

## Memorandum

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

Date: February 26, 2019

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

**Re: Final Minutes of the January 22, 2019 HCP Coordinating Committees Meeting**

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met at the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee, Washington, on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

### Action Item Summary

- Douglas PUD will provide edits to the revised draft December 4, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees meeting minutes to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-B). *(Note: Tom Kahler provided Douglas PUD edits to the minutes during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 22, 2019, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees will provide edits or comments on Douglas PUD edits to the revised draft December 4, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees meeting minutes to Kristi Geris no later than Friday, January 25, 2019; if no edits or comments are received, Geris will distribute the minutes as final (Item I-B). *(Note: no edits or comments were received, and the final December 4, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees meeting minutes were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on January 27, 2019.)*
- Lance Keller will review subyearling Chinook salmon sampled at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Sampling Facility (RRJSF) during the summer spill season at Rocky Reach Dam, to determine: 1) whether the index samples collected represent overall passage trends based on passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tag detections in the bypass across the season, notably during high flow years such as that experienced in 2018; and 2) whether any adjustments are needed while also maintaining continuity with historical data in the Columbia River Data Access in Real Time database (DART; Item I-C).
- Chelan PUD will provide a final timeline for repairing Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Unit C1 hub seals to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).
- John Ferguson will provide an update to Scott Carlon and Ritchie Graves about the impending dispute resolution from the HCP Tributary Committees (Item III-A). *(Note: Ferguson contacted Carlon and Graves on January 28, 2019, and provided updates as discussed.)*

- John Ferguson will provide an update to Scott Carlon about the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval of the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan, as revised (Item IV-B). *(Note: Ferguson contacted Carlon on January 28, 2019, and provided updates as discussed.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 26, 2019, will be held **in-person** at the Grant PUD Wenatchee office in Wenatchee, Washington (Item VI-B).

## Decision Summary

- The Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees approved the 2017 Pikeminnow Report after no disapprovals were received prior to the 30-day review deadline on January 14, 2019.
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan, as revised (Item IV-B). *(Note: the Colville Confederated Tribes [CCT] and National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] approved the plan, as revised, via email on January 29, 2019.)*

## Agreements

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

## Review Items

- A Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for a Single-Use Dock (LeSage) was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on November 29, 2018. This application is available for a 60-day review with edits, comments, or an indication of no comments due to Tom Kahler by Monday, January 28, 2019 (Item IV-C).
- A draft 2018 Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 14, 2018, which is available for a 60-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by Tuesday, February 12, 2019 (Item IV-F).
- A draft 2018 Wells HCP Action Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 16, 2019, which is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by Friday, February 15, 2019 (Item IV-E).
- A draft 2019 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2149 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 21, 2019, which is available for review with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by Monday, February 11, 2019 (Item IV-D).

- A draft 2018 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 24, 2019, which is available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, February 25, 2019 (Item V-D).
- A draft 2018 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 24, 2019, which is available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, February 25, 2019 (Item V-D).
- A draft 2017 Douglas PUD Pikeminnow Removal Annual Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 29, 2019, which is available for a 60-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by Thursday, March 28, 2019.
- The draft 2018 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 5, 2019, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Geris by Wednesday, March 6, 2019 (Item VI-A).
- A draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 12, 2019, which is available for review (Item V-D).
- A draft 2019 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 15, 2019, which is available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 18, 2019 (Item V-D).
- A draft 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 15, 2019, which is available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 18, 2019 (Item V-D).
- A draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 15, 2019, which is available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 18, 2019 (Item V-D).
- The draft 2018 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 18, 2019, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Geris by Monday, March 18, 2019 (Item VI-A).
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2019 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris on February 20, 2019.

## **Finalized Documents**

- There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

## I. Welcome

### A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson welcomed the HCP Coordinating Committees and reviewed the agenda. Ferguson asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Tom Kahler added a Wells Dam fishway maintenance update
- Lance Keller added a notification of upcoming Chelan PUD documents for review
- Ferguson added a reminder about upcoming HCP annual report reviews

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

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft December 4, 2018 and revised draft December 18, 2018 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into both revised minutes. Geris said she also updated the Review Items in both minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the December 18, 2018 meeting minutes, as revised. Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD has additional clarifying edits in the revised draft December 4, 2018 meeting minutes under Douglas PUD's Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications Gebbers Farm and Repo LLC discussion and will provide these edits to Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees. HCP Coordinating Committees members present conditionally approved the December 4, 2018 meeting minutes, contingent on accepting Douglas PUD's latest edits. The HCP Coordinating Committees will provide edits or comments on Douglas PUD edits to the revised draft December 4, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees meeting minutes to Geris no later than Friday, January 25, 2019; if no edits or comments are received, Geris will distribute the minutes as final. *(Note: Tom Kahler provided Douglas PUD edits to the minutes during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on January 22, 2019, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day. No further edits or comments were received from the HCP Coordinating Committees by the January 25, 2019 deadline, and the final December 4, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees meeting minutes were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on January 27, 2019.)*

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

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 18, 2018, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. *(Note: italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the conference call on December 18, 2018):*

- *Lance Keller will review subyearling Chinook salmon sampled at the RRJSF during the summer spill season at Rocky Reach Dam, to determine: 1) whether the index samples collected represent overall passage trends based on PIT-tag detections in the bypass across the season, notably*

during high flow years such as that experienced in 2018; and 2) whether any adjustments are needed while also maintaining continuity with historical data in DART (Item I-C).

This action item will be carried forward.

- *Chelan PUD will provide a final timeline for repairing Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Unit C1 hub seals to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).*

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

- *Tom Kahler will determine the final outcome of the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Wells Tract 115 and will report back to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).*

Kahler recalled this permit application was regarding an upland property that was formerly an orchard, where Douglas PUD sprays apple shoots and noxious weeds, and the landowner mows and rakes the property. Kahler said the Douglas PUD Commission approved this application.

- *On the behalf of the HCP Coordinating Committees, regarding the General Salmon Habitat Program Proposal titled, Scaffold Camp Acquisition #2 Project, which is under discussion in the HCP Tributary Committees, Keely Murdoch and Kirk Truscott will request from their respective HCP Policy representatives that a policy level discussion take place between the Yakama Nation (YN) and the CCT to reach agreement outside of the formal HCP dispute resolution process (Item II-A).*

This action item will be discussed during today's meeting.

## II. HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees meeting on January 10, 2019:

- *Project Collaboration:* Steve Kolk (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation [Reclamation]) met with the HCP Tributary Committees to describe Reclamation's vision for habitat restoration work in the upper Columbia River. Kolk discussed the evolution of restoration efforts in the upper Columbia River and concluded that efforts are now at a point where larger, more complex and expensive projects will be implemented than in the past because the easier, smaller projects have mostly been implemented. Reclamation would like to team with a funding partner and work together to identify and scope high priority projects in high priority areas. Once identified, Reclamation will use their resources to develop preliminary, draft, and final designs. Project sponsors would then be selected to implement the projects through a competitive bid process. Reclamation believes this scope-driven approach will reduce costs and increase the certainty of success. The HCP Tributary Committees see value in the process and will continue to discuss it within the HCP Tributary Committees.

- *Time Extension Request:* The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee received a time extension request from Trout Unlimited on the Barkley Irrigation Company – Under Pressure Project. Because of the size and complexity of the project, and the time needed to complete the project, the sponsor asked to extend the completion date from December 31, 2018, to December 31, 2019. Members present from the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee approved the time extension. Hillman will secure input from Kate Terrell (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] and Justin Yeager (NMFS)) once the federal government furlough ends.
- *Icicle Creek Fish Passage – Wild Fish to Wilderness Project:* Recall in December 2018, the HCP Tributary Committees received a General Salmon Habitat Program (GSHP) proposal from Trout Unlimited titled: *Icicle Creek Fish Passage – Wild Fish to Wilderness Project*. The purpose of the project is to enhance fish passage at the Boulder Field (river mile 5.6) on Icicle Creek and thereby provide access to more than 23 miles of habitat. The total cost of the project is \$2,275,000. The sponsor requested \$375,000 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The amount requested from the HCP Tributary Committees would be in addition to the \$250,000 approved by the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee in 2015. In December 2018, all members except the CCT approved funding for the project. The CCT requested additional time before providing their vote on the project. During the HCP Tributary Committees meeting on January 10, 2019, the CCT (like the YN) approved the request with the caveat that a statement of agreement (SOA) regarding anadromous fish management in the Icicle watershed is signed by the YN, the CCT, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), NMFS, and USFWS. John Ferguson asked about the status of the agreement. Jim Craig said on January 9, 2019, he and Bill Gale (USFWS Deputy Project Leader) finished drafting the Framework for Communication document and provided it to the YN (Steve Parker). Craig said on January 10, 2019, the document was also sent out to NMFS (Dale Bambrick), WDFW (Jim Brown) and the CCT (Chuck Brushwood). Craig said USFWS subsequently received emails from Parker and Brushwood with edits, but both indicated general support for the draft document. Craig also said Gale visited the Snake River Basin to better understand the Annual Operations Planning process implemented there to promote open communication and coordination between partners regarding hatchery operations. Craig said the plan is to format a similar process for the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and Icicle watershed. Craig said USFWS is not likely to implement the process this winter; however, USFWS will soon meet with the YN, the CCT, and WDFW to discuss operations for 2019, including predicted fish returns and potential fisheries. Ferguson asked about NMFS' thoughts, and Craig said he believes NMFS will be agreeable; however, USFWS has not yet received comments from NMFS or WDFW.
- *Upper Kahler Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project:* Recall in December 2018, the HCP Tributary Committees received a GSHP proposal from the YN titled: *Upper Kahler Stream*

*and Floodplain Enhancement Project.* The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of an avulsion near river mile 8.6 on Nason Creek by constructing a large, buried, log jam at the upstream inlet of the developing avulsion channel and filling the avulsion channel with large substrate. The project would also construct three additional buried bank jams and enhance fish habitat at the downstream end of the avulsion channel. The total cost of the project is \$482,500. The sponsor requested \$231,500 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. In December 2018, the HCP Tributary Committees elected to not fund this project as currently designed but invited the project sponsor to give a presentation to the HCP Tributary Committees during a future meeting explaining the design of the project. In January 2019, the YN and their consultant provided a presentation describing the design of the proposed project. Following the presentation, the YN recused themselves and the HCP Tributary Committees discussed the project. The HCP Tributary Committees continue to struggle with filling the avulsion channel with large sediments. The HCP Tributary Committees believe adding wood and a few boulders in the avulsion channel will help trap smaller sediments and fill the channel naturally. The HCP Tributary Committees elected to table a decision on this project until Yeager and Terrell have an opportunity to provide feedback on the project.

- *Stormy Project Area "A" Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project:* In December 2018, the HCP Tributary Committees received a GSHP proposal from the YN titled: *Stormy Project Area "A" Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project.* The purpose of the project is to maintain salmon and steelhead spawning habitat within the middle Entiat River, improve mainstem juvenile rearing and adult holding habitat, and improve off-channel juvenile rearing habitat. The total cost of the project is \$1,652,218.15. The sponsor requested \$1,140,968.15 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. In December 2018, the HCP Tributary Committees elected to not fund this project as currently designed but invited the project sponsor to give a presentation to the HCP Tributary Committees during a future meeting explaining the design of the project. In January 2019, the YN and their consultant provided a presentation on the design of the Upper Kahler Stream and Floodplain Enhancement Project. It was explained that the existing side channel the HCP Tributary Committees wanted reconnected is too high on the floodplain to connect with the river and has zero gradient in places. There would also need to be mitigation for the existing network of wetlands that currently exist in the side channel. The purpose of the large wood structures proposed along the banks of the main channel was also described. Following the presentation, the YN recused themselves and the HCP Tributary Committees discussed the project. Given the presentation and discussions, members of the HCP Tributary Committees present elected to fund the project but requested additional information regarding the costs of two items in the \$1,140,968.15 budget. The HCP Tributary Committees also directed Hillman to secure feedback from Terrell and Yeager, who were not present because of the federal government furlough. If Yeager approves the

project, the Rock Island or Rocky Reach Plan Species Account will support the project. Ferguson asked about Terrell's approval, and Hillman explained that USFWS is not a voting member on the HCP Tributary Committees unless Craig provides a letter indicating USFWS wants to be a voting member. Tom Kahler further explained that the HCP Tributary Committees value the input of everyone on the committees. Kahler said, for example, Douglas PUD cannot vote on projects located downstream of Wells Dam; however, Douglas PUD still participates in those discussions. Keely Murdoch asked why would USFWS not want to vote? Jim Craig said he was unaware that USFWS was not a voting member of the HCP Tributary Committees. Kahler said these voting member discussions took place during HCP negotiations when Mark Miller represented the USFWS, and Miller received input from USFWS General Counsel that USFWS did not want the liability associated with decisions made within the HCP Tributary Committees. Kahler added that USFWS not being a voting member has never been an issue. Craig said if there was an issue, he believes Terrell would have mentioned it. Craig added, however, that he will still look into obtaining a letter requesting that USFWS become a voting member on the HCP Tributary Committees. Hillman and Ferguson agreed this is a good idea. Hillman said the letter should be addressed to both himself and Ferguson indicating that USFWS would like to vote on HCP Tributary Committees decisions. Ferguson further suggested indicating in the letter that the HCP Tributary Committees reviewed the previous decision to not include USFWS as a voting member and now want to change this. Kahler read an excerpt from the meeting minutes of the HCP Tributary Committees meeting on November 24, 2004, as follows: "David Morgan (USFWS HCP Tributary Committees representative) was unable to attend this meeting but relayed to the group through Bob Bugert (HCP Tributary Committees Chairman) that USFWS will maintain its current status as non-voting representative to the Tributary Committees. Morgan said this issue can be revisited from time to time if the Committees feel there is a compelling need." (*Note: USFWS provided a letter requesting to be a voting member on the HCP Tributary Committees to Hillman and Ferguson on January 24, 2019, and Kristi Geris distributed this letter to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.*)

- *Johnson Creek US Highway 97 Habitat Restoration Project:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a new GHSP proposal from Trout Unlimited titled: *Johnson Creek US Highway 97 Habitat Restoration Project*. The purpose of the project is to remove a fish passage barrier on Johnson Creek, a tributary to the Okanogan River. The project will replace the existing culvert with a precast concrete structure that will allow passage for all life stages of Chinook salmon and steelhead at all flows. The project will allow fish access to 9 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat in Johnson Creek. The total cost of the project is \$1,562,455.00. The sponsor requested \$267,547.00 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. HCP Tributary Committees members present elected to fund the project. Chris Fisher (CCT) recused himself



from voting on this project. The HCP Tributary Committees directed Hillman to secure feedback from Terrell and Yeager on this project. If approved by Yeager, the Wells Plan Species Account will support the project. Hillman added that if USFWS provides a letter requesting to be a voting member, Terrell will vote too. Ferguson said he thought there is a law which indicates the State is responsible for replacing culverts, and asked why this project came to the HCP Tributary Committees? Hillman said the State is a cost share on this project because the project was ranked as one of the highest projects by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. Andrew Gingerich asked if Johnson Creek is an ephemeral stream? Hillman said the creek is a perennial stream that runs through the town of Riverside, Washington.

- *Review of Tributary Committees' Policies and Procedures, Policies and Procedures for Funding Projects:* The HCP Tributary Committees reviewed their Policies and Procedures document and made a minor edit to clarify language in Sections 2.0 (Funding Programs). The HCP Tributary Committees made no other edits or changes to the document.
- *Review of Tributary Committees' Policies and Procedures, Tributary Committee Operating Procedures:* The HCP Tributary Committees reviewed their operating procedures and made a formatting change to the Introduction. HCP Tributary Committees made no other edits or changes to the document.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on March 14, 2019. Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees will not meet in February 2019; however, may convene a conference call to discuss any issues which might arise before March 2019.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on January 16, 2019 (*note: joint HCP Hatchery Committees/Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee [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"*):

- *Genetics Monitoring (joint):* The HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed the responses from the panel of geneticists on how to monitor the effects of hatchery programs on genetics of natural-origin and hatchery-origin fish. The HCP Hatchery Committees were pleased with the responses from the geneticists and will update the Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan accordingly.
- *Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint):* The HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the preparation of the 2019 Broodstock Collection Protocols including reviewing outstanding issues identified during the preparation of the 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols. A draft of the 2019 report will be available for HCP Hatchery Committees review by February 11, 2019, which is about 10 days before the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on February 20, 2019.

- *Re-Evaluation of Conservation Program Size (joint)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees are looking at revising the size of the conservation programs. Importantly, total hatchery production will not change; only the allocation of production between the conservation and safety net programs may change. The HCP Hatchery Committees are currently looking to update input parameters to the spreadsheet calculator that was used during No Net Impact recalculation. Updated inputs will include spawner escapements, smolt-to-adult return data, broodstock needs, pre-spawn losses, and updated stock-recruitment estimates. Discussion on this topic will continue over the next few months.
- *Sampling of Steelhead at the Priest Rapids Dam Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap (joint)*: WDFW reported that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds will shift from developing tools to estimate steelhead escapements to developing tools to estimate spring Chinook salmon escapements. The model for estimating steelhead escapement has been fully developed and there is no need to continue working on the steelhead model. As such, steelhead PIT tagging at Priest Rapids Dam may be reduced or eliminated, and some of the PIT-tag interrogation arrays may be shut down during times when adult steelhead are moving into spawning streams. Given the reallocation in BPA funding and the desire of WDFW to use remaining funds to evaluate spring Chinook salmon escapements, the HCP Hatchery Committees will need to evaluate how to monitor steelhead escapements in the future. The HCP Hatchery Committees requested that WDFW provide to Chelan and Douglas PUDs an estimate of the cost to PIT-tag steelhead at the Priest Rapids Dam off-ladder adult fish trap and an estimate for PIT-tag array operations and maintenance.
- *Methow 2019 M&E Implementation Plan Statement of Work (Wells)*: The HCP Hatchery Committees are reviewing the Methow 2019 M&E Implementation Plan. The YN proposed general language to the plan in case WDFW and BPA funding for steelhead tagging at Priest Rapids Dam and PIT-tag array operations and maintenance is cut in 2019. Approval of the plan was tabled until members have an opportunity to study the edits made to the plan.
- *2019 Spring Chinook and Coho Salmon Final Acclimation at Chewuch Pond (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that this is the first year coho and spring Chinook salmon will be comingled in the Chewuch Pond. A total of 80,000 coho salmon will be added to the pond.
- *Tumwater Dam Update (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that there will be a slight delay in completing the reinforcement of the fishway walls at Tumwater Dam this winter. Chelan PUD expects the work to be completed by mid- to late-March 2019. This work will not affect fish passage and trapping operations at the dam.
- *Merging the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meetings*: The HCP Hatchery Committees agreed to merge the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meetings to improve efficiency, sharing, cost, and time. Although the meetings were merged, each committee maintains its independence in

identifying agenda items and decision making. The HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee identified and agreed to a structure for the agendas and meeting notes, and both committees are currently reviewing and updating their meeting protocols and distribution lists.

- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on February 20, 2019.

### III. Yakama Nation

#### A. HCP Tributary Committees Dispute Resolution Update (Keely Murdoch)

Keely Murdoch said there is no official letter yet; however, the YN are expecting to file a dispute regarding the *Scaffold Camp Acquisition #2 Project* that has been discussed within the HCP Tributary Committees. Murdoch said a dispute will not be filed until more research is conducted to better understand what the outcome of the process will be. She said in the meantime, the YN are working to better frame the issue within the HCP Tributary Committees by presenting an SOA to the HCP Tributary Committees. She clarified that if the YN take this issue to dispute, it is not about a territorial issue between the YN and the CCT; rather, the dispute is about the basis for decision-making by the HCP Tributary Committees and the lack of guidance in voting protocols. She said she believes everyone can agree that decisions should be based on having some sort of nexus with the resource; and not be based on arbitrary reasons. She said the dispute is about the decision-making process, notably, how to make decisions.

John Ferguson asked about a timeline. Murdoch said she is uncertain about a timeline, but hopefully the YN can bring something to the HCP Tributary Committees in February 2019. Ferguson said it would be nice to have a full Committee present, i.e., not furloughed, and Murdoch agree this would be ideal.

Chad Jackson asked when funding needs to be secured for this project. Tom Kahler said funds are already available. He said there is no hang-up there because the project has technical merit. Ferguson said there is urgency about settling this issue before the landowner sells the property. Murdoch said at this point, the issue is bigger than implementing the actual project. Kahler said other individual parties have presented projects for funding in the HCP Tributary Committees similar to this project and more can be expected, so it would be good to resolve this issue now. Murdoch agreed this issue will keep arising. She said it would be beneficial if the *Scaffold Camp Acquisition #2 Project* is funded; however, this is not what the dispute is about, it is the catalyst.

Kahler said it would be nice to move forward on the *Scaffold Camp Acquisition #2 Project* regardless of the dispute. He said the YN are not gaining any sort of leverage in regard to what status this project happens to be in at the moment, and he asked if there is a workaround to move this project forward while the YN carry out the dispute. Murdoch said she can discuss this with YN policy staff.

Kahler asked what is the desired outcome of this dispute; removal of policy interference in the decision-making process? Murdoch said she needs to consult with YN policy staff but does not want to frame it as "policy interference." She said within the HCP Hatchery Committees, policy input is often times considered in the decision-making process; however, this input is related to how to manage mitigation and not about something arbitrary or unrelated.

Tracy Hillman clarified that the HCP Tributary Committees have policies and procedures in place to evaluate proposals for both the GSHP and Small Projects Program based on biological and technical merit and cost-effectiveness. Hillman said he believes what Murdoch is saying is, based on those criteria, the *Scaffold Camp Acquisition #2 Project* would clearly be funded. Hillman said, however, there is now an additional policy-level territorial criterion being used to evaluate a project. He said he believes the YN are saying this goes beyond the bounds for making decisions on proposals. He said he does not believe Murdoch is implying there should be no policy guidance; rather, policy staff should not intervene unless it is related to benefiting the project. Murdoch agreed with Hillman's comments. Kahler also agreed the HCP Tributary Committees likely would agree with these comments, but he asked still, where does this end up? Murdoch said she is unsure, but the YN are researching this now.

Ferguson said he was contacted by Steve Parker and they discussed similar questions about what the goal of this dispute is. Ferguson said he encouraged Parker to contact Hillman to discuss HCP Tributary Committees processes, which Parker did. Ferguson also let Parker know that because Parker contacted him, he also called and left a voice mail with Randy Friedlander (CCT) to discuss the pending dispute. Ferguson said, however, he has not yet heard back from Friedlander.

Ferguson said if a letter is received before the next HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 26, 2019, the HCP Coordinating Committees will convene via conference call to discuss the letter. Ferguson also said he will provide an update to Scott Carlon and Ritchie Graves about the impending dispute resolution from the HCP Tributary Committees. *(Note: Ferguson contacted Carlon and Graves on January 28, 2019, and provided updates as discussed.)*

## IV. Douglas PUD

### A. Wells Dam Fishway Maintenance Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the Wells Dam east fishway was dewatered for annual maintenance on January 7, and 8, 2019, as described in a memorandum distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 9, 2019. Kahler said the east fishway will be offline through the end of January 2019. He said a contractor will polish the fishway window this week. He said other work includes routine and fish pump maintenance.

**B. DECISION: Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan (Tom Kahler)**

John Ferguson recalled discussing the study schedule at length during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 18, 2018, and the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee generally elected a modified Option No. 2 (April 13 to May 12, extended 1 week later to end on May 19). Ferguson said Tom Kahler was tasked with discussing this option internally; and following the meeting on December 18, 2018, Kahler provided an email explaining the ultimate decision to not extend the study 7 days (Attachment B), which was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 19, 2018. Kahler said the email (Attachment B) included an evaluation of the 2010 Survival Verification Study release replicates, which indicates that to the point whereby 75% of each release has been detected at Rocky Reach Dam requires a minimum time interval of 11 days, and the mean is 23 days. He said based on review of these data, Douglas PUD concluded a 30-day release period for the study is ideal. He said no comments on this email were received from the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee; therefore, Douglas PUD hopes to have a quick discussion and obtain approval of the study plan today.

Ferguson asked Kahler to clarify Douglas PUD's final proposed study start and stop dates. Kahler said Douglas PUD is proposing the original Option No. 2, which starts April 13 and ends May 12. Keely Murdoch said this option starts 1 week earlier than Douglas PUD's initial preferred option but does not include the 1 additional week at the end of the study. Kahler said this is correct. Chad Jackson recalled the reason to add 1 week at the end was to incorporate the tail end of each run. He asked without this additional 1 week, are there enough study fish in the system to represent the untagged fish migrating during this timeframe?

Kahler distributed hard copies of a run timing graph (Attachment C), which was also distributed electronically to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris following the meeting on January 22, 2019. Kahler explained that the graph (Attachment C) shows a black box representing study fish releases from April 13 to May 12, and a red hashed box encompassing a 19-day cumulative passage average from the 2010 study. He said this graph indicates that 50% of the fish released on May 12 are still in the reservoir on June 1, based on 2010 study results. He said of all releases in 2010, 87% had passed Rocky Reach Dam by May 31 and 13% of the fish were detected at Rocky Reach Dam after that date. Ferguson asked when the last release was in 2010, and Kahler said on May 17. Jackson asked about the first releases in 2010, and Kahler said 97.5% of the first releases in 2010 passed Rocky Reach Dam by May 31.

Jackson asked if Wells Fish Hatchery staff are still on track for targeting a smaller fish size, and Kahler said yes. Jackson asked if all comments were addressed in the final revised study plan (a final revised draft plan for approval was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on January 15, 2019). Kahler said yes and all edits are in tracked changes. Jackson said lastly, based on

the latest graph Kahler shared indicating there should be sufficient numbers of fish from all groups in the system without the additional 1 week, WDFW is supportive of the proposed Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan.

Murdoch said the YN appreciates Douglas PUD moving the study forward 1 week to incorporate more coverage for wild spring Chinook salmon. She said she still believes 1 week longer would also be beneficial; however, she is okay without it if it is not feasible. Kahler noted that one effect of releasing study fish 1 week later is that when the releases are spread out and skip days, this results in fewer study fish being released during the height of the normal outmigration distribution and more fish being released on the tails of the distribution. He said it is ideal to release most of the fish during the peaks of the migration when most of the subject populations are emigrating, since the goal of the study is for the study fish to emigrate with the subject populations.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan, as revised.

Ferguson said he will provide an update to Scott Carlon about the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval of the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan, as revised. *(Note: Ferguson contacted Carlon on January 28, 2019, and provided updates as discussed.)*

*Note: Immediately following the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting Kirk Truscott contacted Ferguson, who briefed Truscott on the topics covered during the meeting including the final revised Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan. The CCT and NMFS approved the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study Plan, as revised, via email on January 29, 2019.*

### **C. Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler said there is one remaining Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application out for review (for a single-use dock [LeSage]), which was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on November 29, 2018. This application is available for a 60-day review with edits, comments, or an indication of no comments due to Kahler by Monday, January 28, 2019. Kahler said comments or indication of no comments have been received from all Parties except NMFS (currently furloughed).

Kahler said regarding the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Applications for Gebbers Farm and Repo LLC, he asked Beau Patterson (Douglas PUD Land Use Specialist) about the expired permits. Kahler said Patterson looked into this and discovered that the landowners have already received new letters of permission from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) but did not provide the letters to Douglas PUD. Kahler said because USACE already released the permits, no further comment will be accepted by USACE anyway. Kahler recalled Kirk Truscott and Jim Craig mentioning plans to submit CCT and USFWS comments, respectively, to USACE; however, the comment period is no longer open.

**D. 2019 Wells Dam Gas Abatement Plan and Bypass Operating Plan (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler said a draft 2019 Total Dissolved Gas Abatement Plan Wells Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2149 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 21, 2019, and is available for review with edits and comments due to Douglas PUD by Monday, February 11, 2019. Douglas PUD will be requesting approval of this document during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 26, 2019. Andrew Gingerich noted that this final approved document is due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by February 28, 2019.

**E. 2019 Wells HCP Action Plan (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler said a draft 2018 Wells HCP Action Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 16, 2019, which is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Kahler by Friday, February 15, 2019.

**F. 2018 Wells Dam Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler said a draft 2018 Post-Season Bypass Report and Passage-Dates Analysis was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on December 14, 2018, which is available for a 60-day review with edits and comments due to Kahler by Tuesday, February 12, 2019. Kahler said he received comments from Jim Craig prior to today’s meeting on January 22, 2019.

**V. Chelan PUD**

**A. Rocky Reach and Rock Island Adult Fishway Maintenance Updates (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller reviewed adult fishway maintenance updates at Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam, as follows:

Rocky Reach Dam

Keller said the upper adult fishway at Rocky Reach Dam was taken offline for annual winter maintenance on January 2, 2019. He said headgates were installed at the exits allowing the upper fishway to drain down to an elevation equal to the tailwater, and a fish rescue was performed that same day. He said fish rescued included:

Species	Stage/Length	Clip	Count
Pacific lamprey ( <i>Entosphenus tridentatus</i> )	Adult	Not Applicable	54
Whitefish ( <i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	25
Rainbow/steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	1 fish within 12- to 18-inches	Ad-present	10
	Not Reported	Ad-clipped	2

Keller recalled that last year, the number of Pacific lamprey encountered was in the triple digits. He also noted that one adipose (ad)-present *Oncorhynchus mykiss* encountered was within the 12- to 18-inch range in length; however, it had no coded wire tag (CWT) so crews released the fish. He said he later discovered that WDFW is interested in all *Oncorhynchus mykiss* within the 12- to 18-inch range in length regardless of tag presence. Chad Jackson said this is correct because origin can also be determined based on the fish scale pattern.

Keller said the area between the count window and exit was dewatered on January 4, 2019, and a fish rescue was performed that same day. He said fish rescued included:

Species	Stage/Length	Clip	Count
Rainbow/steelhead	Not Reported	Ad-present	8
	1 fish within 12- to 18-inches	Ad-clipped	4
Coho salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> )	Juvenile	Not Applicable	1
Whitefish	Not Reported	Not Applicable	1
Chiselmouth ( <i>Acrocheilus alutaceus</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	2
Shiner ( <i>Notropis hudsonius</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	8

Keller said one ad-clipped *Oncorhynchus mykiss* was within the 12- to 18-inch range in length and was turned over to Mike Tonseth (WDFW).

Keller said the lower adult fishway at Rocky Reach Dam was taken offline for annual winter maintenance on January 8, 2019, and a fish rescue was performed that same day. He said fish rescued included:

Species	Stage/Length	Clip	Count
Pacific lamprey	Adult	Not Applicable	11
Steelhead	Adult	Ad-clipped	1
Triploid rainbow	Not Reported	Ad-clipped	5
Cutthroat ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	1
Rainbow/steelhead	3 fish within 12- to 18-inches	Ad-present	9
	5 fish within 12- to 18-inches	Ad-clipped	6
Whitefish	Not Reported	Not Applicable	38
Shiner	Not Reported	Not Applicable	14
Chiselmouth	Not Reported	Not Applicable	4
Peamouth ( <i>Mylocheilus caurinus</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	6
Sucker ( <i>Catostomus commersonii</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	1
Pikeminnow ( <i>Ptychocheilus oregonensis</i> )	Not Reported	Not Applicable	2



Keller noted that during the days leading up to the lower ladder dewatering, all fishway entrances were left open, allowing fish to move out of the ladder on their own volition. He said the triploid rainbows were all big, plump fish. He said three ad-present *Oncorhynchus mykiss* were within the 12- to 18-inch range in length; however, these fish had no CWT, so crews released the fish. He said five ad-clipped *Oncorhynchus mykiss* were within the 12- to 18-inch range in length, which were turned over to Tonseth.

### Rock Island Dam

Keller said currently, the right and left adult fish ladders at Rock Island Dam are offline for annual winter maintenance. He said the inspection of the left ladder is nearly complete, and Biomark is still investigating the noise issue in the PIT-tag detector in the right ladder. He said the center ladder is still watered up and is scheduled to be taken offline for maintenance on January 28, 2019 (after the left ladder is returned to service). He said a fish rescue in the center ladder will take place the same day as dewatering. He said the left adult fish ladder was dewatered on January 7, 2019, and a fish rescue was conducted that same day. He said fish rescued included:

Species	Stage/Length	Clip	Count
Rainbow/steelhead	Not Reported	Ad-present	8
	1 fish within 12- to 18-inches	Ad-clipped	5
Sucker	Not Reported	Not Applicable	1

Keller said one ad-clipped *Oncorhynchus mykiss* was within the 12- to 18-inch range in length; however, had no CWT so crews released the fish.

Keller said after Biomark completes their noise investigation in the right adult fish ladder, the ladder will be returned to service by the end of February 2019.

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

Lance Keller said Rock Island Dam mechanics are progressing well with disassembling Turbine Unit B4. Keller said return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B4 is still July 2019. He said mechanical staff are continually evaluating all components of the turbines to understand what needs to be refurbished and replaced. He said the priority is the small units. He recalled reporting during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on December 18, 2018, that the rotor has been removed from Turbine Unit B4 and the turbine and hub will come out shortly.

### **C. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Unit C1 Update (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller said disassembly of Turbine Unit C1 to replace the trunnion bushing will begin in mid-February 2019. Keller said there is a slight time delay due to a shortage of headgates. He said all

headgates required to remove another unit from service are in use for blade block inspections and fishway maintenance. He said once the adult fish ladder is returned to service in mid-February 2019, these gates will become available for Turbine Unit C1. He said the unfortunate part about starting disassembly of Turbine Unit C1 in mid-February 2019, is that the planned outage is 6 months, which lasts into mid-August 2019. He said, therefore, it can be expected that in 2019 operation of Turbine Unit C1 will be similar to 2018 and it will not be operated for the duration of the juvenile fish bypass season, which runs from April 1 to August 31, 2019. He said Rocky Reach Dam bypass operations in 2019 will include: 1) using three additional Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Surface Collector (RRJFBS SC) pumps to increase attraction flow from 6,000 to 6,660 cubic feet per second (cfs) into the RRJFBS SC entrances (3,330 cfs on each side); and 2) increasing Turbine Unit C2 flow from its normal soft-limit set-point of 12,200 cfs (12.2 kcfs) to a soft-limit flow of 15.2 kcfs.

Keller said these modified operations for the RRJFBS SC and Turbine Unit C2 will be appended to the 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan.

#### **D. Upcoming Chelan PUD Documents for Review (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller notified the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees that a number of documents will be distributed for review shortly, including a draft 2019 RRJFBS Operations Plan, draft 2019 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan, draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan, and draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams Fish Spill Plan.

A draft 2018 RRJFBS Report and draft 2018 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on January 24, 2019, which are available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Keller by Monday, February 25, 2019.

A draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Action Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 12, 2019, which is available for review.

A draft 2019 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan, draft 2019 RRJFBS Operations Plan, and draft 2019 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 15, 2019, which are available for a 32-day review with edits and comments due to Keller by Monday, March 18, 2019.

## VI. HCP Administration

### A. 2018 HCP Annual Reports (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson reminded the HCP Coordinating Committees of upcoming review timelines for the 2018 HCP Annual Reports, as follows:

- 2018 Wells HCP Annual Report due to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for a 30-day review on Wednesday, February 6, 2019
- 2018 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports due to the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees for a 30-day review on Monday, February 18, 2019

Ferguson suggested that HCP Coordinating Committees representatives coordinate accordingly with their respective HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees representatives for adequate review of these reports.

The draft 2018 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 5, 2019, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Geris by Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

The draft 2018 Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Annual Reports were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on February 18, 2019, and are available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Geris by Monday, March 18, 2019.

### B. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on February 26, 2019, to be held **in-person** at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington.

The March 26, and April 23, 2019 meetings will be held by conference call or in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee office in Wenatchee, Washington, as is yet to be determined.

## VII. List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment B Email explaining the decision to not extend the 2020 Wells Project Survival Verification Study

Attachment C 2020 Wells Project Survival Verification Study Plan – run and study timing graph

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

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

Notes:

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