

FINAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs
Coordinating Committees **Date:** November 19, 2013

From: Michael Schiewe, Chair

Cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the October 22, 2013 HCPs Coordinating Committees
Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will provide an official letter designating the current WDFW HCP Coordinating Committees representation to Kristi Geris for the administrative record (Item II-A).
 - Lance Keller will provide unmarked yearling Chinook index counts at Rocky Reach for periods prior to April 17, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item III-A).
 - Steve Hemstrom will provide the raw data used to develop the original and updated flow duration curves for valid survival studies to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item III-B).
 - Steve Hemstrom will review the calculations used to develop the updated flow duration curve for valid survival studies, for discussion at the Coordinating Committees' meeting on November 19, 2013 (Item III-B).
 - **The next Coordinating Committees' meeting will be on November 19, 2013, and will be held in person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington (Item VI-A).**
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DECISION SUMMARY

- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the Rock Island and Rocky Reach 2013 Fish Spill Report, as revised (Item III-A).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report, as revised (WDFW abstained citing their recent changes in HCP representation) (Item IV-A).

AGREEMENTS

- Chelan PUD agreed to incorporate a graphic for Rock Island spring spill in future Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Reports (Item III-A).

REVIEW ITEMS

- There are no documents that are currently out for review.

REPORTS FINALIZED

- The final Wells Hydroelectric Project Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 15, 2013, and was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 17, 2013.
 - The final Wells Hydroelectric Project Water Quality Attainment Plan (WQAP), which was approved by the Coordinating Committees on October 9, 2013, was filed with FERC on October 21, 2013, and was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on that same day.
 - The final 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report, which was approved by the Coordinating Committees on October 22, 2013, was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on that same day.
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I. Welcome

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Coordinating Committees and asked for any additions or other changes to the agenda. Jeff Korth requested a WDFW HCP Coordinating Committees representation update.

A. Meeting Minutes Approval (Mike Schiewe)

The Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft September 24, 2013 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said that a second revised draft was distributed to the Coordinating Committees on October 18, 2013, which included edits received from Bryan Nordlund (tracked in redline strikeout). Geris said that all other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated in the revised minutes, and that there were no outstanding edits or questions to discuss. The Coordinating Committees members present approved the draft September 24, 2013 meeting minutes, as revised; WDFW abstained citing recent changes in their HCP representation. Geris will finalize the meeting minutes and distribute them to the Committees.

II. WDFW

A. WDFW HCP Coordinating Committees Representation Update (Jeff Korth)

Jeff Korth, WDFW Region 2 Fish Program Manager, announced that he will replace Teresa Scott as the WDFW HCP Coordinating Committees representative. He said he has been following correspondences with Bill Tweit and Scott in the HCP Tributary Committees, and that he has also been on the Coordinating Committees' distribution list for a couple of weeks now. He said that WDFW will provide an official letter designating the current WDFW HCP Coordinating Committees representation to Kristi Geris for the administrative record.

III. Chelan PUD

A. DECISION: Rock Island and Rocky Reach 2013 Fish Spill Report (Steve Hemstrom)

Steve Hemstrom said that the revised draft 2013 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Report (Attachment B) was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 11, 2013. He noted that for summer spill, a daily spill percentage line was added to the graphics in the report, as requested by the Coordinating Committees at the meeting on September 24, 2013. He explained that daily average spill levels are based on estimated

discharge at Chief Joseph Dam (CJD) from the day before. For example, if CJD discharges 160,000 cubic feet per second (160 kcfs), 20% of that is calculated to determine that Rocky Reach should spill 32 kcfs. He said that these estimates are not always accurate, which explains the variance in the daily spill percentage lines as depicted on the graphics. He said, for example, that data from this month indicate that CJD estimates were off for about 9 days straight. He said that CJD estimates and actuals are continually tracked, so that spill at Rocky Reach can be modified to compensate for these errors in estimations.

Mike Schiewe asked about the period on the Rocky Reach graphic from mid-June to the first week of July where the spill line spiked and subyearling passage (counts at the Rocky Reach Bypass sampling facility) went down; he noted that immediately following the spike in spill, the passage went back up. He asked if the spike in spill reflected added flow, which pushed fish into the reservoir; or if it was a case where fish passed via spill and did not show up in the bypass count. Hemstrom said that both could be possible, and Lance Keller also noted that volitional hatchery releases ended about then, which means that all fish remaining were forced out at that time.

Kirk Truscott asked if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is consistent in any way with regards to discharges out of CJD (e.g., typically discharge greater or less than estimated, etc.); and Hemstrom replied that they are not consistent from day to day. He said that Chelan PUD does the best they can to catch up the next day; or, for example, spill at Rocky Reach will be increased if daily estimates at CJD have been too low, to prepare for spilling the right percentage of the anticipated additional water.

Truscott noted that a graphic is included for Rock Island summer spill, but not for spring spill, and he requested that, in future spill reports, a graphic be included for spring spill. Chelan PUD agreed to incorporate a graphic for Rock Island spring spill in future Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Reports. Truscott also asked if there is a way to delineate between spring Chinook and steelhead natural origin recruits (NORs) and hatchery origin recruits (HORs) in the bypass counts. He added that he is particularly interested in evaluating spill protection for spring Chinook NORs. Keller said that there are data for marked and unmarked migrants, which are combined before uploading to the Data Access in Real Time (DART) database. He said that he will provide unmarked yearling Chinook index

counts at Rocky Reach for periods prior to spill start on April 17, to Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees. Hemstrom asked if there are spring Chinook HORs that are adipose fin (ad)-present, and Tom Kahler replied that there are, but they are also wired. Keller said that neither Rocky Reach nor Rock Island interrogate for coded wire tags (CWTs); they only look for ad-present and no-clipped. He added that scanning for CWTs is not performed because doing so requires additional handling and time. He also added that at Rocky Reach, lengths are only obtained on the first 100 fish of each species. Keller noted that the objectives of the bypass are to obtain run times, monitor spill coverage, and provide study fish for survival studies; and also instantaneous data on descaling and mortalities are obtained. Truscott concluded, then, that the only way to differentiate between spring Chinook NORs and HORs would be to scan for CWTs; and Keller added that the other option would be to make proportional assumptions based on fin clips.

The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the Rock Island and Rocky Reach 2013 Fish Spill Report, as revised.

B. Valid Study Flow Duration Curves (Steve Hemstrom)

Steve Hemstrom said that the 2013 Valid Study Flow Duration Curve Updates (Attachment C) were distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 11, 2013. He reviewed page 1 of the document, and explained that the goal was to include enough background information to serve as a stand-alone document, including information about the purpose and history of the HCP valid study flow duration curve, and a description of those data used to develop both the original curve and the updated curves. Hemstrom said that he will provide the raw data used to develop the original and updated flow duration curves for valid survival studies to Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees.

Hemstrom reviewed Table 1 and Figure 1 in Attachment C, which he explained represent the original spring period HCP valid study flow duration curve. He noted that the 10th percentile flow is 205,381 cfs, and the 90th percentile flow is 100,523 cfs; and so flows between those levels would be a valid flow in a study. Hemstrom then reviewed Table 2 and Figure 2, which represent an updated spring period HCP valid study flow duration curve using both modeled and actual data; he noted the 10th percentile flow of 296,117 cfs and the 90th percentile flow of 103,410 cfs. He said that, lastly for the spring period, Table 3 and

Figure 3 represent an updated HCP valid study flow duration curve using only actual data, and he noted the 10th percentile flow of 181,635 cfs, and the 90th percentile flow of 90,325 cfs. Hemstrom noted that the updated curves were developed using the last 11 years of data (i.e., 2002 through 2012), as opposed to 10 years of data, as outlined in the HCPs. He also noted Table 7 on the last page of Attachment C, which provides a comparison of the original and updated spring period HCP valid study flow duration curve parameters.

Bryan Nordlund asked about the difference in high end flows in Tables 1 and 2, and said he was finding it difficult to reconcile the difference based on only 11 years of data. Hemstrom agreed and suggested that the difference was due to the recent high flow years. Nordlund said a few high flow years still would not explain the large difference. He noted, for example, the top flow in Table 1 of 255,259 cfs, and then noted that after adding only 11 years of record (i.e., Table 2), there are 20 flows greater than 250,000 cfs. Nordlund noted similar differences in the summer period HCP valid study flow duration curve (i.e., Tables 4, 5, 6, and 8). Hemstrom agreed that the numbers did not seem correct, and said that he will review the calculations used to develop the updated flow duration curve for valid survival studies, for discussion at the Coordinating Committees' meeting on November 19, 2013. Nordlund speculated that perhaps different means were used to develop the original and updated curves; for example, a mean for an entire period versus daily means.

Nordlund said that these data are useful, and he noted that the reason for bringing these data before the Coordinating Committees is to obtain this type of technical review of the results. Schiewe said that this topic will be revisited at the Coordinating Committees' meeting on November 19, 2013.

C. Rocky Reach Turbine Unit Outages (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled that Turbine Unit 10 (C10) at Rocky Reach Dam has been offline for maintenance. He said that mechanic crews have now discovered a deep hairline crack in a stainless steel rod that delivers oil to the servo motor, as described in an email that was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 4, 2013. Keller explained that the servo motor adjusts the angle of the turbine blades in response to changing river flow and fluctuating load requests; and added that Turbine Unit 8 (C8), Turbine Unit 9 (C9), and Turbine Unit 11 (C11) all have the same stainless steel rod design as part of the

servo motors. He said that Rocky Reach engineers evaluated the situation and made the decision to take C8, C9, and C11 out of service. Keller noted that having 4 of 11 units at Rocky Reach out of service at the same time impacts a number of routine powerhouse operations. He said that the lower small units will compensate for the units that are out of service, and added that Rocky Reach engineers are currently working on an interim fix in order to get all large units, except C10 (i.e., full powerhouse), back online by March 2014. He said that C10 may be back online as late as August 2014; and once C10 is back online, engineers will go back into the larger units for a permanent fix. He said that the estimated completion date for all permanent fixes is December 2017.

Keller recalled discussing at the Coordinating Committees' meeting on June 25, 2013, that Turbine Unit 2 (C2) at Rocky Reach was scheduled to be offline from January through mid-May 2014 for a mandatory repair of the cracked rotor. He said that outage has since been delayed, and it is now scheduled for the second part of 2014. Keller added that the outage will be outside of the spring juvenile migration period, and that he and Steve Hemstrom have been coordinating with Rocky Reach engineers about minimizing possible effects to fish passage.

Keller said that he will keep the Coordinating Committees up to date as plans move forward.

IV. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said that the revised draft 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 11, 2013. He said that comments received from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the source of the travel-time numbers (as discussed at the Coordinating Committees' meeting on September 24, 2013) were addressed in the revised draft. Bryan Nordlund agreed that his comments were adequately addressed.

The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report, as revised (WDFW abstained citing recent changes in their HCP representation). The final 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report (Attachment D) was

distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris following the meeting on October 22, 2013.

B. Wells Dam Fish Counts (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler announced that fish counts at Wells Dam are now up to date. He said that staff caught up on counts on the evening of October 9, 2013, as distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 8, 2013. He said that Wells Dam staff is now working towards improving fish count efficiency for next year, including improvements to the count window and lighting, and improved camera and recording technology (i.e., installing a high-definition system that will enable quicker fish identification). He said that new fish counters will be hired and trained by May 2014.

Kahler recalled the issue with similar sized fish repeatedly passing back and forth through the count window causing difficulties in counting. He said he discussed the issue with Bryan Nordlund, and they determined that the only change in 2013 from previous years is the installation of the grated surfaces and ramp to improve lamprey enumeration for the 2013 Adult Lamprey Passage and Enumeration Study. Particularly, there is a ramp descending from the upstream side of the count window that Nordlund explained could possibly be causing uneven hydraulics and flow separation through the count window area. Kahler said that recordings of the count window indicate that, so far, no lamprey are actually using the upstream ramp to exit the count window; and so there are now discussions about possibly removing the ramp during the 2013/2014 winter maintenance period. Kahler indicated that decisions related to infrastructure modifications to the count window area affecting lamprey will be discussed first with the Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG).

C. Coho Broodstock Trapping (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said that each fall, the Yakama Nation (YN) uses the Wells Dam east and west fish ladders to trap coho for their Methow reintroduction efforts. He said that, typically, trapping is conducted concurrent with WDFW's steelhead trapping efforts. Kahler said that this year, however, WDFW conducted limited steelhead trapping in the ladders because part of the program will rely on broodstock trapped in the Twisp River and part was obtained from the Wells Hatchery outfall, reducing the number needed from the ladders. He said that once WDFW concluded trapping, the YN continued their efforts. Kahler said that the coho

run has not materialized as anticipated. He said that 51,000 have passed Bonneville Dam, only 3,000 have passed Priest Rapids Dam, and only about 300 have passed Wells Dam. He said the YN was growing concerned about obtaining enough broodstock, and so they started trapping 7 days per week (as per their Endangered Species Act [ESA] permits), and they started trapping at the Wells Hatchery outfall as well. Kahler said that the YN's preferred trapping locations are the Winthrop Hatchery and Methow Hatchery outfalls, and collection in the Wells Dam ladders and at the Wells Hatchery outfall were intended to fill any shortfalls in collections from those preferred upstream locations. He said that if enough brood are trapped at the upstream locations, brood obtained from the lower locations will be returned to the river. Kahler also noted current seismicity evaluations (including borings) being conducted along the east embankment. He said there was concern that the boring efforts may interfere with trapping in the east ladder; however, no issues have been reported.

D. 2013 Adult Pacific Lamprey Passage and Enumeration Study (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said that radio-tagged lampreys are continuing to be tracked. He said that by mid-November, the battery life in all radio tags will have expired, at which time analysis of the telemetry data will begin. He said that passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags are also being tracked as they pass PIT-tag arrays, and that 14 of the 110 study lampreys have been detected in the Methow. No lampreys have been detected in the Okanogan. He said that some lampreys have been detected downstream of Wells Dam, and one was detected in the Rocky Reach fish ladder. He said that about 30% of the lampreys are still unaccounted for. He said that no issues have been observed with lampreys passing through the Wells Dam count window, and he added that lampreys observed have mostly been free swimming through the area. Kahler said that the reduced fishway entrance head differential (lamprey operations) set up for the study concluded on October 7, 2013, per the study plan. A final report is expected to be ready by spring 2014.

V. Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update (Mike Schiewe)

Mike Schiewe reported that the HCP Tributary Committees did not meet in October; the update by Tracy Hillman was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on October 21, 2013. Schiewe said that some Tributary Committees members attended a tour of habitat restoration projects on the Okanogan River in Canada on October 9 and 10, 2013. He

said that the Wells Tributary Committee also approved a request from the Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited to extend the Twisp River Well Conversion Project contract. The sponsor requested the extension due to a lack of available contractors, the onset of winter, and the fact that the irrigation system has been drained and will not be turned on until spring; and the extension would give the sponsor time to complete the project when the system is turned on in the spring.

Schiewe updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred at the last HCP Hatchery Committees' meeting on October 16, 2013. Schiewe noted that the Hatchery Committees also held a conference call on October 7, 2013, after their September meeting was canceled due to limited availability for participation. The conference call focused on a time-sensitive YN agenda item regarding their Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan Statement of Agreement (SOA), as further discussed below:

- *DECISION: Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan SOA:* This SOA is a part of the YN's Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Program that was started a few years ago under Columbia River Basin Accords funding. The YN seek to recondition females from Douglas PUD's Twisp steelhead program, which would necessitate live spawning of those fish at the Methow Hatchery, and there were fish health concerns regarding the potential impacts of components of the program to the HCP spring Chinook and steelhead programs currently at Methow Hatchery. WDFW Fish Health Staff determined that the YN's program would not significantly affect the HCP programs currently at Methow Hatchery; and a lengthy list of risk-reducing measures was developed, including procedures to follow if Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) is detected. WDFW Fish Health Staff are drafting a letter indicating that risk to HCP programs would be minimal if the risk protocols are followed. This letter will be packaged with the final draft SOA and the risk protocols, and delivered to Douglas PUD and the Hatchery Committees for approval via email consent. A preliminary vote indicated that the Hatchery Committees are on board with the proposed program. Discussions with NMFS still need to take place, especially because ESA-listed species are involved (due to the government shut-down, Lynn Hatcher has not been available to participate in these discussions). *(Note: the final package was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on October 22, 2013.)*
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- *Expanded Acclimation in the Methow*: The YN is requesting the Hatchery Committees' approval for the use of the Chewuch Pond for co-acclimation of the YN's coho salmon production and Chelan PUD's Methow spring Chinook production. They have also expressed interest in using supplementation programs to recolonize habitat that is currently being underutilized.
 - *Non-Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC) Update*: NTTOC analyses evaluate the effects of hatchery programs on other native species in the basin. These analyses have been ongoing for several years, and are being addressed using a risk model that Todd Pearsons and Craig Busack developed. A few bugs have been identified in the model code, which slowed progress, but analyses that can be run are now almost complete. The original plan was to establish an outside panel to review the model results; however, Greg Mackey volunteered to first compile a draft report summarizing the results for the Hatchery Committees to review, and then a decision will be made whether further actions are needed. Evaluating hatchery programs' effects on other native species in the basin is one of ten Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) objectives, and the NTTOC analyses were an effort to address that objective.
 - *Hatchery M&E Plan Tables*: Greg Mackey developed draft Hatchery M&E Appendices tables for the Hatchery Committees review. Hatchery Committees' approval of the draft tables will be requested at the next Hatchery Committees' meeting on November 20, 2013.
 - *Twisp Steelhead Relative Reproductive Success 2012 Genotyping Report Update*: Douglas PUD announced that they have received data from WDFW, and that the final Twisp Steelhead Relative Reproductive Success 2012 Genotyping Report was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on September 9, 2013. Approval of the report was not requested; rather, the report is just for information. Nucleotide polymorphic loci (SNPs) were used to analyze family relationships.
 - *Summer Chinook Egg Request*: The Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to a Chelan PUD request for 3,500 summer Chinook salmon eggs for use in an ongoing egg-fry survival study in Reach 4 of the lower Chelan River. The study is led by Steve Hays.
 - *Draft Chelan PUD 2014 M&E Implementation Plan*: Chelan PUD is in the final stages of completing their Chelan PUD 2014 M&E Implementation Plan. Similar to what
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has occurred in the past, Chelan PUD will contract with WDFW to collect field data, and BioAnalysts will complete the analyses and reporting.

VI. HCP Committees Administration

A. Next Meetings (Mike Schiewe)

Mike Schiewe said that the next scheduled Coordinating Committees' meeting is **November 19, 2013**, to be held in person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington. He said that Tom Kahler arranged for Jeff Fryer to provide a presentation on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC's) ongoing sockeye studies.

The **December 17, 2013** and January 28, 2014 meetings will be held either by conference call or in person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

List of Attachments

Attachment A	List of Attendees
Attachment B	Chelan PUD's Final 2013 HCP Rocky Reach and Rock Island Fish Spill Report
Attachment C	2013 Valid Study Flow Duration Curve Updates
Attachment D	Revised Draft 2013 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
Mike Schiewe	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Steve Hemstrom*	Chelan PUD
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Bryan Nordlund*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jeff Korth	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes

Notes:

* Denotes Coordinating Committees member or alternate
