

Memorandum

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

Date: May 22, 2018

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the April 24, 2018 HCP Coordinating Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordinating Committees met by conference call on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

Action Item Summary

- Douglas PUD will further review run-timing data for wild and hatchery yearling Chinook salmon with regard to Wells Dam bypass operation dates and will report back to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).
- Douglas PUD will provide results from the most recent spring and summer Chinook salmon smolt-to-smolt comparative studies conducted by Douglas PUD to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C). *(Note: Tom Kahler provided these results to Geris on May 21, 2018, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- Kristi Geris will forward to the HCP Coordinating Committees the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) document outlining ongoing discussions on the Broodstock Collection Protocols, which was distributed to the HCP Hatchery Committees by Sarah Montgomery on April 19, 2018 (Item II-A). *(Note: Geris forwarded this document to the HCP Coordinating Committees following the conference call on April 24, 2018.)*
- Douglas PUD will inquire with Jeff Fryer (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission [CRITFC]) about the feasibility of using the anesthetic, AQUI-S, during CRITFC's proposed annual sockeye salmon tagging effort at Wells Dam in 2018 (Item V-A).
- Keely Murdoch will inquire internally within the Yakama Nation (YN) about the feasibility of using the anesthetic, AQUI-S, during CRITFC's proposed annual sockeye salmon tagging effort at Wells Dam in 2018 (Item V-A). *(Note: Murdoch determined that the YN have no issues with using AQUI-S for this tagging effort, as distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 25, 2018.)*
- Scott Carlon will inquire internally within the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) about the required permitting process for using coho salmon as a study species in the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study (Item V-B).

- Kristi Geris will notify Jim Craig and Chad Jackson that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333; and will request U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and WDFW approval via email, as discussed (Item V-C). *(Note: Geris provided this notification to Craig and Jackson following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on April 24, 2018.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 22, 2018, will be held **in-person** at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington (Item VI-B).

Decision Summary

- The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as revised. Jim Craig provided USFWS approval via email on April 19, 2018; Chad Jackson provided WDFW approval via email on April 23, 2018 (Item III-A).
- The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333. Jim Craig and Chad Jackson provided USFWS and WDFW approval, respectively, via email on April 25, 2018 (Item V-C).

Agreements

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

Review Items

- CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2018 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris on April 13, 2018. Douglas PUD will seek approval of the request during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 22, 2018 (Item V-A).
- A Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333 was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris on April 24, 2018. This application was approved on April 25, 2018 (see Decision Summary; Item V-C).
- A Rocky Reach Project Land-Use Permit Application for the City of Entiat was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on May 10, 2018. This application is available for a 30-day review with comments or indication of no comments due to Lance Keller, Jeff Osborn (Chelan PUD), and Geris no later than Monday, June 11, 2018.

Finalized Documents

- The Final 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 24, 2018 (Item III-A).

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:

- Ferguson said Chad Jackson added a decision item on the 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols via email on April 23, 2018. Ferguson said Mike Tonseth (WDFW) will lead this agenda item in Jackson's absence.
- Tom Kahler added: 1) Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333; and 2) Wells Dam Bypass Update.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft March 27, 2018 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the HCP Coordinating Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes and there are no outstanding items remaining to be discussed. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the March 27, 2018 meeting minutes, as revised. Jim Craig provided USFWS approval via email on April 17, 2018; Chad Jackson provided WDFW approval via email on April 18, 2018.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 27, 2018, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on March 27, 2018*):

- *Kristi Geris will distribute a notification to the HCP Coordinating Committees to contact Tracy Hillman (HCP Hatchery Committees Chairman) or Sarah Montgomery (HCP Hatchery Committees support staff) if members are interested in attending a tour of the new Wells Fish Hatchery facility on April 18, 2018 (Item I-C).*
Geris distributed this notification on March 29, 2018.
- *Douglas PUD will further review run-timing data for wild and hatchery yearling Chinook salmon with regard to Wells Dam bypass operation dates and will report back to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-C).*
This action item will be carried forward.
- *Andrew Gingerich (Douglas PUD) will distribute the report by Drs. John Skalski and Richard Townsend (Columbia Basin Research), which calculates sample size ranges needed to achieve precision standards for various study species and designs, as discussed by the*

HCP Coordinating Committees for the upcoming Wells Project 2020 Survival Verification Study (Item III-A).

Tom Kahler provided this report to Kristi Geris on April 13, 2018, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.

- *Douglas PUD will provide results from the most recent spring and summer Chinook salmon smolt-to-smolt comparative studies conducted by Douglas PUD to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item III-A).*

This action item will be carried forward.

- *Scott Carlon will discuss internally with the NMFS, with regard to the Wells Project 2020 Survival Verification Study: 1) permitting requirements for using spring Chinook salmon, including modifications to Douglas PUD's HCP Incidental Take permit to allow for handling and tagging over 100,000 spring Chinook salmon smolts; 2) modifications to hatchery permits to allow for the collection of additional broodstock and for straying and percentage of hatchery origin spawners (pHOS) issues associated with releasing spring Chinook salmon raised at the Wells Fish Hatchery at the mouth of the Methow and Okanogan rivers; and 3) concerns with releasing coho salmon at the mouth of the Okanogan River given that the Yakama Nation (YN) program currently does not have coverage for releasing fish at that site (Item III-A).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Kristi Geris will redistribute the Draft 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols (originally distributed March 12, 2018) along with a voting deadline for the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee, to be submitted via email to Mike Tonseth (WDFW) and Geris by close-of-business (COB) on Friday, April 6, 2018 (Item V-A).*

Geris redistributed the protocols, as discussed, following the meeting on March 27, 2018.

- *John Ferguson, in coordination with Tracy Hillman and Chelan and Douglas PUDs, will draft a letter to Grant PUD expressing thanks for the use of the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee, Washington, for convening monthly HCP Committees meetings (Item VI-B).*

This letter was sent to Grant PUD on March 29, 2018, and was distributed by Kristi Geris to the HCP Coordinating Committees, Hillman, and Denny Rohr (Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee [PRCC Facilitator]) on April 2, 2018.

II. HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman reported that the HCP Tributary Committees did not meet in April 2018 and will next meet on May 23, 2018 (the day after the HCP Coordinating Committee meeting on May 22, 2018).

Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees received 20 draft proposals to review, which are all cost-shares with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. He said the HCP Tributary Committees will also be

attending the upcoming project tours in the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan river basins during May 2018.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on April 18, 2018:

- *Methodology for Establishing Baseline Conditions in the Wenatchee Steelhead Program:* The new Wenatchee steelhead permit calls for maximizing the number of steelhead that migrate downstream and reducing the number that residualize. Chelan PUD proposed three methods for evaluating steelhead residualism in the Wenatchee Basin. The first method evaluates the number and proportion of passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tagged hatchery steelhead detected within the Wenatchee Basin after the smolt outmigration period. This is a requirement of the permit. The second method involves holding 300 hatchery-by-hatchery and 300 wild-by-wild steelhead for at least 2 months after juvenile steelhead are released to assess maturation of precocial parr. The Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committees approved this method. The final method being developed by the Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team is to sample for residual steelhead within the Wenatchee Basin. This method may include a combination of snorkel and PIT-tag surveys and is still under discussion.
- *National Marine Fisheries Service Consultation Update:* The National Environmental Policy Act process is moving forward. NMFS is working on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Methow steelhead and the unlisted programs (summer/fall Chinook salmon for Wells, Methow, Chelan Falls, Dryden, and Priest Rapids). The EA is currently missing the cumulative impacts section. Once it is complete, the EA will go through internal review, applicant review, and then a 30-day public review. The Wells and Winthrop steelhead permits should be available for review by mid-May 2018.
- *Broodstock Collection Protocols:* The HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed and approved the last revised version of the 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols. There are six issues to be discussed further (five related to the HCP Hatchery Committees and one related to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee [PRCC-HSC]). Resolution on these issues will be included in the 2019 Broodstock Collection Protocols. The approved Final 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols will be submitted to NMFS on April 27, 2018. John Ferguson asked what the five HCP-related issues are about. Hillman recalled the outstanding issues, as follows: 1) collection of summer Chinook salmon eggs at Wells Fish Hatchery for a YN reintroduction program in the Yakima River—the YN will provide a presentation on the YN Summer Chinook Salmon Program; 2) inclusion of age-3 males (or H3 jacks) in broodstock with regard to life history diversity; 3) bacterial kidney disease (BKD) risk assessment criteria and management regarding whether the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) at Washington State

University will be consistent with WDFW's Olympia Washington lab for analyzing numerical optical density values—Betsy Bamberger (Douglas PUD Fish Health Specialist) will present on BKD, and WADDL will be discussed further; 4) how to differentiate between natural-origin recruit (NOR) Okanogan spring Chinook salmon collected at Wells Dam for the Section 10(j) program from Methow NORs collected at Methow Fish Hatchery; and 5) re-evaluating the size of the Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Programs with regard to how many fish should be produced under conservation versus safety-net programs. Hillman said he believes Keely Murdoch and Mike Tonseth will take the lead on the fifth item and will produce recommendations on how to move forward on determining these proportions by September or October 2018. Hillman said the sixth issue is regarding fall Chinook salmon at Priest Rapids Dam and will be addressed by the PRCC-HSC. Tonseth said he produced a document outlining these ongoing discussions on the Broodstock Collection Protocols, which are based on comments received on the protocols. He said the document was distributed to the HCP Hatchery Committees and suggested forwarding this document to the HCP Coordinating Committees for their reference. Kristi Geris said she will forward this document, as requested. *(Note: Geris forwarded this document to the HCP Coordinating Committees following the conference call on April 24, 2018.)*

- *HCP Hatchery Committees Support Staff:* Ferguson said Anchor QEA supports the HCP Hatchery Committees through Sarah Montgomery. Ferguson said Montgomery will be attending graduate school at the University of Washington in fall 2018, and Anchor QEA is working diligently on finding a replacement.
- *Next meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on May 16, 2018.

III. WDFW

A. DECISION: Revised Draft 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Mike Tonseth)

Mike Tonseth said a fifth revised draft 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 19, 2018. Tonseth said version 5 is not substantially different from version 4 (distributed April 17, 2018). He said as discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 27, 2018, the revision of most significance to the HCP Coordinating Committees is an increase in the trapping window for spring Chinook salmon at Wells Dam from 5 to 7 days per week, which is allowed under the Wells Biological Opinion.

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as revised. Jim Craig provided USFWS approval via email on April 19, 2018; Chad Jackson provided WDFW approval via email on April 23, 2018.

The Final 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on April 24, 2018.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Unit C1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled last month, discussing issues with Turbine Unit C1 and notifying the HCP Coordinating Committees the unit would be out of operation during the start of the juvenile bypass season but will hopefully return to service by mid-May 2018.

Keller said Chelan PUD received new replacement stock trunnion seals for Turbine Unit C1 the week of April 9, 2018. He said the new seals were installed on April 16, 2018, and tested on April 20, 2018. He said on April 23, 2018, the hub was filled with oil and pressurized to 50 pounds per square inch, which is a typical step in commissioning a unit. He said mechanics evaluated the turbine area for leaks at the trunnion seals and determined one seal is continuing to leak. He said the leak is minor (drips); however, this means Turbine Unit C1 will not be returned to service as soon as anticipated.

Keller said Chelan PUD plans to move forward with the parallel path, as discussed with the HCP Coordinating Committees last month. He said this path involves investigating the possibility of hydraulically locking the turbine blades in the most efficient fixed operating position at its normal soft-limit set-point of 12,200 cubic feet per second (cfs; 12.2 kcfs). He recalled Chelan PUD's concern with this approach regarding the leaking seals allowing water into the hub when oil is removed, and he said mechanics are still working on this fix. Keller said Chelan PUD anticipates hydraulically locking the turbine blades to be complete over the coming weeks (not months), if possible. He said additionally, a sole-source contractor is working on a custom engineered seal; however, completion of this is still months out. He said he will keep the HCP Coordinating Committees apprised of progress.

John Ferguson asked if there have been any issues with the alternate operations¹? Keller said Chelan PUD is conducting daily fish indexing and nothing abnormal has been detected to date. He added that the intake screen system is running as it should on Turbine Unit C2, as well as the surface collector channels.

Keller said he tried locating past documentation showing when the last rehabilitation was conducted, which would indicate when the trunnion seals were last replaced; however, he has not yet located it. Ferguson suggested sharing this information during a future meeting.

¹ As discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 27, 2018, alternate operations 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 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 12.2 kcfs to a soft-limit flow of 15.2 kcfs.

V. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: CRITFC Annual Request for Sockeye Tagging at Wells (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said CRITFC submitted their annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2018, which was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris on April 13, 2018. Kahler said generally, the request is the same as usual; however, there will be no acoustic tagging in 2018, as was also the case in 2017. He said the proposed trapping would start in late June 2018. He recalled CRITFC's preference for trapping at the east fish ladder to avoid interference with other trapping efforts or running fish through the adult handling facility.

Kirk Truscott asked what CRITFC was proposing to use for an anesthetic. Kahler said this was not specified in the request; however, he believes tricaine methanesulfonate (MS-222) is typically used. Truscott said, considering the projected low sockeye salmon return and the resulting small fishery for the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approves CRITFC's request, the CCT are requesting that fish be anesthetized with something that will not require withdrawals. Kahler said he believes a similar request has been accommodated in the past.

Keely Murdoch said she believes MS-222 is what is generally used, and the fish are floy-tagged to avoid consumption. Truscott said his concern is that it is written in the CCT regulations to release floy-tagged fish (avoid collecting fish that have been subject to MS-222 for the fishery), and with the already low returns he would like to avoid releasing any fish at all. Kahler suggested CRITFC use Aqui-S, and Truscott said this would be the CCT's preference. Truscott also noted that in some years the CCT had a subcontract with CRITFC to participate in this annual tagging effort and he is unsure whether this is the case for 2018. Murdoch explained that the CCT helped with acoustic tagging in the past, which is likely why a subcontract is not in place for 2018 since the fish are not being acoustically tagged this year. Truscott asked why CRITFC does not just tag more fish at Bonneville Dam. Kahler said one reason is due to temperature issues at Bonneville Dam. He said additionally, CRITFC has attempted to collect more fish at the Priest Rapids Dam off ladder adult fish trap, but ultimately efforts have focused at Wells Dam to attempt to boost numbers of known Okanogan River fish.

Douglas PUD will inquire with Jeff Fryer about the feasibility of using the anesthetic, Aqui-S, during CRITFC's proposed annual sockeye salmon tagging effort at Wells Dam in 2018. John Ferguson asked if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee wants to vote on this now, where approval is contingent on CRITFC using Aqui-S. Murdoch said she prefers to wait to vote because the YN conduct the anesthetizing for this tagging effort, and she wants to verify internally whether Aqui-S is on site and if there is budget to purchase it, if needed. Murdoch will inquire internally within the YN about the feasibility of using the anesthetic, Aqui-S, during CRITFC's proposed annual sockeye salmon tagging

effort at Wells Dam in 2018. (Note: Murdoch determined that the YN have no issues with using Aqwi-S for this tagging effort, as distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on April 25, 2018.)

B. Wells Project 2020 Survival Verification Study – Study Species (Tom Kahler)

John Ferguson briefly recapped discussions to date. He said per a requirement in the Wells HCP, PIT-tags are the only feasible option for this study. He said there was a good discussion on acoustic tags, as well. He said Douglas PUD has been coordinating with Drs. John Skalski and Richard Townsend on sample sizes and return rates. Ferguson said last month, the discussions ended with action items to research aspects of permitting requirements for using spring Chinook salmon as a study species. He said there may also be ponding (capacity) issues, including a leaking liner in dirt pond 3 at Wells Fish Hatchery, and if spring Chinook or coho salmon are used, the study will need to be postponed until 2021.

Tom Kahler recalled Douglas PUD's action item to provide results of an analysis comparing the smolt-to-smolt survival estimates of the last eight years of releases of spring and summer Chinook salmon above Wells Dam. He said Skalski and Townsend have started these analyses; however, a draft is not yet ready for review.

Kahler said regarding the permitting issue, during his conversation with Brett Farman (NMFS), he realized something that has not yet been discussed which may affect selecting a study species. He explained that ideally, a 1-year study is conducted and is successful. He said, however, there are various reasons the study may not succeed, including: 1) not achieving the 93% standard; 2) not meeting precision requirements; or 3) experiencing an extreme year that falls outside the 90th percentile of river conditions (failing to meet representative conditions and operations) where the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee has discretion on whether to accept the results. Kahler said if the study does not succeed for whatever reason, then Douglas PUD needs to be in the position to conduct a second year of study. He said, therefore, Douglas PUD would need to collect brood in 2018 for a 2020 study, collect brood in 2019 for a potential 2021 study, and collect brood in 2020 for a potential 2022 study. This is because collection of brood for a 2021 study would precede the releases for a 2020 study, and results from a 2020 study will not be available until fall of that year following spawning of the brood for the 2022 releases. He recalled the potential issues with ponding and the leaking liner and said, considering all of this, Douglas PUD may not have the rearing capacity to use spring Chinook or coho salmon. He said additionally, if Douglas PUD collects 2 years of spring Chinook salmon (springer) broodstock and the first year of study is successful, there will be 90,000-plus parr on-station to figure out what to do with. He said this would require engaging the HCP Hatchery Committees, as well. Kahler apologized for not discussing this earlier and said he had not remembered this until his discussion with Farman.

Scott Carlon said additionally for springers, one risk might be not having enough brood for a second year. Kahler said this is correct and added there is risk of not have enough brood for the first year when dealing with springers.

Ferguson asked Keely Murdoch if the YN might still be able to provide coho salmon, given this new information. Murdoch recalled that the YN committed to prioritizing brood for a Douglas PUD verification study, if coho salmon are chosen to be the study species. She said if the run is small, this means the YN reintroduction program will fall short. She said the difference now, is this will be a 2-year commitment and not 1 year. Kahler said this is correct. Murdoch said she is assuming the YN will maintain their commitment; however, this will need to be verified internally. Kahler apologized again for not remembering this earlier.

Ferguson asked about permitting. Carlon said he spoke with Farman who indicated permitting spring Chinook salmon for the study is doable; however, Farman needs to investigate what paperwork will be needed. Kahler said he also spoke with Farman, and he said the same thing. Kahler added that Farman was not as familiar with coho salmon. Kahler said he and Farman also discussed scenarios to contain springers upon return. Kahler said based on smolt-to-adult return ratios from past survival studies, adult returns can be expected anywhere from 200 adults up to 1,500 to 2,000 adults. He said Douglas PUD might be slightly concerned with the returns in the lower range, and very concerned with returns in the upper range with regard to adult management. He said regardless, Farman believes he can permit springers in time for a 2021 study, so permitting does not appear to be a deal-breaker. Kahler said he is still unsure about coho salmon with regard to release locations not specified in the current permits.

Ferguson asked if Farman plans to continue looking into permitting springers, or if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee needs to make a formal request. Kahler said Farman is planning to look more into permitting spring Chinook salmon, and more should be known by the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 22, 2018. Kahler said since Farman is not as familiar with coho salmon, he anticipated that Farman would discuss permitting for this species with Charlene Hurst (NMFS), who knows more about the consultation history for coho salmon.

Carlon asked what the permitting questions are for coho salmon. Murdoch said what was discussed is that an Okanogan River release site is not included in the YN permit. She said Craig Busack (NMFS) wrote the original permit and either Amilee Wilson (NMFS) or Hurst wrote the revision.

Ferguson summarized that 2 years (versus 1 year) of broodstock collection will be needed in case additional years of study are required. He said more information is coming next month from Farman on spring Chinook salmon permitting. Ferguson said if coho or spring Chinook salmon are chosen as

a study species, the study will be postponed until 2021. He said permitting for coho salmon is still unknown. Kahler said he can contact Hurst about coho salmon unless Carlon wants to take this on.

Carlon asked when a final decision on a study species is needed. Kahler said the current available capacity at Wells Fish Hatchery relaxes the need for a decision if spring Chinook or coho salmon are chosen. He said if summer Chinook salmon (summers) are chosen, Douglas PUD will need to know by mid-summer and no later than August 2018 (before spawning summers for Douglas PUD's usual summer Chinook salmon program is complete). He said sooner rather than later would be helpful.

Ferguson said currently, the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is in a position where a decision is needed; however, Committee representatives also need time to review all available information and thoroughly think this through. Kahler said Douglas PUD will provide to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee the analysis about springers versus summers performance before the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 22, 2018. Kahler said he thinks this will help and anticipates that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will be able to reach a decision by May or June 2018. Ferguson agreed and said also by May 2018, Farman will know more on permitting springers and Murdoch will know more on the YN's commitment about coho salmon.

Kahler said Douglas PUD prefers not to derail the study schedule; therefore, Douglas PUD's preference is for summers and study in 2020. He added, however, Douglas PUD understands the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee's desire to study springers and coho salmon.

Carlon said finding out more on permitting coho salmon should be done, and he said he will inquire internally within NMFS about the required permitting process for using coho salmon as a study species in the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study. Murdoch asked Carlon to let her know if he needs help on this or needs a copy of the YN's permit.

Kahler said considering there are a few HCP Hatchery Committees members on today's conference call, he asked that those members begin thinking about what Douglas PUD can do with 90,000-plus springer parr that are not used for study (fish on-station for second year brood). He said it may also be useful to have representatives inquire within their respective agencies and tribes on what to do. Murdoch asked if there would be harm in collecting only 1 year of springers and if a second year is needed, skip 1 year of study and collect additional springers only if needed. She said it seems it would be best to not over-collect, if possible. Kahler reviewed the Wells HCP and said it does not indicate the second year of study needs to be immediate. He said this is a good idea and could be applicable to coho salmon, as well, so the YN would not need to sacrifice fish destined to the Methow River Basin. Murdoch agreed and said the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee would need to approve skipping a year of study. Kahler agreed.

C. DECISION: Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333 (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said a Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333 (Attachment B) was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review by Kristi Geris prior to the conference call on April 24, 2018. Kahler recalled that Douglas PUD owns nearly all of the property along the shoreline of the Wells Reservoir up to what is referred to as the "G-line," which is the line where the Wells Reservoir is expected to extend into the upland under extreme conditions. He said Douglas PUD is required to either lease or own this land and Douglas PUD chose to own it. He said Douglas PUD enforces restrictions on private development in this area and has completed a lot of planting and enhancement of the shoreline. He said for land-use purposes, if a property owner owns upland property, but desires to modify the strip of land owned by Douglas PUD to access the water, the property owner must submit a land-use permit. He said the Wells HCP stipulates that the Parties to the Wells HCP review any land-use permitting activities, and that Douglas PUD provide this review opportunity via the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. He said Attachment B is one of these opportunities.

Kahler explained that the previous property owner removed the landscape junipers planted in this area and dumped rubble in its place. He said the new property owner has been removing the rubble and would like to level the area, fill the holes, and place sod; however, he needs a permit to do this. He said the permit application is out for Wells HCP Coordinating Committee review, which is typically a 60-day review period. He said, however, the property owner has requested an expedited review in order to lay the sod during spring-like weather opposed to during the middle of summer. He said this request is not a critical urgency; rather, just a practicality.

Scott Carlon said this request does not seem unreasonable, and asked if the work is all out-of-water? Kahler said it is. Keely Murdoch asked if this property is located in the lower Methow River, and Kahler said it is. Kahler further explained that the property is located across from the fruit stand before turning onto Highway 53. Murdoch said her first thought is why are property owners allowed to plant grass in areas where there should be native vegetation? She said the adjacent properties do not have grass in this area, and asked why not keep this area the same as adjacent properties? Kahler explained, the condition of the shoreline with the previous owner was of grass along the shore and landscaping junipers at the top of the bank, which provided no habitat benefit. He said the native bunch grass Douglas PUD originally requested the current landowner to plant, in place of the junipers removed by the previous owner, did not provide the erosion control desired. Kahler said the way Douglas PUD manages land-use is by restricting development with a preference of keeping the land as natural as possible. He said the one concession Douglas PUD makes is within the city limits of Brewster, Pateros, and Bridgeport, where landowners are not necessarily required to landscape or replace low-value landscaping with only native species. He said, nevertheless, Douglas PUD

Commissioners restrict development in a manner that is very fish and wildlife-friendly. He said Douglas PUD provides this concession to these communities but asks property owners to avoid anything draconian.

Kahler said with regard to fish rearing, juvenile Chinook salmon are not typically observed rearing along this shoreline unless a lot of complex debris is present in the water (e.g., tops of trees or brush in the water). He said regarding shoreline habitat in this part of the reservoir, fry leave it quickly as they grow. He said this is true even if cottonwoods and willows were present, as these do not provide adequate shade or in-water habitat structure; they would just be more natural-looking.

Ferguson asked if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is amenable to an expedited review, and perhaps even a vote during today's conference call? Kahler said with regard to voting now, Jim Craig and Chad Jackson have not yet had an opportunity to review the permit application. Kahler suggested allowing the entire Wells HCP Coordinating Committee to review the application before voting. Carlon suggested voting now and having Craig and Jackson submit votes via email. Carlon said NMFS approves. Murdoch said the YN approves. Kirk Truscott said the CCT approves.

Geris will notify Craig and Jackson that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333; and will request USFWS and WDFW approval via email, as discussed. *(Note: Geris provided this notification to Craig and Jackson following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on April 24, 2018.)*

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333. Craig and Jackson provided USFWS and WDFW approval, respectively, via email on April 25, 2018.

D. Wells Dam Bypass Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said on April 23, 2018, bypass barriers were removed from Bypass Bay 6 due to high river flow. He said the current river forecast out of Chief Joseph Dam is 160 kcfs. He said 15 kcfs and 4 to 5 kcfs are projected out of the Okanogan and Methow rivers, respectively. He said he does not foresee reinstalling the barriers in Bypass Bay 6 anytime soon. John Ferguson noted that the Grand Coulee Reservoir was also being drawn down. Kahler said the goal was to reach 1,222 feet above mean sea level, which was achieved on April 21, 2018.

VI. HCP Administration

A. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on May 22, 2018, to be held in-person at the Grant PUD Wenatchee Office in Wenatchee, Washington. John Ferguson noted that he will be

unavailable to meet in-person due to a conference in Washington, D.C.; however, he will call into the meeting from the east coast.

The June 26 and July 24, 2018 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 Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for Landscaping in Tract 333

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillmant	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Mike Tonseth	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

* Denotes HCP Coordinating Committees member or alternate

† Joined for the HCP Tributary and Hatchery Committees Update and 2018 Broodstock Collection Protocols