FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: February 26, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support
Caitlin Burd, HCP Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the January 28, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Douglas PUD will inquire about sharing Biomark's Pateros passive integrated transponder (PIT)-Detection Array design specifications with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee (Item I-C).
2. The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will review the draft *2025 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan* (2025 GAP/BOP), will provide edits and comments by February 9, and will be prepared to vote during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 25, 2025 (Item IV-B).
3. Chelan PUD will query the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item VI-A).
4. The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on February 25, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually. The next joint session (Joint Session 3) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day, time to be determined (Item VII-C).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft 2025 GAP/BOP was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 10 for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by

February 9. Douglas PUD will request approval of the plan during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 25, 2025 (Item IV-B).

2. The draft *Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025* (2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA) was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 21 for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by February 20 (Item IV-C).
3. The draft *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan*, draft *Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan 2025* (2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan), draft *2025 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* (2025 RRJSF Protocol), and draft *2025 Fish Spill Plan, Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County* (2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan) were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 27 and are available for review (Items V-A, -B, and -C).
4. The draft *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris before the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28. A revised draft plan was distributed after the conference call on January 28, and is available for review. Douglas PUD will request approval of the draft plan during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 25, 2025 (Items IV-A).
5. The final 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris after the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28, and is available for a 60-day review, with input or recommendations due to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee by Friday, March 28, 2025 (Item IV-G).
6. The *2024 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Draft Report* and *2024 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Draft Report* were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris after the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28 and are available for review.
7. The draft 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on February 21 and is available for a 70-day review, with edits and comments due to Anchor QEA by Tuesday, May 6, 2025.

Finalized Documents

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

I. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP Coordinating Committees and PRCC convened Joint Session 2 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

II. 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 the 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft December 16 conference call minutes. Caitlin Burd said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. Kristi Geris added under Review Items distribution of Douglas PUD's draft lamprey operations statement of agreement (SOA), which will be discussed during today's conference call. Geris also added under Finalized Documents distribution of five publications regarding Okanagan Sockeye Salmon and the Fish Water Management Tool that were finalized in 2024. These publications were also distributed to the HCP Hatchery Committees and will be included in the 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report. A sixth publication (finalized in 2025) was also added under Finalized Documents and distributed to the HCP Coordinating and Hatchery Committees. HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the December 16 conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

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

1. *Douglas PUD will inquire about sharing Biomark's Pateros PIT-Detection Array design specifications with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *Anchor QEA will distribute the HCP Coordinating Committees extranet site locations for the final 2004 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Annual Reports (Item III-B).*
   Kristi Geris distributed these hyperlinks after the conference call on December 16, 2024.

3. *Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees representatives will provide a vote via email on the second draft* Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2024 Fish Spill Report *no later than Friday, January 10, 2025 (Item III-B).*
   Additional requests were received from the Yakama Nation on January 10, a third draft report was distributed on January 10, and the report was approved via email on January 16, 2025.
4. *Douglas PUD will coordinate with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regarding revisions to the draft 2024 Wells HCP Comprehensive 10-Year No Net Impact Progress Report and will distribute a revised report for Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval for a vote via email by Friday, December 20, 2024 (Item IV-A).*
   This report was approved via email on December 30, 2024.

III. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees did not convene in January 2025.

- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on February 13, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on January 15, 2025 (*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"*):

- *10-Year Summary Report (joint)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees completed final edits to the 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report. Members unanimously approved the report. The report is now final.
- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees are working on HGMPs, beginning with Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon. The Committees are currently identifying possible places and methods for collecting Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon for broodstock and intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon Plan by spring 2025.
- *Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Updates (joint)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees began updating their hatchery M&E plan. The Committees will begin by working through recommendations that were approved during the development of the 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report. The goal is to complete the update by summer 2025.
- *2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: WDFW and the PUDs are currently working on the 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols. The draft protocols will be distributed to the Committees in February for review.

- *2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: The Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed the hatchery portion of the draft 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan. Members provided no comments on the action plan.
- *Twisp River Spring Chinook Salmon (Wells)*: Douglas PUD gave a presentation on what makes a Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon a Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon. Currently, adult spring Chinook Salmon collected for broodstock are evaluated genetically to determine whether the fish are natural-origin Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon. Unfortunately, not many spring Chinook Salmon return to the Twisp River, there has been a decline in the genetic distinction of Twisp River fish, and there is no clear direction on what classifies a fish as a "natural-origin Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon." Therefore, Douglas PUD proposed that for a natural-origin fish to be suitable for use as broodstock in the Twisp River program, it must meet or exceed an 80% assignment posterior probability to the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon reporting group. For a hatchery-origin fish to be suitable for use as broodstock in the Twisp program, it must meet or exceed an 80% assignment posterior probability to the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon reporting group or be identified as a Twisp component returnee by way of a PIT tag or coded wire tag. The Wells HCP Hatchery Committee is currently evaluating the proposal and will vote on it during the February meeting.
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Representation on the HCP Hatchery Committees (Admin)*: USFWS reported a change in their representation on the HCP Hatchery Committees. Mat Maxey continues to be the USFWS representative, and Charles Frady is the new USFWS alternate. Matt Cooper is no longer the alternate but will remain on the email distribution list.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on February 19, 2025.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. Draft 2025 Wells HCP Action Plan (Tom Kahler)

The draft *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris before the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28. Tom Kahler presented the draft plan to the Committee and walked through the portion of the document pertaining to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. A revised draft plan was distributed after the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28 and is available for review. Douglas PUD will request approval of the draft plan during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 25, 2025.

B. Draft 2025 GAP/BOP (Andrew Gingerich)

The draft 2025 GAP/BOP was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 10 for a 30-day review. Andrew Gingerich stated that Douglas PUD's Clean Water Act

Section 401 Water Quality Certification requires the tandem review of the Gas Abatement Plan (GAP) and Wells Bypass Operating Plan (BOP). The draft 2025 GAP/BOP does not differ significantly from previous iterations of the document. Primary goals of the document include promoting the management of the Juvenile Bypass System at Wells Dam to achieve the goals of the Wells Dam Juvenile Dam Passage Survival Plan as outlined in Chapter 4.3 of the *Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan The Wells Hydroelectric Project* (Wells HCP) while promoting human health and safety standards. Turbine Unit 5 was out of service for overhaul in 2024 and Turbine Unit 8 being overhauled in 2025. The proposed plan is to remove the barriers from spill gate 6 when required to fulfill requirements of the Emergency Action Plan for automatic gate-hoist capacity. A minimum discharge of 15,000 cubic feet per second is required through a gate if the barriers are removed. Due to the unavailability of Turbine Unit 8 during the 1-year unit overhaul project, the 2025 Spill Playbook will again utilize a modified spill pattern concentrated through Spillways 7, 6, and 5 and 4 (listed in priority order). Spill is normally concentrated out of bay 7 with Turbine Units 6 or 7 operating to facilitate water quality management.

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will review the draft 2025 GAP/BOP, will provide edits and comments by February 9 to facilitate approval by the Wells Aquatic Settlement Work Group (Aquatic SWG) at their February 12 meeting, and will be prepared to vote during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on February 25. Douglas PUD is seeking document approval to meet the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) deadline for filing on February 28, 2025.

C. 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study (John Rohrback)

The draft 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on January 21 for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by February 20. John Ferguson requested that proposed changes to the document should be voiced prior to the Wells Aquatic SWG meeting on February 12.

John Rohrback presented the draft 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. Each night from July 18 to October 15, the head differential of one collection gallery will be reduced to 0.5 foot from 18:00 to 04:00 hours while the head differential of the other gallery remains at 1.5 feet. The collection gallery subjected to a reduced head differential will alternate nightly. These alternating operations will serve as treatments in a radio telemetry study of lamprey dam passage behavior conducted at the request of the Aquatic SWG. Lamprey traps will be checked once per day by natural resource staff. Rohrback requested committee members review the document and consult internally within their organizations prior to discussion and approval at the February 25, 2025, meeting.

Kirk Truscott inquired about the data that informed the decision to operate at a 1.5-foot head differential. Would reducing the head differential to 0.5 foot at one collection gallery during nighttime hours affect anadromous salmonid passage? Gingerich responded that Douglas PUD has

sufficient data to support that fish ladder use by anadromous salmonids is reduced between 18:00 to 04:00 hours. This plan does not propose to lower the head differential to 0.5 foot for both ladders. One ladder will always be operating at a head differential of 1.5 feet (normal head differential). Truscott noted that there may not be a sufficient number of PIT-tags in Chinook Salmon and Sockeye Salmon to monitor passage effectively. Gingerich replied that trapping will begin on August 1, 2025, to avoid the 3-week period of significant Sockeye Salmon passage at Wells Dam that occurs in July. Ferguson said the number of Sockeye Salmon in the trap could be recorded during the daily trap checks and reported in a weekly update to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. Truscott added that trap counts of salmonid species would be beneficial to assessing the effects of the head differential changes on passage. Gingerich said that radio telemetry data have supported the expectation that more lamprey will move through the trap during evening and nighttime hours.

Rohrback shared the following three documents with relevant information pertaining to head differentials and fish passage through the collection gallery at Wells Dam:

- *Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radio-Telemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2013*, approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on February 26, 2013, originally distributed that same day, and redistributed on January 28, 2025 (Attachment B).
- *Statement of Agreement to Implement 1.0′ Fishway-Entrance Head-Differential for Lamprey from 17:00 to 00:59 Daily During the 2012 Lamprey Migration at Wells Dam*, approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on July 24, 2012, originally distributed that same day, and redistributed on January 28, 2025 (Attachment C).
- Johnson, P.N., and B. Le, 2010. *Assessment of Adult Pacific Lamprey Response to Velocity Reductions at Wells Dam Fishway Entrances* (2009 DIDSON Study Report). Prepared for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County. April 2010. Originally distributed on June 10, 2010, and redistributed on January 28, 2025 (Attachment D).

Rohrback said the 2009 DIDSON Study Report stated that more steelhead were observed passing through the collection gallery during reduced head differentials; however, differences among treatment levels were statistically indistinguishable. No effects to Plan Species were observed. These three documents will be attached to the meeting notes and can be found on the extranet. Bill Gale said he would like time to review the 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA and determine whether there are any concerns regarding Bull Trout management.

D. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said unit 8 is out for a rebuild process and is not expected to be operational during the bypass period. Spill gate 10 is currently out for service and maintenance until mid-March. Dam safety is re-engaging FERC to finish work on the remaining boreholes on the east embankment. It is unsure when FERC will approve this work. The remaining boreholes should not affect Douglas PUD's ability to operate broodstock collection activities in the east ladder.

E. Wells Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Update (Tom Kahler)

The memorandum "Fish Salvage During Winter Maintenance Outage of Wells Dam East Fishway" was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 13, 2025. Tom Kahler said the west fishway was out from December 2 through December 24, 2024. There were record high numbers of fish observed in the west fishway. The east fishway was out for panel installation beginning on December 31, 2024, and will not be operational until early March 2025. The collection gallery was dewatered on January 8, 2025.

In September, aquatic vegetation fouled the intakes for fish pumps and ladder exits and was pumped into the auxiliary water supply (AWS) in the east fishway. The vegetation also impinged on wall diffuser gratings and triggered the head differential alarm in the collection gallery. AWS flow was decreased to relieve pressure on the wall diffuser grating panels, and the gate opening of the fishway entrance was modulated to maintain a head differential of 1.0 feet or greater. Vegetation that had impinged on the wall panels eventually broke down enough to allow an increase in AWS flow. When conducting the fish salvage in the collection gallery, wall gratings were inspected. They were fouled with vegetation but none had broken loose; therefore, fish could not get behind the gratings. However, a hole was observed in the bottom of a panel, necessitating the fabrication of a new panel to replace the damaged one. That unforeseen replacement project is the reason for the extended maintenance outage of the east fishway.

F. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD will continue investigating options to improve PIT-tag detection of juvenile Plan Species in spillways without flap gates in 2025 (Item No. 11 of the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee section in the draft *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan*). John Ferguson suggested that Douglas PUD present information on Item No. 11.C (*Internal and CC review of Spillway 2 flap-gate system*) at the HCP Coordinating Committee meeting on March 25, 2025.

G. 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the HCP Hatchery Committees- and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee-approved 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report is available for a Wells HCP Coordinating Committee 60-day review. The final report was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris after the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28. Input or recommendations regarding the hatchery programs or updating the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan are due to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee by Friday, March 28, 2025.

V. Chelan PUD

A. Draft 2025 Rock Island/Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 27 and is available for review. Lance Keller presented the draft plan to the committees and walked through the portion of the document pertaining to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees. Keller reported there is a tentative HCP Policy Committee Meeting scheduled for April 8, 2025.

B. Draft 2025 Rock Island/Rocky Reach Juvenile Bypass Protocols (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan and draft 2025 RRJSF Protocol were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 27 and are available for review. Lance Keller reported that the updated documents are largely unchanged from previous iterations. Edits have been applied to designate fish as hatchery versus unknown origin based on presence of an adipose fin clip or status of code wire tag interrogation.

C. Draft 2025 RI/RR Fish Spill Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 27, 2025, and is available for review. Lance Keller reviewed the plan, as follows.

Rock Island Dam

Notch gate 16 was out of the spill gate sequence for 2024. Chelan PUD has requested that the spill gate remains out of sequence for 2025. A crack was identified on the pier adjacent to spill gate 16 in late 2023. Instrumentation has been placed on the crack to evaluate movement in the localized area. Movement has been observed as air temperatures fluctuate and with crane movement. To minimize false movement data points, gate 16 was removed from the sequence in 2024. Chelan PUD is requesting that gate 24 be prioritized over gate 26 in 2025 due to work associated with alkali aggregate reactivity concrete growth. This work additionally affects the auto-gate of gate 17. Chelan PUD has requested to remove gate 17 from the sequence at Rock Island and replace with gate 20 in 2025.

Rocky Reach Dam

Engineers have inspected the tainter gates associated with the Rocky Reach spillway. Inspections have revealed that tainter gate 8 has demonstrated accelerated wear. Chelan PUD has requested that spill gate 8 be removed from the spill gate sequence for the 2025 fish spill season. Ongoing analysis may permit the use of gate 8 and the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee will be notified in the event of operation. There is a high likelihood that engineers will request that gate 8 be operated solely in emergency capacity. Gate 8 is the first gate in the Rocky Reach sequence to operate and is

located on the powerhouse side of the middle spillway entrance. All other gates are operated in a sequential fashion towards the powerhouse.

D. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rock Island Dam

Turbine Unit B3 was returned to commercial operation in late December 2024. Work has moved to Turbine Unit B2 to install headgates and begin the dewatering process. A finalized return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B2 will be provided at the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 25, 2025. Work on Turbine Unit B1 will begin following Turbine Unit B2's return to service.

Rocky Reach Dam

Work is continuing on Turbine Unit C11 with a return to service date of April 1, 2025. Turbine Unit C10 will return to service in July 2025.

E. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Updates

Lance Keller reviewed the adult fishway maintenance schedules at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rock Island Dam

Winter maintenance on the Rock Island fish ladders is ahead of schedule. The middle ladder returned to operation 2 weeks ago. The left ladder was dewatered on January 21, 2025. Adult lamprey radio telemetry equipment is planned to be installed in the three ladders. Equipment has been installed in the middle ladder and is yielding good results. The bulk of the remaining work will be on the right ladder regarding water pump and operator maintenance. The right and left ladders are expected to be operational by the end of February 2025.

Rocky Reach Dam

Work continues on the Rocky Reach adult fish ladder. The diffuser grating floor is being replaced at the left powerhouse entrance. The adult fishway is scheduled to be operational by February 28, 2025.

F. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reported that the tailrace entrance structure will be inspected while dewatering is occurring on the east ladder. Measurements will be verified to move this topic forward in 2025.

VI. Steelhead Overshoots

A. PRESENTATION: Chelan PUD

Lance Keller shared the presentation *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots* (Attachment E), which was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris after the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on January 28, 2025. Discussions were as follows.

Keller made a query in PTAGIS for all steelhead (both of wild and hatchery origin) that were tagged and released as juveniles into the Wenatchee Basin between 2013 and 2022. The year 2013 was selected to exclude fish that were reared on Turtle Rock Island. The query included fish transferred to acclimation sites prior to release in the Wenatchee Basin. The three adult ladder sites queried were Priest Rapids Dam, Rocky Reach Dam, and Rock Island Dam, and then complete tag histories were queried to ensure fish were at least one-salt adults and verify movement after passage at Rock Island. Fish marked as adults at the Tumwater and Dryden facilities were excluded from this analysis. Sample size for return years (2014 to 2023) at Rock Island Dam varied significantly within a given year with the collective overshoot percentage of approximately 30%. Of the 139 fish detected at Rock Reach Dam, approximately 46% moved downstream. Approximately 9.4% of fish were last detected in the Rocky Reach project area while 44.6% were detected upstream of the Rocky Reach reservoir.

Keely Murdoch asked whether the category "Detected Upstream of RR" refers to any area above Rocky Reach Dam, such as Wells Dam and the Methow River. Keller confirmed that was correct. He provided an additional example that if a fish passed above Wells Dam and then moved back downstream and was detected in the Entiat River, that individual would have been assigned to be last detected downstream of Rocky Reach Dam. K. Murdoch said that PIT-tag analyses do not capture where fish have attempted to move back downstream and the success rates of those movements. Gingerich agreed with K. Murdoch regarding PIT Tags final detection status and further noted that there are other processes unrelated to hydro-system effects that may be important to analyze when determining project effects and when discussing the outcomes of individual fish. Keller agreed and explained that the intention of the query was to categorize the last point of detection from a PTAGIS perspective. The analysis did not attempt to assign straying behavior or spawning locations to individual fish.

Bill Gale inquired on the change in tagging rates over time. Could variation be explained by increased tagging rates in some years over others? Catherine Willard replied that Chelan PUD increased the tag rate to approximately 30,000 PIT tags beginning in 2018.

Keller said that 27 fish were detected at the Rocky Reach juvenile bypass surface collection structure between 2015 and 2024. The majority of fish were detected between April and May. K. Murdoch said that increased detections in spring is consistent with data gathered from the Priest Rapids patch

occupancy model (POM). The majority of overshoots return in the fall, and if not at that time, they make passage attempts in the spring. Keller noted that a portion of these detections could also be post-spawn kelts moving downstream, but once again no attempt to assign such activity was made.

Kirk Truscott inquired on the location of the detection array in the juvenile bypass surface collection structure. Keller replied that the arrays are located in the flow spreaders. To be detected, fish would have to come into the entrance through trash racks, down the dewatering channel, and past the flow spreaders. The dewatering process would have already occurred, and it is highly possible fish continued into the bypass conduit.

Keller highlighted individual detection histories that portrayed interesting movements. John Ferguson inquired on the methodology of investigating individual histories and mortality events to identify survival rates. Keller replied that assumptions would have to be made to draw conclusions on survival rates. The analysis did not correct for collection efficiency. Truscott asked whether the analysis identified a correlation between overshoots and arrival time at Rock Island Dam. It would be interesting to analyze whether fish arriving in the warm water period between July and August have an extended time frame to overshoot in comparison to the fall season. Keller replied that the analysis did not consider this metric. Chelan PUD will query the PTAGIS database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam. K. Murdoch asked when genetic data will be received from tagging conducted at Priest Rapids Dam in 2024 (POM tagging). John Rohrback said the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission estimates the samples should be ready to be returned in fall 2025.

Andrew Murdoch said that downstream movement is difficult to infer solely through PIT-tag analysis. Radio telemetry has allowed for the identification of individual fish behavior and provided data that were consistent between tag types. The juvenile bypass detector at Wells Dam operated around the clock even when the bypass system was not operating. The radio telemetry study detected many fish in the forebay and identified more adult steelhead at the PIT-tag array during nonoperation periods. The majority of detections occurred in September, October, and November. The pattern of detections may infer that fish were attempting to navigate downstream but were blocked from passage.

VII. HCP Administration

A. Annual Letters to American Rivers and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the annual non-signatory invitation letters to American Rivers and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation were U.S. Postal Service mailed to the respective agencies on January 6, as distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris that same day. Ferguson said the Northwest Regional Director and postal address for American Rivers recently

changed. Geris is working on locating the new contact. *(Note: An updated letter was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees on February 7, 2025.)*

B. HCP Hatchery Committees Alternate Representation Designation – Charles Frady (USFWS) (John Ferguson)

An HCP representation designation letter designating Charles Frady as the new USFWS HCP Hatchery Committees alternate (formerly Matt Cooper) was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 15, 2025. Mat Maxey is still the USFWS HCP Hatchery Committees representative.

Bill Gale reported that due to Jason Romine's resignation from USFWS, there is currently no HCP Coordinating Committee alternate for USFWS.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on February 25, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually.

The HCP Coordinating Committees meetings on March 25 and April 22 are from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in-person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radio-Telemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2013
Attachment C Statement of Agreement to implement 1.0' Fishway-Entrance Head-Differential for Lamprey from 17:00 to 00:59 Daily During the 2012 Lamprey Migration at Wells Dam
Attachment D Assessment of Adult Pacific Lamprey Response to Velocity Reductions at Wells Dam Fishway Entrances
Attachment E Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots Presentation

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Caitlin Burd	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP Coordinating Committees representative or alternate.

†† Joined for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: March 27, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the February 25, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met by conference call on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Douglas PUD will inquire about sharing Biomark's Pateros passive integrated transponder (PIT)-Detection Array design specifications with the Wells HCP-CC (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will query the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).
3. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item IV-B).
4. Chelan PUD will notify the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs when the Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam adult fishways are returned to service from annual winter maintenance (Item IV-G). *(Note: This notification was distributed on March 5, including confirmation that all adult ladders at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams were back in service prior to March 1, 2025.)*
5. Chelan PUD will draft a renewed 1-year statement of agreement (SOA), *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation*, for Rock Island HCP-CC review (Item IV-H). *(Note: A draft SOA was distributed by Kristi Geris on March 18, 2025.)*
6. Douglas PUD will coordinate with Wells HCP-CC representatives to develop a robust monitoring plan to evaluate adult salmon and steelhead passage during testing of a reduced head differential at the Wells Dam fishway entrances. The testing is a component of the 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study being implemented by the Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG). Douglas PUD will distribute the draft plan no later than March 15, for approval during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25 (Item V-B). *(Note: Douglas PUD provided a second draft SOA, which was distributed on March 6, the Yakama Nation [YN] provided a draft monitoring plan, which was distributed on March 7, and a third draft SOA was distributed on March 20, 2025.)*
7. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on March 25, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 4) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating

Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VII-A).

Decision Summary

1. Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the *Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan 2025* (2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan) (Item IV-A).
2. Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs representatives present approved the *2025 Fish Spill Plan, Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County* (2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan) (Item IV-B).
3. Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs representatives present approved the *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* (Item IV-D).
4. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan*, as revised (Item V-A).
5. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2025 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan* (2025 GAP/BOP), as revised, with Aquatic SWG edits[1] and a Wells Dam bypass start date of April 3 (Item V-F).

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft *Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025* (2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA) was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 21 (Item V-B). A second draft SOA was distributed on March 6, and a third draft SOA was distributed on March 20, 2025.
2. The draft *2025 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* (2025 RRJSF Protocol) was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC by Geris on January 27. Chelan PUD will request approval of the protocol during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25, 2025 (Item IV-C).
3. The draft *2024 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Draft Report* (2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report) and draft *2024 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Draft Report* (2024 RRJFBS Report) were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on January 28. Chelan PUD will request approval of the reports during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25, 2025 (Item IV-E).

[1] As approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 12, 2025.

4. The final 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris after the HCP-CCs conference call on January 28, and is available for a 60-day review, with input or recommendations due to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee (HCP-HC) by Friday, March 28, 2025.
5. The draft 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on February 21 and is available for a 70-day review, with edits and comments due to Anchor QEA by Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
6. The draft 2024 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on February 25 and are available for a 70-day review, with edits and comments due to Anchor QEA by Thursday, May 8, 2025.
7. The draft 2023 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on February 26 and is available for a 60-day review, with edits and comments due to Chelan PUD by Friday, April 25, 2025.
8. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for LUP 828G-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 3, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by April 2, 2025.
9. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 3, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Kahler by April 2, 2025.
10. A draft SOA titled, *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation*, was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Geris on March 18, and is a available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by April 17, 2025 (Item IV-H).
11. The draft 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 21. A revised draft was distributed on March 24. The protocols will be discussed during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25, 2025.

Finalized Documents

1. The final 2025 Wells GAP/BOP was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on February 27, 2025, as distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris that same day (Item V-F).
2. The final *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 5, 2025 (Item V-A).
3. The final 2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan, final 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan, and final *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on March 5, 2025 (Item IV-A, -B, -D).

4. The final 2024 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Fish Spill Report, as approved via email on January 16, was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on March 5, 2025.

I. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 3 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

II. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and introduced Dennis Moore (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation [CTCR]). Moore said he is a policy analyst with a background in fisheries and will be participating in regional fish forums meetings to support Kirk Truscott moving forward.

Ferguson reviewed the agenda and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Lance Keller rearranged the Decision Items for Chelan PUD in order of priority. Tom Kahler moved the 2025 GAP/BOP discussion to Douglas PUD's last agenda topic.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft January 28 conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. Geris also added distribution of the draft 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report for a 70-day Wells HCP-CC review. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the January 28 conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on January 28 and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on January 28)*:

1. *Douglas PUD will inquire about sharing Biomark's Pateros PIT-Detection Array design specifications with the Wells HCP-CC (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *The Wells HCP-CC will review the draft 2025 GAP/BOP, will provide edits and comments by February 9, and will be prepared to vote during the HCP-CCs conference call on February 25, 2025 (Item IV-B).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.

3. *Chelan PUD will query the PTAGIS database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item VI-A).*
   This action item will be carried forward.

III. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on February 13, 2025.

- *Review of HCP-TCs Policies and Procedures*: The HCP-TCs reviewed both their Operating Procedures and Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects and made no changes to the documents.
- *2025 HCP Action Plans*: Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD reviewed the tributary sections of the 2025 HCP Action Plans. Members of each Committee had no comments or edits.
- *Equesis Dam Decommission for Salmon Passage and Habitat Restoration Project*: The Rock Reach HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on the Equesis Dam Decommission for Salmon Passage and Habitat Restoration Project. Because of extra unforeseen work in the field, ONA asked to move $8,713.63 from "Contract Labor" to "Sponsor Salaries and Benefits." The Rocky Reach HCP-TC approved the budget amendment. The total budget for the project will not change as a result of this amendment.
- *Thirteen Fish Passage Designs for Lower Chiwawa Tributaries Project*: The Rock Island HCP-TC reviewed a time extension request from Cascade Fisheries on the Thirteen Fish Passage Designs for Lower Chiwawa Tributaries Project. The sponsor indicated that because of U.S. Forest Service staffing issues, they need to extend the contract period from January 31, 2025, to December 31, 2027. The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to December 31, 2027.
- *Chiwaukum Creek Design Project*: Cascade Fisheries and their consultants joined the meeting to update the Committees on the Chiwaukum Creek Design Project. This project is located at the mouth of Chiwaukum Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. Based on additional temperature and 2D modeling, they redesigned the project at the confluence to increase thermal refuge habitat for salmonids. The project will also reduce thermal mixing with the Wenatchee River. Members provided feedback on the revised design.
- *Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project*: Cascade Fisheries joined the meeting to provide updates on the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 project and to ask the HCP-TCs whether they would be interested in funding a redo of the appraisal that was completed in 2022. The landowners and sponsors are interested in protecting the restoration work once it is completed with a conservation easement. The HCP-TCs indicated they are not interested in funding a redo of the appraisal because the Committees would only be interested in a fee simple acquisition, not a conservation easement. At this time, the landowners are only interested in a conservation easement.

- *M2@3R Draft Design Project*: The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) and their consultants joined the meeting to provide an update on the M2@3R Draft Design Project. This project is located on the Methow River between Winthrop and Twisp and is designed to enhance perennial habitat, habitat complexity, access to thermal refuge, and side-channel connectivity. MSRF described changes to the design based on previous comments from the HCP-TCs. MSRF will reconnect 1,000 feet of perennial side channels and 1,700 feet of seasonal side channels. MSRF will also construct 10 mainstem wood jams and 65 side-channel wood jams. The total cost of the project will be $1,005,000. The HCP-TCs had no additional comments on the draft design and requested that MSRF submit proposals to both the HCP-TCs and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee.
- *Sugar Left Project*: MSRF and their consultants joined the meeting to provide an update on the Sugar Left Project, which is located on the Methow River just upstream from the Town of Twisp. This project will include the placement of 43 wood structures, reconnection of 7,700 feet of off-channel habitat, and restoration of 6 acres of riparian habitat. This project will cost $1.4M; MSRF has already secured $713,961. This leaves a funding gap of $685,000 to implement the project. MSRF asked whether the HCP-TCs would be interested in helping fund this project. The Committees asked MSRF to submit a proposal requesting support to fill the existing funding gap.
- *Plan Species Account Deposits*: Both Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD deposited funds into the Plan Species Accounts in January 2025. Douglas PUD deposited $371,258 into the Wells Plan Species Account and Chelan PUD deposited $1,022,733 into the Rock Island Plan Species Account and $484,386 into the Rocky Reach Plan Species Account. As of the end of January, the unallocated balances within each account are $1,119,837 in the Wells Plan Species Account, $3,230,806 in the Rocky Reach Plan Species Account, and $2,831,006 in the Rock Island Plan Species Account. The total unallocated balance across all accounts is $7,181,649.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on March 13, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP-HCs meeting on February 19, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction Program (joint)*: Ryan Benson with ONA gave a presentation titled, *Okanagan Basin Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction Program Update*. He summarized their PIT-tagging efforts, which included the use of rotary smolt traps and purse seines to capture juvenile Sockeye Salmon, and juvenile Sockeye Salmon travel times and survival rates to various locations along the migration route. He also provided a summary of Sockeye Salmon hatchery operations including a description of broodstock collection, spawning, rearing, and release operations. The ONA program is projected to produce about 5M fry from the 2024 brood. All fry from the 2024 brood will be released into Okanagan Lake. In 2024, a total of 32,019 adult Sockeye Salmon escaped to the Penticton Channel, 5,810 adults

escaped into Shingle Creek, 103,837 escaped to the Okanagan River, and about 1,000 adults escaped into Okanagan Lake. Benson then provided an update on the construction of the Okanagan Lake Dam East Fish Passage project, which was largely funded by the HCP-TCs and PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. Construction will begin in March and should be completed in late May or early June this year. Benson ended by providing an update on the emergency transport program, which includes the trapping of adult Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam and transporting these fish into Canada. The program will be conducted again in 2025. John Ferguson asked whether these trapping efforts should be added to the Wells HCP Action Plan. Tom Kahler said because this is not a Douglas PUD action, it does not need to be added to the action plan.

- *Formalin Alternative Study Design Proposal (joint)*: Chelan PUD and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed a study to evaluate different therapeutics to treat growth of *Saprolegnia* on fertilized eggs in the hatchery. Currently, formalin is used to control *Saprolegnia*, but supply chain issues and recent regulatory concerns regarding worker safety and environmental effects associated with formalin means they need to find an alternative therapeutic to treat *Saprolegnia*. They propose to evaluate humic acid and different concentrations of hydrogen peroxide on growth of *Saprolegnia*. The studies will use fertilized eggs from Chelan Falls summer Chinook Salmon and will be conducted at Eastbank Hatchery. The HCP-HCs are currently reviewing the proposal and will discuss it during their March meeting.
- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are working on HGMPs, beginning with Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon. They are currently identifying possible places and methods for collecting Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon for broodstock. They intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon plan by summer 2025.
- *Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Updates (joint)*: The HCP-HCs began updating their hatchery M&E plan. They are currently working on Objectives 1 and 2 (productivity objectives) in the plan. The goal is to complete the update by summer 2025.
- *2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: Members are currently reviewing the draft 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols. They plan to approve the protocols during their March meeting and then submit them to the Wells HCP-CC. The 2025 broodstock collection protocols are due to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on April 15, 2025.
- *Wells Brood Year (BY) 2024 Coho Salmon (Wells)*: Douglas PUD provided an update on BY 2024 Coho Salmon at Wells Hatchery. The BY 2024 cohort has experienced high mortality, with the loss of about 14,000 fertilized eggs. These eggs failed to hatch successfully, likely due to stress from shocking at the eyed stage prior to receipt by Douglas PUD. They currently have about 17,000 fertilized eggs on station, which is well short of the release target of 27,909 smolts. In collaboration with the YN and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Douglas PUD is working to backfill the shortage with Coho Salmon from Winthrop National Fish Hatchery.

- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on March 19, 2025.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 27. Lance Keller said this plan is consistent with last year's approved plan, and no comments were received from the Rock Island HCP-CC. Considering the Rock Island bypass start date is March 1, Chelan PUD hopes to obtain approval of this plan today.

Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan.

The final plan was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Geris on March 5, 2025.

B. DECISION: 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on January 27. Lance Keller reviewed the changes to this plan compared to last year's plan, as described during last month's meeting (see meeting minutes). No comments were received from the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs. Again, considering an approved spill plan is needed by March 1, Chelan PUD hopes to obtain approval of this plan, today.

Kirk Truscott asked whether spill gate 8 at Rocky Reach Dam is approved to return to the spill gate sequence for the 2025 fish spill season, does the Rocky Reach HCP-CC need to approve this, or will Chelan PUD just provide this notification? Keller thinks an email notification with an amended spill plan would be appropriate. John Ferguson asked about a timeline for repair. Keller has not yet received a delivery date for the spill gate components, and given the timeline of the spill plan, Chelan PUD felt it was appropriate to remove the gate from the spill gate sequence for now.

Keely Murdoch said that while reviewing last year's fish spill report a few months ago, there was a request to explain how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established. Materials were distributed, but she found no clear decision or information on how long this decision would last. She would like a better understanding of this for future discussions. This is not time sensitive, but she also does not want to lose track of this. Keller said Chelan PUD will revisit this and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available.

Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs representatives present approved the 2025 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan.

The final plan was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on March 5, 2025.

C. 2025 RRJSF Protocol (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 RRJSF Protocol was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 27. Lance Keller said this protocol is consistent with last year's approved protocol, and no comments were received from the Rocky Reach HCP-CC. The Rocky Reach bypass start date is not until April 1, so there is more time to approve this plan. To note, Chelan PUD is targeting the third week in March for the marked fish releases.

Keely Murdoch has no comments at this time but would appreciate the extra time for review. Keller suggested postponing this decision to the HCP-CC meeting on March 25, 2025.

D. DECISION: 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on January 27. Lance Keller said no comments were received from the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs. Again, more time can be provided to approve this plan. John Ferguson said the HCP-TCs and HCP-HCs have reviewed their respective sections and had no comments.

Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs representatives present approved the *2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan*.

The final plan was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on March 5, 2025.

E. 2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report and 2024 RRJFBS Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report and draft 2024 RRJFBS Report were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on January 28. Lance Keller said Chelan PUD will request approval of these reports next month and asked for any questions at this time. None were expressed.

F. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

<u>Rocky Reach Dam</u>

Work continues on the last two large units, Turbine Units C10 and C11. Recall, Turbine Unit C11 came out of service first, reassembly is going well, and crews are starting the dry commissioning phase. The return-to-service date is April 1. Once Turbine Unit C11 is back online, all resources will be reallocated to Turbine Unit C10. The return-to-service date for this unit is Q2 2025.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1, Turbine Unit B3 was returned to service last month. Work has now moved to disassembling Turbine Unit B2. Return-to-service dates may fluctuate, and as of now, Turbine Unit B2 is currently projected to return to service Q1 2027.

In Powerhouse 2, work continues on Turbine Unit U5. Good progress is being made, and there has been no shift in the return-to-service date (Q1 2025).

G. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Updates

Lance Keller reviewed the adult fishway maintenance schedules at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

All planned maintenance is complete. Chelan PUD is optimistic the adult ladder will be returned to service by March 1; however, there is a 10% chance this may move into March. While moving gates with the tailrace crane on the lower deck, where the stop logs are installed to shut off flow to the intakes of the attraction water pumps, the bearings and pins associated with the crane's rollers were rotating, which resulted in a stop work order. New parts were received and installed, which required a load test, which was completed yesterday. Once the final checks on the crane are complete, crews will remove the gates deployed in the intake. If crews cannot pull the gates, the ladder will be watered up, but there will be no attraction water due to the gates deployed in the pump intakes.

Rock Island Dam

The middle ladder is back in service. The right ladder is scheduled to return to service on February 26, and the left ladder on February 27. All three ladders will be watered up prior to March 1.

Chelan PUD will notify the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs when the Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam adult fishways are returned to service from annual winter maintenance. *(Note: This notification was distributed on March 5, including confirmation that all adult ladders at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams were back in service prior to March 1, 2025.)*

H. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said engineering staff are working continuously on the alkali silica reaction (ASR) work, and there is no update on the tailrace entrance (TRE) solution. Chelan PUD will likely need to revisit the current SOA[2] and extend this into 2025. Chelan PUD will draft a renewed 1-year SOA, *Closure of*

[2] Titled *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation*; approved by the Rock Island HCP-CC on April 23, 2024.

Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation, for Rock Island HCP-CC review.

John Ferguson suggested providing background to Dennis Moore on this topic. Keller explained that the TRE is an open slot at the adult fishway entrance. When the tailrace elevation increases, in order to meet the minimum 1.0-foot head differential entrance criteria, attraction flows to all three right ladder entrances (TRE, right powerhouse, and left powerhouse) need to increase, and unfortunately this also increases velocities in the transportation channel above the specified criteria (1.5 to 4.0 feet per second). To date, the only way Chelan PUD has found to address this is to close the TRE to preserve the attraction water. Chelan PUD has been operating on single-year SOAs to define when this closure will occur while also searching for alternative solutions and coordinating with the Committee. In 2024, the TRE was closed for 8 days, per the current SOA. Chelan PUD recognizes that closing the TRE is not ideal and would like to find a long-term solution. However, Rock Island engineers have been busy with the ASR work, which is essentially "concrete growth."[3] For example, the changes to this year's Rock Island spill plan discussed earlier are associated with this ASR growth. FERC is aware of the ASR issue and has required that a board of consultants be established, which Chelan PUD has done. This is a time-consuming process. Chelan PUD will continue providing updates on both the ASR and TRE topics during future meetings.

A draft SOA titled, *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation*, was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Geris on March 18, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Keller by April 17, 2025.

V. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 Wells HCP Action Plan (Tom Kahler)

The draft *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 28. Tom Kahler said one edit was made, as discussed during last month's meeting, and a revised plan was distributed that same day. No other comments were received from the Wells HCP-CC. The HCP-TCs and HCP-HCs reviewed their respective sections and had no comments.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2025 Wells HCP Action Plan*, as revised.

The final plan was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 5, 2025.

B. 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA (John Rohrback)

The draft 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 21. John Rohrback recalled that the Aquatic SWG is seeking Wells HCP-CC approval of fishway modifications to accommodate a lamprey passage study at Wells Dam. Since distributing a

[3] Described at length in the HCP-CC August 27, 2024, meeting minutes.

draft SOA last month, Douglas PUD has been able to reach a few of the Wells HCP-CC representatives and has heard some concern about potential passage delays for HCP Plan Species. Based on these comments, Douglas PUD edited the draft SOA, as follows:

Statement

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee (CC) approves the request of the Wells Aquatic Settlement Work Group (ASWG) for altering the Wells Dam fishway collection gallery head differential. Each night, from July 18 – October 15, 2025, the head differential of one collection gallery will be reduced to 0.5 feet from 18:00 – 04:00, while the head differential of the other remains at 1.5 feet. The collection gallery subjected to a reduced head differential will alternate nightly. These alternating operations will serve as treatments in a radiotelemetry study of lamprey dam passage behavior that is being conducted at the request of the ASWG.

Additionally, the CC approves the request of the ASWG for operating lamprey traps in both fishways (pool number 41) continuously from August 1 until no later than September 30, 2025. Lamprey traps will be checked once per day by natural resource staff.

Douglas PUD will provide bi-weekly updates to the CC regarding the transit time of PIT-tagged HCP Plan Species between Rocky Reach Dam and Wells Dam for the duration of the period of fishway modification.

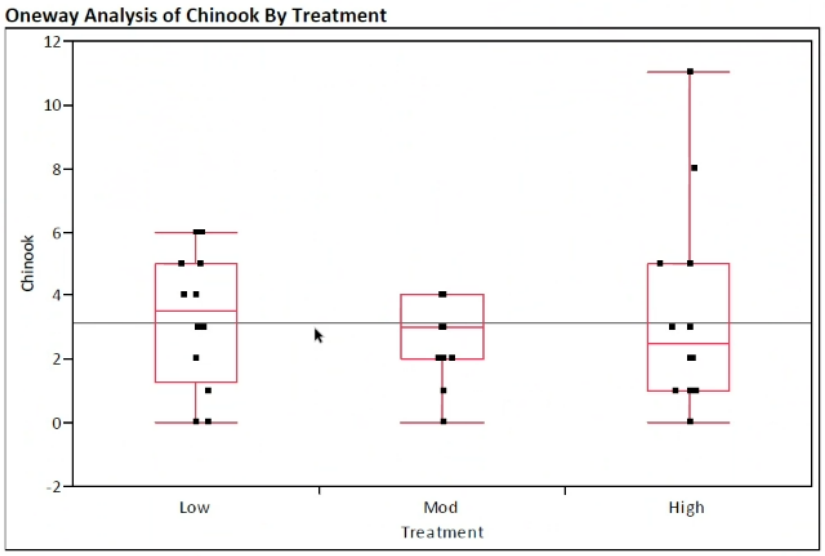
Douglas PUD is proposing to monitor travel times from Rocky Reach Dam to Wells Dam for any discrepancies in median travel times for HCP Plan Species that might suggest lamprey study activities at Wells Dam are causing passage delays.

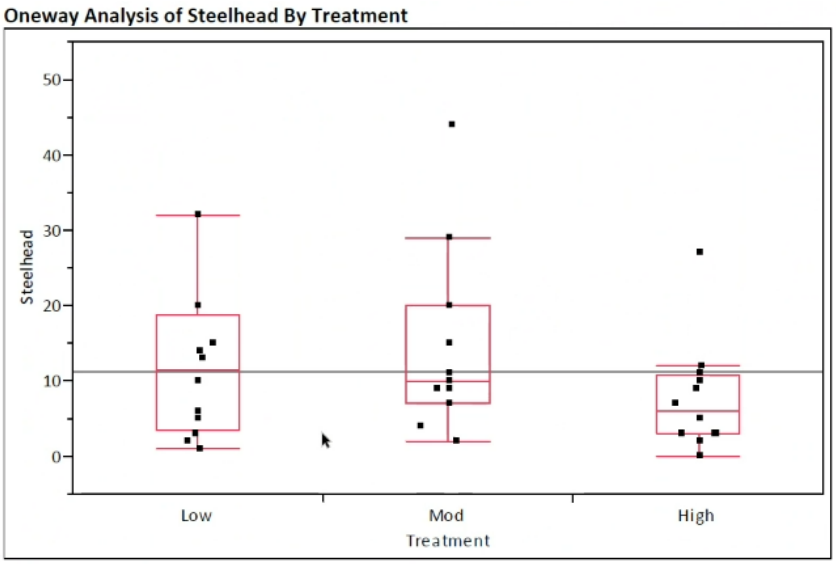
Keely Murdoch said that since this was discussed last month, she looked into this further, including speaking with Ralph Lampman (YN Aquatic SWG technical representative), and has a couple of concerns. First, the ladders are designed to operate in a range of 0.5 to 2.0 feet. While the ladders are physically capable of operating in this range, this does not mean it is ideal for fish passage. The biological opinion (BiOp)[4] specifies a range of 1.0 to 1.5 feet, as required in NMFS's design manual[5] and WDFW's Fishway Guidelines.[6] This is based on decades of research. Reducing the head differential below 1.0-foot could affect passage and create upstream delays. Last month, Douglas PUD shared a 2009 DIDSON Study Report[7] that tested a reduced 0.5-foot head differential where results were inconclusive for lamprey due to small sample size. She believes the methodology was inadequate to evaluate salmon and steelhead behavior at the entrances, because the DIDSON Study monitored salmon and steelhead passage based on count window data. It does not seem this could inform what was happening at the ladder entrances. She wants to understand how robust the study design is in terms of statistical power. What is the effect size? How variable is travel time? What sort

[4] NMFS, 2003. *Biological Opinion, Unlisted Species Analysis, and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Consultation for Proposed Issuance of a Section 10 Incidental Take Permit to Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County for the Wells Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2149) Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan*. August 12, 2003.
[5] NMFS, 2022. *NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Anadromous Salmonid Passage Design Manual*. NMFS, WCR, Portland, Oregon.
[6] WDFW, 2000. WDFW Fishway Guidelines for Washington State. Draft. April 25, 2000.
[7] Johnson, P.N., and B. Le, 2010. *Assessment of Adult Pacific Lamprey Response to Velocity Reductions at Wells Dam Fishway Entrances (2009 DIDSON Study Report)*. Prepared for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County. April 2010.

of delay could be measured by looking at changes in travel time given the variability between species and the time of year. Second, what is the long-term plan? If the Wells HCP-CC approves a reduced head differential to 0.5 foot, and it improves lamprey passage, would Douglas PUD then plan to operate at 0.5 foot moving forward?

Rohrback said any future plans will be based on the results of the study, and any proposed modifications would come to the Wells HCP-CC for approval. While the DIDSON Study was not a salmonid study, Section 4.6 of the report did look at this. Rohrback shared two plots of these data, as follows:





Rohrback said it appears there is no statistically significant difference in the number of fish counted on days where any one treatment was employed. K. Murdoch said this study design is not set up to

detect delays. There is no guarantee when these fish at the count windows entered the fishway. There is so much variability in travel time from the entrance to the count window, she does not believe this is informative. She understands summer Chinook Salmon primarily migrate during the day, but other species may be migrating during the proposed time period for this study. The time period is also something she spoke with Lampman about. He said reduced head differentials from 20:00 to 04:00 hours should be sufficient for lamprey. Even with this, she is still interested in effect size. How big does the effect size need to be to discern an impact? She is hesitant to approve something that is outside the BiOp and NMFS design manual.

Rohrback asked whether the YN is proposing a change to 20:00 to 04:00 hours. K. Murdoch said Lampman offered this, and if the Aquatic SWG is also supportive, she would appreciate this change. Andrew Gingerich thinks this change is okay. The Aquatic SWG approved the study plan, understanding there may be minor modifications such as this requested by the Wells HCP-CC.

Scott Carlon discussed this internally, and NMFS is not only supportive of testing a 0.5-foot head differential but is also interested in these results—not to discount K. Murdoch's comments. NMFS also discussed interest in a monitoring plan and expressed support contingent that monitoring is in place. NMFS approval is for this study only, and not for a permanent change. Carlon likes the suggestion to reduce the treatment hours.

Gingerich noted that one of two ladders will always be operating at the normal (1.5 foot) head differential. If 0.5 foot is a non-starter, the Aquatic SWG also discussed and is supportive of testing a 1.0-foot head differential. This is still within the intent of testing differing head differentials. K. Murdoch expressed support for 1.0 foot but would also consider a 0.5 foot if Douglas PUD can provide a robust monitoring plan that can measure effect.

Rohrback shared on Microsoft Teams a presentation titled "Lamprey" (Attachment B), which was distributed to the HCP-CC by Geris on February 26. Slide 2 shows that average travel time from Rocky Reach Dam to Wells Dam varies from species to species and year to year, so this metric is not very helpful in showing delays due to the high variability. Slide 3 shows median travel time, which shows a clearer understanding of transit time but also varies year to year and within year. Slide 4 shows the average percentage of each Plan Species annual run at large at Wells Dam that might encounter reduced head differentials, all of which are fairly low except for steelhead.

Carlon said when fish approach a project, it is unknown when the fish want to pass. NMFS has thought about the delay issue/theme in other forums and applications elsewhere, and that the concern is manifested as a real issue when delay influences a fish's ability to make it to the spawning ground. If there is a delay, is there an issue? If water temperatures are high, yes. He believes there would be an issue for Sockeye Salmon. Kirk Truscott added summer Chinook Salmon to this list.

Andrew Murdoch said lamprey pass eight dams before reaching Wells Dam. What is the issue with Wells Dam, where the Aquatic SWG wants to test modified head differentials? Gingerich explained that in the most recent acoustic telemetry study, once lamprey entered the ladder, passage success was high. However, some lamprey approached Wells Dam but did not enter the fishway. So, the Aquatic SWG decided to use radio telemetry to better understand whether there are issues for lamprey at the entrance. At some dams, reduced head differentials have been shown to improve lamprey passage. There have not been opportunities to test this at Wells Dam due to small sample sizes. However, counts at Wells Dam have improved and now this can be tested. Ferguson added that increased counts at Wells Dam may be attributed to several years of translocation leading up to this study in an effort to increase pheromone attraction above Wells Dam. A. Murdoch asked whether there are differences between Wells Dam and other dams? K. Murdoch said there are differences, including different passage structures among other things. Gingerich suggested not derailing this conversation to Aquatic SWG-related questions and invited A. Murdoch to discuss his configuration questions offline.

Ferguson summarized that there is agreement to change the hours for head differential treatments to 20:00 to 04:00 hours and support to test a reduced head differential of 1.0 foot and perhaps down to 0.5 foot if Douglas PUD can provide a robust monitoring plan. He suggested the next step be for Douglas PUD to work with the YN to develop a monitoring plan. K. Murdoch said she would like to see an analysis of effect size, and subsequent discussion with the Wells HCP-CC about what effect size would be a concern. Gingerich agreed that defining a threshold is important. Ferguson said this analysis might consider whether there is more variability under one test than the other. K. Murdoch said what would be informative is to radio-tag steelhead and Sockeye Salmon to monitor how these fish behave with a 0.5-foot head differential. Ferguson suggested that Douglas PUD cannot tag Plan Species this year, but if they want to move forward with the lamprey study, perhaps there is a need for a follow-up study. If lamprey entrance efficiency is higher at a reduced head differential, Douglas PUD could come back to the Wells HCP-CC later with a proposal to evaluate salmonids. K. Murdoch liked this suggestion. Rohrback noted that the goal of this study is not to test just head differentials; rather, this is a subobjective of the study. Truscott is unsure how to develop a robust monitoring plan without radio-tagging fish. He is leaning toward 1.0 foot opposed to 0.5 foot to stay within criteria.

Douglas PUD will coordinate with Wells HCP-CC representatives to develop a robust monitoring plan to evaluate adult salmon and steelhead passage during testing of a reduced head differential at the Wells Dam fishway entrances. Douglas PUD will distribute the draft plan no later than March 15, for approval during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25. *(Note: Douglas PUD provided a revised SOA that was distributed on March 6, and the YN provided a draft monitoring plan that was distributed on March 7, 2025.)*

C. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said Wells Dam is currently a seven-unit plant. Recall, Turbine Unit 8 is offline for a long-term rebuild, from September 2024 to September 2025. Additionally, Turbine Units 1 and 2 are offline for biannual maintenance and to accommodate swapping out the transformer that serves these two units. This work is scheduled to be complete by April 4, 2025, at which time Wells Dam will be back to a nine-unit plant.

D. Wells Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the west fishway has been back in service since late December 2024. The east fishway has been out of service since December 31, 2024. The east fishway had extended maintenance, including replacing a diffuser panel, and is expected to be back in service by next week. Once the east fishway is back in service, a brief power outage is needed on the west fishway for transformer work. During this time, the fishway will also be brought offline, because the count window will be down during the power outage.

E. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD received approval from the railroad to install the Pateros PIT-Detection Array on the Pateros railroad bridge over the Methow River. Douglas PUD was waiting for this approval before moving forward with fabrication, so now this is moving forward along with getting an agreement in place. The plan is to complete installation by fall 2025. For the flap gate design for Spillway 2, Biomark is working on revisions, which are expected by the end of next week and will next go to FERC for approval. The plan is to have this system in place before the next bypass season.

F. DECISION: 2025 GAP/BOP (Andrew Gingerich and Tom Kahler)

The draft 2025 GAP/BOP was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 10. Andrew Gingerich said the draft plan was also distributed to the Aquatic SWG for review at that time and was approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 12, with the understanding that this plan was still under review by the Wells HCP-CC. During this review period, comments were received from Kirk Truscott requesting to move the bypass start date from April 9 to April 1 while caveating the understanding that the HCP does not distinguish between hatchery versus wild fish. Comments were also received from Keely Murdoch regarding median travel time and 95% passage timing.

Tom Kahler said regarding median travel time, he tried looking into whether fish traveling earlier had longer travel times, but there were so few wild fish detected at both WEJ[8] and RRJ,[9] there were not a significantly greater number of longer travel times for earlier fish or shorter travel times for later fish. He also looked at LMR,[10] but the number of wild fish detected at both WEJ and LMR was also a small

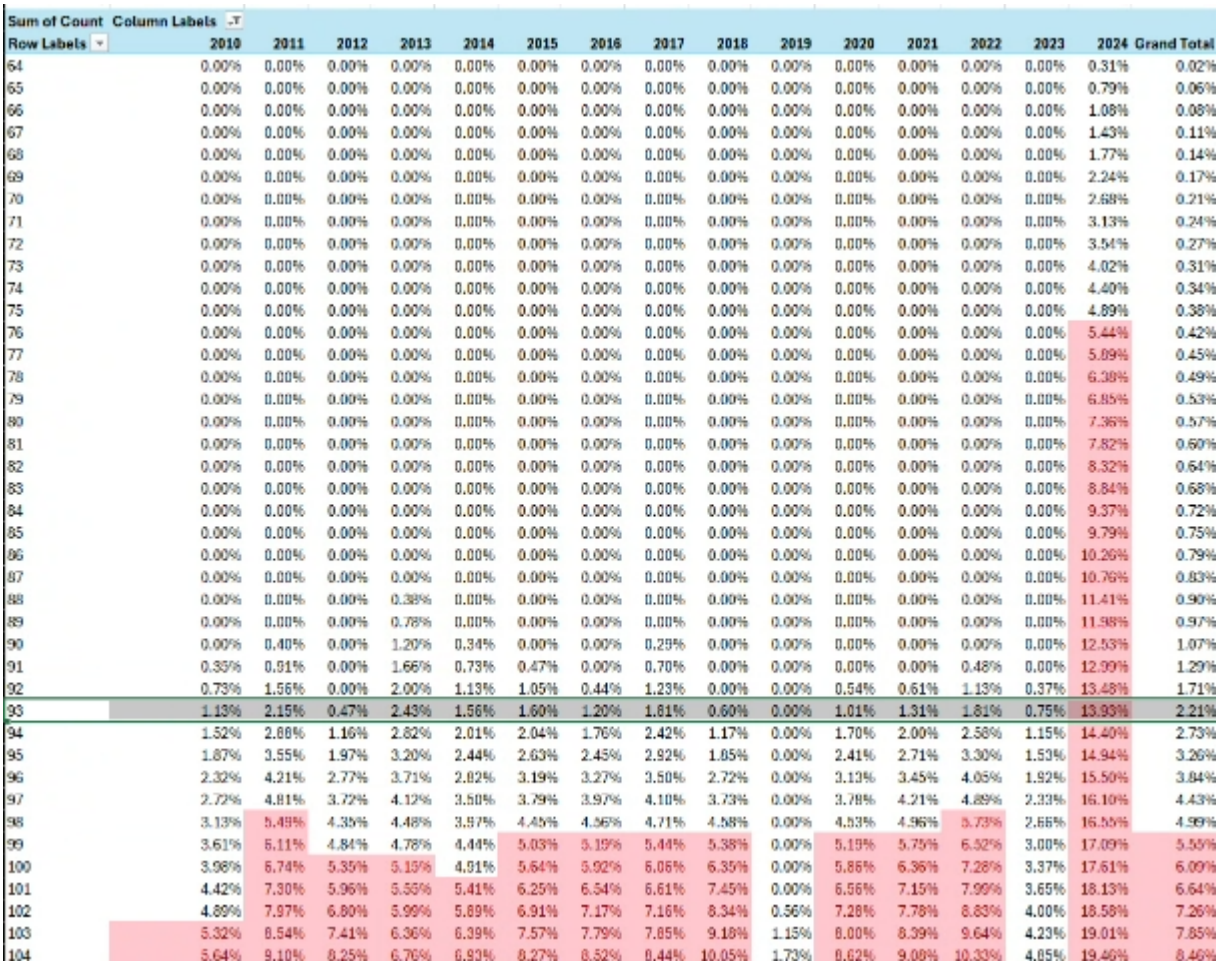
[8] Wells Dam bypass sampler (site code WEJ in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).
[9] Rocky Reach surface collector PIT array (site code RRJ in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).
[10] Lower Methow River PIT array (site code LMR in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).

sample size. Douglas PUD is not trying to debate whether earlier fish travel longer; rather, the available data cannot discern this. This also gets back to K. Murdoch's point that it would be ideal to move away from relying on estimates of travel time and instead collect this information at Wells Dam. Douglas PUD agrees with this and appreciates the comment.

Kahler said, regarding the tails of the 95% passage timing, the reason for this is because the trailing tail of the yearling emigration extends into the early portion of what used to be "summer spill," and there was only a way to adjust timing of operations at the leading tail. For subyearlings, there was only a way to adjust timing at the trailing tail because this emigration commences during the bypass operations for yearling spring migrants. This dates back to when Wells Dam implemented "spring spill," there was a hiatus in early June, and "summer spill" resumed mid-June. This was discontinued in the 1990s, and continuous bypass operations (no break between spring and summer spill) have been implemented since. K. Murdoch believes this is worthy of discussion. The HCPs are intended to be comprehensive long-term management plans to protect Plan Species and increase abundance and productivity. Beginning bypass operations at the 5% passage mark is likely disproportionately impacting early migrating wild fish. One thought is that there is a period between the peak yearling and subyearling migrations where not as many fish are moving, so maybe operations implemented in the 1990s might better protect spring and summer migrants. Kahler said this is an interesting thought he has never considered. Spring and summer spill were discontinued when the HCPs were negotiated. If there is genuine interest in providing 2.5% on the front and back end of the run distribution and returning to a break in spring and summer spill, he can speak with Ritchie Graves and Shane Bickford to understand why Douglas PUD moved away from this. Other considerations might be how these runs have changed since then and how the leading tail of summer overlaps with spring, among other things. K. Murdoch said she is interested in this. Kahler noted this will not be resolved before the 2025 bypass operations, and K. Murdoch agreed.

Kahler said Truscott's comment presented a case for a change in the bypass operations start date on behalf of yearling spring Chinook Salmon. In this, Truscott cited the Passage-Dates Analysis, which Douglas PUD has used since 2011 as an assessment of bypass performance, post-season, each year. Looking at wild spring Chinook Salmon only, he noted that bypass operations were provided for the 95th percentile in 3 of 13 years, but a bypass start date of April 1 would have provided bypass operations for the 95th percentile in all 13 years. Truscott acknowledged the Wells HCP does not distinguish between wild and hatchery fish, but that it was also not the intent of the signatories to not protect the wild component. Kahler said with this request, Douglas PUD began discussing how this change can be supported under the adaptive management clause. The 2025 GAP/BOP review period had already ended. This would be a significant change from what has been implemented since 1998. There is limited time for internal vetting of a decision, limited personnel availability, and any change would also need to be discussed with NMFS. A key question is that there is this huge population of hatchery fish dwarfing the number of wild fish, so what does this group of PIT tags

represent? Douglas PUD discussed various ways to equalize this larger group of hatchery tags and smaller group of wild tags, and agreement was reached to bootstrap the dataset. That is, equalize the number of tags for analysis in each year since RRJ started operating in spring 2010. Kahler shared on Microsoft Teams the following analysis:



Sum of Count	Column Labels															
Row Labels	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
64	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.31%	0.02%
65	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.79%	0.06%
66	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.08%	0.08%
67	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.43%	0.11%
68	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.77%	0.14%
69	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.24%	0.17%
70	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.68%	0.21%
71	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.13%	0.24%
72	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.54%	0.27%
73	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.02%	0.31%
74	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.40%	0.34%
75	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.89%	0.38%
76	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.44%	0.42%
77	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.89%	0.45%
78	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.38%	0.49%
79	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.85%	0.53%
80	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.36%	0.57%
81	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.82%	0.60%
82	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.32%	0.64%
83	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.84%	0.68%
84	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.37%	0.72%
85	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.79%	0.75%
86	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.26%	0.79%
87	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10.76%	0.83%
88	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.38%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.41%	0.90%
89	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.78%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.98%	0.97%
90	0.00%	0.40%	0.00%	1.20%	0.34%	0.00%	0.00%	0.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	12.53%	1.07%
91	0.35%	0.91%	0.00%	1.66%	0.73%	0.47%	0.00%	0.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.48%	0.00%	12.99%	1.29%
92	0.73%	1.56%	0.00%	2.00%	1.13%	1.05%	0.44%	1.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.54%	0.61%	1.13%	0.37%	13.48%	1.71%
93	1.13%	2.15%	0.47%	2.43%	1.56%	1.60%	1.20%	1.81%	0.60%	0.00%	1.01%	1.31%	1.81%	0.75%	13.93%	2.21%
94	1.52%	2.88%	1.16%	2.82%	2.01%	2.04%	1.76%	2.42%	1.17%	0.00%	1.70%	2.00%	2.58%	1.15%	14.40%	2.73%
95	1.87%	3.55%	1.97%	3.20%	2.44%	2.63%	2.45%	2.92%	1.85%	0.00%	2.41%	2.71%	3.30%	1.53%	14.94%	3.26%
96	2.32%	4.21%	2.77%	3.71%	2.82%	3.19%	3.27%	3.50%	2.72%	0.00%	3.13%	3.45%	4.05%	1.92%	15.50%	3.84%
97	2.72%	4.81%	3.72%	4.12%	3.50%	3.79%	3.97%	4.10%	3.73%	0.00%	3.78%	4.21%	4.89%	2.33%	16.10%	4.43%
98	3.13%	5.48%	4.35%	4.48%	3.97%	4.45%	4.56%	4.71%	4.58%	0.00%	4.53%	4.96%	5.73%	2.66%	16.55%	4.99%
99	3.61%	6.11%	4.84%	4.78%	4.44%	5.03%	5.19%	5.44%	5.38%	0.00%	5.19%	5.75%	6.52%	3.00%	17.09%	5.55%
100	3.98%	6.74%	5.35%	5.15%	4.91%	5.64%	5.92%	6.06%	6.35%	0.00%	5.86%	6.36%	7.28%	3.37%	17.61%	6.09%
101	4.42%	7.30%	5.96%	5.55%	5.41%	6.25%	6.54%	6.61%	7.45%	0.00%	6.56%	7.15%	7.99%	3.65%	18.13%	6.64%
102	4.89%	7.97%	6.80%	5.99%	5.89%	6.91%	7.17%	7.16%	8.34%	0.56%	7.28%	7.78%	8.83%	4.00%	18.58%	7.26%
103	5.32%	8.54%	7.41%	6.36%	6.39%	7.57%	7.79%	7.85%	9.18%	1.15%	8.00%	8.39%	9.64%	4.23%	19.01%	7.85%
104	5.64%	9.10%	8.25%	6.76%	6.93%	8.27%	8.52%	8.44%	10.05%	1.73%	8.62%	9.08%	10.33%	4.65%	19.46%	8.46%

Kahler said this is the combined hatchery and wild dataset, with the wild tags bootstrapped, so there are equal numbers of hatchery and wild tags. In the first column "91" represents April 1 and "99" represents the bypass start date of April 9. The pink formatting shows on which date the 5th percentile passed RRJ for each year. To note, 2024 was anomalous. When also accounting for the multiyear median travel time between Wells and Rocky Reach (5 days) from the passage-dates analysis, this shows that a start date of April 3 would have been needed to provide bypass operations for the 5th percentile for the combined hatchery and wild dataset.

Kahler said this is what Douglas PUD can do for the 2025 bypass season, under adaptive management, without getting into policy discussions. Douglas PUD is proposing a bypass start date on April 3, with the expectation that discussions will continue regarding future years.

Truscott appreciates the effort Douglas PUD put into this, given the time frame and that his comments were late. The CTCR can accept April 3 for a bypass operations start date at Wells Dam in 2025. As more data become available specific to Wells Dam, with the updated PIT detection at Spillway 2 and Pateros PIT-Detection Array, he is interested in looking further at these data to determine whether this start date is still appropriate. There are various sections in the Wells HCP that suggest the intent was not just to protect the aggregate of hatchery and wild fish, but that wild fish matter, too. For example, Section 10.2.2(ii) of the Wells HCP states, "under this Agreement the District will, to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate any incidental take of Permit Species…" Section 10.4.2 of the Wells HCP states, "Adaptive management will yield prescriptions that may vary over time. Such changes are provided for in this Agreement and do not require modification of the Agreement or amendment of the Permit, provided, that such changes will not result in a level of incidental take in excess of that otherwise allowed by this Agreement and the Permit."

The YN, WDFW, USFWS, and NMFS thanked the CTCR for teeing up this discussion and Douglas PUD for putting in this effort on short notice.

Chad Jackson added that WDFW is looking forward to further discussions on this topic, not only at Wells Dam, but for other projects, too. A. Murdoch said this is something WDFW has been looking at closely. There does seem to be variability in travel times for wild fish. Part of the issue is using observations at dams associated with strict predetermined operation protocols that are inherently biased when fish are behaving differently in some years. Operations themselves limit the data.

Gingerich said that lastly, during the Aquatic SWG meeting on February 12, Washington State Department of Ecology requested modest clarifications about incoming total dissolved gas levels and biological monitoring. There were also minor edits addressing comments from USFWS about standard operating procedures developed to address specific flow events. The Wells HCP-CC reviewed these edits, as approved by the Aquatic SWG on February 12.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 GAP/BOP, as revised, with Aquatic SWG edits and April 3 bypass start date.

Kahler thanked the Wells HCP-CC for the comments and teamwork on this.

VI. Steelhead Overshoots

A. Next Steps (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said there are no updates to share today. These discussions are on hold until the HCP Policy Committees October 15, 2024, meeting minutes are finalized. Ferguson asked for any questions about Chelan PUD's presentation from last month or other topics to raise today? None were expressed.

VII. HCP Administration

A. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on March 25, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 4) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meetings on April 22 and May 27, 2025, are from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Lamprey

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Dennis Moore	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

†† Joined for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 2600
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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: May 6, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the March 25, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will query the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
3. Chelan PUD will notify the Rock Island HCP-CC about whether spill gates 30 and 32 will remain in the 2025 spill gate sequence at Rock Island Dam, as it relates to the alkali silica reaction (ASR) work ongoing in Powerhouse 2 (Item V-E). *(Note: A notification that all three over/under gates cannot be opened to start the 2025 fish spill season was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on April 4, 2025.)*
4. HCP-CCs representatives will review the steelhead overshoots discussion in the final HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PCs) October 15, 2024, meeting minutes[1] and will come prepared to further discuss the topic at the HCP-CCs meeting on April 22, 2025 (Item VI-A).
5. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on April 22, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 5) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VII-C).

Decision Summary

1. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025* (2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA), as revised (Item IV-A).

[1] Distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on March 24, 2025.

2. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Item IV-E).
3. Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2025 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* (2025 RRJSF Protocol) (Item V-A).
4. Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2024 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Draft Report* (2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report) (Item V-B).
5. Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present approved the *2024 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Draft Report* (2024 RRJFBS Report) (Item V-C).
6. Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the SOA *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation* (Rock Island TRE SOA) (Item V-F).

Agreements

1. HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to add Charlie Stewart-Bates (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) to the HCP-HCs secondary email list (Item VII-A).
2. HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to add Emi Melton (Nation Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) to the HCP-CCs secondary email list (Item VII-B).

Review Items

1. The final 10-Year Comprehensive Hatchery Program Summary Report was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 28 and was available for a 60-day review, with input or recommendations due to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee (HCP-HC) by Friday, March 28, 2025.
2. The draft 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on February 21 and is available for a 70-day review, with edits and comments due to Anchor QEA by Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
3. The draft 2024 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports were distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on February 25 and are available for a 70-day review, with edits and comments due to Anchor QEA by Thursday, May 8, 2025.
4. The draft 2023 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Geris on February 26 and is available for a 60-day review, with edits and comments due to Chelan PUD by Friday, April 25, 2025.
5. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for LUP 828G-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 3 and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by April 2, 2025 (Item IV-B).
6. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC's) annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 3, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Kahler by April 2, 2025 (Item IV-C).

Finalized Documents

1. The final 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 27, 2025 (Item IV-A).

I. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 4 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

II. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft February 25 conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. Geris also added distribution of the third draft 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA and draft and revised 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the February 25 conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs conference call on February 25 and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the conference call on February 25)*:

1. *Douglas PUD will inquire about sharing Biomark's Pateros passive integrated transponder (PIT)-Detection Array design specifications with the Wells HCP-CC (Item I-C).*
   Tom Kahler said this is proprietary for now.
2. *Chelan PUD will query the PTAGIS database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
3. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item IV-B).*
   This action item will be carried forward.

4. *Chelan PUD will notify the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs when the Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam adult fishways are returned to service from annual winter maintenance (Item IV-G).*
   This notification was distributed on March 5, including confirmation that all adult ladders at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams were back in service prior to March 1, 2025.
5. *Chelan PUD will draft a renewed 1-year SOA, Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation, for Rock Island HCP-CC review (Item IV-H).*
   A draft SOA was distributed by Kristi Geris on March 18, 2025. This will be discussed during today's meeting.
6. *Douglas PUD will coordinate with Wells HCP-CC representatives to develop a robust monitoring plan to evaluate adult salmon and steelhead passage during testing of a reduced head differential at the Wells Dam fishway entrances. The testing is a component of the 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study being implemented by the Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG). Douglas PUD will distribute the draft plan no later than March 15 for approval during the HCP-CC meeting on March 25 (Item V-B).*
   Douglas PUD provided a second draft SOA, which was distributed on March 6; the Yakama Nation (YN) provided a draft monitoring plan, which was distributed on March 7; and a third draft SOA was distributed on March 20, 2025. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

III. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on March 13, 2025.

- *Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver-Powered Project*: In late February, the Rocky Reach HCP-TC received a scope change and budget amendment request on the Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver-Powered Restoration Project from Trout Unlimited. The sponsor indicated interest in using low-tech process-based restoration methods to restore habitat conditions in other degraded reaches on Beaver Creek, a tributary to the Wenatchee River. This effort would require an additional $86,500 to complete the work. On March 4, 2025, the Rocky Reach HCP-TC approved the scope change and budget amendment. The budget for this project will increase from $103,982 to $190,482.
- *Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project*: The Rock Island HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) on the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project. The sponsor asked to move $249,492.59 from "Sponsor: Salaries and Benefits" to several other line items that were not originally included in the budget. The Rock Island HCP-TC approved the budget amendment. The total budget for the project will not change as a result of this amendment.

- *Beaver-Powered Stream Restoration Presentation (with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee)*: Trout Unlimited joined the meeting to describe their proposed restoration project, which is to complete the following: 1) conduct low-tech process-based restoration work in three streams (Brush, Tillicum, and Indian creeks); and 2) conduct beaver coexistence work on 20 sites in Chelan and Douglas counties. Restoration work includes the placement of beaver dam analogues and post-assisted log structures in degraded reaches on the three streams. Beaver coexistence work includes education and outreach, tree caging, flow devices, and culvert protection. If funded, the beaver coexistence work will begin immediately, while the restoration work will begin in 2026.
- *Beaver-Powered Stream Restoration Project*: The HCP-TCs received an application from Trout Unlimited titled Beaver-Powered Stream Restoration Project. The purpose of the project is described in the previous bullet. The project is intended to benefit steelhead and possibly spring Chinook Salmon. The total cost of the project was $510,176.75. The sponsor requested $495,176.75 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The HCP-TCs declined the opportunity to fund this project. The HCP-TCs were concerned that the restoration work will primarily benefit Brook Trout, and the HCP-TCs recommended that the sponsor submit the application through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board process.
- *M2@3R Habitat Construction Project*: The HCP-TCs received an application from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) titled M2@3R Habitat Construction Project. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat complexity, quantity, and access to thermal refugia between river mile (RM) 46.25 and 47.25 on the Methow River (between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop). The design includes side-channel and floodplain grading, installation of large wood structures, enhancement of the connectivity to existing groundwater-fed thermal refuge sites, and restoration of degraded riparian habitat. This project is intended to benefit Plan Species, especially spring and summer Chinook Salmon and steelhead, and likely Coho Salmon. The total cost of the project was $1,337,340. The sponsor requested $663,670 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Rocky Reach HCP-TC elected to contribute $663,670 to the project.
- *Sugar Channels Reconnection Project: Phase I*: The HCP-TCs received an application from MSRF titled Sugar Channels Reconnection Project: Phase I. The purpose of the project is to improve habitat between RM 41.25 and 42.75 on the Methow River (between the towns of Twisp and Winthrop). The project will include the placement of 43 wood structures, reconnection of 7,700 feet of off-channel habitat, and restoration of 0.5 acre of riparian habitat. This project is intended to benefit Plan Species, especially spring and summer Chinook Salmon and steelhead. The total cost of the project is $1,435,561. The sponsor requested $342,579 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Rock Island HCP-TC elected to contribute $342,579 to the project.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on April 10, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP-HCs meeting on March 19, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are*

noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"):

- *Formalin Alternative Study Design Proposal (joint)*: Last month, Chelan PUD and WDFW proposed a study to evaluate different therapeutics to treat growth of *Saprolegnia* on fertilized eggs in the hatchery. Currently, formalin is used to control *Saprolegnia*, but supply chain issues and recent regulatory concerns regarding worker safety and environmental effects associated with formalin means there is a need to find an alternative therapeutic to treat *Saprolegnia*. The study proposed evaluating humic acid and different concentrations of hydrogen peroxide on growth of *Saprolegnia*. The studies will use fertilized eggs from Chelan Falls summer Chinook Salmon and will be conducted at Eastbank Hatchery. The HCP-HCs approved the study with the understanding that no additional broodstock will be collected for the study. Bill Gale asked whether formalin will still be used to treat adults. Catherine Willard said yes. Gale asked, if these studies are successful, will formalin use be minimized for eggs? Willard said there are alternatives for adults, and these studies are investigating an alternative for eggs.
- *2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: The HCP-HCs reviewed the draft 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols and approved all sections except those related to the use of the Chiwawa River weir. Chelan PUD and WDFW will meet with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in early April to discuss the operation of the Chiwawa River weir. The YN also provided edits to the Methow Basin Coho Salmon section. The HCP-HCs intend to review and approve the edited/revised sections before April 15, 2025, when the plan is due to NMFS. John Ferguson asked about the process for Wells HCP-CC approval of a draft document. Tom Kahler said Wells HCP-CC approval of this document only pertains to trapping activities at Wells Dam, and the outstanding items do not apply to trapping at Wells.
- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are working on HGMPs, beginning with Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon. The HCP-HCs are currently identifying possible places and methods for collecting Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon for broodstock and intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon plan by summer 2025.
- *Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Updates (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are updating the hatchery M&E plan. The HCP-HCs are currently reviewing a proposed outline for the plan and will focus on the productivity objectives over the next few months. The goal is to complete the plan by the end of 2025.
- *WDFW PIT Barge Presentation (joint)*: WDFW shared a presentation on the use of the PIT barge to estimate the survival of hatchery fish from release to the mouth of the Wenatchee River. The PIT barge allows the partitioning of release-related mortality and residualism from mortality that occurs in the Columbia River. WDFW estimated apparent survival rates for PIT-tagged spring Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and Coho Salmon. Survival rates and detection

probabilities varied within and among fish species. Across species, apparent survival rates from release to the barge ranged from 0.48 to 0.95. WDFW can also estimate smolt-to-adult returns from release to Bonneville Dam and from the barge to Bonneville Dam. WDFW concluded that well-monitored PIT-tag releases can improve the accuracy of the survival estimates to the barge. Ferguson asked whether the barge is operating now. Andrew Murdoch said yes, as of several weeks ago.

- *Dryden Acclimation Facility Update (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that the Highline Canal provides water for the Dryden Acclimation Facility. Unfortunately, one of the three culverts under the road near the Highline Canal Headworks is collapsing. The PUD will install a temporary fix so that the remaining two culverts can pass up to 300 cubic feet per second of water. Water will be diverted into the canal on April 1, 2025. Wenatchee summer Chinook Salmon will be transferred to the acclimation facility the first week of April. Generally, fish are transferred to the acclimation facility at the end of February or early March. A permanent fix will be installed later this year after the irrigation season is complete.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on April 16, 2025.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA (John Rohrback)

A draft 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 21. John Rohrback said after last month's meeting, he spoke with Wells HCP-CC representatives, mostly focused on the head differential adjustment and what constitutes a robust monitoring plan that is achievable using PIT tags. After these discussions, a second draft SOA was distributed on March 6, and the YN provided a draft monitoring plan on March 7. Ultimately, he learned that all representatives may not support a reduction in head differential to 0.5 foot, and a third draft SOA was distributed on March 20. This third draft included the following: 1) a change in the start time of the hours of modified head differential operation from 18:00 to 20:00 hours; 2) a change in reduced head differentials from 0.5 foot to 1.0 foot; and 3) the YN's monitoring plan. Per this plan, Douglas PUD will provide updates throughout the study period and a post-season report.

John Ferguson asked about the final reasoning for the 1.0-foot head differential. Rohrback said the issue is that 0.5 foot is outside of the NMFS recommendation. Keely Murdoch said, with the monitoring plan, the YN is comfortable with going to 0.5 foot. Considering 1.0 foot is within the normal operating range under the Biological Opinion (BiOp), she is unsure the monitoring plan is needed, but the plan is easy to implement. K. Murdoch spoke with Ralph Lampman (YN Aquatic SWG Technical Representative) about this, and he is disappointed about not going to a 0.5 foot, but he also understands the reasoning. Andrew Gingerich said this is consistent with discussions within the Aquatic SWG forum.

Bill Gale appreciates all the work and coordination that went into this. Rohrback agreed. Gingerich said it is worth noting that consistent with past discussions, this is a 1-year study, and per the monitoring plan, if the Aquatic SWG wants to test modified head differentials in future years, additional salmon and steelhead studies will be needed.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 Adult Pacific Lamprey Study SOA, as revised. The final SOA was distributed on March 27, 2025.

B. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for LUP 828G-01 (Tom Kahler)

Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for LUP 828G-01 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 3, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by April 2, 2025. Kahler said this is for an existing access path and picnic area that were never formally permitted. John Ferguson asked whether there are questions. None were expressed.

C. CRITFC's Annual Request to Tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 (Tom Kahler)

CRITFC's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 (Attachment B) was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 3, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by April 2, 2025. Kahler said Jeff Fryer (CRITFC) clarified via email that a maximum of 800 fish will be sampled, but he thinks it will be no more than 600 fish. During Douglas PUD's annual trapping coordination meeting, Kraig Mott (YN Sampling Team Lead) indicated that some fish will also receive temperature tags. Fryer also clarified that trapping will not take place daily (as stipulated in the formal request); rather, it will only take place concurrently with WDFW trapping activities. Per Wells HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PC) guidance, once the thermal barrier sets up,[2] trapping can happen separately, but Fryer is not expecting this will be needed. Kirk Truscott asked what anesthetic will be used. Kahler said Aqui-S. John Ferguson said Douglas PUD needs Wells HCP-CC approval of this request by the HCP-CC meeting on May 27, 2025.

D. Chelan PUD and Grant PUD Request for ONA Program to Trap Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said this trapping activity is included in the 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols and Wells HCP-CC approval will be via approval of the protocols. Catherine Willard said this is a pilot effort to evaluate the feasibility of transferring broodstock from Wells Dam up to a hatchery in Canada for holding and spawning there. Part of this evaluation is to determine how well fish do when held longer than usual. Chad Jackson said, also, how well fish do when trucked 4 to 5 hours in the heat of July. Willard said WDFW is doing the hauling with Chelan PUD trucks.

[2] Refers to temperatures greater than or equal to 21°C at the U.S. Geological Survey 12447200 Okanogan River at Malott, Washington, gage for a period greater than or equal to 12 hours, per the HCP Policy Committees SOA approved October 6, 2020.

E. DECISION: 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Tom Kahler)

The draft 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 21. A revised draft was distributed on March 24. Tom Kahler said the HCP-HCs approved the protocols, understanding that one outstanding issue regarding trapping at the Chiwawa River weir will be resolved before the start of trapping. Resolution of this issue may not occur before the April 15 deadline to NMFS, so Mike Tonseth (WDFW HCP-HC Representative) emailed Brett Farman (NMFS HCP-HC Representative) regarding a deadline extension. Kahler has not heard about a response, but Farman did not express any concerns with the request. As Tracy Hillman described during his HCP-HCs Update (Item III-A), the YN also provided edits to the Methow Basin Coho Salmon section, which the HCP-HCs have not yet approved. Neither of these are consequential for Wells HCP-CC approval. Kahler proposed a vote to approve today with the understanding that language for the Chiwawa River weir and Coho Salmon section will be sorted later.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols.

F. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said Wells Dam is currently a seven-unit plant. Turbine Unit 8 is still offline for a long-term rebuild and will be offline through this bypass period. Turbine Units 1 and 2 have been offline for biannual maintenance. Turbine Unit 1 is now available, but offline. Turbine Unit 2 is still offline but is scheduled to be back online by April 11. Bypass barriers were installed last weekend in preparation for the start of bypass operations at midnight on April 2 (i.e., April 3 at 00:00 hours). Wells Dam will be a seven-unit plant when bypass operations start, due to transformer 1 replacement. A second transformer replacement is planned for late August and another in the third week in October. These may include 2-day roadway outages blocking access to the east fish ladder. Gingerich does not anticipate a conflict with Coho Salmon broodstock collection based on the number of days of trapping, but Douglas PUD will stay in communication with users about this. For August, summer Chinook Salmon broodstock collection will likely be complete. Stock assessment might be ongoing, but road access is not needed for this activity.

G. Wells Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reported at the last meeting that winter maintenance was complete in the west fishway. The next day, the east fishway was returned to service. He recalled reporting that once the east fishway was back in service, a brief power outage would be needed on the west fishway to swap out a power source. This was complete, and then a second power outage was needed to put the fishway back on the original power source. These outages only required closing the exits because the video system recording fish at the count window and perhaps the PIT-tag detectors in the upper ladder might go down during the power outages. During these times the east fishway remained in normal operation.

H. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said a dive inspection was performed at the Pateros railroad bridge. Douglas PUD has conceptual designs, but no as-builts of the bridge, so the inspection is to confirm the bridge specifications are as expected. Douglas PUD is currently waiting for these results and measurements to finalize the designs for the bridge system. Douglas PUD also spoke with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding permitting. This is moving forward and is on schedule for a late-summer installation.

Kahler has no new updates on the flap gate design for spillway 2. Biomark is still working on revisions, once in hand, these will be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approval. The plan is still to have this system in place before the 2026 bypass season.

V. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 RRJSF Protocol (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 RRJSF Protocol was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 27, 2025. Lance Keller said this protocol is consistent with last year's approved protocol, and no comments were received from the Rocky Reach HCP-CC.

Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 RRJSF Protocol.

B. DECISION: 2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 28, 2025. Lance Keller said no comments were received from the Rock Island HCP-CC.

Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2024 Rock Island Smolt and GBT Evaluation Report.

C. DECISION: 2024 RRJFBS Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2024 RRJFBS Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 28, 2025. Lance Keller said no comments were received from the Rocky Reach HCP-CC.

Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2024 RRJFBS Report.

D. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

<u>Rocky Reach Dam</u>

Work is nearly complete on Turbine Unit C11. This unit is in the wet commissioning phase, which means it is watered up, and mechanics are testing components such as the brakes and monitoring

the system. The return-to-service date is still April 1. Work continues in the second to last large unit, Turbine Unit C10. The latest return-to-service date for this unit is July 2025.

Keller said Rocky Reach mechanics recently completed replacement of the thrust cooler in Turbine Unit C2, which is associated with the thrust bearing. This thrust bearing has coolers, and water runs through a heat exchange with the oil to keep the bearing cool. Mechanics returned the unit to service, noticed elevated temperatures, and reduced the load, but this did not reduce the temperature. Therefore, the unit was removed from service and crews have started disassembly of Turbine Unit C2 to determine the issue. The thrust cooler is a necessary component to operate the unit. The mechanical crew is estimating an outage that extends into the first weeks in April, with a return-to-service date of April 10. The juvenile fish bypass starts April 1. Turbine Units C1 and C2 have a soft-limit set-point of 12.2 thousand cubic feet per second (kcfs), which becomes the plant minimum. During the bypass season, these units are turned on and left on to promote collection in the cul-de-sac area and surface collector. In 2020, maintenance issues with the trunnion seals and bushings in the small units at Rocky Reach Dam resulted in extended outages for Turbine Units C1 and C2, at which time, Chelan PUD developed an operating plan should there be only one unit available. Keller shared this plan on Microsoft Teams, which elevates the soft-limit set-point of 12.2 kcfs to 15.2 kcfs of the remaining unit (C1 in this case) to compensate for the outage of the other unit. Additional pumps are also called upon to operate in the surface collector to increase the entrance velocity and flow on each side to 3,300. Keller said that two bypass seasons were operated in this way, and no negative effect to fish condition was observed in the marked fish releases or the daily fish condition examinations during index samples. Chelan PUD believes this plan would be appropriate in this scenario. To note, last weekend, Chelan PUD conducted the pre-season marked fish release in Turbine Unit C1. A total of 100 fish were released into the north and south entrances of the surface collector, and all fish were recovered in good condition. Another marked fish release will be performed in Turbine Unit C2 before returning the unit to operation.

John Ferguson asked what type of approval or documentation is needed. Keller suggested attaching the operating plan to these meeting minutes. No objections were expressed. Keller provided the *Operating Plan for Rocky Reach Surface Collector and Unit C1 Turbine Unit during the C2 Turbine Unit Outage in Spring 2025* (Attachment B), which was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 26, 2025.

<u>Rock Island Dam</u>

In Powerhouse 1, work is continuing on Turbine Unit B2. The return-to-service date may fluctuate, and as of now, Turbine Unit B2 is projected to return to service Q1 2027. Tomorrow, Turbine Unit B8 will be removed from service. The return-to-service date for this unit is Q1 2028. In Powerhouse 2, work continues on Turbine Unit U5. The return-to-service date for this unit is Q4 2025.

Keller recalled that ASR activity is resulting in concrete growth at Rock Island Dam. During a routine inspection of the upstream side of Rock Island Dam, staff observed a horizontal crack above the water line adjacent to pier 31 in spillway 2, which is adjacent to Powerhouse 2. Spill gate 31 is adjacent to pier 31. Spill gates 32, 31, 30 are over/under gates and cannot be opened from the control room; rather, a crane is needed to lift and set these gates, and the over/under gates remain open the entire fish spill season. Given this crack, Chelan PUD and contractors are evaluating what can and cannot be done in this area related to the operation of the over/under gates. Chelan PUD has notified FERC about this. Mechanics are currently investigating alternative ways to keep these over/under gates in operation for the spill season. It might be possible to keep spill gates 32 and 30 in operation, but it is not likely that spill gate 31 can be opened given the crack. Chelan PUD wanted to make the Rock Island HCP-CC aware that due to dam safety, over/under gates 32, 31, and 30 may not be in operation for this spill season. Chelan PUD will notify the Rock Island HCP-CC about whether spill gates 30 and 32 will remain in the 2025 spill gate sequence at Rock Island Dam. If these gates cannot be used, the plan will likely be to continue moving down the spill sequence. *(Note: A notification that all three over/under gates cannot be opened to start the 2025 fish spill season was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on April 4, 2025.)*

Bill Gale asked when Chelan PUD might know about a solution. Keller hopes in a couple of weeks. If spring spill starts and these gates cannot be opened, this means continuing to open the next gates in the spill gate sequence and possibly getting to operating full spill gates sooner than previous years. Gale asked what this means for water quality standards. Keller said Chelan PUD is tracking this, including monitoring snowpack and considering total dissolved gas management and spill requirements. Kirk Truscott asked, if these over/under gates cannot be opened, what impacts might this have on fish passage efficiency? Keller said it is hard to tell, but perhaps with the calmer velocities in the area, fish may choose to pass via Powerhouse 2.

E. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance – Complete

Lance Keller reported at the last meeting that load testing on the tailrace crane at Rocky Reach Dam may result in a return-to-service date past March 1. Ultimately, the Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam adult fishways were returned to service from annual winter maintenance prior to March 1, as distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on March 5, 2025.

F. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said engineering staff are working continuously on the ASR work, and an extension of the single-year TRE SOA will be necessary for the 2025 adult fish passage season.

DECISION: Rock Island TRE SOA

A draft Rock Island TRE SOA was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 18. Lance Keller said this SOA is consistent with past years. The only changes are to the dates, including in the Background section where Chelan PUD wants to be candid about how many years this Rock Island TRE SOA has been implemented. Chelan PUD is not asking for a decision today, unless the Rock Island HCP-CC is ready to do so.

Keely Murdoch asked about language for keeping the TRE solution updates on the agenda. John Ferguson recalled capturing this commitment in past meeting minutes[3] but not the SOA.

Rock Island HCP-CC representatives present approved the Rock Island TRE SOA.

VI. Steelhead Overshoots

A. Next Steps (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson recalled that Chelan PUD shared a presentation last January, and then further discussion was put on hold pending the final HCP-PC October 15, 2024, meeting minutes. These minutes were finalized and distributed to the HCP-PCs and HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris yesterday, on March 24. The HCP-PCs have a check-in call scheduled for April 8. A request for agenda items was distributed, and Brock Hoenes (WDFW HCP-PC Representative) requested a follow up to the steelhead overshoots topic. During the last HCP-PC meeting, guidance to the HCP-CC was to discuss the technical aspects of both Plan Species and Non-Plan Species. However, the HCP-CCs need to figure out how to separate the two in the HCP administrative record.

Keely Murdoch thought it was not resolved whether overshoots are Plan Species or Non-Plan Species. Bill Gale agreed and said it is the background information that differentiates Plan Species, but not the actual HCPs. It is unclear to him—when steelhead cross a boundary, is this now a Plan Species? Ferguson said Addendum No. 1 in the HCP-PC October 15, 2024, meeting minutes addresses Plan Species versus Non-Plan Species. Gale said the HCP-PCs have not met since the addendum was finalized; this communication has only been via email. Ferguson said this is correct, and the HCP-PCs will revisit this on April 8. Gale asked, at this point, does it matter if the guidance is to discuss both? Andrew Gingerich said it does, because one question will be do these fish apply to No Net Impact (NNI) mitigation per the HCP? K. Murdoch said when a fish crosses the dams and enters the projects, their survival should be considered like any other fish passing the projects up here. These fish are all mixed together. In some cases, these fish are spawning up here, some end up in hatchery programs up here, and some try to return downstream. Why should survival standards for these fish be any different? Gingerich said the difference is the Snake River steelhead interacting with the upper Columbia represent only 0.5% to 1% of all steelhead destined for the Snake River. Chad Jackson said the HCP-CCs have not reached agreement on

[3] See HCP-CC meeting minutes from May 24 and June 28, 2022, and May 23, 2023.

this number. K. Murdoch said looking at PIT data for the entire Snake River may not show a big impact, but there are 26 populations in the Snake River, and population-specific data show the impact is high (e.g., Tucannon steelhead).

Lance Keller said the HCPs are Section 10 and Non-Plan Species are Section 7. Ferguson's point is figuring out how to discuss both but separate Section 7 discussions so these are not included in the HCP record. Gale said his recollection was the guidance from the HCP-PCs was to discuss all species together. Catherine Willard read excerpts from the latest HCP-PC minutes, where Ritchie Graves (NMFS HCP-PC Representative) did say there is a difference, but it makes sense for the same people (HCP-CCs) to have these discussions. Gale said Graves did say Plan Species are specific to the Upper Columbia, but this is one perspective from one representative of the HCP-PCs. Gale is basing his perspective off of the HCPs, which is what USFWS signed. Willard said the HCPs are a NMFS document, so Graves's definition is meaningful. Gingerich asked, why is NNI mitigation like tributary fund spending confined to the Methow and Okanogan if other fish are subject to the terms of the HCPs? K. Murdoch suspects that when the HCPs were signed, the Parties did not understand the extent to which other populations were seeking thermal refugia in the Upper Columbia. She also understands that Chelan PUD has re-engaged with NMFS about obtaining incidental take coverage for these other Endangered Species Act-listed populations. If new permits are issued listing these other species, will these fish become Plan Species? Tom Kahler recounted events from 1998 to 2002, to move the negotiated HCPs through an Environmental Impact Statement process and ultimately FERC approval. This involved several discussions and several meetings. All Parties were engaged and everyone knew what was going on. Ultimately, he is not sure that any of this matters. If the HCP-CCs want to discuss Yakima River and Snake River fish that are engaging with Upper Columbia projects, this is fine. If the HCP-CCs want to discuss what is covered under the Section 10 permits, it is not those. K. Murdoch prefers to discuss all species together. She is not supportive of allowing one survival standard for Wenatchee fish overshooting to Wells versus Yakima fish overshooting to Wells. Gingerich said he did not want to speak for NMFS but his understanding is the HCP survival standards do not automatically apply to Non-Plan Species, which could be covered under Section 7. If NMFS authored a BiOp under Section 7 for Non-Plan Species, NMFS would need to evaluate whether Upper Columbia projects affect Non-Plan Species. This evaluation could result in different survival standards, or some other terms and conditions.

Kahler asked, what is the priority? If Plan Species and Non-Plan Species are observed milling around in the forebay, does one spill to benefit Non-Plan Species overshoots or not spill to minimize Plan Species fallback? K. Murdoch said this is not an issue in the winter. The data indicate that fish migrating downstream ends by December 1. The fall migration is through November. Adults moving downstream and milling in the forebay, in the winter, are overshoot steelhead. If a project provides surface passage in the fall, these fish will go downstream. No one is asking for spill through the entire winter. The request is to do the same thing Grant PUD and other projects are doing. Ferguson said timing is important, but it also needs to be recognized that Plan Species are milling in the forebay. The HCP-CCs task is to provide

the information. It is the HCP-PCs task to determine what to do with the information. Andrew Murdoch said the 2018 to 2023 dataset he is reviewing shows no Methow or Okanogan fish milling in the forebay. The data do seem specific to fish trying to find a way back downstream. He thinks it is naive to think that the past is the future. In the future, he thinks more fish will be looking for cold water refuge. John Rohrback asked whether A. Murdoch is reviewing PIT data at WEJ,[4] and A. Murdoch said yes.

Gingerich said, as presented to the HCP-HCs last year, the PUDs have started collecting DNA samples at Priest Rapids Dam to be combined with PIT data to better understand which steelhead stocks are interacting with different projects, as opposed to picking data to enter into a model. He is uncomfortable with advocating for different management strategies with no clear baseline data and no clear way to evaluate whether the strategy is successful. It is unknown what proportion of which fish are trying to get back downstream. It seems premature to advocate for surface spill when the data are still being collected. From Douglas PUD's perspective, Non-Plan Species need to be compartmentalized from HCP Plan Species, and these discussions should take place outside of the HCP record.

Ferguson asked whether the PIT and genetics data are available. Gingerich is hoping to have more results by mid-summer. The 2024 dataset includes about 1,300 PIT-tagged fish, including 1,200 fish that interacted with a PIT array, and just over 600 fish (or 53%) that interacted with Wells. These data alone are not as informative as when the PIT data are paired with genetic information, but there are opportunities to gather additional information needed to address concerns. K. Murdoch appreciates the effort to look at genetics; she believes this will be valuable information and is looking forward to seeing the data. Regarding baseline and post surface spill monitoring, she assumed this would be done via the patch occupancy model, which she believes is the best tool. There are years of data showing the rate of fallback success with no spill; once spill is overlayed with these data, plus genetics, the data are even more powerful to show before and after.

K. Murdoch hears Douglas PUD questioning the benefit of surface spill. A while back, A. Murdoch distributed documents on this. Currently, Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD are the only operators that do not offer surface spill. If all operators provide surface spill, this will result in the best success. Gingerich has reviewed this literature, which states that the desired outcome is to get fish back to the spawning grounds, but "to do it just because others are doing it" gives him consternation. There is no pre- or post-monitoring plan about how effective surface spill has been. He thinks there is still a lot of work to do. He asked whether Bonneville Power Administration or USACE have published any data related to pre and post surface spill operations. K. Murdoch has not seen any robust analysis, and she agreed this is lacking. However, she believes there are tools available to look at pre- and post-data in the Upper Columbia. There are a couple of decades of pre-data now. Rohrback said these data are limited because origin is unknown. K. Murdoch said that given the rate of fallback success, one can compare this with a surface passage rate. If there is an increase, this means there is a benefit. If there is no increase, there is no effect.

[4] Wells Dam bypass sampler (site code WEJ in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).

Kahler said this makes sense, but on a course scale. Willard said there are also PIT data showing overshoots that were later detected on the spawning grounds. K. Murdoch said some do make it back, but the more dams fish pass, fallback success decreases. Kahler said the loss of fish that overshoot is not a linear relationship to dams the fish are passing. This relationship does not follow turbine passage events. It is hard to attribute downstream mortality if there is no passage event.

Kirk Truscott is unsure that HCP-CC representatives can provide anything to the HCP-PCs before April 8. Gale asked whether the HCP-CCs are supposed to forward questions to the HCP-PCs. He would like to reach agreement on what the impact is. He does not think progress has been made on the topic. Willard read the HCP-PCs Agreement from the latest minutes: "HCP-PCs representatives present agreed that the HCP-CCs should develop conclusions about steelhead overshoot data for both Plan and Non-Plan Species and identify any remaining data gaps." Ferguson said he envisioned that Plan Species and Non-Plan Species would be discussed separately. He is hearing pushback on this, so maybe further guidance is needed from the HCP-PCs. He suggested that HCP-CCs representatives review the steelhead overshoots discussion in the final HCP-PCs October 15, 2024, meeting minutes, and come prepared to further discuss the topic at the HCP-CCs meeting on April 22, 2025.

VII. HCP Administration

A. HCP-HCs Secondary Email List – Charlie Stewart-Bates (WDFW) (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said Catherine Willard requested that Charlie Stewart-Bates be added to the HCP-HCs secondary distribution list. Stewart-Bates is a new fish health veterinarian for the Eastbank Hatchery Complex. The HCP-HCs approved via email on March 3.

HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to add Stewart-Bates to the HCP-HCs secondary email list.

B. HCP-CCs Secondary Email List – Emi Melton (NMFS) (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said Emi Melton is the current NMFS HCP-HCs Alternate. Scott Carlon requested that Melton be added to the HCP-CCs secondary distribution list and be provided with visitor access to the HCP-CCs Extranet. Melton will replace Carlon when he retires in December 2026. Ferguson asked when Melton will start shadowing Carlon. Carlon said likely next year.

HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to add Melton to the HCP-CCs secondary email list.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on April 22, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 5) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meetings on May 27 and June 24, 2025, are from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B CRITFC's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025
Attachment C Operating Plan for Rocky Reach Surface Collector and Unit C1 Turbine Unit during the C2 Turbine Unit Outage in Spring 2025

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: May 28, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Caitlin Burd, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the April 22, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Douglas PUD Auditorium in East Wenatchee, Washington, on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will query the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
3. Chelan PUD will provide project diagrams of the naming nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams for discussion at the May 27, 2025, meeting (Item IV-A).
4. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on May 27, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 6) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VII-D).

Decision Summary

1. The *Annual Report Calendar Year 2024 of Activities Under the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan* (2024 Wells HCP Annual Report) was approved by the Wells HCP-CC on May 19, 2025, after edits and comments received from the Parties were fully vetted and revisions were approved by the commentors.
2. The *Annual Report Calendar Year 2024 of Activities Under the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan* (2024 Rock Island HCP Annual Report) and *Annual Report Calendar Year 2024 of Activities Under the Anadromous Fish Agreement and Habitat Conservation Plan* (2024 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report) were approved by the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs on May 20, 2025, after edits and comments received from the Parties were fully vetted and revisions were approved by the commentors.

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on March 3. Douglas PUD will request approval during the HCP-CCs meeting on May 27, 2025.

Finalized Documents

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

I. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 5 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

II. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft March 25 meeting minutes. John Ferguson said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the March 25 meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on March 25 and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on March 25)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will query the PTAGIS database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*

This action item will be carried forward.

3. *Chelan PUD will notify the Rock Island HCP-CC about whether spill gates 30 and 32 will remain in the 2025 spill gate sequence at Rock Island Dam, as it relates to the alkali silica reaction work ongoing in Powerhouse 2 (Item V-E).*
   A notification that all three over/under gates cannot be opened to start the 2025 fish spill season was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on April 4, 2025.
4. *HCP-CCs representatives will review the steelhead overshoots discussion in the final HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PCs) October 15, 2024, meeting minutes*[1] *and will come prepared to further discuss the topic at the HCP-CCs meeting on April 22, 2025 (Item VI-A).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.

III. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on April 10, 2025.

- *Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement II Project*: The Rock Island HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from Trout Unlimited on the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project. The sponsor indicated that because of unforeseen permitting issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, construction of the project has been delayed 1 year. This delay required the contractor and their subs to adjust prices to reflect current rates, reallocate resources according to the delayed schedule, and store, move, and manage purchased materials. As a result, the sponsor requested an additional $387,596 to implement the project. After review, the Rock Island HCP-TC approved the budget amendment. The total contribution from the Rock Island Plan Species Account for this project will be $1,403,196.
- *Goat Creek Fan Restoration Final Design Project*: The Wells HCP-TC received a time extension request from Cascade Fisheries on the Goat Creek Fan Restoration Final Design Project. The sponsor indicated that they will not receive the final design until September 2025 and therefore asked to extend the contract period from February 28, 2025, to October 31, 2025. The Wells HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to December 31, 2025. The Committee granted additional time in case there are any issues after the final design is complete.
- *Brook Trout/Restoration Discussion*: Last month the HCP-TCs denied funding for the Beaver-Powered Stream Restoration Project submitted by Trout Unlimited. Although the Committees generally support low-tech process-based restoration actions, they were concerned, based on the locations of the proposed work, that the restoration work would primarily benefit Brook Trout. The sponsor requested feedback from the Committees regarding how low-tech

[1] Distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on March 24, 2025.

process-based restoration projects should be proposed, especially as they relate to Brook Trout. To help address this request, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) are assembling a working group to develop some restoration guidelines for sponsors who may be proposing restoration projects in areas that support Brook Trout. The working group intends to meet soon to develop guidance for sponsors.

- *USFWS HCP-TC Representation*: USFWS designated Tracy Bowerman as the HCP-TCs Representative. Shelby Fowler will continue as the USFWS HCP-TCs Alternate.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on May 8, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) meeting on April 16, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are working on HGMPs, beginning with spring Chinook Salmon in the Wenatchee River basin. They are currently identifying possible places and methods for collecting Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon for broodstock. They intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon plan by summer 2025.
- *Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Updates (joint)*: WDFW provided a presentation on Integrated Population Models (IPMs) and how IPMs can be used to evaluate hatchery programs. As such, WDFW proposed a restructuring of the M&E Plan that follows a hierarchical workflow and an adaptive management cycle. Although their proposal restructures the plan and includes an additional objective (i.e., life-stage survival), it relies on existing data collection efforts. A possible addition would be otolith microchemistry analysis. WDFW will provide the Committees with a more fleshed out draft plan for the Committees to consider during their May meeting.
- *2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols:* Chelan PUD and WDFW reported that they are working on addressing the questions and comments from the USFWS on the operation of the Chiwawa River weir to collect spring Chinook Salmon for the Chiwawa River Program. Once they address the comments from the USFWS, they will update the protocols and request an email vote from members. National Marine Fisheries Service provided a memorandum to the HCP-HCs indicating that the final broodstock collection protocols can be submitted after the April 15, 2025 due date.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on May 21, 2025.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Maintenance work continued on Turbine Unit C2, which was returned to service on April 10, 2025, after the old thrust coolers were installed on April 1, 2025. This allowed the unit to come back online earlier than expected. A brief outage on April 3, 2025, allowed divers to inspect the unit's intake screen system. A marked fish release occurred on April 4, 2025, at the portion of the intake screen system associated with the juvenile fish bypass system. All collected fish were healthy. Turbine Unit C2 was up to normal operational standards by April 1, 2025. Performance differences between the new thrust coolers versus old thrust coolers are currently under investigation.

Turbine Unit C11 briefly returned to service on April 1, 2025, but vibration was observed and was troubleshooted until April 2, 2025. Engineers advised that the unit needed to be disassembled to investigate the vibration. This disassembly has commenced and the return to service date is May 23, 2025.

Work is going well on Turbine Unit C10 with a return to service date for July 2025.

Rock Island Dam

Disassembly work is ongoing for Turbine Unit B2 (Powerhouse 1) with a return to service date in January 2027.

The outage of Turbine Unit B8 (Powerhouse 1) for rehabilitation is ongoing with a return to service date in April 2028.

Work is ongoing for Turbine Unit U5 (Powerhouse 2) with a return to service date in October 2025. John Ferguson asked whether this outage is due to maintenance or a rebuild. Keller replied that it is due to a rebuild. This unit is the first of eight units in Powerhouse 2 being addressed and thus requires the most in-depth work.

B. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said cracks were discovered in the pier nose of spill gate 31, and it was advised that spill gates 30 to 32 not be operated until repairs are completed. This repair will be prioritized, and work is anticipated to begin at the end of April 2025. Repairs will likely extend into late June or early July 2025. Due to this ongoing work, there is no update related to the Tailrace Entrance engineering solution.

Keller explained that there are nine modified spill gates at Rock Island Dam; three are over/under gates and six are notch gates. The three over/under gates have been deemed unavailable. Notch gate 16 is not operational due to an adjacent crack. The spillway sequence currently utilizes the notch gates to meet hourly spill requests. Chelan PUD will provide project diagrams of the naming nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams for discussion at the May 27, 2025, meeting.

V. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said a warranty inspection of Turbine Unit 5 will require a 4-week outage, and with the long-term outage on Turbine Unit 8 Wells Dam will be operating as an 8-unit plant through the middle of May 2025. The fish bypass is operating normally and functioning with all 5 bypass spillways running despite some turbine units being out.

B. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said that Douglas PUD is waiting to receive the 90% design plans for the bridge installation from BioMark. This design is needed as part of the submission to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission within the next 2 weeks. The railroad sent an agreement that Douglas PUD would like to modify to accommodate ongoing maintenance activities. Douglas PUD is currently waiting for a reply from the railroad.

VI. Steelhead Overshoots

A. Next Steps (John Ferguson)

The final HCP-PCs October 15, 2024, meeting minutes were initially distributed on March 24, 2025. Additional edits to the minutes were requested and approved during the HCP-PCs April 8 conference call, and the revised final minutes were distributed on April 9. John Ferguson said during the HCP-PCs April 8 conference call, Bill Gale requested that moving forward, HCP-PCs meeting minutes be finalized by a formal vote (either in person or via email), opposed to being considered final if no objections are received after a specified date. The HCP-PCs also discussed the ongoing coordination of steelhead overshoots. The HCP-PCs April 8 conference call minutes need to be reviewed and approved by the HCP-PCs before the HCP-CCs can restart discussing steelhead overshoots. Ferguson shared the proposed HCP-PCs Agreement from the draft HCP-PCs April 8 minutes:

1. *As clarification to the HCP-PCs previous guidance to the HCP-CCs, HCP-PCs representative agreed that (Item II-A):*
    a. *HCP-CCs representatives should discuss the available and forthcoming data on Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead overshoots (and optionally any other UCR overshoot*

species, e.g., spring Chinook Salmon), identify conclusions for which there is consensus and identify any remaining data gaps.

b. *Outside of the HCP forum, interested representatives should meet to discuss and develop conclusions about Snake River and Yakima River steelhead overshoots (and optionally any other out-of-basin overshoot populations) that occur at Mid-Columbia dams and identify any remaining data gaps. Anchor QEA will assist representatives of these meetings by providing logistical support, but meeting minutes will not be developed.*

c. *For both meetings, the HCP-CCs are asked, where feasible based on the available data, to identify the magnitude of the issue, specifically: i) How many fish of each evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) are passing Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells dams; ii) What proportion of each ESU does this equal; and iii) How many fish make it back to the natal streams.*

Ferguson said the HCP-PCs April 8 minutes will be distributed to the HCP-PCs for review shortly. Gale noted that this language serves as a temporary recommendation for how the HCP-CCs should proceed. He believes there is a disconnect between 1a and 1c, and he suggested that 1a should include language on populations pertaining to metrics that the HCP-CCs should consider. Andrew Gingerich said this comment would be valuable to provide during the HCP-PCs review of the April 8 minutes. Gale said this language does not imply that all Parties agree that Yakima River fish are outside the consideration of the HCP-CCs.

Ferguson said there is no follow-up HCP-PCs meeting scheduled at this time. Chad Jackson asked whether the HCP-CCs could discuss data on fish from the Wenatchee and Entiat Rivers upon finalization of these minutes. Ferguson replied that discussion is on hold while HCP-PCs entities conduct their legal review of the definition of Plan Species in the HCPs. Keely Murdoch said she was directed to send this issue to the Yakama Nation's office of legal counsel to obtain their interpretation.

VII. HCP Administration

A. HCP-PC Representation – Rebecca Hunt (CTCR Representative), Dennis Moore (CTCR Alternative), Shannon Adams (YN Alternative) (John Ferguson)

A letter designating Rebecca Hunt as the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) HCP-PC Representative and Dennis Moore as the CTCR HCP-PC Alternate was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on April 10.

A letter designating Shannon Adams as the YN HCP-PC Alternate was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on April 2.

B. HCP-TC Representation – Tracy Bowerman (USFWS Representative) (John Ferguson)

A letter designating Tracy Bowerman as the USFWS HCP-TC Representative was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on April 3.

C. HCP-PC April 8, 2025, Check-In Call - Recap (John Ferguson)

This topic was covered under Item VI-A of these meeting minutes.

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on May 27, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 6) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meeting on June 24 is from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington.

The HCP-CCs meeting on July 22, 2025, is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. (pending additional joint subyearling sessions) and will be held in person at Wanapum Dam in Beverly, Washington.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Caitlin Burd†	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Dennis Moore†	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 2600
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.287.9130

ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: July 23, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the May 27, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington, on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will provide updated project diagrams of the nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams, as discussed during the HCP-CCs meeting on May 27 (Item V-B). *(Note: Updated diagrams and acronym lists were distributed on June 2, 2025.)*
3. Anchor QEA will distribute materials from the last HCP Chair-selection process to help inform the upcoming process (Item VII-B). *(Note: Past meeting minutes, qualification documents, and scopes of work were distributed by Kristi Geris on May 28, 2025.)*
4. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on June 24, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 7) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VII-C).

Decision Summary

1. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC's) annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 (Item IV-A).

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft *2024 Public Utility District No. 1 Of Douglas County, Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on June 16, and is available for a 60-dy review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by Friday, August 15, 2025.

Finalized Documents

1. The final 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as approved by the Wells HCP-CC on March 25, were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 28, 2025.
2. The final 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 23 and was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on May 28, 2025 (Item II-A).
3. The final 2024 Rock Island HCP Annual Report and final 2024 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 29, 2025 (Item II-A).

I. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 6 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

II. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Andrew Gingerich added HCP Chair Selection. Additionally, the following updates were shared:

- Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD's 2024 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report will be distributed for Wells HCP-CC review soon.
- Ferguson said the final 2024 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed, and the final 2024 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports will be distributed soon.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft April 22 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the April 22, 2025, meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on April 22 and follow-up- discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on April 22, 2025)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will query the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) database to identify any correlations between steelhead overshoot behavior and arrival timings at Rock Island Dam (Item I-C).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.
2. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
3. *Chelan PUD will provide project diagrams of the naming nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams for discussion at the May 27, 2025, meeting (Item IV-A).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.

III. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on May 8, 2025.

- *Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/General Salmon Habitat Program (GSHP) Draft Proposals*: The HCP-TCs received 10 SRFB/GSHP draft proposals. These were cost-share proposals with the SRFB. The HCP-TCs identified three projects that did not warrant a full proposal because these did not have strong technical or biological merit or were not cost effective (low benefits per cost). The HCP-TCs solicited final proposals for five projects and elected to fund two projects (Goodwin Side Channel Implementation Project and the Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation Project). Final applications are due on May 27, 2025. The proposed projects are located in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow river basins.
- *Goodwin Side Channel Implementation Project*: Cascade Fisheries is the sponsor of the Goodwin Side Channel Implementation Project. The purpose of the project is to improve floodplain and side-channel connectivity, increase habitat complexity, and restore riparian vegetation between river mile (RM) 11.2 to 11.5 on the Wenatchee River. This will be accomplished by removing a levee, enhancing 1,150 feet of existing side channel, creating 1,450 feet of side channel, installing 82 wood structures, installing one rock structure, creating 35 groundwater connected pools, and restoring wetland and riparian vegetation. This project will benefit Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and steelhead. The total cost of the project is $2,219,550. The sponsor requested $653,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Rock Island HCP-TC elected to contribute $653,500 to the project.

- *Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation Project*: The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation is the sponsor of the Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation Project. The purpose of the project is to provide cold-water pools, backwater habitat, and shelter/cover for Plan Species between RM 61.8 and 62.7 on the Methow River. This will be accomplished by constructing nine instream habitat structures and two perennial alcoves adjacent to cold-water upwelling areas. This project will benefit spring Chinook Salmon and steelhead. The total cost of the project is $834,324. The sponsor requested $200,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Well HCP-TC elected to contribute $200,000 to the project.
- *National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Representation on the HCP-TCs*: The NMFS HCP-TCs representative elected to take an early retirement. NMFS has not identified a representative yet. Scott Carlon said he may be the new representative, or possibly Sean Gross (NMFS, Ellensburg Washington, office). Hillman asked to add Carlon to the HCP-TCs email distribution for now, and Carlon said yes.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on June 12, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) meeting on May 21, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Twisp Steelhead Relative Reproductive Success Study (Wells)*: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Douglas PUD gave a presentation on the results from the Twisp River Steelhead Relative Reproductive Success Study. From 2009 to 2021, adult steelhead were intercepted and sampled at a permanent weir in the Twisp River prior to spawning. Returning adult offspring of sampled fish were captured and sampled 3 to 6 years later at the same weir. Based on the results from the study, the researchers were unable to detect a difference in the reproductive success of hatchery- and natural-origin steelhead in the Twisp River. Currently, neither hatchery- nor natural-origin steelhead are replacing themselves.
- *2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint):* Chelan PUD, WDFW, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) agreed to language in the Broodstock Collection Protocols on the operation of the Chiwawa River weir to collect spring Chinook Salmon for the Chiwawa River Program. All HCP-HCs members approved the 2025 Broodstock Collection Protocols.
- *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Salmon Pre-Spawn Mortality Study (joint)*: WDFW gave a presentation to the HCP-HCs regarding their Chiwawa spring Chinook Salmon pre-spawn mortality study, which is funded by Bonneville Power Administration. WDFW will conduct a 3- to 5-year study to evaluate pre-spawn mortality of spring Chinook Salmon using radio telemetry. A total of 100 Chinook Salmon (50 hatchery-origin and 50 natural-origin) will be radio tagged and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagged to evaluate pre-spawn losses upstream from Tumwater Dam. The study will also evaluate the effects of biological and

environmental covariates on pre-spawn losses. Fish will be tracked using both fixed interrogation sites and weekly mobile surveys. The study will help determine whether origin plays an important role in pre-spawn mortality. It will also inform habitat restoration work. John Ferguson asked whether there is a problem at Tumwater Dam. Catherine Willard said the issue is not only at Tumwater Dam. High pre-spawn mortality has been observed from Tumwater Dam all the way up to just before spawning.

- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are working on HGMPs, beginning with spring Chinook Salmon in the Wenatchee River basin. They are currently identifying possible places and methods for collecting Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon for broodstock. They intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon plans by late summer 2025.
- *Integrated Population Model Development and Pathway for the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan (joint)*: WDFW gave a presentation on the makeup and mechanics of integrated population models (IPMs) and how they are used to evaluate hatchery programs. They also compared IPMs with Before-After Control-Impact (BACI) analyses. Currently, spring and summer Chinook Salmon are evaluated using BACI designs. The comparison identified strengths and limitations of both approaches. The HCP-HCs will continue to evaluate the use of IPMs as a possible method of evaluating hatchery programs. WDFW will provide the HCP-HCs with a draft M&E plan outline for consideration during the HCP-HCs June meeting.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on June 18 to 19, 2025.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: CRITFC's Annual Request to Tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 (Tom Kahler)

CRITFC's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025 was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on March 3. Tom Kahler said no edits or comments have been received since this request was last discussed (HCP-CCs March 25 meeting). Kahler recalled that Kirk Truscott asked about the anesthetic, and Aqui-S is the standard protocol. Kahler asked whether there are any other questions. None were expressed.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved CRITFC's annual request to tag Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam in 2025.

B. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich reviewed maintenance updates at Wells Dam, as follows:

- Currently, out of 10 turbine units at Wells Dam, there are 9 units available. Turbine Unit 8 is out of service for a long-term rebuild, with a return-to-service date of December 20, 2025.
- From July 7 to July 24, Turbine Unit 6 will be taken out of service for a warranty inspection.

- From August 4 to September 26, Transformer 2 (T2) will be taken out of service for a transformer replacement. T2 serves Turbine Units 3 and 4; therefore, these units will be unavailable while T2 is down. Replacing T2 will require an estimated 3-day closure of the roadway across the dam, which may impact stock assessment activities on the east ladder, but brood collection should be close to complete by this time. Additionally, while T2 is out of service, Douglas PUD will use this time to conduct biannual maintenance on Turbine Units 3 and 4, which is slightly earlier than usual, but crews wanted to take advantage of the outage.
- From October 6 to November 28, Transformer 5 (T5) will be taken out of service for a transformer replacement. T5 serves Turbine Units 9 and 10; therefore, these units will be unavailable while T5 is down. Replacing T5 will require an estimated 3-day roadway outage, which will prevent vehicle access to the east fish ladder trap. Douglas PUD will coordinate with the Yakama Nation (YN) regarding Coho Salmon brood collection. It may be possible to schedule the road outage to avoid impacting trapping activities. Keely Murdoch believes October 6 is near the beginning of Coho Salmon trapping at Wells Dam, and she asked that Douglas PUD coordinate with Rick Alford (YN) and Kraig Mott (YN) and also keep Cory Kamphaus (YN) informed. Gingerich said Douglas PUD is already coordinating with these YN staff and will keep the HCP-CCs updated as well.

C. Wells Dam Fishway Access Update (John Rohrback)

John Rohrback said accessing the west fishway deck at Wells Dam is now a key entry. When checking in at the dam, visitors will need to request the key and return the key at check-out. Andrew Gingerich said there used to be a combination lock to access this area. John Ferguson asked if all agencies needing access to this area are aware of this change. Rohrback believes so. He has already coordinated with the YN brood collection teams. However, he asked that Wells HCP-CC representatives relay this message, as needed.

D. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

<u>Pateros Railroad Bridge</u>

This is moving forward and is on schedule for installation in September. Douglas PUD and a contractor reviewed the proposed conduit layout and determined it would not work due to the structural design of the bridge. Work continues on an alternative layout and other preparations to keep this project moving along.

<u>Spillway 2 Flap Gate</u>

The priority is the railroad bridge, and the Spillway 2 system will follow. Douglas PUD has been waiting to receive revisions on the flap gate design from Biomark, which will then be submitted to FERC for

approval. Kahler will request an update from Biomark. The plan is still to have a system installed before the start of bypass operations next year.

V. Chelan PUD

A. Draft 2023 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report – Comments (Lance Keller)

The draft 2023 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report was distributed to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on February 26 and was available for a 60-day review, with edits and comments due to Chelan PUD by April 25, 2025. Lance Keller said the only comments received were from the YN. Most were requesting more resolution in the data, such as splitting out the data by project, which is already done by Columbia Research, so this will be easy to incorporate into the Chelan PUD reports. Other notable comments and discussions were as follows.

Page 2, Methods – USDA

Keller said the YN asked about retaining non-native piscivorous species collected during removal efforts. Keely Murdoch caveated that she is not sure whether this is allowable by the regulations, but she does know there is no catch limit on these species for public anglers. Keller said in 2023, Chelan PUD did add catch and retention of walleye to their scientific collection permit (SCP). This is included in the permits from 2023 to 2025, but Chelan PUD has not yet acted upon it. From a numbers perspective, Ross Renick (Chelan PUD) looked into this and found numbers worth removing. Keller noted that Chelan PUD also wants to be careful not to sway Northern Pikeminnow removal efforts to locations that are focused on these other non-native species. That said, Chelan PUD is supportive of adding additional species to the SCPs. Regarding previous regulations, he believes some retention rules were based on fish size. Additionally, some anglers like to see these fish in the project areas, so there is a lot of catch and release occurring. Chelan PUD will have a more in-depth conversation with WDFW about which fish to retain as bycatch. WDFW has also expressed interest in retaining certain carcasses to analyze otoliths and other data. Lastly, Chelan PUD will request that contractors adopt collecting lengths and weights on these fish.

Bill Gale thanked Chelan PUD for the willingness to retain non-native piscivorous species. USFWS went through a similar process to retain brook trout. Keller noted that Chelan PUD also plans to deploy the Chelan Falls Broodstock Collection Trap this year, which collected about 1,100 fish last year.

Page 4, Table 1

K. Murdoch appreciates Chelan PUD's willingness to split out the data by project areas. Currently, some sections combine the data, and some split out the data. For example, Table 1 combines count data, but then Table 8 splits out fork length data, which makes it difficult to understand the effort and results from each area. Keller said in recent years, this program has pivoted to targeting sheer

numbers out of the project areas, from Rock Island Dam to the Wells Dam tailrace. The combination of combined data and split data is a casualty of the program over several years, and he acknowledged Chelan PUD has a lot of data to parse out.

Page 11, Table 8

Keller said there was a comment about Columbia Research focusing more effort in Rocky Reach compared to Rock Island. Chelan PUD typically does not direct Columbia Research where to fish. When direction is given, it is to give preference to Columbia Research over USDA to provide space between the efforts due to previous conflicts between these contractors, as well as keep Columbia Research's catch per unit effort high. For example, high flows in the Rock Island Reservoir make it difficult to stage gear (e.g., set-lines). Chelan PUD does like to see Columbia Research spread the effort in both reservoirs, but there also needs to be a balance with where a contractor can catch fish. K. Murdoch said in the 2023 report, the text cites that Columbia Research focused efforts solely in Rocky Reach because there was a new captain and new crew. The 2022 report cites the same thing. Her point is, if Columbia Research is training a new crew every year, it would be helpful to make these efforts more even. Particularly for 2023, this seems like a bit of a red flag considering the 2023 Rocky Reach Survival Study. Keller understands the concern about how this might look, but this was not the intention and no directions were given to focus efforts solely in the Rocky Reach Reservoir. This case was set-line-specific, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) did fish both projects.

Pages 14 to 15

K. Murdoch appreciates Chelan PUD's willingness to collect data on non-native piscivorous species that are not Northern Pikeminnow. She believes one problem with all Northern Pikeminnow programs in the Columbia River basin is that by removing Northern Pikeminnow, this opens a niche for compensatory effects, for example, by bass and walleye. Removing Northern Pikeminnow just changes who is predating upon salmonids. It is difficult to say what the response is in salmon and steelhead populations. This is not so certain. She believes collecting data on other non-native piscivorous fish encountered during these removal efforts will help inform this question over time. Keller noted that within the Rocky Reach Fish Forum, Chelan PUD implements resident fish surveys in the Rocky Reach Reservoir every 10 years. The most recent survey was completed last year, and the final report will be available in July 2025. These surveys might also speak to how piscivorous predator abundance is trending.

General Update

Keller said USDA is the largest contributor to Chelan PUD's Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program. The recent federal budget cuts had an impact on USDA's seasonal hiring, and Chelan PUD is now assessing how this might impact the 2025 program. Chelan PUD understands USDA is now restarting their rehiring process, but this is way behind schedule. Typically, crews are fishing by early May. USDA hopes to have a full boat crew in the reservoir by mid-July. Currently, Chelan PUD is sending a

team out to fish as much as possible. Chelan PUD is also exploring options to amend the Columbia Research contract because the full USDA contract cannot be utilized. Historically, Columbia Research has been successful fishing into November.

Next Steps

Keller said Renick is currently drafting the 2024 report, and he asked whether the YN would be comfortable implementing these changes starting with the 2024 report. K. Murdoch agreed moving forward would be great. Keller also offered to append the YN's comments to the 2023 report to retain this discussion in the administrative record. K. Murdoch agreed this is a good idea.

B. Rock Island and Rocky Reach Project Diagrams (Lance Keller)

Draft Rock Island and Rocky Reach Project diagrams were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris prior to the HCP-CCs meeting on May 27. Lance Keller reviewed the diagrams. He asked that HCP-CCs representatives provide comments or request edits, as needed. Notable discussions were as follows.

Rock Island

John Ferguson asked what "BH" stands for. Keller said this is the Powerhouse 1 House Unit, which can "black start" the project. Keely Murdoch asked whether the BH is typically used and when was it last used. Keller said the BH is not typically used, but Chelan PUD is required to operate it every so often to demonstrate the ability to restart the turbine units and operate the spill gates in the event of a complete power outage.

Rocky Reach

Andrew Gingerich asked where the trifurcation pool is located. Keller explained that fish enter at the "RPE," go the full length of the powerhouse to the "LPE," then close to the "MSE" is the trifurcation pool. It is where all three entrances converge.

Edits Discussed

Rock Island:

- Include over/under gate and notch gate information, including cross sections.

Rocky Reach:

- Change "JFB Surface Collector" to "Adult Fishway Entrances."
- Add "JBS Sampling Facility."

Both Projects:

- Note locations of the adult fish ladder exits.
- Include an acronym list.

Chelan PUD will provide updated project diagrams of the nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams, as discussed during today's meeting. *(Note: Updated diagrams [Attachment B] and acronyms lists [Attachment C] were distributed on June 2, 2025.)*

C. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Last month, it was reported that Turbine Unit C11 was returned to service but was taken back out of service due to vibration. Disassembly has continued on this unit, and mechanics have identified a manufacturing defect in the fasteners. It is unclear whether this is a contributing factor to the vibration, but mechanics are replacing all fasteners (about 100 or so) and will put the unit back together and test it in June.

For Turbine Unit C10, the return-to-service date has moved back to the first week in August due to the work on Turbine Unit C11.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1, disassembly and work on the draft tube and liner are going well in Turbine Unit B2. Crews are working two 12-hour shifts, 7 days per week, then switching out, so crews are working around the clock to get ahead on this work. Work continues on Turbine Unit B8, with no change to the return-to-service date (April 2028).

In Powerhouse 2, the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit U5 is now February 2026. There was a quality control issue, so parts had to be shipped back to the vendor.

D. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said engineering staff have prioritized their time being spent on the alkali silica reaction work on the crack in the vicinity of pier 31, which is preventing the use of the over/under gates (spill gates 32, 31, 30). Chelan PUD hopes to return these gates to service in July in time for summer spill operations. Due to this ongoing work, there is no update related to the tailrace entrance engineering solution.

VI. Steelhead Overshoots

A. Next Steps (John Ferguson)

HCP-PC April 8 Conference Call Minutes

John Ferguson recalled that the HCP-CCs were waiting for the HCP-PCs to finalize the April 8 conference call minutes. This occurred this morning, and the final minutes will be distributed to the

HCP-PCs and HCP-CCs shortly. He suggested that the HCP-CCs review the final minutes and come prepared to discuss next steps during next month's meeting.

(Note: The final HCP-PC April 8 conference call minutes were distributed to the HCP-PCs and HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 28, 2025.)

PRESENTATION: Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data

Lance Keller shared on Microsoft Teams the presentation, *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data* (Attachment D), which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 28. Discussions were as follows.

Slide 1

Keller recalled presenting last January, Wenatchee River steelhead overshoot data for fish detected at Rocky Reach Dam and then the following last point of detection of these fish. Kirk Truscott was interested in a breakdown of origin and arrival timing at Rock Island as these correlate to fish exploring Rocky Reach.

Slide 2 (Origin)

Keller said the cumulative sample size of this dataset is 462 fish. He noted the larger sample size for hatchery fish but also found it interesting that the overshoot percentage was much higher for hatchery fish. Bill Gale said this seems like a sample size issue, and he wonders whether this explains the difference between wild versus hatchery. This is just more fish showing up at one location. Truscott asked whether people are surprised that hatchery fish stray more than wild. Keely Murdoch is not surprised by this. However, even given the small sample size for wild fish, having 15.7% overshoot is not insignificant. To Gale's point, looking at years with more than 10 wild fish, the overshoot rates are more similar to hatchery, except for 2019. These lower values are just not enough to show anything. Keller noted that 2019 had the largest number of wild fish detected at Rock Island, but then only two fish were detected at Rocky Reach.

Truscott asked about the detection locations for these fish. Keller said Rock Island was the main location, as well as fish detected at Priest Rapids Dam and then detected upstream of Rock Island (essentially fish not detected at Rock Island). What is not shown is what happened to these fish after this.

Andrew Gingerich asked where Chelan PUD's mitigation production was in these years. Keller said all production was acclimated at Chiwawa.

Catherine Willard said regarding sample size, all of these fish were tagged as juveniles in the Wenatchee River Basin. WDFW has submitted a Salmon Recovery Funding Board proposal in the Wenatchee River Basin, and if this is funded, there will be an increase in sample sizes for natural-origin juveniles in the Wenatchee. The PUDs are also collecting genetics at the Priest Rapids Off-

Ladder Adult Fish Trap (OLAFT), which can be tied back to PIT-tagged hatchery fish. John Ferguson asked whether there are any updates on the samples taken at OLAFT. John Rohrback said the latest update was they are expecting results from CRITFC sometime this summer.

Slide 3 (Arrival Timing)

Keller said these are only fish detected at Rock Island. That is, fish missed at Rock Island but detected at both Priest Rapids and somewhere above Rock Island (Wenatchee River, Rocky Reach, etc.) are not in this slide. This changes the cumulative sample size from 462 fish to 413 fish. Julian date 150 correlates to May 30 and Julian date 330 correlates to November 26.

Slide 4 (Arrival Timing)

Keller said these are the same data as Slide 3 but in a bar graph format. Truscott wondered whether these data might suggest something environmentally based. Perhaps when the Wenatchee River gets too warm, fish keep swimming. Gingerich said it almost looks like overshooting peaks in the first part of September, which is when the Wenatchee starts cooling off. K. Murdoch also noted the freshet. This is not only cooler water, but also more water. With Coho Salmon, these fish stay in the Columbia River, then head up the Wenatchee during the freshet.

Slide 5 (Cumulative Run-Timing)

Keller found nothing remarkable about these data.

Discussion

Keller asked that HCP-CCs representatives review these data and bring questions to next month's meeting.

VII. HCP Administration

A. NMFS HCP-HCs Representation (John Ferguson)

An HCP-HCs representation designation letter was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on May 5. Brett Farman (NMFS HCP-HCs Representative) will be leaving federal service, and Emi Melton (NMFS HCP-HCs Alternate) has moved to another division within the agency. Effective May 5, 2025, Kathryn Blair will be the NMFS HCP-HCs Representative, and Andreas Raisch will serve as the NMFS HCP-HCs Alternate. No HCP-CCs approvals are needed since Blair and Raisch are designated HCP representatives—this is just for HCP-CCs information.

B. HCP Chair Selection (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich announced that John Ferguson has indicated plans to retire at the end of this year, which means the HCP-CCs have work to do, including developing a list of Chair replacement candidates. Keely Murdoch recalled the last Chair selection process as a relatively open and transparent process that included distributing a Request for Qualifications to interested parties and

interviews where all HCP-CCs representatives participated, then the Chair selection was based on these interviews. Tom Kahler recalled that a lot of searching was needed to find interested candidates. Gingerich also noted that the HCPs stipulate a "Chair" position. While it may be easy to find someone with facilitator experience, he believes this committee will benefit from someone with a background in hydro and salmon issues, someone with technical expertise. Ferguson added that a policy background is also important, because this person will also serve as the HCP-PCs Chair. Kristi Geris offered to distribute materials from the last HCP Chair selection process to help inform the upcoming process. *(Note: Past meeting minutes, qualification documents, and scopes of work were distributed by Geris on May 28, 2025.)*

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on June 24, from 1:00 p.m. to no later than 4:00 p.m. and will be held in person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 7) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meetings on July 22 and August 26, 2025, are from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. (pending additional joint subyearling sessions) and will be held in person at Wanapum Dam in Beverly, Washington.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Updated Rock Island and Rocky Reach Project Diagrams
Attachment C Updated Rock Island and Rocky Reach Project Diagrams – Acronym List
Attachment D Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*†	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: September 3, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the July 22, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington, on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine (Item III-A).
3. The Yakama Nation (YN) and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will notify their respective cultural resource personnel about a forthcoming Section 106 consultation request from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding Douglas PUD's Pateros Railroad Bridge Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT)-Detection Array (Item IV-D).
4. Chelan PUD will update the sample sizes in the presentation, *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*,[1] for distribution to the HCP-CCs (Item V-A).
5. HCP-CCs representatives will come prepared to discuss the HCP Chair-selection topic in August, including the following: 1) Chair nominations; 2) HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PCs) participation; and 3) Chair-selection timeline (Item VI-B).
6. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on August 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 8) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-C).

Decision Summary

1. The *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Final Summary Report 2023* was finalized on April 25, 2025, after a 60-day review, and edits and comments received from the Parties were fully vetted and revisions were approved by the commentors.

[1] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

2. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *Statement of Agreement to defer until 2026 the Wells Dam operations supporting the Pacific Lamprey study approved by the Statement of Agreement* Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025, as revised (Item IV-A).

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft *2024 Public Utility District No. 1 Of Douglas County, Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on June 16, and is available for a 60-day review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by Friday, August 15, 2025 (Item IV-B).

Finalized Documents

1. The final *Statement of Agreement to defer until 2026 the Wells Dam operations supporting the Pacific Lamprey study approved by the Statement of Agreement* Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025 was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on July 23, 2025 (Item IV-A).

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft May 27 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. There is one outstanding comment under Chelan PUD's overshoots presentation. Catherine Willard provided clarifying edits. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the May 27, 2025, meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on May 27 and follow-up discussions- were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on May 27, 2025)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*

This action item will be carried forward.

2. *Chelan PUD will provide updated project diagrams of the nomenclature for the powerhouses and spillways at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams, as discussed during the HCP-CCs meeting on May 27 (Item V-B).*
   Updated diagrams and acronym lists were distributed on June 2, 2025.
3. *Anchor QEA will distribute materials from the last HCP Chair-selection process to help inform the upcoming process (Item VII-B).*
   Past meeting minutes, qualification documents, and scopes of work were distributed by Kristi Geris on May 28, 2025. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) meeting on July 16 to 17, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs) (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are working on HGMPs, beginning with spring Chinook Salmon in the Wenatchee River Basin. They worked through the Nason Creek and Chiwawa River spring Chinook Salmon HGMPs and identified assignments for various entities. They intend to complete the draft Wenatchee River spring Chinook Salmon HGMPs by late autumn 2025.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Update (joint)*: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) provided an updated M&E Plan for the Committees to review. The HCP-HCs worked through objectives related to whether hatchery fish are released at the programmed size and number and whether hatchery replacement rates are greater than natural replacement rates and target survival rates. They will next work through objectives related to adult and juvenile abundance and productivity.
- *Okanogan Sockeye Salmon Trap and Transport (joint)*: Recall that Chelan and Grant PUDs have been working with WDFW, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and others on the feasibility of transporting adult Sockeye Salmon to the kɬ cp̓əlk̓ stiḿ (Penticton) Hatchery during periods of unfavorable migration conditions. Because of delays in securing necessary permits, they were unable to test the trap and transport approach last year. This year they acquired all the necessary permits and were able to trap 105 adult Sockeye Salmon at Wells Dam and transported them across the border. Catherine Willard added that the fish were offloaded into the hatchery and are still doing well.
- *Priest Rapids Dam (PRD) Steelhead Parentage-Based Tagging (PBT)/Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) Analysis (Wells)*: Douglas PUD shared results from the evaluation of PBT/GSI analysis of

adult steelhead sampled at PRD. PBT was used to identify parentage of individual hatchery-origin fish to determine their hatchery program of origin, while GSI was used to assign natural-origin fish to genetically distinguishable population groups. Of the steelhead sampled at PRD, nearly all were successfully assigned to a hatchery program or genetic stock of origin. These data can be used to differentiate between Methow safety-net and Columbia safety-net steelhead in the Methow River Basin. Prior to the use of PBT/GSI, these steelhead were indistinguishable because fish from each program were not tagged (no coded wire tag); however, all were adipose fin clipped. In addition, these data can be used in the Patch Occupancy Model (POM) to estimate adult escapement for each stock within each tributary.

- *Twisp River Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Wells)*: Douglas PUD indicated that they were unable to collect enough broodstock for the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon program. Therefore, there will be no 2025 brood year spring Chinook Salmon production for the Twisp River program. Consistent with the broodstock collection protocols, production of the Methow River spring Chinook Salmon program released at Methow Hatchery will be increased to offset the lost Twisp River production.
- *Summer Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported that they are behind schedule with their weekly collection quotas for natural-origin summer Chinook Salmon for the aggregate Carlton program (includes both the Douglas PUD Methow/ Okanogan and Grant PUD Carlton summer Chinook Salmon programs). They currently have 69 natural-origin summer Chinook Salmon for the aggregate program. The quota calls for about 99 natural-origin fish by this time. The HCP-HCs provided guidance on how to move forward with broodstock collection (e.g., collecting natural-origin fish from the Wells Hatchery Volunteer Channel and hatchery-origin fish from the Wells Dam ladder trap). The HCP-HCs proposed that Douglas PUD should cease collection of natural-origin summer Chinook Salmon at the Wells Dam ladders for the Carlton Aggregate in order to accommodate the CTCR's request to capture natural-origin broodstock for the Chief Joseph Hatchery Integrated Program.
- *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that they were able to collect the target number of broodstock for the Chiwawa River spring Chinook Salmon program through a combination of trapping at Tumwater Dam (retained fish that were PIT tagged as juveniles in the Chiwawa River) and at the Chiwawa River Weir. Collections occurred over a 10-day period at the Chiwawa Weir.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on August 20 to 21, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on July 10, 2025.

- *Derby Creek, Education, and Outreach Discussion with Cascade Fisheries (with PRCC Habitat Subcommittee)*: Cascade Fisheries joined the meeting to discuss three different initiatives: 1) Derby Creek Fish Passage Project; 2) Project WOW (Watching Over the Watershed)

Education and Outreach Program; and 3) the Salmon Life Cycle Landscape Park at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery. Cascade Fisheries provided a presentation on each of the initiatives and asked whether the HCP-TCs would be interested in supporting these initiatives. Following the presentations and after Cascade Fisheries left the meeting, the HCP-TCs discussed each of the initiatives. For Derby Creek fish passage, they decided that given the small size of the watershed, uncertain habitat conditions, and significant water-use impacts (including dewatering), the project is unlikely to yield a meaningful return on investment. Therefore, they are not interested in receiving an application to help fund fish passage in Derby Creek. Members had great things to say about Project WOW; however, the current funding structure may limit the Committees' ability to support education focused initiatives. Funding would come from Administrative Funds, which are limited and cover administration of the HCP Plan Species Accounts. Members recognized the value of the Salmon Life Cycle Landscape Park project but noted that the project is very expensive, and available funds are primarily designated for restoration and protection work and may not be suitable for this type of educational infrastructure. Therefore, they are not interested in receiving an application for constructing the landscape park. John Ferguson asked, what is salmon life-cycle landscaping? Bill Gale said the design is a trail system that interprets major life-cycle steps and hurdles for salmon. The design includes Tribal perspectives and was proposed to be located adjacent to Icicle Creek. Gale thinks it is a great idea, but understands it is not habitat related.

- *HCP Administration*: The HCP-TCs are looking into purchasing signs that can be posted on select habitat and protection projects supported by the HCP-TCs. Signs Now has developed an example sign and is preparing a cost estimate for the Committees' review.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on August 14, 2025.

III. Chelan PUD

A. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Work continues on Turbine Unit C11, and the return-to-service date is scheduled for this Friday, July 25. Recall, this unit was returned to service but was taken back out of service due to vibration issues.

Turbine Unit C10 is undergoing similar work as Turbine Unit C11 (aside from the vibration issues), and the return-to-service date is scheduled for September.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1, there is no change to the return-to-service dates for Turbine Unit B2 (January 2027) and Turbine Unit B8 (April 2028).

In Powerhouse 2, there is no change to the return-to-service date for Turbine Unit U5 (February 2026). Recall during the last meeting, Keller reported quality control issues with the rotor poles, so parts had to be shipped back to the vendor. These parts are now back on site. As a reminder, Turbine Unit U5 is the first bulb turbine to be rehabilitated, so this is a learning experience. Bulb turbines are unique in that the unit is oriented horizontal to the flow path, not vertical as is the case for most turbines, including Kaplans. Therefore, each part needs to be removed via a single hatch, versus Kaplan turbines, where all parts are lifted up and out of the unit. Keely Murdoch expressed interest in seeing this. Keller said he will share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine.

B. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled that engineering staff had prioritized their time being spent on the alkali silica reaction work on the crack in the vicinity of pier 31, which was preventing the use of the over/under gates (spill gates 32, 31, 30). Keller provided an update via email, which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on July 11, notifying the Committees that repairs to the damaged pier were completed, and the over/under gates are now operational. Additionally, commissioning of the crane rail is also complete.

Keller said due to this ongoing work, there is no update related to the tailrace entrance (TRE) engineering solution. However, the TRE has remained open this entire fish passage season to date, including what operators believe is typically the highest probable time the TRE would have needed to be closed.

Keely Murdoch said when she recently passed by Rock Island Dam, it did not appear that spill gates 32, 31, or 30 were spilling. Keller confirmed these gates are open and operating, but the gates are designed to discharge subsurface to avoid contributing to total dissolved gas. The adjacent spill gate 29 does have visual spill.

C. Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dam Bypass Operations Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD continues to monitor the Columbia River Data Access in Real Time (DART) database (or Program Real Time) for subyearling counts and passage predictions, including current, forward, and hindcast data at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams. DART is currently estimating 94% passage at Rocky Reach and 87% passage at Rock Island. Counts are still in the hundreds of fish per day, so these values may change. Chelan PUD will keep the HCP-CCs updated in terms of what this means for ending summer fish spill at both projects.

Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD is also monitoring this for ending summer bypass operations at Wells Dam. Program Real Time has estimated that 95% passage would happen on July 17, July 18, July 19, and July 21. These dates keep moving out. Douglas PUD is being conservative, notably since DART is still showing measurable fish coming through. Douglas PUD would like to see smaller error bars around the data before shutting down bypass operations at Wells Dam.

Keely Murdoch said this seems early, and she recalled summer fish spill ending closer to mid-August. Keller said the dates vary year-to-year. John Ferguson asked about the current water temperature. Keller did not have this information but guessed temperatures are at or slightly higher than usual due to recent hot spells. Andrew Murdoch thinks that everything is hotter this year. Gingerich does not believe air temperature matters as much for the Wells Project; rather, whether Grand Coulee Dam drafts or does not draft early in the year affects Wells. There was hardly any freshet this year. How this attributes to Rocky Reach, he does not know.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. Lamprey Study 1-Year Deferment (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said the draft *Statement of Agreement to defer until 2026 the Wells Dam operations supporting the Pacific Lamprey study approved by the Statement of Agreement* Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025, was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on July 21. Gingerich recalled last March, the Wells HCP-CC approved an operation and trapping configuration to accommodate an adult Pacific Lamprey study at Wells Dam. The Aquatic Settlement Work Group (Aquatic SWG) has been tracking lamprey counts at Bonneville Dam and PRD, and there is discomfort in the low numbers, notably because a key objective of the study is to compare fish collected at PRD with fish collected at Wells Dam. Therefore, the Aquatic SWG approved a 1-year deferral of the study and is now requesting approval from the Wells HCP-CC for the same 1-year deferral—that is, take exactly what the Wells HCP-CC approved for 2025, and move it to 2026.

John Ferguson said this is not an HCP Decision on today's agenda; however, a vote can be held if the Wells HCP-CC is ready to do so. Bill Gale requested a quick review of the statement of agreement (SOA) that was approved last March. Geris shared on Microsoft Teams the final *Statement of Agreement to Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025*, as was approved by the Wells HCP-CC on March 25 and distributed on March 27. Gingerich recalled this SOA included head differential treatments and operation of lamprey traps as well as routine updates to the Wells HCP-CC and a biological monitoring plan to assess any impacts to salmon and steelhead passage through the fish ladders. Scott Carlon asked whether any head differential treatments have happened this year, and Gingerich said no. John Rohrback said the lamprey traps have not been deployed either. Gale asked whether the Aquatic SWG is planning the same exact

study next year. Gingerich said yes. Keely Murdoch suggested adding text to the SOA to reflect this. The following edits were made:

Statement

The Wells HCP CC approves the deferral to summer/fall of 2026 of the Pacific Lamprey study approved by SOA on March 25, 2025, and in so doing preserves all the terms and conditions in the March 25 SOA, only deferring those terms and that agreement by one year. If the 2025 study plan changes in any way, the Wells HCP CC will reconsider this SOA.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the *Statement of Agreement to defer until 2026 the Wells Dam operations supporting the Pacific Lamprey study approved by the Statement of Agreement* Modify Fishway Operations for a Lamprey Radiotelemetry Study at Wells Dam in 2025, as revised.

The final SOA was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on July 23, 2025.

B. Draft 2024 Northern Pikeminnow Removal Program Report (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the draft *2024 Public Utility District No. 1 Of Douglas County, Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on June 16. Kahler said this report is similar to previous years, with the addition of requested figures. Approximately 12,500 Northern Pikeminnow were captured in 2024, which is the highest annual catch since 2018. Most fish were larger than the 229-millimeter threshold. The catch per unit effort (CPUE) was the highest observed since this program began. Douglas PUD appreciates comments submitted on the Chelan PUD report.[2] However, the Douglas PUD report was already complete at that time, so he is anticipating similar comments. Comments are due by August 15, 2025.

Kirk Truscott asked about the last time stomach contents were analyzed. Andrew Gingerich guessed it has been at least 5 years since this program included diet analysis. Kahler said in previous years, the stomachs were fairly empty and included mostly vegetation and crayfish. Smolts were a minor portion, but this did vary seasonally and depended on where fish were captured. He recalled one contractor pulling hook and line, rather than setline, at the mouth of the Methow River and who captured really large fish that were full of smolts early in the year. Gingerich said this report used to be really long and detailed, and he cannot recall whether there was feedback or lack thereof, but the report was pared back, including the diet analysis. Truscott is not proposing diet analysis annually, but periodically, it would be helpful if this were conducted to see whether the results are similar. For PIT-tagged hatchery and natural-origin fish in the Okanogan River basin, the calculated apparent survival in certain areas has gone down considerably. It is not clear whether this is due to PIT tagging itself or whether there is something else occurring. It might be good to consider diet. John Ferguson asked who conducts the diet analysis. Kahler said Douglas PUD uses a contractor. Ferguson asked whether this includes environmental DNA (eDNA) and stomach contents. Bill Gale believes it would

[2] Discussed during the HCP-CC meeting on May 27, 2025.

be difficult to interpret what the source of eDNA is, whether it is consumption or the eDNA was simply in the water. Truscott believes frequency of occurrence is important, which could be interpreted from eDNA. Andrew Murdoch said WDFW is working toward implementing quantitative polymerase chain reaction (or qPCR) as an unbiased assessment of consumption, using bass and walleye. Northern Pikeminnow is harder because the digestive tract is continuous. Stomach contents need to be cut out and extracted, and then there is the question of which part of the digestive tract should be sampled. This culminates in comparing results that might not be "apples to apples."

A. Murdoch said for Northern Pikeminnow studies, just reporting CPUE does not get at the intent of the programs. What is going on with the population, and how does this relate to CPUE? Is this really reducing predation on smolts or is this just killing Northern Pikeminnow? Kahler said for Douglas PUD, this is not a study, it is a removal program. The intent is to remove Northern Pikeminnow. There might be a lot of questions people want answered, but per the Wells HCP, this is not in the design for the program. A. Murdoch said the intent is to reduce predation on smolts. Kahler said yes, the program is supposed to do this. A. Murdoch said a Bonneville Power Administration study calculated an exploitation rate every year, simplified over time, and found a target 20% exploitation rate. However, now in some reaches, Northern Pikeminnow are not the dominant predator, bass and walleye are. Kahler noted that Northern Pikeminnow ladder counts are just a fraction of what counts used to be, back to the 1960s.

C. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich reviewed maintenance updates at Wells Dam, as follows:

- Turbine Unit 8 is out of service for a long-term rebuild, with a return-to-service date in December 2025. Turbine Unit 9 will be the next long-term rebuild and will be taken out of service in January 2026.
- Turbine Unit 6 is out of service for a warranty inspection (return to service is July 24); therefore, Wells Dam will be an eight-unit project until the end of this week.
- For transformer maintenance, Transformer 1 (T1) is complete. T2 will be out of service from August 4 to September 26. During this time, biannual maintenance will be performed on Turbine Units 3 and 4, since T2 serves both units. Then T5 will be out of service from October 6 to November 28. As a reminder, T2 and T5 maintenance will include a 2- to 3-day roadway outage that will impact vehicle access to the east fish ladder trap. Douglas PUD will coordinate with the YN to find a way to meet broodstock collection goals during these road outages.

John Rohrback said that yesterday at Wells Dam, a staff person relayed to him roadway outage dates of August 11 to 19 and September 8 to 12. Gingerich believes these dates are conservative and the actual blockage will be shorter. Rohrback said these are the dates he provided to Jim Andrews (CTCR), but he also let Andrews know he can always call the office at Wells Dam to confirm access.

Keely Murdoch said for the YN, the August dates will not be an issue, and the September dates likely will not be an issue because trapping of Coho Salmon typically does not start until later in the month.

D. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

The contractor is working on finalizing the design. Installation is planned for this winter.

Andrew Murdoch asked about reconfiguring the existing array (WEJ[3]) to be surface-oriented instead of top-to-bottom. Kahler said the array is not out of the water to work on it. Every 2 years it is pulled out of the water to clean the trash racks. Andrew Gingerich said there may be reasons to keep WEJ the way it is, e.g., to test the flap gate design. Kahler said also to collect data on vertical distribution.

Pateros Railroad Bridge

Douglas PUD finally received quotes. Biomark's piece includes producing the antennas, designing the readers, and the electronic equipment. Biomark used another contractor to make the frames that hold the antennas flush to the outer edge of the bridge pier to extend the detection range. Lastly, there is a dive contractor. Turns out, the total cost is 3.5 times more than what Douglas PUD budgeted for. Douglas PUD discussed this internally. There is concern about investing in this not knowing whether it will accomplish what is intended; however, having systematic detection is important to Douglas PUD. While there is not enough budget in this cycle, there is enough to do a portion of the array and pilot test it. Therefore, Douglas PUD is proposing to start with just the center pier, located in the thalweg of the river, and build out the rest of the infrastructure later. If the center pier accomplishes the intent, everything is ready to finish the array once more funding is available. Douglas PUD has an internal meeting this afternoon to finalize this approach. The contractors are ready to go and are just waiting for approval to get started. If approved, installation at the center pier will start the week after Labor Day and should take 3 weeks to complete. The goal is to have the system operating by this winter.

John Ferguson asked how Douglas PUD plans to test this. Kahler said via catch and release using multiple releases with different species. Known quantities of tagged fish will be released upstream and downstream detection at LMR,[4] WEJ, and RRJ[5] and will inform detection probability. There is no requirement for a massive number of detections; rather, Douglas PUD just wants systematic detection year-round, with no removal of detection capability during months when the rotary screw traps are not

[3] Wells Dam bypass sampler (site code WEJ in the Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System).
[4] Lower Methow River PIT array (site code LMR in the Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System).
[5] Rocky Reach surface collector PIT array (site code RRJ in the Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System).

operating or effect due to high discharge because the array will provide coverage from the water surface to the substrate irrespective of flow.

Keely Murdoch agreed piloting one bridge pier is a good idea considering the questions about how well this will work. She asked whether top-to-bottom means the top is set at minimum pool. Kahler said the top is set at maximum pool. K. Murdoch asked if the top becomes exposed, will this affect functionality? Kahler said the design autotunes, so if the top is exposed, there is no effect. There are also various antenna lengths. The shortest height is approximately 13 feet, which is a single antenna on the nearshore side. The deepest height is approximately 31 feet, split into two antennas. There are varying lengths of antennas of varying depths.

Ferguson asked whether Douglas PUD plans to do targeted releases. A. Murdoch said there is no need to do targeted releases. Kahler agreed, unless there is interest in knowing exact numbers of tags. Bill Gale said this depends on the number of detections at the release site or above the bridge. A. Murdoch said LMR is a flat plate array, and sometimes detection is zero. K. Murdoch agreed and said with downstream detection at RRJ, it can be inferred the fish passed LMR. Kahler said Douglas PUD will also test the system using test tags.

Gingerich noted that a lot of legwork is involved with permitting and purchasing this PIT-tag detection system. Douglas PUD wanted Biomark to do the design because Biomark is the leader in this technology. Typically, this type of work would need to go out for bid, so this required meeting with Douglas PUD's purchasing department to forego going through a bidding process. Douglas PUD is also working with the railroad to obtain approval to service the array, as needed. The hydraulic project approval (or HPA) is secure, but there are still many permitting hoops to jump through. Ferguson asked whether more is needed between now and construction, and Gingerich said yes. Kahler said this reminded him that Jess Jordan (USACE) is leading the Section 106 cultural consultation, and Jordan asked Kahler whether the YN and the CTCR Wells HCP-CC representatives can notify their respective cultural resource personnel about a forthcoming consultation request regarding this bridge PIT array. This way, when USACE contacts the Tribes, these personnel will know their respective Wells HCP-CC representatives are aware of this work. Gingerich said notably that there will be no new disturbance to the area. K. Murdoch said the YN cultural resource staff are separate from fisheries staff, but she will see what she can do.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Questions (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Andrew Murdoch reached out about the sample-size data for wild Wenatchee steelhead overshoots that Chelan PUD shared in the presentation, *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*.[6] The Chelan PUD dataset included data from 2014 to 2023, and

[6] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

A. Murdoch's dataset included earlier years, which resulted in minor discrepancies. Keller said Chelan PUD will update the sample sizes in the presentation for distribution to the HCP-CCs. No other questions or comments were expressed.

B. Final HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PCs) April 8, 2025, Meeting Minutes (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the final HCP-PCs April 8 meeting minutes were distributed by Kristi Geris on May 28, 2025.

C. Next Steps (All)

Keely Murdoch said the YN's Office of Legal Council has been evaluating the HCP definitions of Plan and Permit species in light of new information on overshooting steelhead. Their review is now complete and suggests that both the plain language of the HCPs and the original intent of the signatories support the inclusion of all steelhead affected by project operations, including overshoots, under the HCP's protections and obligations. These findings also raise questions about the need for reinitiation of consultation under the Endangered Species Act. K. Murdoch anticipates that a formal letter summarizing these findings and outlining the YN's position will be forthcoming after internal review.

Andrew Gingerich noted that this action item is for the HCP-PCs. He appreciates the update to the HCP-CCs, but he suggested this go to the HCP-PCs. K. Murdoch believes the intent of the forthcoming letter is to be sent to both the HCP-CCs and HCP-PCs. She guessed the letter may be forthcoming in about 1 month.

Chad Jackson said WDFW has now collected all documents that Ritchie Graves (former National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] HCP-PCs representative) cited during the last HCP-PCs meeting. These documents will be reviewed with WDFW's legal team, and a determination will be forthcoming, maybe in a couple of months depending on how busy everyone is.

K. Murdoch recalled during Tracy Hillman's HCP-HCs update earlier in the agenda, Hillman said a PBT/GSI report was shared with the HCP-HCs. K. Murdoch said this report considers overshoots at PRD, and while these data still need to be entered into the POM for more detailed information about where various hatchery and wild fish are going, she believes this report should be distributed to the HCP-CCs as well. Gingerich recalled the HCP-PCs guidance to table Snake and Yakima river steelhead topics until a legal review is complete and the HCP-PCs can decide next steps. To honor this, Douglas PUD is hesitant about discussing this dataset aside from pieces about known Wenatchee and Entiat river components. John Ferguson suggested only distributing the Wenatchee and Entiat data for now. K. Murdoch said all of the data are in the same report. Kirk Truscott said HCP-CCs representatives can just get the report from their HCP-HCs representatives. Bill Gale noted that receiving the report does not mean it needs to be a point of discussion within the HCP-CCs.

Catherine Willard said the primary reason for collecting genetic samples from steelhead at PRD was to use PBT to look at homing fidelity of hatchery-origin steelhead at a finer scale. A secondary reason was to use GSI to determine origin of steelhead trapped and PIT tagged at PRD. Because the primary reason for doing the genetic analyses was hatchery related, it made sense to distribute the report to the HCP-HCs versus the GSI analyses could be used to determine origin of overshoot steelhead at PRD. Additionally, she is hesitant to widely distribute the GSI analysis because it requires additional background information. For example, the GSI analysis could potentially identify a fish PIT tagged at PRD as a Snake or Yakima overshoot, but really it was a juvenile of natural-origin adults which spawned in the Entiat River or was trapped and spawned in the hatchery. The concern is someone misinterpreting the data without understanding the nuances of the analyses. K. Murdoch said the fact that downriver fish are spawning in the Upper Columbia River (UCR) is indicative of how severe this overshooting issue is. It is important to acknowledge this. She suggested inviting a Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) geneticist to explain the methods and how assignments were made. At this time, these are the best available data. The PRD assignments comport with the POM that says one-third of all wild fish are from downriver populations. Willard clarified that she was not trying to qualify the issue, and she agreed the CRITFC presentation provided to Grant, Chelan, and Douglas PUDs and the YN was helpful in terms of interpreting the results.

John Rohrback said he shared this report with the HCP-HCs, and he noted that the report is still in draft form. Andrew Murdoch said WDFW is working on rectifying conflicts in the data. In the UCR, known overshoots are typically a very small percentage, about 2%, of the fish observed spawning, mostly in the Methow and Okanogan (A. Murdoch further clarified via email that about 2% of known overshoots are observed on the spawning grounds during the spring spawning season). In the Mid-Columbia River, the only genetically distinct stocks that do not overshoot include the Deschutes, Klickitat, and White Salmon.

Ferguson suggested hearing from the PUDs about their thoughts for next steps for UCR overshoots during next month's meeting.

VI. HCP Administration

A. NMFS Representation Designations Update (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson reviewed the current NMFS HCP representation designations, as follows:

- HCP-PCs – Nancy Munn (representative).
- HCP-CCs – Scott Carlon (representative); Emi Melton will be Carlon's future replacement.
- HCP-HCs – Kathryn Blair (representative); Andreas Raisch (alternate)
- HCP-TCs – Scott Carlon (representative).

B. HCP Chair Selection (All)

Tom Kahler said the HCPs do not specify a Chair-selection process. In the past, this has involved assembling a list of candidates and formal interviews. Andrew Gingerich said there could also be a unanimous decision without an evaluation like interviews. Lance Keller suggested soliciting nominations from the HCP-CCs for discussion in August.

Bill Gale asked about a deadline for contracting. Keller said John Ferguson plans to retire at the end of 2025. Gingerich said Ferguson offered flexibility, if needed, but Douglas PUD needs a minimum of 1 month to put a contract together, so, November. Keely Murdoch said it would be helpful to develop a timeline and outline the process needed to reach a decision. She reviewed HCP-CC meeting minutes from the last Chair-selection process, and it looks like both the HCP-PCs and HCP-CCs were involved. Will this be the case this round, because it can take a long time to get the HCP-PCs together?

Kahler said HCP-PCs involvement is not mandatory. In 2003, the first HCP Chair-selection process was for all four HCP Committees (HCP-PCs, -CCs, -HCs, and -TCs). The former Mid-Columbia Coordinating Committees convened. There was no formal policy committee. There were nominees and interviews. That process selected Mike Schiewe to Chair the HCP-PCs, -CCs, and -HCs and Bob Bugert to Chair the HCP-TCs. In 2007, when Bugert moved on, selection of Tracy Hillman as Chair to the HCP-TCs did not go through the HCP-PCs. In 2014, when Schiewe moved on, selection of Ferguson as Chair to the HCP-PCs and -CCs and Hillman as Chair to the HCP-HCs did include both the HCP-PCs and -CCs. Kahler believes if the HCP-CCs are satisfied with one individual without a more formal process, it can end there.

K. Murdoch said that last time, the HCP-PCs and -CCs conducted interviews and developed a ranking system. It seems like it was a thorough process. She believes the HCP-PCs should be involved. Keller asked, what if in August, the HCP-CCs find consensus on one individual—can there just be an action item to vet this person with their HCP-PC representative? Also, if there is consensus among the HCP-CCs, does there need to be an interview process? Gale said maybe the HCP-CCs agree, but the HCP-PCs might not agree.

Scott Carlon noted that Nancy Munn might not have time for interviews. NMFS is still undergoing reorganization of the West Coast Region probably through the end of this fiscal year. Due to this, NMFS participation on the HCP-PCs might be thin for a few months.

HCP-CCs representatives will come prepared to discuss the HCP Chair-selection topic in August, including the following: 1) Chair nominations; 2) HCP-PCs participation; and 3) Chair-selection timeline.

Kahler clarified that, per the HCPs, the HCP-CCs Chair is the HCP-PCs Chair. These are not separate positions.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on August 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 8) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

Lance Keller and Chad Jackson will not be present for the August 26 meetings.

The HCP-CCs meetings on September 23 and October 28, 2025, are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at Wanapum Dam in Beverly, Washington.

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 7 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: September 24, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the August 26, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington, on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine (Item I-C).
3. Chelan PUD will update the sample sizes in the presentation *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*[1] for distribution to the HCP-CCs (Item I-C).
4. Anchor QEA will email Andrew Murdoch and ask whether he wants to clarify the statement flagged in the July 22 meeting minutes. If he does, the edits will be distributed to the HCP-CCs. Note that all members approved the minutes before (Chad Jackson approved via email on August 22) or during the meeting, except for Bill Gale who will notify the Committees of his vote via email once he reviews the minutes (he has been out of the office due to illness). *(Note: Gale approved the minutes via email on August 28, pending resolution of the clarifying edit posed to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW], and A. Murdoch provided clarifying edits, which were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 3.)*
5. Keely Murdoch will discuss potential HCP Chair candidates with David Blodgett, Scott Carlon will discuss the need for HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PCs) involvement with the Chair selection process with Nancy Munn, and Kirk Truscott will clarify how Dennis Moore wants to be involved in the process (Item VI-C).
6. Anchor QEA will distribute previous HCP Chair interview questions to HCP-CC representatives (Item VI-C). *(Note: Kristi Geris distributed these questions on September 17, 2025.)*
7. Tom Kahler will distribute the HCP Chair scope of work to HCP-CC representatives (Item VI-C). *(Note: Kahler distributed this after the meeting on August 26, 2025.)*

[1] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

8. John Ferguson will call or email Chad Jackson and bring him up to date on the Chair selection discussions that occurred during today's meeting (Item VI-C). *(Note: Ferguson emailed Jackson, as discussed, after the meeting on August 26, 2025.)*
9. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on September 23, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 9) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-D).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

1. HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to forego the 3-Year HCP-CC Chair Review (Item VI-B).

Review Items

1. HCP-CC Chair position cover letters and resumes from Becky Holloway, Tracy Hillman, and Ritchie Graves were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 17, and will be discussed during the HCP-CCs meeting on September 23, 2025.

Finalized Documents

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

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Kristi Geris added "Extranet to SharePoint 365 Migration" before the meeting. No other additions or changes were requested from HCP-CC representatives.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft July 22 meeting minutes. John Ferguson said comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were minor clarifications that were incorporated into the revised minutes. There is one outstanding question for Andrew Murdoch under the steelhead overshoots discussion. Anchor QEA will email A. Murdoch to ask whether he wants to clarify his statement. If he does, the edits will be distributed to the HCP-CCs. Chad Jackson provided WDFW approval of the revised minutes via email on August 22. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the July 22, 2025, meeting minutes, as revised, with the exception of Bill Gale, who will review

the revised minutes prior to approving. *(Note: Gale approved the minutes via email on August 28, pending resolution of the clarifying edit posed to WDFW; and A. Murdoch provided clarifying edits, which were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 3.)*

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on July 22 and follow-up-discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on July 22, 2025)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *Chelan PUD will share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine (Item III-A).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
3. *The Yakama Nation (YN) and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will notify their respective cultural resource personnel about a forthcoming Section 106 consultation request from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding Douglas PUD's Pateros Railroad Bridge Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT)-Detection Array (Item IV-D).*
   Permits are ready to be submitted, and a historic properties inventory will be completed. This item has been closed out.
4. *Chelan PUD will update the sample sizes in the presentation Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data[2] for distribution to the HCP-CCs (Item V-A).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
5. *HCP-CCs representatives will come prepared to discuss the HCP Chair selection topic in August, including the following: 1) Chair nominations; 2) HCP-PCs participation; and 3) Chair selection timeline (Item VI-C).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) did not convene in August 2025; however, the Committees received a time extension request that was addressed during the month, as follows.

- *Peshastin River Mile (RM) 2.5 Project*: The Rock Island HCP-TC approved an extension of the contract for the Peshastin RM 2.5 Project from October 31, 2025 to October 31, 2027. The sponsor (Cascade Fisheries) indicated that permitting has been and continues to be challenging. They are working through the permitting process and hope the project will be implemented in 2026. They requested that the contract be extended into 2027 in case there

[2] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

are any unforeseen issues with permits and implementation. In addition, this will give them time for implementation monitoring and adaptive management.

- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on September 11, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) meeting on August 20, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Update (joint)*: The HCP-HCs reviewed changes to the first five objectives of the updated M&E Plan. The HCP-HCs worked through objectives related to adult and juvenile abundance and productivity. They will next work through objectives related to adult migration and spawning characteristics, stray rates, and phenotypic and genetic characteristics.
- *Relative Reproductive Success Studies (joint)*: The HCP-HCs are identifying questions related to spring Chinook Salmon relative reproductive success studies in the Wenatchee River basin. Questions will be provided to Mike Ford (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS], retired). His responses to questions will inform the Hatchery Genetic Management Plans for spring Chinook Salmon in the Wenatchee River basin.
- *Five-Year Statistical Report (joint)*: The HCP-HCs reviewed and approved the outline for the Five-Year Statistical Report. All hatchery programs will be included in one document.
- *Chief Joseph Hatchery Summer Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (joint)*: The CTCR reported that they collected the target number of hatchery-origin broodstock for the segregated summer Chinook Salmon program. Unfortunately, only about 100 of the 552 fish were collected in the purse seine; the remainder were collected at Chief Joseph Hatchery. The CTCR indicated that they are at about 67% of the broodstock target for the integrated summer Chinook Salmon program. The HCP-HCs agreed that the CTCR can continue to collect broodstock for the integrated program from the Wells Dam East Ladder and Wells Hatchery Volunteer Channel.
- *Steelhead Thiamine Study Results (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported results from the third and final year of evaluating thiamine concentrations in Columbia Safety Net steelhead eggs. The results were similar to previous years with about 12% of the brood year 2025 eggs deficient in thiamine. Over the 3-year study, on average, 12% of the eggs were deficient in thiamine (range: 10% to 15%). Interestingly, there was no correlation between thiamine levels and egg survival. Douglas PUD indicated that there is no plan to investigate or affect the thiamine concentrations of eggs in steelhead at Well Fish Hatchery.
- *Wells Steelhead (Wells)*: Douglas PUD reported that Wells Hatchery is experiencing an outbreak of bacterial cold-water disease in brood year 2025 steelhead. Losses have been higher than expected across all steelhead programs. The Okanogan/Omak program is currently at 68% of the target release number, while the Methow Safety Net, Columbia Safety

Net, and Twisp programs are near 90% of their target release numbers. Douglas PUD and the CTCR proposed moving steelhead from the Columbia Safety Net program to the Okanogan program. The goal is to meet the release target for the Okanogan program. Wells HCP-HC members are currently evaluating the proposal and will provide their approval by September 10, 2025.

- *Okanogan Sockeye Salmon Trap and Transport (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that they and WDFW successfully transported 105 adult Sockeye Salmon to the kɬ cp̓əlk̓ stim̓ (Penticton) Hatchery in July. These fish will be spawned in September.
- *Chelan Summer Chinook Salmon Broodstock Collection (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that they were able to collect the target number of broodstock for the Chelan Summer Chinook Salmon program at the Chelan River trap this year.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on September 17, 2025.

III. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said not much has changed since last month. Gingerich reiterated that in addition to the rebuilds of Turbine Units 8 and 9, Transformer 2 (T2) will be out of service from August 4 to September 26. Biannual maintenance will be performed on Turbine Units 3 and 4 during that time. Transformer 5 (T5) will be out of service from October 6 to November 28. As a reminder, T2 and T5 maintenance will include a 2- to 3-day roadway outage that will impact vehicle access to the east fish ladder trap. Douglas PUD will coordinate with the YN to find a way to meet broodstock collection goals during these road outages. Keely Murdoch asked which days are planned for the roadway outage. Gingerich said he does not know the exact days at this moment, but he approximated October 12 to 15.

Gingerich said Douglas PUD is conducting maintenance to remove aquatic vegetation and macrophytes from the screens and penstocks that serve the fish pumps. Two of the pumps have been shut off for a couple hours at a time to allow for cleaning. One pump was shut off this morning from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. When the pumps are shut off, the head differential will be lowered for a short period of time, but the ladder is still operating and there is still flow. This only applies to the east ladder; the west ladder is functioning normally. Each fishway has two different attraction water pumps. This is an evolving problem, and the PUD is trying temporary fixes for now. Gingerich said that most fish go through the fishway from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. John Ferguson asked how they will know whether their efforts were successful. Gingerich said he does not know the details, but he believes the pumps have alarms if they stop working normally. Gingerich was asked whether macrophytes were affecting the trash racks of the turbine units as well. Gingerich said Turbine Units 1, 2, 9, and 10 were cleaned last week as a part of a larger vegetation management strategy. Tom Kahler said in 2001, it was discovered that when macrophytes are cleaned off the trash racks of the

turbine units, this can affect auxiliary water supply (AWS) flow. Dislodged macrophytes in the tailrace can be pulled through the trash racks of the tailrace intakes for the AWS, which supply water through the diffuser gratings to the collection galleries to maintain the head differential at the fishway entrances. It was recommended that while removing macrophyte material from forebay trash racks, the fish pumps should be turned off to let the macrophyte material flush downstream. Macrophyte fouling of the diffuser gratings has been a problem in the interim years since 2001, but not to the magnitude observed this year and last year.

B. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

Pateros Railroad Bridge

Completing the historic properties inventory will fulfill the USACE permit, although this will take another several weeks. Originally, the plan was to begin construction next week, but now construction will begin at the end of September. John Ferguson asked what the duration of the construction will be. Kahler said this is not clear yet. The divers are the ones dictating how long construction will take. The original full buildout was planned to take 3 weeks, so with the reduced scope of installing a portion of the detectors, Douglas PUD is hoping this will be completed in no more than 2 weeks, but this is still to be determined.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

Plans have not been sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for review, and Douglas PUD cannot proceed until receipt of FERC approval. This installation is a little behind schedule, but there is still time. Keely Murdoch asked whether Douglas PUD still intends to complete the flap gate this winter. Kahler said yes. Regarding the existing PIT-tag-detection system at Wells (PTAGIS site code WEA), Douglas PUD can remotely monitor all PIT tag installations, and there has been a lot of extra noise (electromagnetic interference) on the upper antennas in the east fishway. Wells fishways were wired for PIT tag detection in 2002, with four orifices wired up in each fishway. Detection has always been very high, with multiple hits on each fish at each antenna. In 2012, detection was added to Pool 19 in the lower ladder; however, this was only added to the orifices, so there is not complete detection coverage at Pool 19. The extra noise observed in the east fishway was occurring in the uppermost pool near the top of the ladder on the upper two antennas. Kahler was worried the noise would interfere with PIT tag detection. When the system was installed in the early 2000s, the electrical system for the fishway antennas and readers was isolated from other electrical circuits, so no transmitted noise could interfere with tag detection. It has been discovered that over the years someone has tapped into the electrical system for the PIT-tag system and installed a security camera. When the camera was unplugged, the noise decreased. In the process of investigating the issue, Douglas PUD found there is the potential for other noise to also be affecting this system, so this is continuing to be investigated. Noise is also being observed on the west fishway

at the top two antennas that are right under one of the rails (forebay side) for the gantry cranes. There is some question about whether some of the noise at that location is associated with the motors on the crane, which is also being investigated. In the meantime, there is the possibility that some PIT tag detection has been interrupted by the excessive noise, although the number of antennas through which a fish must pass in ascending either fishway reduces the probability that fish passed undetected. K. Murdoch said the intermittency of detection makes the situation more complex.

C. Wells Dam Bypass Season Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the bypass was turned off at midnight on August 10. This was after closely monitoring Program Real Time passage predictions and underlying index counts of subyearling Chinook Salmon at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass Sampling Facility and detections at RRJ[3] of PIT-tagged wild subyearling Chinook originating from above Wells. Based on monitoring since the bypass was turned off, Douglas PUD is expecting greater than 95% coverage. Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD believes there will be a full bypass update via a Passage Dates Analysis Report is expected to be shared in the next couple of months.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Summer Spill Update (Catherine Willard)

Catherine Willard said she is passing along an update that was sent to her, so if there are questions she cannot answer, she will get back to HCP-CC representatives. At Rock Island Dam, the Columbia River Data Access in Real Time (DART) database (or Program Real Time) estimated 95% passage for subyearlings occurred on July 26, and estimated spill coverage for 95% of the subyearling outmigration was achieved on July 30. When looking at the index counts and the 0.3% criteria, daily index counts were observed to be under the 0.3% criteria for 4 consecutive days from August 1 through August 4. With all criteria to end summer spill being achieved, Chelan PUD ended summer fish spill at Rock Island Dam on Monday, August 4, at midnight (2400 hours). Due to the requirement of a mechanical crew to close the over/under gates, these three specific gates continued operation until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5. For Rocky Reach Dam, DART estimated 95% passage occurred on July 23, and estimated spill coverage for 95% of the subyearling outmigration was achieved on July 25. The cumulative index counts were observed to be under the 0.3% criteria for 6 consecutive days from July 30 through August 4. With all criteria to end summer spill being achieved, Chelan PUD ended summer fish spill at Rocky Reach Dam on Monday, August 4, 2025, at midnight (2400 hours).

[3] Rocky Reach surface collector PIT array (site code RRJ in the Columbia Basin PIT Tag Information System).

B. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Catherine Willard)

Catherine Willard reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Turbine Unit C11 was out of service but was returned to service on August 6. Turbine Unit C10 at Rocky Reach is still scheduled to return to service in September.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 2, work continues on Turbine Unit U5 and there is no change to the return to service date. There is also no change to the return to service dates in Powerhouse 1.

C. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Catherine Willard)

Catherine Willard said due to other ongoing work at the dam, there is no update related to the tailrace entrance engineering solution.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. Next Steps (All)

Andrew Gingerich said a letter from the YN was shared with the HCP-PCs, and other HCP-PC representatives are still looking into legal review. Gingerich said Douglas PUD's next step will be to discuss the YN letter internally, so he does not have an update today. Catherine Willard said Chelan PUD is also working internally to evaluate options, so she hopes to have more of an update in October, if not September. Bill Gale said he used the letter from the YN as a way to introduce the topic to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) legal counsel. He is not sure how long the process will take, and he has suggested that USFWS coordinate with NMFS legal counsel given that they are both federal agencies. Gale clarified that he is not necessarily creating a letter to articulate USFWS's position, but he has asked for legal feedback and will go from there.

VI. HCP Administration

A. Extranet to SharePoint Migration (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the extranet-to-SharePoint migration will occur sometime in September, and no issues are expected. A tutorial will be prepared. Andrew Gingerich recalled the last time there was a change like this, Julene McGregor (Douglas PUD Information Systems) came to give the HCP-CCs a demonstration, and this may be helpful again. He understands the new system will look the same, but the new log-in will be through a Microsoft 365 login. Keely Murdoch asked whether it would require a Microsoft authenticator. Gingerich did not know, but McGregor will send an email detailing

the new procedure, and the hope is this will not be a big challenge for anyone. K. Murdoch thanked them for hosting these sites, as she finds it helpful.

B. 3-Year HCP-CC Chair Review (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the HCPs stipulate completing a 3-year review of the HCP-CCs Chair, but that such a review is not necessary because John Ferguson is stepping down at the end of the calendar year, and the point of completing a review was to provide opportunity for HCP Parties to evaluate continuation of the current chair. Kahler said that last month, the HCP-CCs decided to skip the review, and the HCP-CCs do not need to clarify if anyone wants to complete a review because it is a part of the normal process.

HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to forego the 3-Year HCP-CC Chair Review.

C. HCP Chair Selection (All)

John Ferguson said an action item from last month was for HCP-CC representatives to bring nominations for the HCP Chair forward. He reviewed the time required for contracting and indicated that the HCP-CCs should make a decision by no later than November, and October would be best. Scott Carlon said he does not have any nominations at this time. Bill Gale said he does not have any nominations at this time. Tom Kahler said he contacted several people (including Gary Johnson [BioAnalysts] and Al Giorgi [BioAnalysts]), and the only one who was interested was Ritchie Graves (NMFS, retired). Douglas PUD thinks highly of his qualifications, so Graves is their primary candidate. Keely Murdoch said she reached out to Bob Bugert (former HCP-TCs Chair), who initially seemed interested, but recently decided this is not a good fit for him. At this point, K. Murdoch does not have any other nominations. Kirk Truscott said he discussed this with Dennis Moore, who indicated he would like to have input in the selection process. Truscott's nominee is Tracy Hillman, who said he would be potentially interested. K. Murdoch asked whether detailed discussion of nominees could be excluded from the meeting minutes. Catherine Willard said Chelan PUD is nominating Hillman and Becky Holloway (HDR), because she has a lot of experience working with Seattle City Light, USACE, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game and has experience with facilitation.

Kahler said HCP-CC representatives should confirm how much involvement the HCP-PC representatives would like to have in this process. Shane Bickford is leaning toward being a part of the interview, as well as contributing to what questions will be asked in the interview, if the HCP-CCs do not reach unanimous consensus on a candidate.

Bill Gale recalled last month, it was clarified that the HCP-CC Chair is also the HCP-PC Chair. He is not sure if the HCP defines how the HCP-CC Chair is selected. He asked whether there is guidance in the HCP about the role of HCP-PCs in the selection of the Chair. Ferguson said the HCPs do not address these topics. K. Murdoch said she reached out to David Blodgett and Shannon Adams about the

Chair selection, but they did not respond, so she would like to have a couple days to circle back with them and see what level of involvement they would like to have.

K. Murdoch said even if there is consensus on a candidate, the HCP-CCs should interview the candidates and discuss their expectations and concerns. When it comes to the HCP-PC representatives, those that want to participate can and should, but this does not mean all HCP-PC representatives need to participate. Ferguson said that Kristi Geris will distribute the interview questions from the last time this process was undertaken.

Representatives provided their views on different candidates that have been nominated and discussed them in a private session.

Additional action items are that Kahler will distribute the scope of work for the current contract for the Chair. Ferguson requested any edits to the scope of work by HCP-CC representatives be provided by August 29. Ferguson will check in with Chad Jackson to bring him up to speed on today's discussions. Potential dates were discussed, and it was tentatively decided that the HCP-CCs will settle on interview questions during their next meeting on September 23. Gingerich suggested that the three candidates hold the date of September 30 for interviews. K. Murdoch said particularly if these are virtual interviews, these do not need to be conducted back-to-back on September 30. K. Murdoch will reach out to Blodgett and report back. Ferguson said in the first week of September, he will send the three candidates an email providing copies of the HCPs and the scope of work for the Chair position and request that they submit a letter of interest and a resume by September 18, 2025.

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on September 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 9) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meeting on October 28 is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at Wanapum Dam in Beverly, Washington.

The HCP-CCs meeting on November 25 is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually.

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 8 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Molly Van Dam†	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*†	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: October 30, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the September 23, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington, on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will provide a list of the required maintenance activities driving the request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-C). *(Note: This list was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 1, 2025.)*
3. Chelan PUD will provide historical fish count data spanning the date range of the requested early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-C).
4. Douglas PUD will provide notification when the Wells Dam fishways are returned to normal operations from the modified operations to manage aquatic vegetation (Item IV-A). *(Note: On September 25, the fishways returned to normal operations, as distributed to the HCP-CCs that same day.)*
5. The Yakama Nation (YN) will ask how Shannon Adams (YN HCP Policy Committees [HCP-PCs] Alternate) would like to be involved in the HCP Chair selection process (Item VI-C). *(Note: This process is complete.)*
6. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on October 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 10) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-D).

Decision Summary

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

Agreements

1. HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to keep Bill Towey on the HCP-CCs primary email list and retain SharePoint access (Item VI-A).

Review Items

1. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on October 23, 2025.
2. The *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2025 Fish Spill Report* (2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 27, 2025.

Finalized Documents

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

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. No additions or changes were requested.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (Kristi Geris)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft August 26 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said revisions received from members of the Committees were clarifying edits, which were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the August 26 meeting minutes, as revised. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) approved the minutes via email before the meeting on September 23. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) abstained because a representative of theirs did not participate in the August 26, 2025, meeting.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on August 26 and follow-up-discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on August 26, 2025)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *Chelan PUD will share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine (Item I-C).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.

3. *Chelan PUD will update the sample sizes in the presentation Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*[1] *for distribution to the HCP-CCs (Item I-C).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.
4. *Anchor QEA will email Andrew Murdoch and ask whether he wants to clarify the statement flagged in the July 22 meeting minutes. If he does, the edits will be distributed to the HCP-CCs. Note that all members approved the minutes before (Chad Jackson approved via email on August 22) or during the meeting, except for Bill Gale who will notify the Committees of his vote via email once he reviews the minutes (he has been out of the office due to illness).*
   Gale approved the minutes via email on August 28, pending resolution of the clarifying edit posed to WDFW, and A. Murdoch provided clarifying edits, which were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 3.
5. *Keely Murdoch will discuss potential HCP Chair candidates with David Blodgett (YN HCP-PC Representative), Scott Carlon will discuss the need for HCP-PCs involvement with the Chair selection process with Nancy Munn (NMFS HCP-PC Representative), and Kirk Truscott will clarify how Dennis Moore (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation [CTCR] HCP-PC Alternate) wants to be involved in the process (Item VI-C).*
   This will be discussed during today's meeting.
6. *Anchor QEA will distribute previous HCP Chair interview questions to HCP-CC representatives (Item VI-C).*
   Kristi Geris distributed these questions on September 17, 2025.
7. *Tom Kahler will distribute the HCP Chair scope of work to HCP-CC representatives (Item VI-C).*
   Kahler distributed this after the meeting on August 26, 2025.
8. *John Ferguson will call or email Chad Jackson and bring him up to date on the Chair selection discussions that occurred during today's meeting (Item VI-C).*
   Ferguson and Jackson had a coordination call on September 12 to communicate what was discussed at the meeting on August 26, 2025.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) did not convene in August or September 2025; however, the Committees addressed a few decisions items during the month, as follows.

- *Peshastin Creek River Mile (RM) 2.5 Project*: In August, the Rock Island HCP-TC received a time extension request from Cascade Fisheries on the Peshastin Creek RM 2.5 Project. The sponsor indicated that because of permitting challenges, they would like to extend the contract from October 31, 2025, to October 31, 2027. This will give the sponsor time to address any

[1] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

unforeseen issues with permits and implementation. The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to October 31, 2027.

- *M2@3R Final Design and Habitat Construction Projects*: In September, the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-TCs received a time extension request from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation on the M2@3R Final Design Project and the M2@3R Habitat Construction Project. The sponsor indicated that because of permitting issues, they asked the Rock Island HCP-TC to extend the Final Design Project from September 30, 2025, to December 31, 2026. Consequently, because the final design will be delayed because of permitting issues, the sponsor asked the Rocky Reach HCP-TC to extend the Habitat Construction Project from December 31, 2026, to December 31, 2027. After review, both Committees approved the requested time extensions. Kirk Truscott asked which permits are delayed. Hillman thinks it may be all of them, including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the archaeological permitting. Tom Kahler believes the hydraulic project approval has been obtained, but the other federal permits are delayed.
- *Budget Amendment*: In September, the Rock Island HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from the Okanagan Nation Alliance on the Okanagan Lake Dam Fish Passage Project. The sponsor requested a reallocation of funds among several budget line items. There was no request for additional funds. The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to the budget line-item adjustments. The total contribution from the Rock Island Plan Species Account will not change as a result of this amendment.
- *HCP Administration*: The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) is hosting a Science Conference on January 21 to 22, 2026. In the past, the HCP-TCs have agreed to contribute financially to UCSRB conferences. This year, the Committees agreed to contribute $1,000 from each Plan Species Account to the conference.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on November 13, 2025. Some members of the Committees will visit restoration projects in Canada on October 8 to 9, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) meeting on September 17, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Update (joint)*: The HCP-HCs discussed the analytical tools and framework for evaluating the hatchery programs and agreed to maintain flexibility in the use of analytical tools. That is, they do not want to lock themselves into a specific analytical approach but rather intend to identify a suite of potential analytical approaches that could be used to evaluate the M&E objectives. The HCP-HCs are also examining an alternative approach to evaluating juvenile productivity that was proposed by Grant PUD. The YN provided an update on the modifications they have made to the Nason Creek rotary screw

trap to improve catchability and reduce estimate uncertainty. The HCP-HCs will continue to work through the objectives and hope to have the plan updated by the end of the year.

- *Chelan and Grant PUD 2024 Annual M&E Report (joint)*: The 2024 Chelan and Grant PUDs annual M&E report was finalized after addressing edits and comments received on the draft report. A new appendix was added to the report that provides detailed methods for conducting spawning ground surveys.
- *HCP Chair Review (Wells, Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Douglas PUD reported that the HCP-HCs evaluated the Chair and decided to retain the Chair for another 3 years.
- *2024 Annual M&E Report (Wells)*: Douglas PUD submitted their draft 2024 M&E report for review. This report provides results from monitoring the Wells and Methow hatchery programs. Members have 30 days to provide comments and edits to Douglas PUD.
- *Juvenile Monitoring (Wells)*: Douglas PUD provided the Wells HCP-HC with two reports: *Evaluation of Spatially Balanced Electrofishing Sampling for Estimating Abundance of Juvenile Summer Steelhead and Spring Chinook Salmon in the Twisp River* and *Evaluation of Survival to Emigration and Estimating Abundance of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in the Twisp River*. Douglas PUD is concerned that, because of poor trap efficiency and large uncertainty in abundance estimates from some smolt traps, models proposed to evaluate the effect of hatchery programs may be unable to produce accurate, precise, and reliable results. If this proves to be the case, Douglas PUD is recommending the Committee pivot from smolt trapping to electrofishing surveys to estimate juvenile abundance, productivity, and survival. The Committee will review the documents and consider this recommendation during future meetings. John Ferguson asked whether the Twisp trap is not working, and Kahler said it is. Ferguson asked, then why electrofishing if the trap works? Kahler said because the Lower Methow trap does not work well. Truscott asked about the Chewuch trap. Andrew Murdoch explained that the Twisp trap has always worked as expected. WDFW started operating the Upper Methow and Chewuch traps to evaluate overwinter survival. This funding is inadequate for sustained trapping, so these traps only operate in the fall (i.e., no trapping in spring). Additionally, this is a study, so this trapping will end. Managers have been talking about the Lower Methow trap for decades because it is located in a problematic location, partly due to hydraulics in the area. There has been discussion about relocating the trap, but there has been no good option to do this. Kahler agreed there is no simple solution. Other efforts have attempted different trap locations in the past, but these locations were too efficient, and the take limits were quickly exceeded. A. Murdoch recalled that one of these locations was also not safe and likely would not be permitted these days. Truscott said electrofishing will not solve the issue of obtaining summer Chinook Salmon estimates. A. Murdoch said correct, this would not get those at all.
- *Draft 2026 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Wells)*: Douglas PUD submitted their draft 2026 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan for review. The Wells HCP-HC will review the draft M&E plan and will vote to approve the plan during their October or November meeting.

- *Wells Steelhead (Wells)*: Last month, Douglas PUD reported that Wells Hatchery was experiencing an outbreak of bacterial coldwater disease in brood year 2025 steelhead. Losses have been higher than expected across all steelhead programs. Because the Okanogan program was near 68% of the target release number, Douglas PUD and the CTCR proposed moving steelhead from the Columbia Safety Net program to the Okanogan program. The goal is to meet the release target for the Okanogan/Omak program. Members approved the transfer of fish from the Columbia Safety Net program to the Okanogan program. Although approved, some members identified concerns that were captured for the record.
- *Monitoring Database (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that they are developing a database to manage hatchery M&E data. They are working with their Information Technology people and hope the database will be completed in 2026.
- *HCP Administration*: Douglas PUD is migrating all documents from the extranet site to SharePoint 365 beginning on September 23, 2025. The SharePoint site will be essentially identical to the extranet site. If members do not have Microsoft 365 and the Authenticator application setup, additional setup steps may be required. Douglas PUD is available to help with setup.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on October 15 and 16, 2025.

III. Chelan PUD

A. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

<u>Rock Island Dam</u>

Chelan PUD had an action item to share a diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine (Attachment B), which Keller shared on Microsoft Teams. This diagram was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 24. Keller reviewed the diagram. He said upstream of Powerhouse 2 is on the left, and the tailrace is on the right. He noted the trash racks and head gates on the upstream side and noted the downstream side; then everything in between is the unique bulb turbine design. A bulb turbine is a horizontally oriented Kaplan turbine. Powerhouse 2 was designed to be an open-air powerhouse. This did not work for this climate, so a removeable roof was installed, as shown toward the top of this diagram. When parts need to be removed, this roof can also be removed. Below the roof is the conventional vertical turbine, but it is turned on its side. He noted the generator, wicket gates, and turbine runner. Removing these parts from a vertically oriented Kaplan unit typically just involves removing the cover and then lifting the components out of the turbine pit. With this design, there is limited access. There are concrete structures in place, so everything inside needs to come out a hole horizontally and then be oriented vertically for removal. In past updates, he has talked about this maintenance schedule slipping. General Electric is requesting more time on regular intervals, partly due to this unique disassembly. Crews are learning how to get these pieces out safely and efficiently.

Once out, engineers are evaluating whether each component can be reused and refurbished or needs to be replaced. Powerhouse 2 was built in the 1970s, and this unit (Turbine Unit U5) is the first to be rehabilitated. Keely Murdoch asked about the reasoning for this design choice. Keller understands it is because Rock Island Dam is a low-head project.

In Powerhouse 2, work continues on Turbine Unit U5 with a return-to-service date of Q3 2026. Turbine Unit U6 was taken out of service for an overhaul on September 8 and will return to service on October 3.

In Powerhouse 1, work continues on Turbine Unit B8 with a return-to-service date of Q2 2028. Work continues on Turbine Unit B2 and there is no change to this return-to-service date (January 2027).

Rocky Reach Dam

Turbine Unit C11 is back in service. Turbine Unit C10 was returned to service briefly but was taken back out of service to better align the stator. This unit is expected to be back in service by the end of this week.

B. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said due to the project engineer's focus on the ongoing alkali silica reaction work, there is no update related to the tailrace entrance engineering solution.

C. 2025/2026 Rocky Reach Adult Ladder Winter Maintenance (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Rocky Reach Dam Maintenance is requesting another 1-month early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway to continue work from last year, including the following:

1. Auxiliary Water Supply Flap Gate: Recall that last year, the early outage was to facilitate a bid walkthrough with contractors to address replacement of the hinges associated with these flap gates. The walkthrough and bid were successful. This year's early outage will allow contractors into this space 1 month earlier to begin work.
2. Left Powerhouse Entrance (LPE) Diffuser Grating Replacement: Last year, approximately 2,000 square feet of diffuser grating was replaced with downsized mesh-size to exclude lamprey from passing through the grating. This year, Rocky Reach wants to continue replacing the grating located upstream of the area completed last year.
3. Civil Inspection of the Lower Ladder: Last year, a civil engineering inspection of the lower ladder, including the I-beams that support the grating above, found that 70% to 80% of the fasteners need to be replaced. While the LPE diffuser grating is removed for replacing, Rocky Reach wants to also replace these fasteners.

Considering these three items, in addition to the normal inspections and preventative maintenance, Chelan PUD is requesting Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval for an earlier outage, starting on December 1,

2025. This will be up for a decision in October. Chelan PUD will also share this information with the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF). Keller recalled that before work is conducted, a fish rescue will be performed by first dewatering the upper fishway and then waiting a few days for fish in the lower fishway to volitionally leave before dewatering the lower fishway.

Keely Murdoch asked whether this work will be completed one ladder at a time. Keller clarified that Rocky Reach Dam has only one adult ladder with three entrances. K. Murdoch appreciates the effort to install lamprey-friendly grating, and she asked whether it is 3/4-inch grating. Keller acknowledged Central Maintenance's efforts to plan for this work without a mandate, and he said this is 5/8-inch grating.

Bill Gale asked whether Chelan PUD anticipates requesting an early outage for a third year to complete everything. Keller asked about this schedule and said there is a 70% chance that another early outage will be needed next year, mainly due to the flap gate work. In February 2026, if there is not enough time to complete another flap gate, mechanics will not start this work and the fishway will be rewatered as soon as possible. Chelan PUD also believes it is better to request an early outage rather than a later outage.

John Ferguson asked what the Rocky Reach HCP-CC needs to know now to be ready for a decision in October. Keller recalled that in the past, Chelan PUD has provided a list of the required maintenance activities driving the request for an early outage, and he can provide this again. Kirk Truscott recalled that Chelan PUD has also provided historical fish count data spanning the date range of the requested early outage, and Keller said he can do this again. *(Note: A list of the required maintenance activities was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 1, 2025.)*

Gale asked when Chelan PUD plans to share this with the RRFF and whether this will be a decision in that forum, as well. Keller said the next meeting is on October 1, 2025, but consistent with past years, this will just be a notification. Gale wants to be sure the RRFF has no concerns before approval in the HCP-CC forum. Gale asked to be notified if anything substantial comes up.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich reviewed the maintenance updates for Wells Dam, as follows:

- Turbine Unit 8 is out of service for a rebuild until December 2025. Next, Turbine Unit 9 will be taken out of service for a rebuild. Turbine Unit 9 is the second to last unit to undergo a rebuild and that will likely start in late December 2025 or early January 2026. The 2026 Spill Playbook will be modified to reflect Turbine Unit 9 being out of service.
- Transformer 2 (T2) will be commissioned next week, then T5 will be out of service from October 6 to November 28. T5 serves Turbine Units 9 and 10; therefore, these units will be

unavailable while T5 is down. Replacing T5 will require a roadway outage on the deck of the dam. Douglas PUD is coordinating with the YN and Wells Hatchery regarding Coho Salmon brood collection. Messaging about the outage indicates it is ranging from just during the day to several days, but this is getting sorted to support brood collection work.

Keely Murdoch said that last month, this roadway outage sounded like 2 to 3 days. She is now hearing from staff that this outage may be much longer. Because this coincides with the peak trapping dates for Coho Salmon, this is giving staff concern. It would be helpful to understand whether this is a hard outage or more like limited road access during certain times of the day. Kirk Truscott asked whether this trapping effort is the primary brood collection for the Methow. K. Murdoch said yes. Gingerich is cautiously optimistic the outage will not be long. The outages for the first two transformer swaps were not long, and he believes some of these estimates are setting up for a worst-case scenario. K. Murdoch asked whether there is a reason this third outage may take longer. Gingerich does not believe so. This is the first time the transformers have been swapped since the 1960s and everything is going well, but staff are discussing contingency plans if there is a prolonged deck road outage. Douglas PUD's priority and preference is to not employ a contingency plan; rather, they prefer to move vehicles through early in the day and out late in the day. This is the best-case scenario for fish stress and safety. He believes during this time of year trapping will be occurring 7 days per week on both ladders. There could be some interruption, but Douglas PUD is trying to come up with a solution. K. Murdoch recalled an outage a few years ago, and Coho Salmon only showed up on the side with the outage. Gingerich said he is unsure, but Turbine Units 8, 9, and 10 are all on the east side, and with three units out on the east side, maybe all the fish will be to the west side, but he cautioned he was speculating. There are still 3 weeks to figure this out, and he promised to stay coordinated.

<u>Aquatic Vegetation</u>

Gingerich shared on Microsoft Teams the presentation *Collection Gallery Screen Assembly and Design* (Attachment C), which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 24. Gingerich reviewed the diagram on slide 3. He said this depicts the entrance to the west fishway. The east fishway configuration is the same, just the inverse. The entrance gates (tan doors in the figure) are where the operational change is. This opening was reduced from the normal 8 feet to just under 5 feet. The auxiliary water supply (AWS) system fish pumps (green columns in the figure) move water from the supply chamber into the lower fishway to maintain a head differential of 1.5 feet, creating a waterfall to provide attraction for salmon to enter the collection gallery. The supply chamber and lower fishway are separated by 34-foot-tall diffuser grating panels. If the diffuser panels become full of aquatic vegetation, these pumps need to work harder to add water to the lower fishway to maintain the head differential. If this system is not operating correctly, this could attract fish to the wrong places, or it could blow out the panels. There is no good way to clean these panels without dewatering the fishway, which is why this year, similar to last year, the entrance gate opening was

reduced so that less water needs to be pumped through the diffuser gratings to maintain the head differential between the two areas. This approach seems to be working because the high-head alarms are not triggering.[2] Last he heard, the aquatic vegetation is improving and the fishways will likely return to normal operation this week. Douglas PUD will provide notification when the Wells Dam fishways are returned to normal operations from the modified operations to manage aquatic vegetation. *(Note: On September 25, the fishways returned to normal operations, as distributed to the HCP-CCs that same day.)*

Keely Murdoch asked whether all of this is occurring before the passive integrated transponder (PIT) detectors. Gingerich said yes. The last point of detection would be Rocky Reach Dam, then up to Pool 19, which likely would not provide the resolution needed for any evaluation.

B. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

Pateros Railroad Bridge

Douglas PUD and the railroad are moving forward with the agreement needed before installation. Douglas PUD's consultant is developing the historical properties inventory reporting. Biomark is working on equipment and other items needed for the installation. Hopefully everything will be ready for installation in late October.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

Douglas PUD engineers are not supportive of Biomark's proposed design, but there is likely a good alternative. Douglas PUD and Biomark plan to meet tomorrow with the engineers to discuss a compromise. Nothing has been built, so everything is still on schedule. Andrew Gingerich explained that Douglas PUD engineers believe the current proposed design will function as a trash rack (plug the flap gate). Keely Murdoch asked whether Douglas PUD can share the alternate design when it is ready. Kahler said yes.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. Chelan PUD Updated Presentation (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller shared on Microsoft Teams the updated presentation *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*[3] (Attachment D), which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 24. Keller recalled locating one fish that was included in this analysis that should have been excluded. This presentation highlights removing this one fish, which was a wild-origin adult tagged at Tumwater Dam on August 5, 2013, and subsequently detected in the Lower Nason Creek

[2] The east and west fishways at Wells Dam have alarms for monitoring head differentials between the AWS system and the lower fishway.
[3] Presented during the HCP-CC May 27, 2025, meeting.

on April 10, 2014, then Bonneville Dam on October 28, 2015, then back upstream at Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells dams in 2015. For 2015, this changed the wild Wenatchee River steelhead overshoot percentage from 36% to 30%, and the total overshoot rate from 15.7% to 14.5%. This adjustment was also made to the graphs included in this presentation.

Keely Murdoch asked whether this fish was a repeat spawner. Keller said the data do seem to represent kelt activity.

B. Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD Updates (All)

Andrew Gingerich said the HCP-PCs are waiting to hear from each Party's legal representatives on this topic. Keely Murdoch already shared the YN's legal review.[4] For Douglas PUD, the YN's letter is with Douglas PUD's General Counsel for internal review and determining next steps. The YN expressed willingness for a one-on-one meeting to discuss this topic, and Gingerich believes Douglas PUD is on board with this idea. He hopes Douglas PUD will soon reach out to the YN to arrange a meeting in Toppenish, Washington.

Bill Gale said he used the YN letter to introduce the topic to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) legal counsel. USFWS is discussing this internally as well as meeting with NMFS to coordinate among the federal parties.

Gale asked when the next HCP-PCs meeting will be. He assumed the next HCP-PCs meeting is when representatives will receive an update. He did not believe anyone was waiting for USFWS to respond. John Ferguson clarified there is no schedule driving this and no meeting has been scheduled. Kirk Truscott asked whether the next HCP-PCs meeting will be after Douglas PUD and the YN meet. Ferguson said the HCP-PCs typically convene in the May time frame each year, but currently there is no HCP-PCs meeting scheduled. Truscott requested lead time and a status update on the issues to relay the information to the CTCR HCP-PC representatives before an HCP-PCs meeting agenda or a request is distributed. Gingerich guessed that Douglas PUD and the YN may meet before some of the legal reviews are completed. He knows WDFW is discussing this with the State Attorney General's Office, but he does not know how long this will take.

Ferguson asked about permit species. Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD have no updates at this time. Lance Keller added that Chelan PUD's thoughts on the YN's letter are consistent with what Douglas PUD shared.

[4] See HCP-CCs meeting minutes from July 22, 2025.

VI. HCP Administration

A. HCP-CC Email List and SharePoint Access – Bill Towey (John Ferguson)

A letter designating Catherine Willard as the Chelan PUD HCP-CC Alternate was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on August 11. No approvals are needed here.

Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD HCP-PC Representative) requested that Bill Towey remain on the email list and retain SharePoint access because he will still attend HCP-CCs meetings for overall departmental awareness and support. Now, as a non-representative or alternate, this requires HCP-CC approval.

Bill Gale asked which email list this request is for. Kristi Geris explained that Towey is currently included on the primary email list, which includes representatives and alternates and support staff who regularly attend the monthly meetings. There is also a secondary email list, which includes a larger group of people who only receive final products. Lance Keller said he believes Underwood's request is to keep Towey on the primary list.

HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to keep Towey on the HCP-CCs primary email list and retain SharePoint access.

B. Extranet-to-SharePoint Migration (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the extranet-to-SharePoint migration is scheduled to occur today. Reach out to Kristi Geris with questions.

C. HCP Chair Selection (All)

The HCP Chair scope of work was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Tom Kahler on August 26. No edits or comments were received. Previous HCP Chair interview questions were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on September 17. HCP-CC Chair position cover letters and resumes received from Becky Holloway, Tracy Hillman, and Ritchie Graves were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on September 17.

<u>Discuss Candidates</u>

John Ferguson said Scott Carlon indicated via email that Nancy Munn does not want to be involved in the selection process for the new HCP Chair. Kirk Truscott said Dennis Moore wants to be part of the interview and selection process. Keely Murdoch reached out to David Blodgett and Shannon Adams about the HCP Chair selection process but has not heard back, and she thinks Adams wants to be involved in the interview process. K. Murdoch will confirm this and will also share the HCP Chair selection documents (scope of work, letters of interest, resumes, and interview questions) with Adams. K. Murdoch did not receive feedback from Blodgett or Adams on the candidates.

The HCP-CCs provided their views on each candidate and discussed this in a private session. For the record, HCP-CC representatives did not reach consensus on including one candidate (Graves). There was agreement to move forward with interviewing two of three candidates (Holloway and Hillman).

Process

The HCP-CCs discussed the interview and selection process. Key takeaways were as follows:

- There is no standardized scoring or ranking system, but each interviewer should develop some sort of defensible system to justify their final selection.
- Consider a scoring or ranking system that is inclusive of more than just responses to interview questions.
- Consider weighting questions and ranking answers in order of importance.
- Scoring or ranking will not decide the final selection; rather, these will be used to help make comparisons, particularly if the decision is unclear.
- Interviews will be held virtually.
- If multiple representatives for one signatory participate in the interviews, there will be only one vote per signatory.
- If consensus cannot be reached, consider the following: 1) introducing a new candidate(s); 2) elevating the issue to the HCP-PC; 3) conducting second interviews with new questions; 4) developing a new question for written response; or 5) request and check references.

Finalizing the Interview Questions

The HCP-CCs reviewed the previous HCP Chair interview questions and made live edits. Key takeaways were as follows:

- The previous interview questions were designed for the HCP-HC, HCP-CC, and HCP-PC Chairs. These were edited to be specific to the HCP-CC and HCP-PC Chair.
- Interview questions were structured for the position, not the candidate.
- The HCP-CCs agreed to retain some questions and share some questions with the candidates ahead of time.
- Based on the final list of questions, the duration of the interviews was extended from 1 hour to 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- A total of 14 questions were selected. Each signatory representative will ask two questions of the candidates.

The finalized HCP Chair interview questions were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on September 24.

Next Steps and Timeline

The HCP-CCs discussed next steps. Key takeaways were as follows:

- Geris distributed Microsoft Teams invites for Tuesday, September 30, as follows:
  - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. – Tracy Hillman interview

  - 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. – Becky Holloway interview
  - 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. – HCP Committees discussion and vote
- Invites were sent to the candidates, Ferguson, HCP-CC representatives and alternates, plus Moore. HCP-CC representatives will forward to other interested HCP-PC representatives and alternates, as needed.
- Ferguson will facilitate the interviews and HCP Committees discussion and vote. Geris will also attend to run Microsoft Teams and provide any support needed during these sessions.
- Interview panelists will collect their own notes. No formal minutes or notes will be collected unless there is a request to do so.
- The invite explained there are additional in-situ questions, and to please plan for up to 14 questions to cover in 90 minutes.

(Note: After distribution of the Microsoft Teams invites and questions for the interviews, one candidate [Holloway] notified Ferguson that they wish to withdraw from consideration because she believed she was not qualified for the position. The HCP-CCs agreed via email to move forward with interviewing the last candidate [Hillman], and hold a discussion and vote after, as planned.)

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on October 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 10) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meeting on November 25 and December 23 are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually.

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 9 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Diagram of a Rock Island bulb turbine
Attachment C Presentation, *Collection Gallery Screen Assembly and Design*
Attachment D Updated presentation, *Wenatchee River Steelhead Overshoots – Additional Data*

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman††	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Bill Gale*	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

†† Joined by phone for the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees update.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: October 30, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chair

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the September 30, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met by conference call on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss the selection of a new HCP Coordinating Committees (HCP-CC) and HCP Policy Committees (HCP-PC) Chair. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Anchor QEA will notify Tracy Hillman (BioAnalysts) of the unanimous selection of Hillman to be the new HCP-CCs Chair, as well as discuss a transition plan for the remainder of the year (Item I-D). *(Note: This was completed after the conference call on September 30.)*
2. Anchor QEA will add Hillman to the appropriate email distribution lists and coordinate SharePoint access (Item I-D). *(Note: This was completed after the conference call on September 30.)*
3. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on October 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 10) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item II-A).

Decision Summary

1. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the selection of Tracy Hillman as the new HCP-CCs Chair. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) abstained because a representative of theirs was not present (Item I-C).

Agreements

1. HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to have Tracy Hillman shadow John Ferguson, to the extent possible, for the remainder of the year (Item I-D).

Review Items

1. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on October 23, 2025.

2. The *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2025 Fish Spill Report* (2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report) was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 27, 2025.

Finalized Documents

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

I. HCP Chair Selection

A. Background

In early 2025, John Ferguson announced plans to retire at the end of the year. Over the next several months, the HCP-CCs discussed selection of a new HCP Chair, including reviewing and finalizing a scope of work (Attachment B), discussing and selecting candidates, and developing interview questions (Attachments C and D). See past HCP-CCs meeting minutes for the detailed discussions.

B. HCP Chair Interviews

The HCP-CCs agreed to move forward with interviewing two candidates. Ultimately, one candidate withdrew. The HCP-CCs agreed to move forward with interviewing the last candidate, and hold a discussion and vote after, as planned.

On the morning of September 30, 2025, the HCP-CCs interviewed Tracy Hillman. All HCP-CCs representatives were present, except for NMFS. In addition, Dennis Moore (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation HCP-PC Alternate) sat in on the interview.

C. HCP Chair Selection

In the afternoon of September 30, 2025, the HCP-CCs reconvened, provided their views about the candidate's responses to the interview questions, and discussed the candidate in a private session.

HCP-CCs representatives present approved the selection of Tracy Hillman as the new HCP-CCs Chair. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved via email before the conference call. NMFS abstained because a representative of theirs was not present.

D. Next Steps

HCP-CCs representatives present agreed to have Tracy Hillman shadow John Ferguson, to the extent possible, for the remainder of the year.

Anchor QEA will notify Hillman of the unanimous selection of Hillman to be the new HCP-CCs Chair, as well as discuss a transition plan for the remainder of the year. *(Note: This was completed after the conference call on September 30.)*

Anchor QEA will add Hillman to the appropriate email distribution lists and coordinate SharePoint access. *(Note: This was completed after the conference call on September 30.)*

II. HCP Administration

A. Next Meetings

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on October 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next joint session (Joint Session 10) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meeting on November 25 and December 23 are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will be held virtually.

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B HCP Chair Scope of Work
Attachment C HCP Chair Interview Questions for the candidate
Attachment D HCP Chair Interview Questions for the panel

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Chad Jackson*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

FINAL

1201 3rd Avenue, Suite 2600
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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: December 1, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chair

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the October 28, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington, on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will reach out to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval of Chelan PUD's request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-A).
3. The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will prepare to discuss the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2025 Fish Spill Report* (draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report) during the HCP-CCs conference call on November 25, will submit edits and comments before the HCP-CCs conference call on December 15, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item III-B).
4. Chelan PUD will query passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown[1] fish reported in the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Item III-B).
5. Chelan PUD will edit the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report, as follows: 1) potentially update the unknown counts (see action item); 2) revise how 0s are shown in the graphs; 3) remove the superscripts from 2025 in Table 1; and 4) remove bolded formatting from fish counts in Tables 1 and 2 (Item III-B).
6. Chelan PUD will provide an updated summary of recent closures for the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance (TRE) (Item III-D).
7. Douglas PUD will share Biomark's Pateros PIT-Detection Array design specifications once available (Item IV-B).

[1] An "unknown" fish is deemed to not be a hatchery fish by having an adipose (ad) fin present (unclipped) and no coded wire tag (CWT).

8. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on November 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams conference call. The next joint session (Joint Session 11) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-C).

Decision Summary

1. Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present agreed to Chelan PUD's request to begin the 2025/2026 ladder maintenance outage at Rocky Reach Dam 1 month earlier than usual to allow more time to complete required work. Maintenance work will begin on December 1 (Item III-A).

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on October 23, for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by November 22, 2025 (Item IV-A).
2. The draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 27, edits and comments are due to Chelan PUD before the HCP-CCs conference call on December 15, and Chelan PUD will request approval during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item III-B).

Finalized Documents

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

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Tom Kahler added Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (Kristi Geris)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft September 23 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said revisions received from members of the Committees were mostly minor clarifying edits, which were incorporated into the revised minutes. Geris also added distribution of two review items. There is one outstanding comment under the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) Update. John Rohrback clarified that brood year 2025 steelhead at Wells Hatchery were transferred to the "Okanogan

program" not "Okanogan/Omak program." Kirk Truscott further clarified this is called the "Okanogan Steelhead Program." Geris said there was also one late edit under the HCP Chair selection topic, where language was struck from the record. This edit was accepted. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the September 23 meeting minutes, as revised.

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft September 30 conference call minutes. Geris said no edits or comments were received from members of the Committees, but she added distribution of two review items. These were the only revisions to these minutes. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the September 30 conference call minutes, as revised. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) abstained because a representative of theirs did not participate in the September 30, 2025, conference call.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on September 23 and follow-up-discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on September 23)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
2. *Chelan PUD will provide a list of the required maintenance activities driving the request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-C).*
   This list was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 1.
3. *Chelan PUD will provide historical fish count data spanning the date range of the requested early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-C).*
   This action item will be discussed during today's meeting.
4. *Douglas PUD will provide notification when the Wells Dam fishways are returned to normal operations from the modified operations to manage aquatic vegetation (Item IV-A).*
   On September 25, the fishways returned to normal operations, as distributed to the HCP-CCs that same day.
5. *The Yakama Nation (YN) will ask how Shannon Adams (YN HCP Policy Committees [HCP-PCs] Alternate) would like to be involved in the HCP Chair selection process (Item VI-C).*
   This process is complete.

Action items from the HCP-CCs conference call on September 30 and follow-up-discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the conference call on September 30)*:

1. *Anchor QEA will notify Tracy Hillman (BioAnalysts) of the unanimous selection of Hillman to be the new HCP-CCs Chair, as well as discuss a transition plan for the remainder of the year (Item I-D).*
   This was completed after the conference call on September 30.

2. *Anchor QEA will add Hillman to the appropriate email distribution lists and coordinate SharePoint access (Item I-D).*
   This was completed after the conference call on September 30.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) did not convene in October 2025; however, some members attended habitat tours in Canada. The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on November 13, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP-HCs meeting on October 15 and 16, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Update (joint)*: The HCP-HCs continue to work through the M&E Plan. They are reviewing and updating language to the plan. They made great progress in October and hope to have a revised plan by late 2025 or early 2026.
- *Broodstock Collection at Tumwater Dam (joint)*: As the HCP-HCs continue to update the Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon Hatchery Genetic Management Plans, they are discussing methods for collecting broodstock in the absence of Tumwater Dam. They are considering a temporary weir in Nason Creek for collecting broodstock for the Nason Creek program. The weir in the Chiwawa River would continue to be used to collect broodstock for the Chiwawa program.
- *2026 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint)*: The HCP-HCs began identifying important elements to address in the 2026 Broodstock Collection Protocols. They identified the need to consult early with USFWS on the use of the Chiwawa Wier for collecting spring Chinook Salmon broodstock. They are also discussing broodstock collection for the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon program.
- *2024 M&E Report (Wells)*: The Wells HCP-HC approved Douglas PUD's 2024 M&E Report.
- *2026 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Wells)*: The Wells HCP-HC approved Douglas PUD's 2026 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan.
- *Monitoring Database (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD will work with WDFW on transferring M&E data from the WDFW database to the Chelan PUD database, once the Chelan PUD database is set up and ready to receive data.
- *HCP Administration*: Douglas PUD migrated all documents from the extranet site to SharePoint 365. All members should have access to the SharePoint site.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on November 19 and 20, 2025. This meeting will be held in person to work through the M&E Plan.

III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: 2025/2026 Rocky Reach Adult Ladder Winter Maintenance (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled discussing this last month. This was also discussed with the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) on October 1, and feedback was requested by October 24 and was received from the YN, WDFW, and Washington State Department of Ecology. Discussions within the RRFF included additional questions about where fish pass in general and through the trifurcation/bifurcation area. Figures from this discussion were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 1 (along with the list of required maintenance activities; Chelan PUD action item). USFWS was not present during the RRFF meeting due to the government shutdown, but Chelan PUD has been coordinating with Bill Gale and plans to email USFWS Ecological Services outlining what was provided to the HCP-CCs regarding minimizing incidental take of Bull Trout. Gale asked that this email include data on historical passage of Bull Trout. Keller said he can do this, and he noted that the count data table for Kirk Truscott's request (Chelan PUD action item) included Bull Trout counts, as well. Keller said this data table was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris yesterday on October 27. Keller reviewed the table, as follows:

Rocky Reach Adult Ladder Counts in December

		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2014
Chinook	Ad-Present	2	11	0	0	0	7	5
	Clipped	4	2	0	1	0	0	0
	Jack	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Steelhead	Ad-Present	0	3	0	0	0	5	20
	Clipped	2	18	0	0	0	9	11
Coho	Adult	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
	Jack	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Bull Trout	Adult	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Sub Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Notes:		Counts are from 12/1 and 12/2 only	Counts are from 12/1-12/31	Counts are from 12/1 only	Counts are from 12/1 only	Counts are from 12/1 only	Counts are from 12/1-12/15	Counts are from 12/1-12/15

Keller recalled there was no early outage in December 2023, so these data are for the entire month, and the earlier years included half of the month. John Ferguson asked whether these data adequately address Truscott's interest, and Truscott said yes. Gale clarified the reason he requested a letter to Ecological Services is to meet the required coordination per the Service's Rocky Reach Biological Opinion (BiOp).

Keller said, regarding the maintenance work, the contractor crew for the flap gate repairs have a strong desire to complete most of this work this year, so crews will be working six 12-hour shifts. This requires Rocky Reach Dam contractor oversight staff to work these shifts as well. The request is to start the ladder outage on December 1, which falls on a Monday. Given the additional preparation work needed to dewater the upper ladder, plus the fact that Rock Island Dam will start dewatering the right ladder on December 2, the lower section of the Rocky Reach Dam adult ladder is now planned to be dewatered on December 8. This will provide a full week for fish remaining in the ladder to vacate that space and return to the tailrace. In previous years, when the upper and lower portions of the ladder were dewatered closer together, there were more fish rescued. To note, there will be no attraction water at the entrance that might promote fish to enter the fishway.

Rocky Reach HCP-CC representatives present agreed to Chelan PUD's request to begin the 2025/2026 ladder maintenance outage at Rocky Reach Dam 1 month earlier than usual to allow more time to complete required work. Maintenance work will begin on December 1.

Gale reiterated that his approval is for the HCPs; however, USFWS still has requirements per the BiOp for further coordination with Chelan PUD and the RRFF regarding impacts to Bull Trout.

Chelan PUD will reach out to WDFW about Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval of Chelan PUD's request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period.

B. Draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 27. Chelan PUD would be supportive of a longer review period but would also like to finalize the report by December. The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will prepare to discuss the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report during the HCP-CCs conference call on November 25, will submit edits and comments before the HCP-CCs conference call on December 15, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025. Keller said this year's report is the same format as last year's report, and he reviewed the report, as follows.

<u>2025 Rocky Reach Dam – Summer Spill</u>

The target species is subyearling Chinook Salmon, and the spill target is 9% of the daily average river flow. He noted that more is forthcoming on the spill target footnote, which was added by request last year. Chelan PUD initiated spill on June 6 at 0001 hours and ended spill on August 4 at 2400 hours. Program RealTime estimated that 95% of the subyearling outmigration had passed Rocky Reach on July 24. The percentage of run covered with spill was 97.2% of the subyearling outmigration, estimated as of August 31. Also added by request last year is the proportion of run with spill, which was provided for the 1.4 percentile to 98.6 percentile of the run. The cumulative

index count at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass was 46,095 subyearlings as of August 31. The summer spill percentage was 9.18%, which included 9.14% requested fish spill and an additional 0.04% forced spill. The average river flow at Rocky Reach Dam was 93,485 cubic feet per second (cfs), and average spill was 8,583 cfs across 60 spill days.

Keller reviewed the first graph in the spill report, *2025 RR Bypass Subyearling Chinook Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, 28 May–31 August, 2025*. Subyearling counts are shown by the blue line, and percent summer spill is shown by the orange line and along the secondary y-axis. There was an initial outmigration in June and typical variability through the end of August.

Keller recalled the second graph, *2025 RR Bypass Subyearling Chinook Cumulative Unknown and Hatchery Counts, and Daily Unknown Percentage, 28 May–31 August, 2025*, reflects nomenclature changes to address comments received about how coded wire tag (CWT) presence is classified, notably regarding the possibility of tag shed. Cumulative unknown counts are in blue. An "unknown" fish is deemed to not be a hatchery fish by having an ad fin present and no CWT. Cumulative hatchery counts are in orange. A hatchery fish is ad-clipped, or ad-present with a CWT. Daily unknown percentage is in gray, which is the record of observed unknown fish in the daily counts. Kirk Truscott asked why the cumulative hatchery counts add up to 100%. Keller clarified that the cumulative counts are associated with the primarily y-axis, and the daily unknown percentage is associated with the secondary y-axis. Tom Kahler asked whether all hatchery summer-run Chinook Salmon originating above Rocky Reach are clipped. Truscott said yes, except for fish reintroduced into the blocked area by the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT). Kahler thinks only about 170 hatchery-origin fish from the UCUT program are detected at Rocky Reach.[2] Truscott said all reintroduction hatchery summers/falls originating above Chief Joseph Dam have been PIT tagged, and he suggested querying the PIT Tag Information System (PTAGIS) to address some of the unknowns. That is, this could move some of the unknowns into the hatchery category. John Ferguson asked whether this is a requested edit to the report. Truscott asked how onerous this would be and whether it would make a significant adjustment. Keller said these are daily fish counts in-hand, not expanded, so this is purely recaptures at the sampling facility, which he suspects is not a lot of fish (i.e., it is not onerous). Chelan PUD will query PIT-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown fish reported in the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report.

2025 Rock Island Dam – Spring Spill

The target species include yearling Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and Sockeye Salmon, and the spill target is 10% of the daily average river flow. He noted the spill target footnote, which was added by request last year. Recall in 2025, the Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass trap was operated starting

[2] Kahler later clarified that approximately 5,000 hatchery- and wild-origin fish were detected at Rocky Reach, including 3,499 hatchery-only fish (of which 170 fish were specific to the UCUT study).

March 1, per discussions with the Rock Island HCP-CC. March 1 to April 3 provided the run-timing analysis to inform Chelan PUD to start spring spill on April 4 at 0001 hours. Chelan PUD stopped providing spring spill on June 5 at 2400 hours and immediately transitioned to 20% summer spill. That is, any fish passing Rock Island after June 5 was still provided with fish spill. Based on the April 4 start date and DART hindcast prediction, spring spill was provided for 97.0% of the yearling Chinook Salmon run, 99.5% of the steelhead run, and 99.1% of the Sockeye Salmon run. Also added by request last year is the proportion of run with spill, which was provided for the 3.0 percentile to 100.0 percentile for yearling Chinook Salmon, for the 0.5 percentile to 100.0 percentile for steelhead, and for the 0.2 percentile to 99.3 percentile for Sockeye Salmon (spring and summer fish spill combined). The cumulative index counts at the Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass were 19,776 yearling Chinook Salmon, 13,586 steelhead, and 8,796 Sockeye Salmon (as of August 31). The spring spill percentage was 10.44%, which was composed of 10.12% requested fish spill and 0.32% forced spill. The average river flow at Rock Island Dam was 116,838 cfs, and average spill across the same period was 12,199 cfs over 63 days of spill.

Keller reviewed the third graph in the spill report, *2025 RI Bypass HCP Spring Species Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, 1 March–5 June, 2025*. He noted the March 1 start date and initial uptick in April due to an early hatchery release, which was the driver for the April 4 spill start date. Absent this early hatchery release, Chelan PUD probably would have started spill around April 10 to 12 for Sockeye Salmon, which has been observed in the past and was attributed to the Lake Wenatchee population. The start date of April 4 was well in advance of the other spring species. To note, the green line is associated with the secondary y-axis, and the other lines are associated with the primary y-axis. Truscott asked about the brief spike in spill up to 20%. Keller guessed this might be forced spill. Chelan PUD is required to submit a spill shape 2 to 3 days in advance, based on estimates received from upriver of how much water the project will receive. These estimates tend to be inaccurate, but operators still must adhere to this spill shape. When river flow is low, small adjustments make a big difference.

2025 Rock Island Dam – Summer Spill

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 6 at 0001 hours, instantaneously increasing spill from the 10% spring spill. Chelan PUD stopped providing summer spill on August 4 at 2400 hours. The percentage of run covered with spill was 95.4% of the subyearling outmigration, estimated as of August 31. Spill was provided for the 2.2 percentile to 97.6 percentile of the run. The cumulative index count at the Rock Island Juvenile Fish Bypass was 8,398 subyearling Chinook Salmon. The summer spill percentage was 20.87% of the daily average river flow, which included 20.82% for fish spill and 0.05% forced spill. Average river flow at Rock Island Dam from June 6 to August 4 was 96,210 cfs, and average spill was 20,079 cfs across 60 spill days.

Keller reviewed the fourth graph in the spill report, *2025 RI Bypass Subyearling Chinook Daily Index Counts and Spill Percentage, 27 May–31 August, 2025*. Similar to Rocky Reach, subyearling fish in hand at the sampling facility are shown by the blue line, and percent summer spill is shown by the orange line and along the secondary y-axis.

Keller reviewed the fifth graph in the spill report, *2025 RI Bypass Subyearling Chinook Cumulative Unknown and Hatchery Counts, and Daily Unknow Percentage, 27 May–31 August, 2025*. This graph includes the same nomenclature revisions as the second graph for Rocky Reach. Truscott asked whether the 0s in the dataset are actual 0s or no data. Keller said these are 0s—no fish. Bill Gale suggested replacing the dips with breaks in the line.

Juvenile Index Counts, 2015 to 2025

Keller reviewed *Table 1. Rocky Reach Juvenile Bypass index sample counts, 2015-2025* and *Table 2. Rock Island Smolt Monitoring Program Index Sample Counts, 2015-2025*.

In summary, Chelan PUD will edit the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report as follows: 1) potentially update the unknown counts (see action item); 2) revise how 0s are shown in the graphs; 3) remove the superscripts from 2025 in Table 1; and 4) remove bolded formatting from fish counts in Tables 1 and 2.

C. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Last month, Turbine Unit C10 was taken out of service to better align the stator. This unit was returned to service on September 26. The following Tuesday on September 30, Turbine Unit C11 was taken out of service to investigate vibration in the turbine guide bearing. This unit is expected to return to service by October 31. Turbine Unit C1 will come out of service for an overhaul from October 28 to November 20. It is ideal to schedule Turbine Units C1 and C2 overhauls outside of the bypass operational period, and the goal is to complete the Turbine Unit 1 overhaul before the winter maintenance ladder outage.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1, work continues on Turbine Unit B8 with no change in the return-to-service date (Q2 2028). Work continues on Turbine Unit B2 with no change to this return-to-service date (January 2027).

In Powerhouse 2, General Electric continues full disassembly of Turbine Unit U5 with no change in the return-to-service date (Q3 2026). Turbine Unit U6 was taken out of service for an overhaul on September 8 and will return to service on December 3.

D. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said that due to the project engineer's focus on the ongoing alkali silica reaction (ASR) work, there is no update related to the TRE engineering solution. The Rock Island Dam right adult fishway will be the first ladder out of service for annual winter maintenance. The upper fishway will be dewatered on December 2 and the lower fishway on December 3. At this time, engineers will investigate the backside of the TRE gate to see if anything more can be learned about this configuration. Chelan PUD hopes to get more movement on this solution once engineers get farther into resolving the ASR issue. Regarding the ASR work, once this is addressed in one area, it develops in another. Chelan PUD acknowledges this TRE Statement of Agreement (SOA) has been ongoing for a few years now as an annual SOA. In 2025, there was no need to close the TRE due to low flows, but this is not always a guarantee.

John Ferguson asked Keller to explain the ASR issue[3] to Tracy Hillman. Keller said ASR is concrete growth due to a chemical reaction within the concrete itself. It takes many years to occur. It consumes the expansion joints, but once it is addressed in one location it manifests in other areas. Notch gate 16 has been removed from the spill sequence for a few years now due to a crack in the adjacent pier caused by this concrete expansion. Engineers have been monitoring the area to see how it changes over seasons and time. Notch gate 16 is not operating to allow accurate data on vibration and other metrics to be collected. This ASR issue has been observed in different areas at Rock Island Dam. However, this issue does not exist at Rocky Reach Dam. Keely Murdoch asked whether this issue is unique to Rock Island because this project is so old? Is this issue occurring in the older concrete or newer? Keller believes the issue is isolated to the older sections of the project. Tom Kahler said the issue could also be related to the aggregate source.

K. Murdoch asked how frequently low river flows occur in order to not need to close the TRE. Keller said Chelan PUD will provide an updated summary of recent closures for the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE. He explained when the tailwater elevation rises above a certain level for an extended amount of time, it becomes difficult to maintain the minimum 1.0-foot head differential entrance criteria and meet other criteria through the area.[4] Ferguson asked whether there is any coordination with downstream projects to help with this. Keller said no. Keller will keep the HCP-CCs updated on both the TRE solution and ASR work.

[3] Also described at length in the HCP-CC August 27, 2024, meeting minutes.
[4] See past meeting minutes for additional information on these operations.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich reviewed the maintenance updates for Wells Dam, as follows:

- From October 4 to 11, the west fishway entrance gates were reduced from the normal 8-foot opening to 6 feet to reduce pressure on the diffuser panels within the auxiliary water supply system. This was associated with the aquatic vegetation buildup on the panels. During this time, the east fish ladder operated as normal. Since this time, both ladders have been in normal operation.
- The Turbine Unit 8 rebuild is continuing with a return-to-service date of December 12, 2025. Turbine Unit 9 is the ninth unit to undergo a rebuild and is scheduled to come out of service on January 5, 2026, with a return-to-service date of May 1, 2027.
- Transformer 5 (T5) is out of service. T5 serves Turbine Units 9 and 10; therefore, these units are also out of service. The return-to-service date for T5 is November 15, 2025.

Gingerich heard the transformer maintenance has been going well. There was some coordination, but he does not believe there were impacts to YN brood trapping activities in the east fish ladder. There was a lot of secondary planning in case, but this maintenance did not have much, if any, interruption to brood collection. There are a couple more transformer swaps planned for next year and he expects the same coordination to occur, particularly in the fall.

B. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

<u>Pateros Railroad Bridge</u>

Last month, Douglas PUD replied to the railroad's edits on the draft agreement, the railroad sent it back to Douglas PUD, and now the agreement is back with the railroad for signatures. Douglas PUD's consultant finished the historical properties inventory reporting required by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and USACE has already issued Douglas PUD their permit. The current project start date is November 17.

Bill Gale asked what starts on November 17? Kahler said the installation. Fabrication is going on now, and the divers are lined up. Kirk Truscott asked whether this is a partial installation. Kahler said yes. He drew on a whiteboard an example of the partial buildout, which consists of antennas installed on the deepest (center) pier. If this works well, antennas will be installed on the other piers.
Keely Murdoch asked how this will be evaluated and who will decide whether count data should be expanded. Kahler said these details have not yet been discussed, but for Douglas PUD's purposes of wanting systematic detection, there are no expectations of what proportion of fish are detected, so long as it works year-round. The real question is whether fish pass close enough to the antennas to

be detected. John Ferguson asked about the read range, Kahler said 30 to 36 inches from top to bottom of the river depth, and Truscott said the range is this distance from the center pier outward toward each bank of the river. Gale suggested tagging and releasing hatchery fish above the array to evaluate detection efficiency. John Rohrback said this is already done with all hatchery releases above the bridge, and Kahler said there will be downstream detection at RRJ.[5] Gale was thinking, specifically, of releasing fish at set flow levels to demonstrate whether, and how, detection efficiency varies with flow level. Kahler said this location is more affected by reservoir elevation than river discharge. Gale asked about train activity on the bridge affecting the noise environment. Kahler said trains use this bridge maybe two to three times per week, and the system will show what happens to noise levels when trains pass. Gale said the question is whether the array works and how well. Kahler said Douglas PUD wants to know when fish are entering the reservoir and when these fish encounter Wells Dam. Truscott asked, how far away is the upstream array? Kahler said about 5 river kilometers. K. Murdoch said the upstream array is more for detecting adults; it is not consistent for juvenile detections. Truscott suggested comparing detections at the two arrays. Gale asked whether this system will have multiple antennas, and Kahler said yes. Gale asked about consecutive detections, and Kahler said there is just one column of antennas on each side, so it is not possible to get directionality. He wanted to install pairs to get directionality, but this was not possible given the width of the recesses in the pier that house the antenna columns.

Ferguson asked about installation time. Kahler said 2 to 3 weeks, and Douglas PUD hopes to have the system operational by December.

Douglas PUD will share Biomark's Pateros PIT-Detection Array design specifications once these are available.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

This system is still being designed, and Douglas PUD can share the final drawings when they are ready.

C. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on October 23. Geris shared on Microsoft Teams the photographs included in this application. Kahler explained that these property owners mowed through vegetation and placed rocks on the pathway, and then were told a permit is needed for this access path to the water.

To provide context for Tracy Hillman, Kahler said Wells HCP Section 5.1 requires Douglas PUD to notify and consider comments from the Wells HCP signatory parties regarding any land-use permit

[5] Rocky Reach surface collector PIT array (site code RRJ in the Columbia Basin PITAGIS).

(LUP) application on Project-owned lands, and the parties elected to receive notification and provide comments via a Wells HCP-CC review process. He recalled that after issuance of the new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license, the Wells HCP-CC received a lot of these LUP applications because the new license required re-issuance of all existing permits, but now there are only a few here and there. Some applications are for existing uses that have not yet been permitted. This application is a new use that has never been permitted. After the Wells HCP-CC review period, Douglas PUD issues the permit. There have been no instances where the Wells HCP parties did not want something to go forward. Additionally, some applications are simply provided to the Wells HCP-CC for their records (no review period).[6]

Bill Gale asked whether this application is for any other uses or activities Kahler said no, this is just for the access path to the water, which is a land use consistent with Douglas PUD's land-use policy. This area was converted from orchard around 2005 and has been fallow since. Kirk Truscott noted that this is not just clearing, it also involves laying rock. He is unsure about any cultural resource (Section 106) issues, but he will pass this along to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation cultural resource staff. It would be helpful if these types of applications could be addressed in another way other than via the Wells HCP-CC. Clearing vegetation is one thing, but this is a little different than past LUP applications. Kahler said Douglas PUD is open to discussing a better approach to addressing these types of requests.

John Ferguson said a 30-day review means edits and comments are due to Douglas PUD by November 22, 2025. There will be no formal approval of this application.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. General Updates (All)

John Ferguson recalled last month, Douglas PUD indicated plans to reach out to the YN. Chelan PUD indicated possible interest in this, as well. He asked for any updates on this or anything else regarding in-basin species.

Bill Gale said there has been some coordination among federal (USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) lawyers.

Keely Murdoch said the YN has not yet met with Douglas PUD, but a meeting date is scheduled in December to discuss the YN letter.[7] Additionally, there is a new basin-wide overshoot analysis[8] that

[6] On March 31, 2021, the Wells HCP-CC agreed to decline review of Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications submitted by new landowners of previously permitted land use when there is no change in land use, just a change in land ownership, but requested to be notified when such changes in the permit holder occur for their records.
[7] Distributed to the HCP-PCs on August 22, 2025.
[8] Min, M.A., R.A. Buchanan, and M.D. Scheuerell, 2025. "Modeling Climate and Hydropower Influences on the Movement Decisions of an Anadromous Species." *Global Change Biology* 31:e70533.

she will provide to Kristi Geris for distribution. *(Note: This publication was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on October 29.)*

Andrew Gingerich thanked K. Murdoch for working with Douglas PUD on scheduling an in-person meeting, which will occur on December 9. Douglas PUD has also been coordinating with NMFS following receipt of the YN letter, but this has become more challenging since the government shutdown. Douglas PUD has been spending more time in PTAGIS to see what data might inform this in-basin discussion. He would like to share these data with the HCP-CCs, but he would like to do so when WDFW and NMFS are present.

VI. HCP Administration

A. Extranet-to-SharePoint Migration (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said this agenda topic is a placeholder in case anyone is experiencing issues or has questions about the new SharePoint site. No questions were asked. Ferguson said to reach out to Kristi Geris if questions arise.

B. HCP Chair (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said Tracy Hillman is participating in today's meeting in preparation for assuming the Chair position next year. The PUDs are working on contracts. He asked for any questions about the new Chair selection or transition process. No questions were expressed.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The HCP-CCs discussed the 2025 holiday schedule.

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on November 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams. The next joint session (Joint Session 11) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meeting in December was rescheduled 1 week earlier, to Monday, December 15, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

The HCP-CCs discussed the 2026 meeting schedule. The HCP-CCs agreed to repeat this year's meeting schedule and logistics in 2026.

The HCP-CCs meeting on January 27, 2026, is from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 10 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman†	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*†	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Bill Gale*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Joined by phone.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: December 15, 2025

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chair

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the November 25, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met virtually by Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Chelan PUD will reach out to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval of Chelan PUD's request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item I-C).
2. Douglas PUD will follow up with Buchanan Statistical Services regarding the draft 2025 Wells Dam Passage-Dates Analysis and will provide the draft report for Wells HCP-CC review as soon as possible (Item III-A). *(Note: The draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 3.)*
3. Douglas PUD will share the Wells Dam Spillway 2 Flap Gate Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Detection design concept once it is available (Item III-C).
4. Chelan PUD will query PIT-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown fish reported in the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2025 Fish Spill Report* (draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report) (Item IV-A).
5. The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will submit edits and comments on the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report by December 10, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item IV-A).
6. Chelan PUD will review past Fish Passage Center (FPC) Annual Reports for references to the radio telemetry (RT) studies that support guidance on how to best manage head differentials and transport channel velocities during high river flows at the four entrances to the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway (Item IV-D).
7. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams conference call. The next joint session (Joint Session 12) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-B).

Decision Summary

1. There were no HCP Decisions approved during today's conference call.

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on October 27, edits and comments are due to Chelan PUD by December 10, and Chelan PUD will request approval during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item IV-A).
2. The draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 3. Douglas PUD will request approval during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item III-A).

Finalized Documents

1. The final technical report, *Stock Specific Abundance of Priest Rapids Dam Summer Steelhead with PBT/GSI, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, FY2024-2025*, was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26, 2025 (Item V-A).
2. The final report, *Okanagan Fish and Water Management Tools (FWMT) water year 2024-2025*, was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 8.

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and introduced Emi Melton, who will be the new National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) HCP-CCs Alternate. Melton said she was formerly in the hatchery branch before moving to the hydro team last January. Throughout the year, she has been catching up on Columbia River system topics and is now transitioning onto the Mid-Columbia HCP-CCs and PRCC as part of succession planning.

Ferguson reviewed the agenda. Discussions were as follows:

- Tom Kahler recalled discussing last month the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 717B, and Kirk Truscott indicated plans to pass this along to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation cultural resource staff regarding any cultural resource (Section 106) issues. Kahler said Douglas PUD is getting ready to process this permit, and he asked if Truscott still wants this opportunity to consult internally. Truscott said he has not yet heard back, but

committed to submitting comments, if any, by close of business today. *(Note: No edits or comments were received and Douglas PUD proceeded with processing the permit.)*

- Bill Gale said within the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) there was a discussion about Chelan PUD switching contractors for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) work, and he wants to better understand what this means and how to access data moving forward. Catherine Willard said Tracy Hillman will cover this topic under the HCP-HCs Update, and she suggested first hearing this update and then addressing any outstanding questions.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (Kristi Geris)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft October 28 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said most edits received were minor clarifications, which were incorporated into the revised minutes. There is one outstanding comment to address under the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report discussion. Kirk Truscott clarified that all reintroduction hatchery summers/falls originating above Chief Joseph Dam have been PIT tagged, and the text was edited as such. Bill Gale also provided a few clarifying edits under the 2025/2026 Rocky Reach Adult Ladder Winter Maintenance discussion. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the October 28 meeting minutes, as revised. WDFW and NMFS abstained because representatives of theirs did not participate in the October 28, 2025, meeting.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on October 28 and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on October 28)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will revisit how 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam was established and will bring this topic back to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC once additional information is available (Item I-C).* Lance Keller recalled that beginning with the 2024 fish spill report, there was a request to document the origin of the spill volumes to cover passage of Plan Species. This process led to 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam. Previously this spill level was 15%. Per the Rocky Reach HCP, the HCP-CC needed to determine fish spill in 2004. Keller reviewed past meeting minutes and annual reports, and there is not much documentation, and no statement of agreements (SOAs), memorializing this change in spill. In early 2004, there was a discussion within the HCP-CCs, including reviewing study passage data from 1999 to 2003, and contemplating how spill volume can be adjusted to increase fish passage efficiency through non-turbine passage routes. At this time, the juvenile fish bypass system was just out of the prototype phase, and these efficiency and route-specific passage rates were presented. In reviewing these data, discussion occurred; the three spill volumes contemplated were 15%, 10%, and 9%; and ultimately 9% summer spill was decided for subyearlings. After this, study focus switched to yearlings and steelhead embarking on 0% studies, and making sure the 9% summer spill for subyearlings and 0% spill did not impact Sockeye Salmon evaluations at 24% spill. Shortly after this, subyearlings went into Phase III Additional Juvenile Studies. Keller said this is what he was

able to find in the administrative record about the origin of 9% summer spill at Rocky Reach Dam. Chelan PUD is encouraged by the steps the Mid-Columbia PUDs are taking with the new studies being planned for laboratory evaluations for subyearlings in preparation for upcoming survival studies. Hopefully these will inform future subyearling studies and perhaps inform fish passage and 9% spill moving forward to optimize spill and passage efficiency at the project. Keely Murdoch asked whether there was any context about evaluating or revisiting this spill level. It seems odd that the HCP-CC would reduce spill when there were no evaluations on subyearling survival. This part makes her uncomfortable. Keller said this decision was based on fish passage efficiency data and hoping to optimize this with spill efficiency. To some degree, the juvenile bypass system and juvenile fish spill compete with each other, so the HCP-CC was trying to find a way to optimize both. K. Murdoch asked whether the HCP-CC evaluated this after the change. Keller does not believe so because at that point subyearlings went into Phase III – Additional Juvenile Studies. K. Murdoch said it may be a good idea to evaluate this. Keller agreed and thinks this will likely happen as efforts move forward on subyearling laboratory and survival studies. Kirk Truscott asked, although there was no SOA, did the minutes capture unanimous agreement on 9% summer spill? Keller does not believe so. However, the minutes document HCP-CC approval of the fish spill plan with 9% summer spill in it. To note, 9% summer spill is also stipulated in the project license application. Chelan PUD really appreciates the HCP-CC's patience on this action item. Unfortunately, the historical record is not as detailed as it currently is. Please reach out with any further questions.

2. *Chelan PUD will reach out to WDFW about Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval of Chelan PUD's request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item III-A).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
3. *The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will prepare to discuss the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report during the HCP-CCs conference call on November 25, will submit edits and comments before the HCP-CCs conference call on December 15, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item III-B).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.
4. *Chelan PUD will query PIT-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown fish reported in the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Item III-B).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.
5. *Chelan PUD will edit the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report, as follows: 1) potentially update the unknown counts (see action item); 2) revise how 0s are shown in the graphs; 3) remove the superscripts from 2025 in Table 1; and 4) remove bolded formatting from fish counts in Tables 1 and 2 (Item III-B).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.

6. *Chelan PUD will provide an updated summary of recent closures for the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance (TRE) (Item III-D).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.
7. *Douglas PUD will share Biomark's Pateros PIT-Detection Array design specifications once available (Item IV-B).*
   Tom Kahler will send the drawings from the permit package today. *(Note: These drawings were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26, 2025.)*

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) meeting on November 13, 2025.

- *Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project:* The Rock Island HCP-TC received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Phase II Project. The sponsor indicated that because of delays in permitting and access agreements, they would like to extend the contract from July 15, 2025, to October 31, 2026. The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to October 31, 2026.
- *Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds Project:* The Wells HCP-TC received a time extension request from the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation on the Habitat Connectivity Improvement at Twisp Ponds Project. The sponsor indicated that because they need more time to evaluate alternatives for full or partial levee removal, they would like to extend the contract from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026. The Wells HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to December 31, 2026. Kirk Truscott asked, which ponds are these? Hillman said these are the Lower Twisp Ponds. *(Note: Hillman provided maps showing the location of the Twisp River ponds and the proposed connectivity work, which were distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26, 2025).*
- *Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver-Powered Restoration Project:* The Rocky Reach HCP-TC received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the Wenatchee-Entiat Beaver-Powered Restoration Project. The sponsor indicated that because wildfires precluded the implementation of restoration actions in Beaver Creek this year, they would like to extend the contract from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2026. The Rocky Reach HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to December 31, 2026. Truscott asked whether there was any discussion about whether these wildfires caused a change in project implementation. Were there any signs of habitat alterations? Hillman said there was no mention of this. He guessed there may have been some effects in the headwaters, but there was no mention of watershed

disturbance other than no access. The proposal is to move forward as planned. Tom Kahler and Catherine Willard also only recalled the issue with access.

- *Entiat Tributary Baseflow Habitat Restoration Project:* In October, the Rock Island HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from Cascadia Conservation District on the Entiat Tributary Baseflow Habitat Restoration Project. The sponsor indicated that because project implementation is labor intensive, a higher percentage of contract labor is needed to implement the project. As such, they requested a transfer of funds from "Project Materials/Equipment," "Indirect/Overhead/Administration," and "Sponsor: Salaries and Benefits" to "Professional Services: Other" and "Travel." The Rock Island HCP-TC approved the budget amendment. The total contribution from the Rock Island Plan Species Account will not change as a result of this amendment.
- *Equesis Creek-Westside Weirs Fish Passage Restoration Project:* The HCP-TCs received an application from the Okanagan Nation Alliance titled *Equesis Creek-Westside Weirs Fish Passage Restoration Project*. The purpose of this proposed project is to restore fish passage to 19 kilometers (km) of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat in Equesis Creek, a tributary to Okanagan Lake. The proposed project will remove three partial barriers to improve fish passage and increase bed stability and habitat complexity in the lower 1.5 km of the stream. The three partial barriers will be replaced with Newbury riffles. The project will maintain current access to irrigation water for agricultural purposes. Other entities are funding irrigation intake improvements (e.g., screening). The total cost of the project is $991,472. If the sponsor is unable to secure funding from the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program, they will request $635,055 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. If they successfully secure funding from the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program, the request from HCP Plan Species Account Funds would be $381,472. After discussion, the HCP-TCs were unable to make a funding decision without additional information. After the sponsor responds to the HCP-TCs' request for additional information, the HCP-TCs will make a funding decision.

  John Ferguson asked what a Newberry riffle is. Hillman shared on Microsoft Teams the following photograph of a Newberry riffle (from the draft HCP-TCs November 13 minutes):

Ferguson said this looks like a grade control structure. Kahler said it is more than this. These can be installed in channels with no ability to meander and function as a riffle in every sense. It supports spawning gravel upstream, and it is very stable. It is a very useful feature.

Bill Gale said this strikes him as a lot of money, and he asked whether the cost/benefit is in line with other projects. Hillman believes so. This is one of the most important tributaries to Okanagan Lake for Sockeye Salmon, and now that there is passage at the dam, even larger numbers are expected to return. Mission Creek is one major spawning area, Equesis is another, and then there are several smaller tributaries. Managers believe spawning habitat will be a limiting factor for Sockeye Salmon, so opening and improving habitat in spawning tributaries is critical. He believes the benefit outweighs the cost, especially because there are not a lot of spawning tributaries up there. Costs are increasing dramatically to do these types of projects, but this project is in the right location for a big benefit. Kahler agreed this is typical of costs for such actions, which has been a challenge. It was the same for Skaha and others. Every additional spawning area is helpful. The natural production from the Skaha program is amazing, and managers are expecting the same from the Okanagan. This creek is the pinnacle of spawning habitat available to Sockeye Salmon among the 14 major tributaries. Most have really short sections of available habitat before getting really steep. This creek is an exception.

- *HCP Administration:* Based on a request from Chelan Douglas Land Trust, the HCP-TCs added Kristen Kallstrom (American West Ag Appraisals) to their list of approved appraisers. Thus, both Pacific Appraisal Associates and American West Ag Appraisals are approved appraisers.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on December 11, 2025.

Hillman updated the HCP-CCs on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP-HCs meeting on November 19 and 20, 2025 (*Note: Joint HCP-HCs/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP-HC items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HC items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Hatchery M&E Plan Update (joint):* The HCP-HCs continue to work through the M&E plan. They are reviewing and updating language to the plan. They made good progress in November and hope to have a revised plan by early 2026.
- *Otolith Presentation (joint):* WDFW gave a presentation on the use of otoliths collected from adults to describe life-history characteristics of Chinook Salmon. Using laser ablation to identify isotope signatures and ratios (otolith microchemistry), one can identify juvenile migration timing, non-natal habitat use, and growth of Chinook Salmon. The analyses demonstrate that the "typical" yearling tributary migrant is not the only life-history form in Upper Columbia River (UCR) spring Chinook Salmon. Alternative life histories (e.g., spring fry, summer parr, and fall parr) survive and contribute to the adult escapement. These alternative life histories do not appear to be excess to the population. Therefore, they may be important to recovery. Ferguson said there is cutting-edge otolith work ongoing in California to differentiate off-channel habitat use from the mainstem river. *(Note: Ferguson provided an excerpt from this work, which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26, 2025).*
- *2026 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint):* The HCP-HCs are identifying important elements to address in the 2026 Broodstock Collection Protocols. They identified the need to consult early with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the use of the Chiwawa Wier for collecting spring Chinook Salmon broodstock. They are also discussing broodstock collection for the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon program.
- *Twisp River Spring Chinook Salmon Genetic Criteria (Wells):* The Wells HCP-HC is revisiting the criteria for collecting broodstock for the Twisp River spring Chinook Salmon program. In recent years, the program has been unsuccessful in meeting broodstock collection targets for the Twisp River program. The HCP-HCs will discuss the current criteria and may request that NMFS re-evaluate the criteria for compliance with permits.
- *Monitoring Database (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* Chelan PUD is working with WDFW on transferring M&E data from the WDFW database to the Chelan PUD database. Hillman said anyone can submit data requests, like with the WDFW database, then Chelan PUD will deliver the data in the requested format. There will be no write (edit) access unless approved. Willard explained that there has always been a requirement for WDFW to provide Chelan PUD with the raw data, but this has not yet happened because Chelan PUD did not have a database setup. Chelan PUD's database is now set up to receive all data starting in 2026. Truscott asked whether the database can be queried. Willard said Chelan PUD is looking into this. For now, anyone can submit data requests, same as before, only instead of this request going to WDFW, it will go to Chelan PUD. Chelan PUD will provide another update on this topic next

month. Gale asked how this new system will stay coordinated with regional databases, e.g., will WDFW request data from Chelan PUD, then WDFW post this to StreamNet, or will LGL Limited now be posting data to StreamNet? He is also curious about who was awarded the new M&E contracts. Willard said Chelan PUD is tracking uploads to regional databases, but the process is still under discussion, and Hillman will cover M&E contract awards below.

- *Chelan PUD 2026 M&E Implementation Plan (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* Chelan PUD is preparing their 2026 M&E Implementation Plan and will share it with the HCP-HCs as soon as possible. The Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP-HCs will review the plan during the December meeting.
- *HCP Administration:* Chelan and Grant PUDs described the Request for Proposals process for selecting contractors to conduct monitoring work over the next 5 years. The PUDs identified entities that submitted proposals and summarized the scoring and selection process. They also identified contractors who were awarded monitoring contracts. Hillman shared on Microsoft Teams the selections, as follows:

Task	Description	BioAnalysts	Cramer	Four Peaks	Hinchinbrook	LGL	WDFW	CPUD
1	1.2.1. (a) Wenatchee RST					X		
2	1.2.1.(b) Chiwawa RST					X		
3	1.2.2. Electrofishing Nason and Chiwawa					X		
4	1.3.1. Wenatchee SpCh Surveys							X
5	1.3.2. Wenatchee SuCh Surveys							X
6	1.3.3. Chelan SuCh Surveys	X						
7	1.3.4. Wenatchee STHD Surveys							X
8	1.3.5 STHD stock assessment @ OLAFT	X						
9	1.4.1. Tumwater/Dryden stock assessment and trapping						X	
10	1.4.2. Biological sampling for broodstock						X	

Willard said the HCP-HCs did not discuss who was awarded contracts, but Chelan PUD did review the process. Gale had not yet seen this table, which is what he was interested in seeing. There was an article in the Wenatchee World that was confusing. Willard agreed that article was confusing and was not accurate. She clarified that nothing was changed about the methodologies, there are just different entities collecting the data.

- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-HCs will be on December 17 and 18, 2025. This meeting will be virtual.

III. Douglas PUD

A. Draft 2025 Wells Dam Passage-Dates Analysis (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said Rebecca Buchanan and Rich Townsend (Columbia Basin Research) are still addressing comments. Kahler expected the draft analysis back yesterday, so he is unsure about when he will receive it. John Ferguson asked whether Douglas PUD is targeting approval this year. Kahler said it would be ideal to finalize the report this year, but Douglas PUD also wants to provide the Wells HCP-CC adequate time for review. Douglas PUD will follow up with Buchanan Statistical

Services regarding the draft 2025 Wells Dam Passage-Dates Analysis and will provide the draft report for Wells HCP-CC review as soon as possible.

(Note: The draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 3. Douglas PUD will request approval during the conference call on December 15, 2025.)

B. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich reviewed the maintenance updates for Wells Dam, as follows:

Turbine Unit/ Transformer	Date out	Date in	Description	Units Available
Unit 8	9/7/2024	12/12/2025	Unit rebuild	9
Unit 9	1/5/2026	5/1/2027	Unit rebuild	9
Unit 5	2/23/2026	3/27/2026	Biannual maintenance	7
T3	2/23/2026	4/17/2026	Units 5 & 6 unavailable	7
Unit 6	3/30/2026	4/10/2026	Maintenance	7

Gingerich said unit outages will be contemplated in the spill playbook, as needed. John Ferguson asked, with these transformer and unit outages during the early spill period, are there any concerns about managing total dissolved gas (TDG)? Gingerich said the outages will not affect how the bypass is operated per the HCP juvenile bypass requirements, but these could affect what is available to minimize TDG. Because these outages are so early in the season, he is optimistic these will not cause issues, and Douglas PUD has no concerns about the ability to meet terms in the bypass operations plan. All five bypass bays will be available for operations during the April maintenance period.

Wells Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Update

Gingerich reviewed the adult fishway winter maintenance updates for Wells Dam, as follows:

East Fish Ladder (2-week outage)	
12/1/2025	Upper
12/4/2025	Lower
12/18/2025	Return to service
West Fish Ladder (4-week outage)	
12/29/2025	Upper
12/31/2025	Lower
1/23/2026	Return to service

Gingerich said, with two adult ladders at Wells Dam, one ladder is always in operation. One ladder always has a longer winter outage, every other year, to complete more major maintenance. All dates

are tentative, recognizing holidays, weather, and other work. Any changes will be relayed to the Wells HCP-CC.

C. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

Pateros Railroad Bridge

Installation was completed yesterday. The system is already picking up detections, but these are not yet available on the PIT Tag information System (PTAGIS). Detections include five adult steelhead that were tagged at the Priest Rapids Dam (PRD) Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap, one orphan tag, and another orphan tag he assumed this is a release from the Yakama Nation Coho Salmon Program as the PTAGIS metadata indicated it was issued to the YN for that program. This fish was detected on the Lower Twisp array, then 39 hours later at the bridge, so he guessed this is a juvenile Coho Salmon. Again, this is just a partial buildout of the system. If it accomplishes what is expected, Douglas PUD will complete the rest of the buildout.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

Biomark and Douglas PUD engineers have agreed on a new design concept. This is not ready for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) review, but Douglas PUD engineers do not have the time to prepare the level of detailed submission required by FERC. This is something Douglas PUD will need to contract out. This process has been initiated, but this likely means there will not be time to install anything before the next bypass season. Douglas PUD is considering two options of consulting engineers to complete everything, but it is unclear how long this will take. If there is no installation before the 2026 bypass season, nothing can be installed until after the 2026 bypass operations end.

K. Murdoch asked whether Douglas PUD can share the new Wells Dam Spillway 2 Flap Gate PIT-detection design concept once it is available. Kahler said yes.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs for review by Kristi Geris on October 27. Lance Keller recalled his action item to query PIT-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown fish reported in the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report. He explained that fish are scanned for coded wire tags (CWTs) at both projects. However, if a fish is adipose fin (ad)-present and has a PIT tag, it cannot be scanned for a CWT due to a possible false positive. These fish are then moved to the "unknown origin" category. Last month, it was suggested that additional information may be gleaned by querying PTAGIS to

move some of these unknown fish into a known category. This exercise is close to being complete. Recall the assumption was that this would be a small number of fish, which was accurate. There are five fish he is looking into, including one from Kettle Falls, one from the Spokane River, and three from Rufus Woods Lake. He has questions into folks trying to confirm clip status of these fish at the time they were released. Once this information is in-hand, he will incorporate it into the spill report. Because there are so few fish, any changes to the graphs will be minimal.

Keller shared on Microsoft Teams a revised version of the spill report and showed completion of his additional action items, including the following: 1) revising how 0s are shown in the graphs; 2) removing the superscripts from 2025 in Table 1; and 3) removing bolded formatting from fish counts in Tables 1 and 2. He has not yet distributed this revised version because he wants to first complete and incorporate the first action item described above. He hopes to distribute the revised report by next week.

John Ferguson suggested comments by Wednesday, December 10. Keller offered to extend this to December 12. No preferences were expressed. Therefore, the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will submit edits and comments on the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report by December 10, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025.

B. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

Rocky Reach Dam is now an 11-unit plant operating in full Kaplan capability. Turbine Unit C11 was returned to service on October 31, and Turbine Unit C1 was returned to service on November 20.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1 (river left on the Douglas County side), work continues on Turbine Unit B2 with a return-to-service date of June 2027. Work continues on Turbine Unit B8 with a return-to-service date of Q2 2028.

In Powerhouse 2 (river right on the Chelan County side), work continues on Turbine Unit U6 with a return-to-service date of December 3. Work continues on Turbine Unit U5 with a return-to-service date of Q3 2026.

C. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Updates

Lance Keller reviewed the adult fishway maintenance schedules at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rocky Reach Dam

As approved by the Rocky Reach HCP-CC,[1] the upper fishway will be dewatered on December 1. Mechanics will install headgates at the entrance, which will cause the water level to drop down. Fish and Wildlife staff will be on site and will enter the fishway to perform a fish rescue when it is safe to do so. Staff follow the receding water down through the pools. The orifices are alternating. This is a slow process, moving chamber to chamber, which takes about 2.5 hours. Any adult fish recovered will be returned upstream of Rocky Reach Dam, and any juvenile fish will be deposited in the tailrace of Rocky Reach Dam, as requested by the Rocky Reach HCP-CC.

The lower fishway will remain watered up equal to the tailwater elevation, from December 2 to 7, with the entrance gates open, to allow fish in the lower fishway to exit. There will be no attraction water, so no new fish are expected to enter the fishway. On the morning of December 8, mechanics will close all three fishway entrances. At that point, water will be pumped out of the lower fishway. Again, Fish and Wildlife staff will enter the fishway to perform a fish rescue when it is safe to do so and will remove any remaining fish in a similar fashion as the upper fishway. Recall in the past, the lower fishway had been difficult to dewater due to insufficient pump operations. Chelan PUD believes this has been resolved; however, there is a contingency plan for December 9 and December 11 to 12, if needed.

Rock Island Dam

This year, the right ladder will receive the longer outage. After the Rocky Reach Dam upper fishway is dewatered, Fish and Wildlife staff will be at the Rock Island Dam right ladder to begin a 2-day dewatering effort. On December 2, the upper fishway will be dewatered and a fish rescue will be performed in a similar fashion as Rocky Reach Dam. On December 3, the lower fishway will be dewatered and a fish rescue will be performed.

Next, the middle ladder will be dewatered. Mechanics are targeting the second week in December for this outage. Once the middle ladder is returned to service, the left ladder will be dewatered. The winter maintenance period for all three ladders is December through February, with a requirement to keep at least one ladder fully watered and operational during this period.

D. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller shared on Microsoft Teams a Rock Island TRE Closure Dates table (Attachment B), which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 24, 2025. Keller said this is a running table showing the history of closures on the right bank. To note, this table is not just isolated to the

[1] Approved during the HCP-CCs meeting on October 28, 2025.

TRE, and all closures were done with guidance and approval from FPC. As discussed last month, no closures were needed in 2025.

Bill Gale left the conference call.

Keller recalled for background, the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway has four separate entrances: Left Powerhouse Entrance, two Right Powerhouse Entrances (RPEs), and the TRE. All adult fishway entrance slots are fully open vertical slots. High spring flows in the Columbia River cause the elevation of the tailrace to rise. When high tailwater elevations encroach on the fishway entrances (when they exceed 574.5 feet above mean sea level [MSL]), more attraction water needs to be provided to meet the 1.0-foot head differential at all four entrances, which increases velocities through the fishway transportation channels above criteria. A process was developed to close a single entrance so the remaining three entrances can meet the 1.0-foot head differential without exceeding the maximum velocities in the transportation channel. This topic was brought to the Rock Island HCP-CC in 2022, and Rock Island Dam has since been operating on annual SOAs, where the Rock Island HCP-CC grants permission to close the TRE, not only when the tailrace exceeds 574.5 feet above MSL, but when it appears this high tailrace elevation may stay for an extended amount of time. That is, repeatedly opening and closing an entrance is not ideal. Regarding an engineering solution, Chelan PUD is still exploring options. From an engineering standpoint, staff are maxed out, notably due to the alkali silica reaction (concrete growth) work.

Keely Murdoch said this table is what she was looking for. Last month, she wanted to understand how rare it was to not have a closure. Also, after reviewing this table and revisiting the background another option in case there is no engineering solution would be to evaluate which entrance would be best to close, or whether there are any passage delays associated with two or three entrances. It may be worth discussing what an active tag study might look like to evaluate this. Unless the engineering solution is simple, which it does not appear to be, it could be costly, and maybe Chelan PUD does not want to invest in this until there are data supporting the best outcome.

Keller agreed about gaining additional knowledge if an engineering solution is not possible. Chelan PUD has looked into alternatives to closing the TRE, including considering the setup at PRD. However, these efforts are still contingent on engineering capacity. Past FPC annual reports indicate that in previous years when an RPE was closed, FPC suggested it would be better to close the TRE. This is because there is additional attraction to the RPEs provided by a high-volume jet of water designed to attract fish to the RPEs from across the face of the dam and over the draft tube extension. If the TRE is closed, any fish passing the area will arrive at an RPE. These reports also included references to supporting RT studies. Keller said he will review past FPC annual reports for references to these RT studies to share with the HCP-CCs.

Keller said, also of note in this table (Attachment B), from 2022 to 2025, these are the actual dates when the TRE was closed. Prior to this, it was difficult to locate information on the exact closure

dates. Closures only showing months are based on FPC adult fishway inspections that document an entrance was closed. He hopes to fine-tune these dates as more information is located.

John Ferguson suggested for closures with actual dates, adding a column showing the number of calendar days and a column showing proportion of the spring migration period. Keller agreed making the math easy would be appropriate.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. General Updates (All)

John Ferguson asked for any updates.

Andrew Gingerich said as mentioned last month, Douglas PUD has spent some time reviewing data for Wenatchee and Entiat overshoots at Wells Dam, and trying to think of other available datasets related to UCR steelhead. He would like to share these data, and he is considering December or January, but he would like to share the information when the meeting is well-attended by HCP-CCs representatives. Emi Melton said at this point, Scott Carlon indicated he plans to attend the meeting on December 15; however, she cannot attend from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Melton said NMFS prefers January, if possible. No other preferences were expressed. Ferguson suggested that Douglas PUD provide this presentation during the HCP-CCs conference call on January 27, 2026.

Keely Murdoch said it was shared with the HCP-HCs, that the parentage-based tagging (PBT)/genetic stock identification (GSI) report from PRD is finalized and those data are ready to be added to the Patch Occupancy Model (POM). K. Murdoch believes this report would also be very informative to this overshoot discussion. This was one of the objectives of this exercise, while the other was related to hatchery M&E. John Rohrback said this is correct. Genetic samples were collected at PRD, which will continue as part of adult steelhead M&E at PRD. A draft report was distributed, it was reviewed with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), and it was recently finalized. The idea was to append these PBT/GSI data assigning fish to hatchery programs or natural-origin genetic stocks to PIT-tags deployed for the monitoring effort at PRD and also incorporate these data into the POM and other models to fine-tune spawning escapement models. Rohrback believes WDFW is the entity responsible for annually running the POM, and he will work with WDFW to incorporate these data as planned. K. Murdoch asked about a timeline. Rohrback said in the past, Douglas PUD has received the report outlining spawning escapement in the Methow that assigns fish to natural or hatchery origin programs in late January or early February each year. He does not believe the POM for spawning year 2025 is complete yet, but it should be forthcoming in the next few months. Chad Jackson suspects that WDFW will incorporate CRITFC's PBT/GSI report data into the steelhead POM, but he will verify this internally. *(Note: Jackson confirmed this is the case, as distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26.)*

Ferguson asked whether this final PBT/GSI report should be distributed to the HCP-CCs. K. Murdoch believes it should be. *(Note: Rohrback provided the final technical report,* Stock Specific Abundance of Priest Rapids Dam Summer Steelhead with PBT/GSI, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, FY2024-2025*, which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Geris on November 26, 2025.)*

VI. HCP Administration

A. NMFS HCP-CC Alternate – Emi Melton (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said a formal designation letter is forthcoming. Emi Melton said her supervisor is out through next week, but she hopes to have a letter by the end of next week or the week after. *(Note: This letter was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on December 8, 2025.)*

B. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams. The next joint session (Joint Session 12) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meetings on January 27 and February 24, 2026, are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

Outlook placeholders for 2026 meetings have been distributed. The final 2026 meeting schedule (same as 2025) will be distributed once logistics are confirmed and finalized. *(Note: The final schedule was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on November 26, 2025.)*

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 11 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Rock Island TRE Closure Dates table

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Emi Melton*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*†	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
Kirk Truscott*	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP-CC representative or alternate.

† Left conference call during Item IV-D.

FINAL

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ANCHOR QEA

Memorandum

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

Date: January 28, 2026

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chair

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: Final Minutes of the December 15, 2025, HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs) met virtually by Microsoft Teams on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

1. Douglas PUD will share the Wells Dam Spillway 2 Flap Gate Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Detection design concept once it is available (Item I-C).
2. Chelan PUD will review past Fish Passage Center (FPC) Annual Reports for references to the radio telemetry (RT) studies that support guidance on how to best manage head differentials and transport channel velocities during high river flows at the four entrances to the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway (Item I-C).
3. The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams conference call. The next joint session (Joint Session 13) with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined) (Item VI-B).

Decision Summary

1. Wells HCP-CC representatives present approved the 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis (Item III-A).
2. Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs representatives present approved the *Chelan PUD Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCPs Draft 2025 Fish Spill Report* (2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report), as revised (Item IV-A).

Agreements

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

Review Items

1. The draft *2026 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan* and appended *Wells Bypass Operating Plan* (2026 GAP/BOP) and associated draft *Statement of Agreement* were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 23, 2026 (Item III-C).
2. The draft *2026 Wells HCP Action Plan* was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris before the HCP-CCs meeting on January 27, and an updated draft (version 2) was distributed after the meeting on January 27, 2026.

Finalized Documents

1. The final report, *Osoyoos Lake Sockeye Salmon (Oncorhynchus nerka) return abundance (1977-2023), adult age composition (1985-2023), and marine survival (1998-2021) (Bailey et al. 2025)*, was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 27, 2025.[1]
2. The final Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) report, *Okanagan Fish and Water Management Tools (FWMT) water year 2024-2025*, was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 8, 2025.
3. The final 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris after the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item IV-A).
4. The final 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 18, 2025 (Item III-A).
5. The final *2025 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan*, which was approved by the Rocky Reach HCP-CC on March 25, 2025, was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 5, 2026.
6. The *2024 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Final Report*, which was approved by the Rock Island HCP-CC on March 25, 2025, was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 5, 2026.
7. The final statement of agreement, *Closure of Rock Island Right Bank Adult Fishway TRE Entrance During High Flows and Tailwater Elevation*, which was approved by the Rock Island HCP-CC on March 25, 2025, was distributed to the Rock Island HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 5, 2026.
8. The *Northern Pikeminnow Predator Control Program Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Final Summary Report 2023*, which was finalized on May 27, 2025, after a 60-day review, and edits and comments received from the Parties were fully vetted and revisions were approved by the commentors, was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on January 5, 2026.
9. The final ONA report, *Osoyoos Lake: In-lake 2023 (BY2022), and Historical Temporal Summary*, was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 5, 2026.

[1] Reporting finalization and distribution of this report was inadvertently overlooked in January 2025, so including this here for the administrative record.

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP-CCs and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Tom Kahler added 2026 GAP/BOP.
- Kristi Geris added National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) HCP Representation Designation Letter.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (Kristi Geris)

The HCP-CCs reviewed the revised draft November 25 conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said edits received were minor clarifications, which were incorporated into the revised minutes. John Rohrback and Keely Murdoch each provided one additional clarifying edit. Geris acknowledged the shortened review period resulting from the Thanksgiving holiday and rescheduled December meeting and asked whether HCP-CCs representatives were ready to approve or would like additional time. HCP-CCs representatives present approved the November 25 conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP-CCs meeting on November 25 and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on November 25)*:

1. *Chelan PUD will reach out to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) about Rocky Reach HCP-CC approval of Chelan PUD's request for an early outage of the Rocky Reach Dam adult fishway during the upcoming winter maintenance period (Item I-C).*
   Lance Keller said he and Chad Jackson spoke this morning and covered this early outage topic. Jackson said he appreciated the explanation and has nothing to add.
2. *Douglas PUD will follow up with Buchanan Statistical Services regarding the draft 2025 Wells Dam Passage-Dates Analysis and will provide the draft report for Wells HCP-CC review as soon as possible (Item III-A).*
   The draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 3.
3. *Douglas PUD will share the Wells Dam Spillway 2 Flap Gate PIT Detection design concept once it is available (Item III-C).*
   This action item will be carried forward.
4. *Chelan PUD will query PIT-tag files of the unclipped recaptures at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams in 2025, to potentially reduce the number of unknown fish reported in the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Item IV-A).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.

5. *The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs will submit edits and comments on the draft 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report by December 10, and will be prepared for a decision during the conference call on December 15, 2025 (Item IV-A).*
   This will be discussed during today's conference call.
6. *Chelan PUD will review past FPC Annual Reports for references to the RT studies that support guidance on how to best manage head differentials and transport channel velocities during high river flows at the four entrances to the Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway (Item IV-D).*
   This action item will be carried forward.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Hatchery Committees (HCP-HCs) will meet on December 17 and 18, 2025.

Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees (HCP-TCs) did not meet in December; however, they did address a couple of decision items via email:

- *Entiat Tributary Baseflow Habitat Restoration Project:* The Rock Island HCP-TC received a time extension request from Cascadia Conservation District on the Entiat Tributary Baseflow Habitat Restoration Project. The sponsor indicated that because wildfires prevented the implementation of the project in 2025, they asked to extend the contract from October 31, 2026, to October 31, 2027. The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to extend the contract period to October 31, 2027.
- *Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project:* The Rock Island HCP-TC received a budget amendment request from the Okanagan Nation Alliance on the Okanagan Lake Dam East Salmon Passage Project. The sponsor requested a transfer of $22,274.17 from "Contract Labor" and $100 from "Sponsor: Travel" to "Professional Services: Other." In addition, they requested a transfer of $157.26 from "Sponsor: Travel" to "Professional Services: Engineering." The Rock Island HCP-TC agreed to the budget line-item adjustments. The total contribution from the Rock Island Plan Species Account will not change as a result of this amendment.
- *NMFS Representation:* In a recent letter from Nancy Munn, NMFS designated Scott Carlon as their representative and Sean Gross as their alternate on the HCP-TCs.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP-TCs will be on January 8, 2026.

III. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 Wells Dam Passage-Dates Analysis (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 3. Kahler asked whether Wells

HCP-CC representatives had a chance to review this, have any questions, or would like a walk-through. Bill Gale requested a walk-though.

Kahler said there are five bypass bays at Wells Dam, and the Wells HCP specifies that a bypass must be operating when the adjacent turbine is operating. All five bypass bays must be operating when Chief Joseph Dam is discharging 140,000 cubic feet per second (140 kcfs) or greater. The Wells HCP also stipulates that bypass operations must cover the 95th percentile of the spring and summer migrations of HCP Plan Species. In the past, the Wells Dam bypass started on April 12 of each year based on historical hydroacoustic and fyke-net data that indicated that the 5th percentile of spring migrants passes Wells Dam by this date. In 2012, this start date was moved to April 9 based on the analysis of run timing at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass Sampling Facility (RRJFBS), which suggested an earlier migration for yearling Chinook Salmon. In 2025, this start date was adjusted again to April 3 based on a bootstrap method. Termination of bypass operations is based on the Columbia River Data Access in Real Time Program RealTime estimate of the date on which the 95th percentile of subyearling migrants pass Rocky Reach Dam. A travel-time adjustment between Rocky Reach and Wells dams is applied to that date to determine how well the migration was covered at Wells Dam. Columbia Basin Research, formerly Drs. John Skalski and Rich Townsend and now Drs. Rebecca Buchanan and Townsend, develop this Passage-Dates Analysis each year to report on how well these start and end dates covered the outmigration of Coho Salmon, yearling and subyearling Chinook Salmon, steelhead, and Sockeye Salmon.

Outmigration timing for Sockeye Salmon is based on index counts at RRJFBS. Timing for all other species of yearling migrants is based on detection at RRJ[2] of PIT tags from above Wells Dam. For subyearlings, timing is based on index counts at RRJFBS, but this is also scrutinized by passage timing of PIT-tagged wild subyearlings from above Wells Dam detected at RRJ. For bypass performance, the Wells HCP does not specify looking separately at hatchery versus wild; rather, just the migration of these Plan Species. That is, the combined hatchery and wild reporting represents how well the 95% standard was achieved. Kahler reviewed each table, figure, and appendix in this Passage-Dates Analysis. In 2025, bypass operations were provided for greater than 95% of the outmigration for each Plan Species at Wells Dam.

Kahler said, again, this document is reporting what happened this year, and the results will be considered for bypass operations next year. Douglas PUD is hoping for approval of the report this calendar year but also recognizes the short review period and understands the potential need for additional time for review.

Emi Melton left the conference call.

[2] Rocky Reach surface collector PIT array (site code RRJ in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).

Keely Murdoch said because this document is reporting what happened last year, the Yakama Nation (YN) is supportive of voting to approve today. Regarding this document teeing up a plan for next year, she recalled asking in the past why protect only the tail 95% of the yearling migration and front 95% of the subyearling migration and whether there is a way to break up spring and summer spill where there is a gap in the middle. Her concern is the current bypass operations at Wells Dam are systematically under-protecting the wild portion of both runs. This does not affect this document, but it would affect the GAP/BOP. She asked whether this approach was memorialized in a statement of agreement and were implications to wild fish discussed at that time. Kahler said there used to be a hiatus between spring and summer spill, but now the tails overlap and there is no gap between the emigration distributions of spring and summer migrants. During the era of fyke netting and hydroacoustic investigations, there was a gap in those distributions, but at some point, these converged. Instead of a spring stop and summer start, this just became one single bypass spill covering both spring and summer. It was more of an evolution of decision-making rather than conscience decision to just work on the front end. K. Murdoch suspects it would be practical to do it this way, but it would still be helpful to review these conversations to see whether implications to wild fish were considered. Kahler said Douglas PUD would not propose implementing a gap in bypass operations again but would be supportive of further discussing what is happening during the front end of the migration.

Bill Gale said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is also supportive of voting to approve when the other Parties are ready. What struck him is that there does appear to be a difference between the wild and hatchery spring Chinook Salmon migrations. Wild fish either have a more protracted migration period or are selecting earlier dates to migrate; maybe it is both. This makes him wonder whether the HCP-HCs should consider moving hatchery releases to earlier dates. These data suggest that wild fish are doing something different than the hatchery programs, and the hatchery programs are meant to mirror the wild migration, not the other way around. Kahler said this has been discussed in the past. Absolutely wild and hatchery fish are different. Hatchery managers are choosing migration dates for hatchery fish. However, there are HCP-HCs considerations which make it challenging to change release-date timing. For example, the HCP-HCs have a goal to achieve a maximum hatchery replacement rate (HRR). To do this, hatchery fish are acclimated at acclimation sites with a desire to release these fish in the best outmigration conditions possible. If the freshet is late, hatchery managers will hold these fish as long as possible. If managers change the release strategy for hatchery fish to match wild fish, there may be consequences for HRR that would not mesh with the objectives of the HCP-HCs. Further, it seems that wild fish have this longer tail at the front end of the migration. How do managers choose which hatchery fish to release early to match this wild fish distribution? Ideally, all hatchery fish are released at the peak of the wild migration. Then managers would not hold back hatchery releases to match the tail end of the migration. There is still some mismatch of these distributions even when managers try to match them. Gale agreed the wild and hatchery distributions may never match, but it seems there could be options such as

staggered hatchery releases instead of all occurring at the same time. He said managers are doing what they believe is best for hatchery fish, but clearly wild fish are making a different decision. John Ferguson said this could just be variable environmental conditions.

Andrew Murdoch said under the current paradigm, in general, hatchery fish are released at or after spill starts. When evaluating spill operations with combined wild and hatchery fish, these numbers will always look like this. There are so many more hatchery fish than wild fish, the numbers will always look good. This is controlled by releasing hatchery fish after spill starts. He wants to consider how to evaluate spill using project independent data to get a better assessment of what is really happening. Under the current paradigm, hatchery fish are protected no matter what.

Ferguson said this was a good discussion to consider while drafting the forthcoming 2026 GAP/BOP. He is unsure whether there is a way to test an early release. Kahler believes this would require developing a study approach. Ferguson asked whether the other Parties are ready to vote on this draft 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis.

Wells HCP-CC representatives present approve the 2025 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis.

The final document was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris on December 18, 2025.

B. Wells Dam Maintenance Update (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said the maintenance schedule for Wells Dam is the same as last month.

Wells Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Update

Gingerich reviewed the adult fishway winter maintenance updates for Wells Dam, as follows:

- The east fish ladder maintenance is complete. This was the shorter outage.
- The west fish ladder maintenance is scheduled for the last week in December. Tentatively, on Monday, December 29, the upper section will be dewatered, and on Wednesday, December 31, the collection gallery will be dewatered. This will be the longer outage (4 to 6 weeks).

A Wells Dam east ladder fish salvage memorandum was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on December 4, 2025. John Ferguson asked whether there was anything noteworthy to report. Gingerich said nothing noteworthy about Plan Species salvaged, but one adult Pacific Lamprey and 10 juvenile Pacific Lamprey were rescued and released. Other noteworthy species included one Tiger Trout and one Bull Trout.

C. 2026 GAP/BOP (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said if the Wells HCP-CC is interested in discussing alternate Wells Dam bypass operations start and stop dates for 2026, there is some time but not a whole lot. Douglas PUD hopes to distribute a package for review by early to mid-January for approval in February, and submittal to

the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by February 28. Recall, this package is also cross walked with the Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) per a Washington State Department of Ecology requirement. The package includes the Bypass Operating Plan, Gas Abatement Plan, and Spill Playbook. These documents guide bypass operations to meet FERC dam safety requirements, maximize safe passage of migrating Plan Species, and minimize total dissolved gas production.

John Ferguson expressed a little concern about timing given the Item III-A discussion that just occurred and suggested blocking out time in the January meeting for this agenda topic. This discussion could take a while and may require an extra meeting between the January and February meetings. Any proposed changes here will also need to be reviewed and approved by the Aquatic SWG, all before the FERC deadline at the end of February.

The draft 2026 GAP/BOP and associated draft *Statement of Agreement* were distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Kristi Geris on January 23, 2026.

D. Wells Dam PIT-Detection Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler reviewed PIT-detection updates for the Wells Project, as follows.

Spillway 2 Flap Gate

The impetus for exploring better detection at Wells Dam was to get away from relying on a Rocky Reach-to-Wells travel-time estimation to estimate passage timing at Wells Dam. This Spillway 2 Flap-Gate design is Douglas PUD's attempt to improve detection probability, and detection in general, at Wells Dam. If this flap gate design works in Spillway 2, the plan is to expand this detection design to Spillway 10. Douglas PUD is also looking into other more complicated options for spill gate detection in the future.

The Spillway 2 Flap-Gate detection system is behind schedule. Douglas PUD hoped to have this operational when the Pateros Railroad Bridge PIT Detection System went operational. Kahler recalled that the original flap-gate design was rejected during a review by internal engineering and operations staff, but the new design has been accepted. Douglas PUD has started the process of obtaining FERC approval. The first step is to have engineers write up a report to FERC on the flap-gate design, as proposed, describing the ability to remain attached to the flap-gate without changing the hydraulic characteristics of the structure itself, and remain complaint with dam safety, among other things. Due to availability and necessary expertise, Douglas PUD's internal engineering staff requested consulting an outside engineering firm to provide this report. This process is in the works. Douglas PUD is getting contracting in place, but there is no chance this will be completed in time to begin work prior to 2026 bypass operations. Therefore, Douglas PUD hopes to have the Spillway 2 Flap-Gate detection system in place for 2027 bypass operations.

Tracy Hillman asked whether a flap-gate is the same as a bypass control gate. Kahler said no and yes, and he suggested that Hillman join Douglas PUD and Emi Melton on a tour of Wells Dam to view this infrastructure.

John Ferguson asked about the horizontal distribution through the Wells Dam spillways. Would Spillway 10 get more detection than Spillway 2? Kahler said based on the historical fyke-net data, yearlings tend to pass more from the middle to the right side of the project, so Spillway 2 to Spillway 4, whereas subyearlings passed more from Spillway 8 to Spillway 10. Douglas PUD believes this may be why the Spillway 2 detector (WEJ[3]) has more detections of particularly steelhead but also Coho Salmon and less so yearling Chinook Salmon, and very few subyearlings. If these old data hold, Douglas PUD expects a Spillway 10 Flap-Gate detection system could detect more subyearlings.

Pateros Railroad Bridge

As discussed last month, the Pateros Railroad Bridge PIT-Tag Detection System is now operational. This site is also now live on PTAGIS and is called "Methow Train Bridge," or "MTB". Kahler described the antenna identification system, which can be found here: https://www.ptagis.org/Sites/InterrogationSites?code=MTB#siteInfo--configuration.

To date, there have been 28 detections, including 15 adult steelhead and a couple adult Coho Salmon, and the rest are juvenile Chinook Salmon and orphan tags. In talking with Ben Goodman (WDFW), these are probably wild Chinook Salmon tagged at screw traps or via electrofishing efforts.

Andrew Gingerich received a photograph from the recent heavy rainfall when river flow was nearly 10 kcfs out of the Methow Basin, which is peak level freshet flow, and yet the top of MTB was still out of water. This was somewhat of an early test in terms of improved systematic detection during high river flow. The system survived and there was top-to-bottom detection. Ferguson asked if 10 kcfs is the 10-year or 20-year recurrence interval. Kahler guessed the 10-year. Gingerich agreed and added that sometimes the freshet in the Methow is higher, but this does not typically occur in December. *(Note: The photograph of MTB during high river flow was distributed to the Wells HCP-CC by Geris after the conference call on December 15.)*

Bill Towey left the conference call.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report (Lance Keller)

The revised 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on December 12. Lance Keller recalled discussing a number of revisions last month that were incorporated into this revised report. Per the last remaining action

[3] Wells Dam bypass sampler (site code WEJ in the Columbia Basin PTAGIS).

item, one fish was moved from unknown to hatchery. As suspected, the graph did not visually change, but this revision is reflected here.

Keely Murdoch noted that the same issues she raised about the 2026 Wells Dam GAP/BOP (see Item III-A) applies to the 2026 Rocky Reach and Rock Island bypass operations documents.

Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs representatives present approved the 2025 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report), as revised.

The final report was distributed to the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP-CCs by Geris after the conference call on December 15, 2025.

B. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller reviewed maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows.

Rock Island Dam

In Powerhouse 1, work continues on Turbine Unit B2 with a return-to-service date of Q1 2027. Work continues on Turbine Unit B8 with a return-to-service date of Q2 2028.

In Powerhouse 2, Turbine Unit U6 was returned to service on December 3. Work continues on Turbine Unit U5 with a return-to-service date of Q2 2027.

Rocky Reach Dam

Rocky Reach Dam is still an 11-unit plant operating in full Kaplan capability. Looking ahead, Turbine Unit C4 will be removed from service on January 5 to inspect and replace the thrust cooler. The return-to-service date is January 23, 2026.

C. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Winter Maintenance Updates

Lance Keller reviewed the details described in a Rocky Reach and Rock Island Adult Fishway Fish Rescue Email (Attachment B), which was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris after the conference call on December 15, 2025.

D. Rock Island Dam Right Bank Adult Fishway Tailrace Entrance Engineering Solution Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD has no updates to share on this topic today.

V. Upper Columbia River Steelhead Overshoots

A. General Updates (All)

John Ferguson asked for any updates.

Chad Jackson said WDFW's legal review is still in process.

Bill Gale said USFWS has no update, but he understands the PUDs and NMFS are working on some level of response to the YN's letter,[4] and he is curious about the status of this.

Keely Murdoch said that since the last HCP-CCs meeting, the YN had individual meetings with Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD to discuss this letter. David Blodgett, III, has also reached out to Nancy Munn to schedule a meeting with NMFS, but he has not yet heard back. K. Murdoch wants to be clear that the YN's office of legal counsel is advising that the HCPs apply to all anadromous steelhead. This is the agreement the YN signed. The YN considers that any assertion that steelhead impacted by the projects falls outside of the HCPs constitutes noncompliance with the HCPs. The YN is taking this very seriously. The YN appreciates the Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD meetings; however, she does not believe everything has been resolved. It will be important to have a discussion with NMFS. At the end of the Douglas PUD meeting, the YN did request that Douglas PUD provide a response in writing. This same request was made to Chelan PUD via email following the in-person meeting.

Scott Carlon said Munn responded to Blodgett with a request for dates after the New Year, but Carlon is unsure whether Blodgett has responded. K. Murdoch will follow up with Blodgett about scheduling this meeting.

Andrew Gingerich said there were both productive and unproductive parts to Douglas PUD's meeting with the YN. Douglas PUD and the YN have different interpretations of the issues. He believes Douglas PUD's interpretation is consistent with NMFS. Douglas PUD also takes Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance seriously. The HCP-CCs have been discussing overshoots over the past few years, including mention of some out-of-basin stocks not covered under Section 10. This presents a challenge with ESA requirements. Douglas PUD shared with the YN that Douglas PUD sent a letter to NMFS seeking technical assistance from NMFS, understanding that these out-of-basin fish are interacting with the Wells Project and Douglas PUD intends to remain compliant with ESA. Douglas PUD suspects this will lead to Section 7 consultation. Douglas PUD believes the YN letter underscores the importance that these fish are not protected under Section 10. There have been good discussions within the HCP-PCs, and now with NMFS. More to come on this topic. Ferguson asked what this letter means in terms of process. Carlon confirmed that Douglas PUD's letter initiated an informal consultation process, or "pre-consultation discussions" that may or may not lead to consultation under the ESA. Gingerich noted that Douglas PUD does intend to provide a written response to the YN, as requested.

[4] Regarding, "HCP Definitions of Plan and Permit Species Must Include Overshooting Steelhead," distributed to the HCP-PCs on August 22, 2025.

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD also sent NMFS a technical assistance memorandum. Chelan PUD also takes ESA compliance seriously and is waiting to hear from NMFS regarding next steps.

Gale asked whether NMFS's recommendation via this informal consultation between NMFS and the PUDs requires coming back to the HCP Parties. It seems there are conversations ongoing outside of the HCP-CCs, and he is curious how this comes back to the HCP Parties. Carlon said these initial conversations are still being vetted internally by NMFS. NMFS has some thoughts on how to do this—he does not see this happening in a vacuum, and he believes everything will come out naturally as the process proceeds. Ferguson recalled a comment from Ritchie Graves (former NMFS HCP-PCs representative) during the last HCP-PCs meeting[5] that if this goes to formal consultation, that will only be between the PUDs, NMFS, and FERC, which is why Graves was pushing the HCP-CCs to reach agreement within the HCP-CCs where all Parties are present. Coordination will occur with the other Parties, but the formal consultation process involves the PUDs, NMFS, and FERC. *(Correction: After reviewing the HCP-PCs meeting minutes, Graves said this process only involves the PUDs, USFWS, and NMFS.)*

Gingerich said the HCP-CCs can agree that Entiat and Wenatchee fish are HCP Plan Species, so Douglas PUD plans to share data in January toward why these fish are overshooting, management strategies in the lower river, and in general what data are available. Ferguson agreed discussing these data is consistent with the HCP-PCs guidance to the HCP-CCs.

VI. HCP Administration

A. NMFS HCP Representation Designation Letter (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said a representation designation letter was distributed to the HCP-CCs by Kristi Geris on December 8, 2025. As discussed last month, Emi Melton is the new NMFS HCP-CCs alternate. Also, Nancy Munn is officially the new NMFS HCP-PCs representative, Jennie Franks is the new NMFS HCP-PCs alternate, Scott Carlon is officially the new HCP-TCs representative, and Sean Gross is the new HCP-TCs alternate.

Carlon added that Franks is the interim supervisor but may become the new supervisor. Franks replaced Ritchie Graves (NMFS, retired) in the Branch Chief position.

B. 2025 HCP Annual Report Schedules (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson reviewed the following schedule:

- Wells: HCP-CC 70-day review is from Friday, February 20 to Tuesday, May 5.

[5] HCP-PCs meeting on April 8, 2025.

- Rock Island and Rocky Reach: HCP-CCs 70-day review is from Tuesday, February 24 to Thursday, May 7.

Ferguson noted that he plans to help with review of the annual reports.

C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP-CCs meeting is on January 27, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams. The next joint session (Joint Session 13) with the PRCC to discuss subyearlings will be held this same day (schedule to be determined).

The HCP-CCs meetings on February 24 and March 24 are from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will be held virtually by Microsoft Teams.

VII. Joint Session with the PRCC

A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (John Ferguson and Larissa Rohrbach)

The HCP-CCs and PRCC convened Joint Session 12 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees
Attachment B Rocky Reach and Rock Island Adult Fishway Fish Rescue Email

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA
Tracy Hillman	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey†	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
John Rohrback	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Emi Melton*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	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-CC representative or alternate.

† Bill Towey left the conference call after Item III-D, and Emi Melton left the conference call during Item III-A.