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## FINAL MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs  
Coordinating Committees      **Date:** April 6, 2015

**From:** Michael Schiewe, Chair

**Cc:** Kristi Geris

**Re:** Final Minutes of the February 24, 2015 HCPs Coordinating Committees Meeting

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Coordinating Committees met at the Radisson Gateway Hotel, in SeaTac, Washington, on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Attendees are listed in Attachment A of these meeting minutes.

### ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Chelan PUD will add language explaining the average fork lengths for subyearling Chinook salmon that are reported in the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan (Item II-B). *(Note: Lance Keller added language, as discussed, and the final plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 27, 2015.)*
  - Chelan PUD will consider the feasibility of scanning for coded-wire-tags (CWT) during 2015 bypass monitoring at Rock Island Dam, and will report back to the Coordinating Committees by Tuesday, March 3, 2015 (Item II-C). *(Note: Kirk Truscott indicated via email on March 3, 2015, that based on discussions with Chelan PUD, he is withdrawing his request for CWT assessment as a monitoring component in the 2015 monitoring plan for the Rock Island Bypass, as distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris that same day.)*
  - Chelan PUD will add language explaining protocols for handling Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed steelhead kelts if encountered during bypass operations at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams (Item II-D). *(Note: Keller added language, as discussed, and the final plans were distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015.)*
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- John Ferguson will contact Tracy Hillman regarding monthly Coordinating Committees updates on the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees, following the transition of the new HCP Chairpersons in May 2015 (Item V-A). *(Note: Ferguson contacted Hillman, who agreed to call into the monthly Coordinating Committees meetings to provide the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees updates in lieu of generating monthly reports to the Coordinating Committees, following the transition of the new HCP Chairpersons in May 2015.)*

## **DECISION SUMMARY**

- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan (Item II-A).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed (Item II-B).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed (Item II-C).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed (Item II-D).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan (Item III-C).
- The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Wells Gas Abatement Plan (GAP)/Bypass Operating Plan (BOP; Item III-D).

## **AGREEMENTS**

- The Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to extend the 2014/2015 winter maintenance work period at Rocky Reach Dam by 1 week to allow more time to complete required work. Rather than the typical March 1 completion date, the Rocky Reach Fish Ladder will be fully operational by March 8, 2015 (Item II-E).
  - Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to reschedule the April 28 Coordinating Committees meeting to April 21, 2015, to be held either by
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conference call or in person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, as is yet to be determined (Item V-B).

## **REVIEW ITEMS**

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on February 9, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2014 Wells HCP Annual Report was available for review, with edits and comments due to her by Monday, March 9, 2015.
- Geris sent an email to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on March 12, 2015, notifying them that the revised draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols were available for review.
- Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on February 19, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2014 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Annual Reports were available for review, with edits and comments due to her by Wednesday, March 18, 2015.
- Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on February 24, 2015, notifying them that a Wells Project Land-use Permit for renewal (No. 651-01) was available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments, or indication of no comments, due to Tom Kahler by Tuesday, March 24, 2015.
- Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on March 3, 2015, notifying them that several Wells Project Land-use Permits for renewal were available for a 60-day review period, with edits and comments, or indication of no comments, due to Kahler by Monday, May 4, 2015.

## **DOCUMENTS FINALIZED**

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on February 19, 2015, notifying them that the 2014 Wells Post-Season Bypass Report and 2014 Wells Passage-Dates Analysis were finalized following a 60-day review period, which ended on February 10, 2015.
  - The final 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015 (Item II-A).
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- The final 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015 (Item II-B).
- The final 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015 (Item II-C).
- The final 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015 (Item II-D).
- The final 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015 (Item III-C).
- The final 2015 Wells GAP/BOP was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on February 26, 2015, and was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris that same day (Item III-D).

## **I. Welcome**

### *A. Review Agenda (Mike Schiewe)*

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Coordinating Committees and asked for any additions or other changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Lance Keller added Tumwater Dam Adult Fishway repairs.
- Tom Kahler added: 1) Wells Dam Adult Fishway annual maintenance; 2) passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag detection in Spillway 2 at Wells Dam; and 3) Wells Project Land-use Permit reviews.
- Schiewe added an administrative update.

### *B. Meeting Minutes Approval (Mike Schiewe)*

The Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft January 27, 2015, meeting minutes. Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated in the revised minutes. She said she also added three documents to the review items (the draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols and the draft 2014 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Annual Reports). Coordinating Committees members present approved the January 27, 2015, meeting minutes, as revised.

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*C. Last Meeting Action Items (Mike Schiewe)*

Action items from the Coordinating Committees meeting on January 27, 2015, and follow-up discussions were as follows: *(Note: italicized item numbers below correspond to agenda items from the January 27, 2015, meeting.)*

<b>Documents for review by Tuesday, February 10, 2015</b>	<b>Distributed</b>
<i>Draft 2015 Wells Bypass Operating Plan/Gas Abatement Plan (Item II-D)</i>	1/9/2015
<i>Draft 2014 Wells Post-Season Bypass Report and Revised Draft Wells Passage-Dates Analysis (Item II-B)</i>	1/16/2015
<i>Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan (Item III-C)</i>	1/23/2015
<i>Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan (Item III-D)</i>	1/23/2015
<i>Draft 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan (Item III-D)</i>	1/23/2015
<i>Revised Draft 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan (Item II-C)</i>	1/27/2015
<i>Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan (Item III-B)</i>	1/27/2015

- Douglas PUD will provide the revised draft 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item II-C).*

Tom Kahler provided the revised draft plan to Geris following the meeting on January 27, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Coordinating Committees that same day. This will be discussed further during today’s meeting.
- Chelan PUD will provide the Colville Confederated Tribes’ (CCT’s) comments on the draft Rocky Reach Total Dissolved Gas (TDG): Step One, Year Five Compliance Report to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Coordinating Committees (Item III-A).*

CCT’s comments, along with Chelan PUD’s response, were included in Appendix A of the final report that was provided by Marcie Steinmetz (Chelan PUD) on January 30, 2015, and distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris that same day.
- Kristi Geris will coordinate with Alene Underwood (Chelan PUD HCP Hatchery Committees Representative) regarding distributing the draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan to the HCP Hatchery Committees (Item III-B).*

Geris distributed the draft plan to the HCP Hatchery Committees following the meeting on January 27, 2015, per Underwood’s direction. This will be discussed further during today’s meeting.

- *The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will provide Chelan PUD with fork lengths of Entiat subyearling Chinook salmon (Item III-C).*

Jim Craig provided these lengths to Lance Keller and the Coordinating Committees Technical Representatives following the meeting on January 27, 2015.

- *Chelan PUD will provide the draft 2014 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Juvenile Bypass Study Plan Reports for review, which will include 2013 data (Item III-D).*

This will be discussed further during today's meeting.

- *Lance Keller will coordinate with the Chelan PUD HCP Hatchery Committees representatives regarding Tumwater fishway repairs (Item III-F).*

Alene Underwood discussed these repairs with the HCP Hatchery Committees during their last meeting on February 18, 2015. This will be discussed further during today's meeting.

## **II. Chelan PUD**

### *A. DECISION: Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 27, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Chelan PUD by Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Keller said the HCP Tributary Committees approved the tributary portion of the draft plan, with one minor edit (i.e., removed the solicitation section). He said the HCP Hatchery Committees also approved the hatchery portion of the draft plan during their meeting last week, and a revised draft plan for approval was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 23, 2015. The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan. *(Note: the final plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27 2015.)*

### *B. DECISION: Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 23, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Chelan PUD by

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Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Keller said comments were received from USFWS and the CCT, as follows:

**Rocky Reach Summer Spill Operations – subyearling Chinook salmon fork lengths (page 4)**

Jim Craig commented that the upper end of the fork length range identified for subyearling Chinook salmon, as reported in the draft plan, seemed large (i.e., 76 to 150 millimeters [mm]). Craig provided average fork length data for adipose (ad)-present subyearling Chinook salmon caught in the rotary screw trap on the lower Entiat River for comparison (i.e., 51.0 to 58.5 mm in June and July). Craig cautioned that the range identified in the draft plan may also include yearling spring Chinook salmon. Keller explained the estimated 1-percentile passage point that triggers summer spill is driven by hatchery releases upstream. He said bypass staff are provided with hatchery release timing information and are also given the freedom to decide whether a fish is a subyearling or not. He said in 2014, the first subyearling observed at the bypass was on May 26, 2014, and average fork lengths ranged from 75 to 109 mm. He said, however, that sometimes larger fish trickle in and the upper range gradually increases. He said he would like to add language explaining the average fork lengths for subyearling Chinook salmon that are reported in the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan. He also noted that PIT-tag detections in the sampling facility and bypass system are used to verify that fish are indeed subyearlings.

*(Note: Keller added language, as discussed, and the final plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015.)*

**Table 2 Fish spill percentages and spill shape for the Rocky Reach spill program, 2015 (page 5)**

Kirk Truscott asked about data used for diel spill shaping. Keller explained that those data came from prototyping, hydroacoustic, and acoustic studies at Rocky Reach Dam. He added that travel times can be applied to those data to determine spill shaping at Rock Island Dam, as well. Mike Schiewe asked if Truscott's comments required any changes to the draft plan, and Keller said no, that his comments were only for his information.

The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island Spill Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed.

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*C. DECISION: Draft 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 23, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Chelan PUD by Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Keller said comments were received from USFWS and the CCT, as follows:

**General Comment**

Jim Craig requested that page numbers be added to the document, and Keller said he will add those, as requested.

**Bypass Monitoring Requirements (page 2)**

Kirk Truscott asked about the feasibility of checking yearling Chinook salmon for presence of CWTs. He said his interest is to determine what portion of the 95% coverage consists of natural-origin recruits (NORs) versus hatchery-origin recruits (HORs). Keller said scanning for presence of CWTs is not in the current protocol, but he said he will discuss this internally and will report back to the Coordinating Committees by Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

*(Note: Truscott indicated via email on March 3, 2015, that based on discussions with Chelan PUD, he is withdrawing his request for CWT assessment as a monitoring component in the 2015 monitoring plan for the Rock Island Bypass, as distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris that same day.)*

**Daily Protocol for Fish Collection (page 6)**

Truscott asked about the protocol for steelhead kelts. Keller said last year, Chelan PUD coordinated with the Yakama Nation (YN) who used Rock Island Dam as a collection location for their Kelt Reconditioning Program. He said if kelt were encountered and could be used for the YN's program, the kelt were transferred for reconditioning at Winthrop. If kelt were not retained for the YN program, they were returned into the ladder. Bob Rose said he will contact Keely Murdoch (YN) and ask if the YN plans to coordinate efforts with Chelan PUD in 2015. Keller noted that Chelan PUD and the YN also considered Rocky Reach Dam as a potential kelt collection location; however, it was determined not to be feasible. *(Note: Murdoch indicated via email that the YN and Chelan PUD plan to*

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*continue coordination in 2015, as distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris following the meeting on February 24, 2015.)*

The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed.

*D. DECISION: Draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan  
(Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 23, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Chelan PUD by Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Keller said comments were received from USFWS and the CCT, as follows:

**2015 Evaluation Requirements (page 2)**

Kirk Truscott asked about the feasibility of scanning for presence of CWTs. Keller said scanning for CWTs would be more appropriate at Rock Island Dam. Truscott said he was fine with this.

**Special Operations (page 3)**

Truscott asked about the number of fish used for the marked fish releases. Keller explained that prior to bypass startup, to assess for descaling, 100 fish will be released in the following locations: 1) right/south surface collector entrance upstream of the trash rack; 2) left/north surface collector entrance upstream of the trash rack; 3) Turbine Unit 1 (C1) intake screen; and 4) Turbine Unit 2 (C2) intake screen. He said if any issues are observed, multiple releases will be conducted to pinpoint the locations of the issues. He said, historically, the only issue encountered was when a release pipe for C2 came loose and fish were released into the wall. He said divers were deployed and the issue was fixed.

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**Table 1 Flow Diagram of Phased Approach and Threshold Values for Conducting Marked-Fish Releases (page 4)**

Truscott asked how the descale thresholds were determined. Keller said the descale rates used are the standard rates implemented by the state. These rates are also used in the Smolt Monitoring Program. He added that any slight increase in descale is typically cured by increasing the cleaning intervals of the dewatering screens in the surface collector (i.e., to clear screens of debris).

**Special Operations (page 3)**

Truscott asked about collection of ESA-listed steelhead kelt. Keller explained that at Rocky Reach Dam, there are adult separator bars where the juveniles fall through and the adults pass above. He said if an adult slips through the bars, they are returned to the adult return flume. Keller said he will add language explaining protocols if ESA-listed steelhead kelt are encountered during bypass operations at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams.

*(Note: Keller added language, as discussed, and the final plans were distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 27, 2015.)*

The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan, contingent on incorporating edits as discussed.

*E. Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam Adult Fishway Annual Maintenance (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller reviewed 2014/2015 winter maintenance activities at Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams, as follows:

Rock Island Dam

*Left Ladder*

Keller said on February 6, 2015, the left ladder at Rock Island Dam was brought back in service. He recalled that new operators for the entrance gates were installed, which are now being calibrated.

*Right Ladder*

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Keller said maintenance work is complete on the right ladder at Rock Island Dam, and now maintenance staff are waiting for reduced river flow to repair the trash boom above the exit of the ladder that was damaged when the forebay elevation was dropped in response to the Wanapum Dam repair. He said today, the average river flow past Rock Island Dam is 171,600 cubic feet per second (171.6 kcfs), which is fairly high for this time of year. He added that he will notify the Coordinating Committees when the ladder is back in service.

#### Rocky Reach Dam

Keller said everything is complete except for one defective valve screw in the attraction water system that needs replacing. He said the ladder is fully watered up, but there will be no attraction water until the new valve screw is installed. He said the part has been ordered and is scheduled to arrive by Friday, February 27, 2015. However, the manufacturer is located in Massachusetts, so there may be delays due to the inclement weather that region is experiencing. He said installation is estimated to require only 1 to 2 days; however, just in case, he said Chelan PUD would like to request a 1-week extension of the maintenance period to complete the installation. The Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to extend the 2014/2015 winter maintenance work period at Rocky Reach Dam by 1 week to allow time to complete the work. Rather than the typical March 1 start date, the Rocky Reach Fish Ladder will be fully operational on March 8, 2015.

#### *F. Wanapum Drawdown Update (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD is currently drafting a Biological Opinion for the Emergency Action, which is proceeding well. He recalled that today's average river flow past Rock Island Dam is 171.6 kcfs, which translates to an average tailrace elevation of 569.9 feet, and an average forebay elevation of 612.9 feet. He said all denils are submerged, and the dam is operating in a generation configuration.

Keller said at Wanapum Dam, the forebay elevation is at about 559.0 feet, which is near the bottom of the operating range. He said repairs are progressing well. Scott Carlon said a full pool raise is expected as early as April 2015. Carlon added that the Board of Consultants and FERC plan to meet in early-March 2015.

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*G. Tumwater Dam Adult Fishway Repairs (Lance Keller)*

Lance Keller said Tumwater Dam was dewatered on February 16, 2015. He said the dewatering effort went well for the most part; however, he said the river is high enough to cause issues with seals on the entrance side of the dam, so water is still in the lower level and is being pumped out. Jim Craig noted that the river level is almost twice as high as what it typically is this time of year. Keller said Biomark is onsite replacing PIT-tag Antenna No. 18. He said members of the Rocky Reach Fish Forum were onsite on February 18, 2015, conducting a rapid assessment for lamprey passage. He said everything is on schedule, and Chelan PUD expects to rewater by March 4, 2015.

### **III. Douglas PUD**

*A. Wells Dam Adult Fishway Annual Maintenance (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler recalled that in early-December 2014, the east fishway at Wells Dam was taken offline for annual winter maintenance, and when the low-level side entrance was opened in the east fishway, it was discovered the area behind the entrance was full of silt. He said divers were deployed last week to suction out the silt, which took longer than expected; however, now the silt has been suctioned out of the east and west fishways. He recalled the lamprey box will not be installed on the east fishway until after all maintenance is completed on the west fishway. He said all other maintenance on the east fishway is now complete, and the ladder is fully watered and operating. He said the west fishway will be taken offline next week for the routine winter maintenance and installation of the lamprey box. He said the plan is to complete all maintenance on the west fishway and installation of the lamprey box in the east fishway in the next few weeks.

Kirk Truscott asked when the normal maintenance period is for Wells Dam. Kahler said the typical window is from December through March, and permission would be sought if additional time was needed. He added the earliest issue may be with the spring Chinook salmon migration. Truscott noted that the steelhead migration may also arrive by mid-March. Kahler said steelhead typically arrive at Wells Dam more towards mid- to late-April, and he added Douglas PUD will definitely want to avoid an outage in April.

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Kahler noted that there were a few issues with obtaining materials for the lamprey boxes; however, all materials are onsite now, and contractors are working on a best approach to install them. Mike Schiewe asked if the worst-case scenario would be not installing a lamprey box in one of the fishways, and Kahler said that is correct. He added that all of the PIT-tag-detection equipment is either installed (readers and reader enclosures) and ready to go, or onsite ready for installation (antennas) once the boxes are installed in the low-level entrances.

*B. PIT-Tag Detection in Spillway 2 at Wells Dam (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said tomorrow, Biomark will be onsite at Wells Dam to discuss the feasibility of installing PIT-tag detection in the bypass baffles for Spillway 2. He said Biomark is also upgrading the readers in the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System. Lance Keller added that Chelan PUD is supplying Biomark with fish to test the antennas. Kahler said the PUDs are hoping to get improved detection for multiple fish passing at the same time. Keller also noted that the new readers can all be linked and tuned together.

*C. DECISION: Draft 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 27, 2015, notifying them that the revised draft 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Douglas PUD by Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Kahler said the HCP Hatchery Committees approved the hatchery portion of the draft plan during their meeting last week, and the HCP Tributary Committees approved the tributary portion of the draft plan, with one minor edit (i.e., removed the project-solicitation section). The Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan. *(Note: the final plan was distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 27, 2015.)*

*D. DECISION: Draft 2015 Wells GAP/BOP (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said Kristi Geris sent an email to the Coordinating Committees on January 9, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2015 Wells GAP/BOP was available for review. Edits and comments on the draft plan were due to Kahler and Andrew Gingerich (Douglas PUD) by Tuesday, February 10, 2015. The Coordinating Committees

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representatives present approved the 2015 Wells GAP/BOP. (*Note: the final plan was filed with FERC on February 26, 2015, and distributed to the Coordinating Committees by Geris that same day.*)

#### *E. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Reviews (Tom Kahler)*

Tom Kahler said the Supervisor of the Douglas PUD Lands Department recently notified him that Douglas PUD's new FERC License (issued in 2012) requires all Wells Project land-use permits to be renewed. Kahler said Douglas PUD owns almost all lands around the reservoir, and there are about 120 existing land-use permits that need renewal. He said the Wells HCP also indicates that Douglas PUD needs to consult the Wells Coordinating Committee regarding any land-use action on the reservoir; therefore, he said this serves as notification that large batches of land-use permits will soon be out for review. He said Wells Coordinating Committee members can choose to comment; however, if a member chooses not to comment, Douglas PUD is requesting that the member indicate 'no comment' so Douglas PUD can expedite the 60-day review period and proceed with the issuance process. He said almost all existing permits have been in place for years. He recalled one exception, Mary Bailey, who recently applied to install a new dock in 2014. Jeff Korth asked if WDFW's Lands Supervisor is receiving these permit reviews, as well. Kahler said Korth will likely need to coordinate internally, as appropriate; these are all existing uses that do not require the re-issuance of permits from other resource agencies.

#### **IV. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update (Mike Schiewe)**

Mike Schiewe updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred at the last HCP Tributary Committees meeting on February 12, 2015:

- *Review of Policies and Procedures Documents:* The Tributary Committees reviewed the Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects and the Tributary Committees Operating Procedures. Members had no changes on the documents. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) identified changes in representation—Justin Yeager will become the designated representative, and Dale Bambrick will be the alternate.
  - *Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Tributary Committees Funding Schedule:* The Tributary Committees reviewed the funding schedule. Project tours are scheduled for
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mid-May, final proposals are due to the Tributary Committees June 19, 2015, and final funding decisions will be made on July 9, 2015.

- *Annual Deposits to the Plan Species Accounts:* The Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells Tributary Committees made contributions at the end of January 2015 (\$711,794, \$337,199, and \$258,455, respectively). As of mid-January 2015, the Rock Island, Rocky Reach, and Wells Tributary Committees accounts contained roughly \$5.5 million, \$2.5 million, and \$1.5 million, respectively.
- *Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island 2015 Draft Action Plans:* the Tributary Committees approved the tributary section on their respective 2015 Action Plans.
- *Meeting Schedule:* the Tributary Committees reviewed their 2015 meeting schedule.
- *Next Steps:* The next meeting of the Tributary Committees will be on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, Washington.

Schiewe updated the Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred at the last HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on February 18, 2015:

- *DECISION: Draft 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan:* The Wells Hatchery Committee approved the hatchery portion of the 2015 Wells HCP Action Plan, as revised.
  - *DECISION: Draft 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan:* The Rocky Reach and Rock Island Hatchery Committees approved the hatchery portion of the 2015 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan, as revised.
  - *Chelan PUD Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production Obligation:* Chelan PUD reviewed their plan to develop an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Douglas PUD to return their Methow spring Chinook salmon program to its former status at Methow Fish Hatchery (FH). It was recalled that about 2 years ago, when Chelan PUD terminated its Methow Hatchery Sharing Agreement with Douglas PUD, Chelan PUD moved Methow spring Chinook salmon brood collection to Rocky Reach Dam, spawning and early-rearing was moved to Eastbank FH, and the Carlton Acclimation Pond was used for final grow out. With this arrangement, the YN were also using some of these fish for testing spring acclimation in the Upper Methow Basin. Now, with the previous arrangements potentially returning, the YN has suggested continuing rearing at Eastbank FH for further evaluation. However, most other Hatchery Committees members did not support rearing at
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Eastbank FH (preferring Methow FH). The Hatchery Committees also discussed possibly testing overwinter acclimation at Carlton Pond. Concerns were expressed that overwinter acclimation that low in the system would run counter to the goal of encouraging spawning upstream. A statement of agreement (SOA) for the proposed ILA will be considered for approval at the next meeting.

- *Spring Chinook Permit Re-initiation Letter:* Chelan and Grant PUDs are drafting a letter to NMFS regarding re-consultation on the Wenatchee Spring Chinook Program for brood collection for the Nason Creek and Chiwawa programs. NMFS is already working on consultation for those programs, which needs to be complete by March 2015.
  - *Draft 2015 Steelhead Release Plan:* Similar to previous years, Chelan PUD is planning to evaluate homing fidelity, residualism, and out-migration survival among hatchery releases using circular tanks and traditional raceways. In the past, those fish that did not volitionally migrate (non-movers) were transferred to Blackbird Pond for recreational angling or to migrate on their own volition, or were released directly into the Wenatchee River. This year, however, because non-movers are a component of the life history of steelhead, WDFW and Chelan PUD were developing a test of different hatchery-release strategies to gain more information on the non-movers to residualize.
  - *NMFS HCP Hatchery Committees Representation:* Lynn Hatcher is retiring in April 2015. Craig Busack has taken over as the NMFS HCP Hatchery Committees Representative, and Hatcher will be the alternate until he retires. NMFS is searching for another representative in order to allow more time for Busack to complete permitting.
  - *Surplus Juvenile Methow Spring Chinook Salmon at Methow FH:* There was an overage of about 37,000 Methow spring Chinook salmon; however, the overage was cut in half due to an outbreak of bacterial kidney disease. Mortalities have slowed. A decision regarding the disposition of the remaining surplus fish is still under discussion.
  - *Discussion of Hatchery Committees Roles and Responsibilities:* The YN expressed concerns that their role as co-manager may be being overlooked in some cases. The YN were reminded the HCPs that were signed have a section on HCP Hatchery
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Committees roles and responsibilities, which indicates that each Party has a vote, and actions affecting HCP mitigation programs require unanimous consent. Although there have been issues the HCP Hatchery Committees have determined not the purview of the Committees, decisions related to implementing the HCP hatchery programs has always been the work of the Committees.

- *YN Upper Methow Spring Chinook Acclimation Proposal*: During previous HCP Hatchery Committees meetings, Douglas PUD proposed a more robust study that incorporated an adaptive management framework and more objective criteria for success, which was initially very well-received. However, concerns were raised about various issues, which after further discussion in between meetings, were mostly resolved. An SOA for this study is now out for approval.

Kirk Truscott said during the last Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Sub-Committee meeting, timing of volitional release, as it relates to the spill season, was discussed. He said, specifically, the discussion focused on the linkage between the onset of smolt behavior (particularly when earlier than usual) and the start of the spill programs, and how that may affect spill programs and meeting passage for 95% of the total migration. He suggested considering the start of bypass operations compared to projected release dates, and evaluate whether there is an impact on meeting passage for 95% of the migration. Schiewe noted that Douglas PUD performed a similar exercise this year by reviewing hatchery releases and how those affected bypass operations at Wells Dam. Truscott questioned whether early releases of HORs have an effect on spill coverage for NORs or other hatchery programs. Tom Kahler asked if there is an effort to coordinate all releases in the Upper Columbia River. Truscott said that might be his recommendation, so one program would not affect all the other programs. Schiewe asked about the proposed path forward, and Truscott said one was not established. Truscott added he plans to continue reviewing this and will bring a proposal forward to the HCP Hatchery Committees. Kahler noted that currently, hatchery staff in the Methow Basin try to get fish in the acclimation ponds when the ponds can remain ice-free, and then hold them until about late-April, which is well after all bypass facilities are already operating. He asked if any particular programs were discussed, and Truscott said some Grant PUD programs were discussed. Kahler said last year, releases from all Methow programs, including Carlton, were plenty late enough to provide

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full bypass coverage at the lower projects. He asked if the concern was more regarding Wenatchee programs. Truscott said the discussion was more of a general concern, and not necessarily specific to one program.

## **V. HCP Committees Administration**

### *A. HCP-CC and HCP-HC Distribution List and Extranet Site Access – John Ferguson and Tracy Hillman (Mike Schiewe)*

Mike Schiewe said considering the upcoming transition of HCP Chairpersons, the succeeding Chairpersons, John Ferguson and Tracy Hillman, were added to the Coordinating and Hatchery Committees email distribution lists, respectively, and also given access to the respective HCP Extranet Sites. Schiewe also suggested that Hillman start calling into the monthly Coordinating Committees meetings to provide the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees updates, following the transition of the new HCP Chairpersons in May 2015. Ferguson agreed to coordinate with Hillman regarding this request. *(Note: Ferguson contacted Hillman, who agreed to call into the monthly Coordinating Committees meetings to provide the HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees updates in lieu of generating monthly reports to the Coordinating Committees, following the transition of the new HCP Chairpersons in May 2015.)*

### *B. Next Meetings (Mike Schiewe)*

The next scheduled Coordinating Committees meeting is on March 24, 2015, and will be held by conference call.

Coordinating Committees representatives present agreed to reschedule the Coordinating Committees meeting on April 28 to April 21, 2015, to be held either by conference call or in person at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

Mike Schiewe noted that the Coordinating Committees meeting on May 26, 2015, falls directly after Memorial Day (May 25, 2015), and he recommended considering that meeting to be held either in eastern Washington or by conference call.

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## List of Attachments

Attachment A      List of Attendees

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**Attachment A**  
**List of Attendees**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mike Schiewe	Anchor QEA, LLC
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Jeff Korth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Rose*†	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*†	Colville Confederated Tribes

Note:

\* = Denotes Coordinating Committees member or alternate

† = Joined by phone

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