PUD will convene the HETT soon.
- *Rearing of Summer Chinook Salmon at Wells Fish Hatchery for the Blocked Area (Wells)*: The YN indicated they are disappointed with how some members of the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee interpret Section 8.4.1 in the Wells HCP. Section 8.4.1, which is under the heading "Hatchery Production Commitments," and indicates: *The District may enter into agreements with other entities for the rearing, release, monitoring and evaluation and research of hatchery obligations. However, it is the District's responsibility to ensure that their obligations under Section 8 (Hatchery Compensation Plan) are satisfied. The Hatchery Committee must approve any proposed agreements or trades of production.* In some cases, members have asked for Committee approval (e.g., the rearing of summer Chinook Salmon for the Orca Program), while in other cases they have not (e.g., rearing of summer Chinook Salmon for reintroduction into the blocked area). WDFW and Douglas PUD noted the difference between these two cases: the Orca Program production was completely comingled with Douglas PUD's HCP production from broodstock collection through juvenile release, whereas the summer Chinook Salmon production for reintroduction into the blocked area is entirely separated from Douglas PUD's HCP production. Nevertheless, at this time, members have not agreed on which actions need Committee approval and which ones do not. The Committee may attempt to address this issue in future meetings.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on October 19, 2022.

### **III. Douglas PUD**

#### **A. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for LUP 1134-01 and LUP 86-01 (Tom Kahler)**

Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 1134-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on August 31, 2022, and is available for a 30-day review with comments due to Tom Kahler by Friday, September 30, 2022. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 86-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on September 12, 2022, and is available for a 30-day review with comments due to Kahler by Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Kahler said this is a routine process that has been ongoing since issuance of the new FERC license, where Douglas PUD is systematically issuing permits for actions that have been underway for several decades, in many cases. The application for LUP 1134-01 is for a section of orchard on Douglas PUD land. The application for LUP 86-01 is for an access road through Douglas PUD land. These permits will formalize currently used access points or activities located within Douglas PUD project boundaries.

#### **B. 2023 Wells HCP NNI Comprehensive Progress Report (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler said this is a similar progress report as Chelan PUD's agenda item and is due to FERC on the same timeline (March 2023). However, NNI under the Wells HCP includes contributions from the Fish and Water Management Tool (FWMT), which requires a different evaluation than that used for programs that are specific to a hatchery facility. Dr Kim Hyatt of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) was working on what he called a Weight of Evidence Summary Report, which combines numerous publications into one document and would be DFO's assessment of the contribution of the FWMT implementation towards meeting the Wells HCP NNI 7% hatchery compensation requirement for juvenile Sockeye Salmon. Hyatt had already incorporated multiple publications into this summary report; but Hyatt's efforts ended with his untimely passing in May 2021.

Kahler said DFO and the Okanagan Nation Alliance have been working under an ambitious timeline to complete Hyatt's report, which needs to be included in the 2023 Wells HCP NNI Comprehensive Progress Report. Douglas PUD plans to request a formal time extension of the March 2023 deadline. Instead of Quarter 1 (Q1) 2023, Douglas PUD is targeting a final report by Q3 or Q4 of 2023, and plans on issuing a report no later than December 31, 2023. There will be a 60-day review period, so Wells HCP Coordinating Committee members should expect to have a draft to review no later than September 2023. Similar to the 2013 report, Douglas PUD will include a comment and response matrix as an appendix.

John Ferguson noted that the driver to have a final approved report by December 2023, is to include the report in the 2023 Wells HCP Annual Report.

## IV. Chelan PUD

### A. 2022/2023 Rocky Reach Adult Fish Ladder Winter Maintenance (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Rocky Reach Dam Maintenance reached out to the Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Department about bringing a request to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period. The normal winter outage is from January 1 through the end of February. The request is for an additional month of outage, where the outage would extend from December 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023. The driver for this early outage is similar to last year. Recall, 3 years ago, a civil inspection of the adult fishway identified expansion joints in need of repair. Rocky Reach Dam Maintenance envisioned these repairs would require a multiyear effort. Repairs were initiated during the previous outage, and this year will be the second year of effort. Crews are hoping for better temperatures this December, compared to last year, that will not require extensive tenting and heating to address the repairs. Chelan PUD is not certain that all remaining repairs will be completed this year; another year of repairs may be required. Chelan PUD is not asking for a decision today but will accept a vote if Committee members are ready. The intent today was to get this topic in front of Committee members for discussion ahead of a decision during the HCP Coordinating Committees meetings on October 25, 2022. Chelan PUD noted that similar to last year, the fish ladder will be watered up as early as possible should work during this winter outage be completed early.

Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee members agreed there should be no issues with approving this request but asked to postpone a decision to next month. Jim Craig said it might be informative to review the historical fish ladder counts for the month of December. Keller said these data are limited because December is outside the typical fish counter season; however, he can compile and distribute the available data. *(Note: Keller provided these data on October 19, 2022, which were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris that same day.)*

John Ferguson said this decision item will be added to the agenda for the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2022.

### B. 2022 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2022 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on September 22, 2022. Lance Keller said Thad Mosey (Chelan PUD Senior Fish Biologist) drafted this report in a similar fashion as in previous years and he reviewed the report, as follows:



## 2022 Rocky Reach Dam – Summer Spill

Keller said the target species is subyearling Chinook Salmon and the spill target is 9% of the daily average river flow, using the spill shape tailored to nighttime passage (initiated during the 2021 spill season). Chelan PUD initiated summer spill operations at Rocky Reach Dam on June 1, 2022, at 0001 hours and ended spill on August 13, 2022, at 2400 hours. Program RealTime estimated that 95% of the subyearling out-migration had passed Rocky Reach Dam on August 9, 2022. It appeared spill passage had been provided for 96.6% of the subyearling out-migration passing Rocky Reach Dam according to ending spill on August 13, 2022. The cumulative index count at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass (RRJFB) was 67,468 subyearlings. The summer spill percentage was 24.83%, which included 8.92% of requested fish spill and an additional 15.91% of forced spill. The average river flow at Rocky Reach Dam was 190,762 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is the highest he has seen, and average spill was 47,367 cfs across 74 spill days.

Keller reviewed the first graph in the spill report, *2022 Rocky Reach Bypass Subyearling Chinook Salmon Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, May 27 to August 31, 2022*. Subyearling counts are shown by the blue line and percent summer spill is shown by the red line and along the secondary y-axis. He noted the increase in subyearling counts at the end of May 2022. He explained that when Program RealTime estimates that 1% of the subyearling run has passed Rocky Reach Dam, Mosey initiates spill. The target is 1% because of the volatility in subyearling counts. This is a conservative approach. This variability has also been observed and described with regard to the ongoing Rock Island Subyearling Behavioral Investigation; that is, this variability is not abnormal.

Keller said the second graph, *2022 Rocky Reach Bypass Subyearling Chinook Salmon Adipose (Ad)-Present Percentage, May 27 to August 31, 2022*, shows ad-present subyearlings observed daily at the RRJFB. This graph illustrates that the early portion of the run is hatchery fish, then in July there is a mix of both run types, and towards the end of July fish sampled are mostly ad-present fish.

Andrew Murdoch asked about the variability in counts, as shown in the first graph, and asked if this was operational. He asked if it is normal to see counts vary from 0 to 600 several times throughout the year. Keller said the bypass system and attraction flow conditions for the bypass system (meaning the first two units of the powerhouse) are operated consistently throughout the fish passage season. A soft constraint of 12,500 cfs (12.5 kcfs) is placed on the first two units in the powerhouse to create consistent attraction flow into that corner of the powerhouse and the surface collector. The generation load and 6 kcfs flow into the surface collector (3 kcfs for each of two entrances) does not change day to day. It is typical to see pulses of fish. This year, there was a lot of spill during the summer out-migration, more so than what was requested for fish spill. This could have influenced the variability in daily catch. Also, sometimes river flow out of Grand Coulee Dam decreases over a weekend. A. Murdoch said he is curious how these data compare to past years, and behaviorally, why is there so much stochasticity in the numbers of fish exhibiting a normal out-

migration? He is surprised at this variability. Keller said this is more variability than is usually seen and was also observed at Rock Island Dam this year. Keller said he will review how project operations at Rocky Reach Dam in 2022 compares to previous years, with regard to the variability in the 2022 RRJFB subyearling daily index counts. A. Murdoch said he is wondering whether this variability is due to fish behavior or river conditions. If it is not an operational phenomenon, is this a behavior that is not well understood?

### 2022 Rock Island Dam – Spring Spill

Keller said the target species include yearling Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and Sockeye Salmon, and the spill target is 10% of the daily average river flow. Chelan PUD started spring spill operations at Rock Island Dam on April 16, 2022, at 0001 hours, which is 1 day before the last possible start date for 2022 spring fish spill per the Rock Island HCP. There was no indication that spill operations needed to begin before this date from the daily index counts of juvenile salmon and steelhead. Chelan PUD stopped providing spring spill on May 31, 2022, at 2400 hours, at which point there was an immediate transition to the 20% summer spill target on June 1, 2022, at 0001 hours. Spill was provided for 96.2% of the yearling Chinook Salmon run, 99.9% of the steelhead run, and 99.8% of the Sockeye Salmon run. To note, these percentages include spring and summer fish spill combined. Cumulative index counts at the sampling facility at Rock Island Dam were 15,883 yearling Chinook Salmon, 12,253 steelhead, and 17,256 Sockeye Salmon as of August 31, 2022. The spring spill percentage was 12.39%, including 9.99% that Mosey requested for fish spill and 2.40% of forced spill. The average river flow at Rock Island Dam was 118,298 cfs and average spill across the same period was 14,656 cfs over 46 days of spill.

Keller reviewed the third graph in the spill report, *2022 Rock Island Bypass HCP Spring Species Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, April 1 to June 15, 2022*. He noted the early peak of yearling Chinook Salmon, and that 10% spring spill was initiated on April 16, 2022. He also noted the strong Coho Salmon outmigration.

A. Murdoch asked why Rock Island Dam spills 10% for spring and 20% for summer, and he said this seems backwards. Keller explained that the 10% spring spill percentage is specified by previous evaluations of Project survival for spring Plan Species, per the Rock Island HCP. That is, Phase III (Standard Achieved) was met for spring migrating Plan Species under 10% spill at the Rock Island Project. He further explained, upon initiation of the Rock Island HCP, Chelan PUD conducted survival studies under 20% spill. After reviewing the spill program, Chelan PUD determined spill could be reduced to 10% during spring while not compromising the availability of spillway passage routes. At Rock Island Dam, there are nine modified spill gates which provide spill at tailored locations. First in the operation sequence are three over/under gates located adjacent to Powerhouse 2, next is the one notch gate in Spillway 1, which is located adjacent to the south end of Powerhouse 1, and then there are five notch gates in Spillway 2. If additional spill is needed, next is full-gate operations to

meet the hourly fish spill target. In 2006, Chelan PUD reviewed these operations with regard to juvenile project survival, engaged the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee, and indicated a desire to reinstate testing under 10% spill. From 2007 to 2010, Chelan PUD conducted project survival studies under 10% spill and verified Phase III (Standard Achieved) for spring Plan Species. In 2021, the Rock Island Dam Confirmation Survival Study retested project survival under 10% spill, which resulted in a juvenile survival estimate of 94.45% (exceeding the 93% juvenile project survival standard). A. Murdoch asked if these spill percentages apply to other projects or just Rock Island. Keller said the HCPs are outcome-based standards. At Rock Island Dam, powerhouse operations put preference on Powerhouse 2, moving south. If load is needed, then operations load the powerhouse sequentially to the north. Because Phase III (Standard Achieved) was met under these operations, this is how the Rock Island Project is operated. Once survival standards are met under certain operations, these operations must be maintained at that project. The 10% spill percentage is specific to the Rock Island Project, based on studies performed. John Ferguson added that this is an example of adaptive management of the HCPs. Another example is when Douglas PUD adjusted the spill season end date for the Wells Project by 10 days based on 10 years of data. There are adjustments made as time goes by, but these are all data driven, include extensive discussion, and require unanimous agreement by the HCP Coordinating Committees. Keller agreed and said if Phase III (Standard Achieved) was not met under 10% spill, the default is 20% spill. He recalled that one year, Chelan PUD received a bad batch of tags and had to suspend the study days after initiation, so the default was 20% spill that year because meeting the survival standard under 10% spill had not been verified.

### 2022 Rock Island Dam – Summer Spill

Keller said the target species is subyearling Chinook Salmon, and the spill target is 20% of the daily average river flow. Chelan PUD started summer spill operations at Rock Island Dam on June 1, 2022, at 0001 hours, instantaneously from 10% spring spill. Chelan PUD stopped providing summer spill on August 21, 2022, at 2400 hours. Ninety-five percent spill coverage for subyearling Chinook Salmon was met on August 9, 2022. On August 21, 2022, spill had been provided for 99.3% of the subyearling Chinook Salmon run. The cumulative index count at the Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass was 30,369 subyearling Chinook Salmon. The summer spill percentage was 33.09% of the daily average river flow, which included 19.91% for fish spill requested by Mosey and 13.18% of forced spill. Average river flow at Rock Island Dam from June 1 to August 21, 2022, was 192,240 cfs, and average spill was 63,620 cfs across 82 spill days.

Keller reviewed the fourth graph in the spill report, *2022 Rock Island Bypass Subyearling Chinook Salmon Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, May 27 to August 31, 2022*. Similar to Rocky Reach, the subyearling counts are shown by the blue line and percent summer spill is shown by the red line and along the secondary y-axis. He noted some of the same variability at Rock Island Dam was seen at Rocky Reach Dam.

Keller reviewed the fifth graph in the spill report, *2022 Rock Island Bypass Subyearling Chinook Salmon Daily Ad-Present Percentage, May 27 to August 31, 2022*. Once again, the daily index counts show mostly hatchery fish through June 2022, ad-present fish start showing up in July 2022, and then more ad-present fish from mid-July 2022 on.

### Juvenile Index Counts, 2012 to 2022

Keller reviewed *Table 1. Rocky Reach Juvenile Bypass Index Sample Counts, 2012 to 2022*. He noted from 2021 to 2022, counts increased for Sockeye Salmon, were about the same for steelhead, decreased for yearling Chinook Salmon, increased for Coho Salmon, and decreased for subyearling Chinook Salmon.

Keller reviewed *Table 2. Rock Island Smolt Monitoring Program Index Sample Counts, 2012 to 2022*. He noted from 2021 to 2022, counts increased for Sockeye Salmon, decreased for steelhead, decreased for yearling Chinook Salmon, decreased for Coho Salmon, and increased for subyearling Chinook Salmon.

Ferguson asked about adding another column with the running average from 2012 to 2022. Keller said the issue with this is that the collection efficiencies are drastically different per facility and per species. The system at Rocky Reach Dam is designed as a non-turbine juvenile passage route with measured collection efficiencies. The system at Rock Island Dam provides adequate information for when to initiate and end spill, but this is more of an opportunistic gateway collection system with a low collection efficiency. Including an average would be fairly noisy. Andrew Gingerich said including an average might require including another column with spill percentage. Ferguson agreed that including an average might just add more uncertainty.

Geris said comments on the draft 2022 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report are due to Keller by Monday, October 24, 2022. Ferguson said Chelan PUD will request approval of this report during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on October 25, 2022.

### **C. 2023 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP NNI Comprehensive Progress Report (Lance Keller)**

Kristi Geris shared on WebEx the *Rock Island and Rocky Reach Anadromous Fish Agreements and Habitat Conservation Plans 2013 Comprehensive Progress Report*. Lance Keller noted that this report is available online at <https://www.chelanpud.org/environment/habitat-conservation-plans>. (Note: Geris also distributed this 2013 report to the HCP Coordinating Committees following the meeting on September 27, 2022.)

Keller said, per the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCPs, this 2013 progress report established a 10-year timeline for the next progress report, which will be due to FERC in March 2023. The goal of this progress report is to assess the overall status of achieving NNI and provide a summary of

accomplishments under the HCPs. Chelan PUD is drafting the 2023 report, which will be distributed for a 60-day review on December 1, 2022. The 2023 report will be similar in content to the 2013 report. The report highlights project survival and the hatchery and tributary programs.

John Ferguson summarized that the 2023 progress report will be distributed for a 60-day review in early December 2022, comments will be due in early February 2023, there will be an opportunity for discussion during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 28, 2023, and then the final report will be due to FERC in March 2023. Keller said this is correct.

#### **D. Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller said that work continues on Turbine Unit B3, with a return-to-service date of April 2023. Recall, Turbine Unit B3 is one of the four original units in Powerhouse 1 at Rock Island Dam. As crews move farther into the unit, they may find things that need to be replaced rather than refurbished, as they did with Turbine Unit B4. Chelan PUD is hoping lessons learned from Turbine Unit B4 will lead to more successes in meeting timelines for the remaining units. Chelan PUD will continue providing updates as progress is made.

#### **E. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Units Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller said work continues on Turbine Units C4 and C5. The return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C4 has shifted slightly, but repairs are progressing. Turbine Unit C5 is the last small unit with trunnion bushing issues that are being addressed and is the key unit to complete prior to the Rocky Reach Dam Confirmation Survival Study. Currently, the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit C5 is holding and is scheduled for January 2023. Chelan PUD will continue providing updates as progress is made.

## **V. HCP Administration**

### **A. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)**

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., to be held in person at Douglas PUD in East Wenatchee, Washington.

The HCP Coordinating Committees discussed possible meeting dates for the November and December 2022 meetings. The Committees proposed November 15 and December 16, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to be held via conference call, with the PRCC meetings to follow. Anchor QEA will confirm these dates and times with Bryan Nordlund, PRCC Facilitator; and once confirmed, will verify these dates and times work for the CTRC representative. The schedule adjustments are to accommodate the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. *(Note: Nordlund and Kirk Truscott verified these dates and times work for the PRCC and the CTRC, respectively.)*

## **VI. List of Attachments**

Attachment A List of Attendees

## Attachment A

---

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Craig*†	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*†	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Andrew Murdoch*†	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- \* Denotes HCP Coordinating Committees member or alternate
- † Joined by phone
- †† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update