

Memorandum

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

Date: April 28, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the March 24, 2020 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, March 24, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these conference call minutes.

Action Item Summary

- Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).
- The Yakama Nation (YN) will provide the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientific research permit issued to Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020, along with the scientific research permit application, which contains additional information about the study (Item III-A). *(Note: Keely Murdoch provided these documents to Kristi Geris during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 24, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*
- The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will consider the following language for concurrence during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on April 28, 2020: *Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present have reviewed the CRITFC request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020, and given the provisions contained within the Wells HCP, are voting on whether there are no fish passage impacts or acceptable fish passage impacts to Plan Species associated with the proposed data collection (Item III-B).*
- The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will be prepared to convene by conference call to discuss a path forward for implementing the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study, in the event the study cannot begin by the scheduled start date of April 13, 2020 (due to impacts of COVID-19; Item III-D).
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on April 28, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item V-B).

Decision Summary

- The *2019 Rock Island HCP Annual Report* and *2019 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report* were approved by the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees on March 19, 2020, after no disapprovals were received prior to the 30-day review period deadline.
- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols, consistent with the provisions of the Wells HCP (Item III-A).
- Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the revisions to the 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan (Item IV-C).
- Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Statement of Agreement (SOA), *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study* (Item IV-D).
- Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study* (Item IV-D).
- Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2019 Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring Program and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Draft Report* (2019 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report) (Item IV-E).
- Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2019 Biological Evaluation of the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Draft Report* (2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report) (Item IV-F).
- Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *Rock Island Dam Smolt Monitoring and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Plan 2020* (2020 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan) (Item IV-G).
- Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* (Item IV-H).

Agreements

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

Review Items

- The *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011-2013 Draft Final Report* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 24, 2019.
- CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 4, 2020 (Item III-B).

Finalized Documents

- The final 2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols (dated March 24, 2020) were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 3, 2020 (Item III-A).
- The final *2019 Wells HCP Annual Report*, which was approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on March 6, 2020, after no disapprovals were received prior to the 30-day review period deadline, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 26, 2020 (Item III-E).
- The final *2020 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Action Plan*, which was approved by the Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committees on February 25, 2020, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020.
- The final 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-C).
- The final SOA, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study*, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-D).
- The final SOA, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-D).
- The final 2019 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-E).
- The final 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-F).
- The final 2020 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-G).
- The final *2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 31, 2020 (Item IV-H).
- The final *2019 Rock Island HCP Annual Report* and *2019 Rocky Reach HCP Annual Report* were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on April 10, 2020.

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 requested that: 1) Douglas PUD provide an update on any COVID-19 impacts to the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study; and 2) Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, and

Tracy Hillman provide an update on any COVID-19 impacts to HCP bypass and hatchery operations

- Lance Keller added an update on COVID-19 impacts to the Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Department
- Tom Kahler added an update on the final *2019 Wells HCP Annual Report*

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft February 25, 2020 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes and there are two outstanding items remaining to be discussed. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on February 25, 2020*):

- *HCP Hatchery Committees Update*: Lance Keller clarified under the YN Summer Chinook Salmon Program agenda item, the YN will pay an annual fee (not "rent") for space at Eastbank Fish Hatchery.
- *2021 Confirmation Survival Study Species Selection Discussion*: Keller confirmed Todd West (Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Superintendent) managed a foreman (not "was the foreman") who operated the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System in 2010 and 2011.

Geris said she also closed out one action item and added two review items in the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the February 25, 2020 meeting minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on February 25, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on February 25, 2020*):

- *Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA) will provide an updated revised draft HCP Coordinating Committees January 28, 2020 meeting minutes to Chelan PUD for review and approval that will include clarification from Chelan PUD regarding the 2021 Confirmation Survival Study species selection agenda topic, as discussed during today's meeting; the final minutes will then be distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item I-B).*

This was completed, as discussed, and the final HCP Coordinating Committees January 28, 2020 meeting minutes were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 3, 2020.

- *Chelan PUD will continue providing Rocky Reach Dam and Rock Island Dam turbine unit maintenance updates as information becomes available (Item I-C).*

This action item will be carried forward.

- *Chelan PUD will distribute draft SOAs for the 2021 Confirmation Survival Study species selections for the Rock Island and Rocky Reach projects, which will include the approach discussed and agreed upon during today's meeting, for decision during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 24, 2020 (Item III-A).*

These SOAs were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 20, 2020.

- *Chelan PUD will adjust the positions of spill gates 18 and 26 in the spill gate sequence, as discussed in the 2020 Fish Spill Plan, Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams, Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County (2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan); the final plan will then be distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item III-E).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Chelan PUD will distribute Rock Island Dam spillway gate opening depths to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item III-E).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Anchor QEA will set a reminder for December 2020 to consider scheduling an HCP Coordinating Committees in-person meeting at Rocky Reach Dam following completion of the Visitor's Center renovation (tentatively set for July 2021; Item III-J).*

Kristi Geris set this reminder, as discussed.

- *Douglas PUD will update Jeff Fryer (CRITFC) on Wells HCP Coordinating Committee discussions regarding CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam (Item IV-C).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives will discuss internally CRITFC's annual request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam, for a possible decision during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on March 24, 2020 (Item IV-C).*

This will be discussed during today's conference call.

- *Douglas PUD will distribute a corrected Wells Dam west fishway fish salvage memorandum to the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item IV-D).*

Tom Kahler provided a corrected memorandum following the meeting on February 25, 2020, which Kristi Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.

- *Anchor QEA will coordinate to add Scott Hopkins (Chelan PUD) to the HCP Hatchery Committees email distribution list and provide Hopkins with HCP Hatchery Committees extranet site access, as approved by the HCP Coordinating Committees (Item VII-B).*

Kristi Geris notified Catherine Willard (Chelan PUD HCP Hatchery Committees Representative), Tracy Hillman (HCP Hatchery Committees Chairman), and Larissa Rohrbach (HCP Hatchery Committees Support Staff) of this approval; and Geris contacted Julene McGregor (Douglas PUD Information Services Staff) to request extranet access for Hopkins, as discussed.

II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman said the HCP Tributary Committees did not meet in March 2020; however, the Committees did attend presentations provided by the project sponsors to the Regional Technical Team (RTT) and HCP Tributary Committees:

- *RTT Presentations:* The purpose of the presentations was to describe possible projects that may be submitted through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) process. Of the 26 proposed projects presented, 17 identified a possible HCP Tributary Committees cost share. Along with the RTT, HCP Tributary Committees members provided feedback to project sponsors during the presentations. Under the SRFB process, draft applications are due on April 17, 2020. Site visits will occur from May 11 to 13, 2020. The HCP Tributary Committees will then evaluate draft applications on May 14, 2020. At that time, the Committees will identify which proposed projects are fundable and which are not. For those projects that are fundable, the Committees will request final applications, which will be evaluated on June 11, 2020.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on April 9, 2020.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees meeting on March 18, 2020 (*note: joint HCP Hatchery Committees/PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols (joint):* The HCP Hatchery Committees reviewed, edited, and approved the 2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols. The protocols were sent to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review and approval. Once approved, the protocols will be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- *Marking and Tagging of Hatchery Fish (joint):* Some hatchery programs are currently moving forward with marking and tagging juvenile hatchery fish; however, this may not be feasible due to the impacts of COVID-19. This is being evaluated on a day-to-day basis. Hillman said he believes the PUDs have already marked several fish stocks, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is facing potential issues with social distancing within typical tagging trailers.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on April 21, 2020. Hillman recalled this meeting is now on a Tuesday (rescheduled around an American Fisheries Society meeting) and will be held by conference call.

B. COVID-19: HCP Bypass and Hatchery Operations (Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, Tracy Hillman)

John Ferguson asked Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, and Tracy Hillman to provide an update on how social distancing due to COVID-19 and Governor Jay Inslee's March 23, 2020 Statewide Stay-At-Home Order has impacted the respective HCP bypass and hatchery operations.

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD has identified critical operations for both Rock Island Dam and Rocky Reach Dam and both juvenile fish bypass systems rank high on this list. Keller said these systems are operated by seasonal crews, who are already on site. He said staff are practicing social distancing within each crew and each crew is also being isolated from other crews. He said the plan is to operate each bypass system, per usual, starting April 1, 2020. He said as everyone knows, this topic is developing and changing rapidly, and Chelan PUD is evaluating procedures on a daily basis. He said as of now, Chelan PUD is moving forward with as minimal staff at the hydroelectric projects as possible.

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD employees have been advised to practice social distancing and there have been no new updates from the Douglas PUD Commissioner since Governor Inslee's Stay-At-Home Order. Kahler said most hatchery activities do not require gathering in a crowd except for spawning, which is coming up; and he is unsure how this will be performed. Andrew Gingerich said Douglas PUD has closed several facilities available to the public (e.g., visitor centers). He said he anticipates the bypass will operate per usual; the bypass barriers are scheduled to be in place by April 1, 2020, ready to start bypass operation on April 9, 2020. He said all normal functions are scheduled to continue to meet requirements. He said hatchery releases are on schedule and marking is almost complete. Kahler said all Douglas PUD programs were already tagged except the subyearlings for release in May 2020. He said the subyearlings will have coded wire tags because this tagging and adipose-clipping is already underway. He said also, USFWS typically tags a portion of these subyearlings as part of an ongoing Comparative Survival Study marked group but he is unsure whether this will happen. He said this usually happens in late April. Jim Craig said as of now, the contractors who conduct marking for USFWS have been called off. Craig said this is being evaluated on a daily basis.

Hillman said the HCP Hatchery Committees have not discussed impacts of COVID-19 aside from continuing monthly meetings by conference call rather than in-person until it is cleared to do so. Kirk Truscott said the HCP Hatchery Committees did briefly discuss non-PUD-funded hatcheries. He said Chief Joseph Fish Hatchery is still operating with provisions. He said fish will be coded-wire-tagged and adipose (ad)-clipped. He said passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tagging by Biomark likely will not happen due to the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) partial shutdown.

III. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: 2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler recalled that each year, the HCP Hatchery Committees develop the Broodstock Collection Protocols and the Wells HCP includes a requirement for Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval of the protocols. Kahler said the basis for this requirement has to do with trapping at the Wells Dam fish ladders. He said proposed trapping operations at Wells Dam are outlined in Appendix D of the protocols (which were distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on March 19, 2020), and are essentially the same as those approved last year with a few exceptions, as discussed during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting. He said CRITFC trapping of sockeye salmon is still included in the protocols; although, this is not an activity for PUD mitigation programs. He said in light of the concerns raised by the CCT regarding this activity, the HCP Hatchery Committees modified this language to indicate CRITFC trapping of sockeye salmon may occur if approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee.

Keely Murdoch said the YN has been discussing this internally and is not certain the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee has purview in this situation. She asked, what is the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approving or not approving? She said this issue has not been fully resolved. She said the YN does not want to limit available options if it is decided that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee has no purview. She asked if the Broodstock Collection Protocols are a binding document. Kahler said no, the protocols are a living document. He recalled in past years, sometimes the protocols were not even finalized until December. He said the document is intended to be adjusted, as needed. Murdoch asked, just because the protocols indicate Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval is needed for the proposed CRITFC trapping, does this lock the YN into this process (i.e., does approving the Broodstock Collection Protocols bind the Parties to language included in the protocols)? Kahler said no, he does not view the protocols as binding in this decision (note: however, the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee decision on a tagging activity at Wells Dam would be necessary regardless of the language in the protocols). Murdoch said she just wants to be sure approving the protocols does not mean the YN agrees to, or is locked into, this process.

John Ferguson said the CRITFC request for trapping sockeye salmon at Wells Dam is a request by fisheries managers to collect information at Wells Dam and is not related to the Wells HCP. He said what is related to the Wells HCP, is that the proposed CRITFC activities have the potential to affect fish passage at Wells Dam. Murdoch said she is not disagreeing with this. She said her supervisors have questions about what authority the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee has here. She said she has reviewed the Wells HCP and cannot locate language giving the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee authority to decide what data are valuable or what (incidental) take is acceptable. She said the technical merit of this project has already been reviewed and approved, and funded by the

Bonneville Power Administration, and the project already has its own permit for allowable take. She said further, if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee does have authority, the purview is related to HCP activities.

Kahler said Appendix A of the Wells HCP is the *Wells Hydroelectric Project, Adult Fish Passage Plan* (Fish Passage Plan). He said Douglas PUD interprets this plan as the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee nexus for approving activities that might affect fish passage through the Wells Dam fishways. He read the following excerpts from the Fish Passage Plan:

Changes in operating criteria require unanimous support of the Coordinating Committee including approval by NMFS Hydro Program. –page 71

Brood stock collection protocols are developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and are annually submitted to the Wells Coordinating Committee and NMFS Hydro Program for annual approval prior to trapping at the Dam. –page 72

Modification to the ladder operating criteria can only take place following approval by the Wells Coordinating Committee. –page 73

Murdoch said it looks like the Fish Passage Plan already approves the sockeye salmon work, and she read the following excerpt from the Fish Passage Plan:

In addition to brood stock collection, the adult fish traps are occasionally used to collect information from CWT tagged steelhead, collect sockeye scales for stock identification and age analysis and collect adult bull trout, chinook, sockeye and steelhead for radio-tagging. –page 72

Murdoch said this CRITFC work started in the early 1990s and predates the HCPs, which might be why this language was included, because the activities were already happening at the time of the development of the HCPs. She reiterated that the YN is not questioning Wells HCP Coordinating Committee approval of the Broodstock Collection Protocols; rather, the question is if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee can approve or not approve whether CRITFC can trap at Wells Dam.

Kahler said he interpreted the excerpt that Murdoch read as activities that occasionally happen at Wells Dam. Kahler said Douglas PUD routinely has third parties trap at Wells Dam. He said historically, Wells Dam was the last trap on the Columbia River as fish migrate upstream. He said now there is trapping at the Chief Joseph Dam fish ladder, as well. He said there have been situations in the past when proposed activities at the Wells Dam fish ladders would interfere with an ongoing Douglas PUD study, and as the Project Operators, Douglas PUD has had the opportunity to ask the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee whether the Committee agrees that the proposed activity might

interfere with HCP activities. He said, for example, the Douglas PUD Aquatic Settlement Work Group (SWG) wanted to conduct a Pacific Lamprey study in the Wells Dam fish ladders and the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee determined the proposed study would impede fishway entrance by Plan Species. He said the Aquatic SWG had to modify the study, per recommendations from the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee so as to not affect fishway attraction. He said the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee needs to make decisions about any activity proposed for the Wells Dam fish ladders that might affect passage for Plan Species. He said this is per the Douglas PUD Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license.

Murdoch said it makes sense that the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee purview is related to HCP activities; however, for the CCT to not approve the activity because the CCT do not believe the data are useful does not seem to be within the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee purview.

Ferguson asked Douglas PUD to review the specific trapping operations that are expected for the Wells Dam fish ladders during the sockeye salmon migration in 2020. Kahler said CRITFC has been conducting this effort for years and has always coordinated with other trapping activities to the extent possible. He said typically, this coordination has occurred with the steelhead broodstock collection and stock assessment trapping conducted by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and summer Chinook salmon stock-assessment and broodstock trapping conducted by WDFW and Douglas PUD, respectively. He said WDFW or Douglas PUD operates the traps, and when sockeye salmon are encountered, fish are handed over to CRITFC for tagging. He said this year, however, the steelhead stock assessment is occurring at the Priest Rapids Dam Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap, and broodstock collection for steelhead occurs in the spring. He said trapping of summer Chinook salmon (summers) at Wells Dam for the Carlton Program and for stock-assessment sampling will only occur at the east fish ladder, and Douglas PUD collection of spring Chinook salmon (springers) will occur at both ladders, but will conclude by June 28, 2020 before most of the sockeye salmon trapping would occur. He said, for the Carlton summers, the trap will be operated by the Douglas PUD hatchery crew, a maximum of 3 days per week. He said oftentimes, all broodstock for a given week is collected within 1 day. He said in the past, when WDFW and Douglas PUD trapping operations were fulfilled, CRITFC would continue operating the trap if more sockeye salmon were needed.

Ferguson said this is something for the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee to consider, that there may be days where the trap is operated only for sockeye salmon collection to meet CRITFC tagging needs. Murdoch said during this timeframe there are few Endangered Species Act-list species migrating. She said late June to early July is the end of the springer run and the steelhead migration will not quite be started yet.

Kirk Truscott said his recollection is that the NOAA scientific research permit issued to CRITFC to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020 and/or the Broodstock Collection Protocols state that the proposed activity must be performed concurrent with other trapping. He said the CCT's position is there would be additional passage impacts to all anadromous species if trapping is not performed concurrently with other trapping activities. Murdoch said Jeff Fryer recently provided the YN with the NOAA scientific research permit and permit application held by CRITFC, where the YN is listed as co-investigators, and in neither document does she see anything about the action needing to be performed concurrent with another trapping activity. Murdoch said CRITFC's permit includes a take allowance for springers and steelhead, and she noted that similar to the YN coho salmon trapping effort, when trapping occurs concurrently with another program, this does not result in additional take. The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee requested copies of the research permit and Murdoch said she will distribute the permit and permit application, which contains additional information about the study. She noted that the permit and application do include other activities in addition to the sockeye salmon tagging at Wells Dam. *(Note: Murdoch provided these documents to Geris during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on March 24, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

Ferguson recalled another concern expressed by the CCT was about anesthetic and affects to the tribal fishery; however, this concern is outside the HCP and does not affect fish passage at the dam. Murdoch said Fryer contacted Aqui-S regarding the 3-day holding period and the representative said for wild fish there is no withdrawal period. Murdoch said the 3-day holding period for hatchery fish is based on the assumption there will be repeated exposure to the anesthetic. Truscott asked if CRITFC holds an Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) exemption for Aqui-S. He said he found another INAD for Aqui-S and his interpretation is the fish cannot be released for 72 hours if entering authorized fisheries. Murdoch said this is not what the representative from Aqui-S said. Truscott said this is why he would like to review CRITFC's INAD. He also agreed with Ferguson that this is not an HCP issue; rather, this is a regulatory compliance issue that Douglas PUD may need to consider.

Ferguson asked about next steps if the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee cannot agree on this topic. Murdoch said it needs to be clear on what the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is voting on. Kahler said from Douglas PUD's perspective, the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is the entity that decides whether a change in operations of the Wells Dam fishways and trapping facilities is or is not affecting safe, effective, and timely fish passage. He said every entity using the facilities must pass a facility screening. He said the YN already has an agreement in place. He said every entity also must have and comply with a permit for the proposed activities. He said regardless, Douglas PUD has a requirement to submit to NMFS the Broodstock Collection Protocols approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. He asked if language in Appendix D can be modified so the Committee can approve this document. Ferguson read the following excerpt from Appendix D of the protocols:

The CRITFC may also trap sockeye at Wells Dam for tagging and stock assessment. Their request for trapping in 2020 did not specify trapping details other than timing (late June through early August), but their preference in past years has been to use the East ladder. Although this work has been done in the past, this action will need approval in 2020 by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee. –page 50 of the version distributed on March 19, 2020

Ferguson asked, given this language and needing to move forward and understanding this is a living document, is this language sufficient to vote on now? The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee clarified this decision on the protocols is based on impacts to HCP activities.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2020 Broodstock Collection Protocols, consistent with the provisions of the Wells HCP.

The final protocols were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 24, 2020.

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

John Ferguson said it seems more discussion is needed on this item before a decision is made and a vote taken, and he asked the Wells HCP Coordinating Committees for comments. Keely Murdoch said the YN is ready to vote right now or can wait 1 month if Committee members need additional time or information. Kirk Truscott suggested discussing how this request and activity affects safe and efficient passage of Plan Species. He said sampling takes place Monday through Friday in late June to early August. He said the only ongoing trapping will be for the Carlton Program. He said the CCT's position is that any trapping outside concurrent trapping for the Carlton Program has additional impacts to Plan Species passing via the fish ladder and the CCT do not approve this. Murdoch said this action has almost always been conducted concurrently with other trapping and if the target quota has not been achieved by the time others are done trapping, CRITFC has a permit that allows for take. She said this has been determined by NOAA Fisheries. Truscott said the action takes place on a PUD facility where signatories to the HCP approve whether the action provides safe and efficient passage—period. He said he believes this action is at an impasse. Murdoch suggested developing criteria in order to reach concurrence.

Tom Kahler said trapping for the Carlton Program may occur 3 days per week, 16 hours per day. Murdoch said, however, the trapping effort may not take this long. Kahler said this depends on how quickly brood are collected. He said trapping for the Carlton Program is planned from July 1 to September 15, 2020, and during trapping for springers prior to this time, if summers are encountered these fish are retained for the Carlton Program.

Truscott said the CCT can vote to concur that this action has or does not have passage impact; however, the CCT cannot vote to approve CRITFC trapping and tagging of sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020. Murdoch asked how to frame the question for decision. Truscott suggested framing the question to be consistent with the provisions in the Wells HCP.

Truscott said this is similar to the issue that occurred within the HCP Tributary Committees. He said the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee needs to consider this from a technical standpoint. The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee developed the following language to consider for concurrence:

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present have reviewed the CRITFC request to tag sockeye salmon at Wells Dam in 2020, and given the provisions contained within the Wells HCP, are voting on whether there are no fish passage impacts or acceptable fish passage impacts to Plan Species associated with the proposed data collection.

Truscott said he will discuss this language internally with the CCT, but he believes this issue may be elevated to the policy level. He said this language will help policy staff understand what the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee is doing and how it is consistent with HCP provisions. Ferguson said this is also consistent with the guidance from the HCP Policy Committees last year.

Kahler asked what the CCT can approve at this time. Truscott said the CCT agree these activities (CRITFC trapping and tagging of sockeye salmon) will not result in additional negative passage impacts if concurrent with trapping for the Carlton Program. He said he is unsure what the policy level will say, but he believes the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee has done its due diligence as HCP Signatories to evaluate the action as it might affect Plan Species and approved a Broodstock Collection Protocols that allows HCP programs to collect broodstock.

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will be prepared to vote on the language developed to consider for concurrence (the italicized language directly above) during the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on April 28, 2020.

C. Wells Dam 2019/2020 Winter Maintenance Outages (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said the west fish ladder at Wells Dam has been out of service for major maintenance on the fish pumps. He said this maintenance is complete and the collection gallery is watered up; however, the gates are not yet open because of a staff shortage due to COVID-19. He said the plan is to remove the gates so the technicians can calibrate the pumps, which is a couple-day process. He said the priority is to get Turbine Unit 1 back online for a nine-unit plant before bypass operations begin and then to return the west fishway to service. He said in the interest of maintaining total

dissolved gas compliance, there needs to be as many units online as possible. He said the plan is to complete all of this in the next couple of weeks.

Kirk Truscott asked if the west fish ladder will be back online in time for springer trapping. Kahler said that is the intention.

D. COVID-19: Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study (Andrew Gingerich)

Andrew Gingerich said as of today, the expectation is to move forward as scheduled with the Survival Verification Study. He said as mentioned earlier, there has been no further direction from the Douglas PUD Commissioners since Governor Inslee's Stay-At-Home Order. Gingerich said according to sources online, employees of the energy sector are considered "essential," which will allow Douglas PUD to move forward with the study. He said he does not know how contractors supporting this effort will be impacted but hopes this will be clearer in the coming days. He said things are fairly fluid and a little reactionary at this time. He said there are 108,000 study fish on station for a needed sample size of 100,000 fish. He said the fish are tagged, feeding well, and are healthy. He said the release barges are in the water, contractors are hired, agreements are executed, the Physiology Plan is in place, and other preparatory items are ongoing.

John Ferguson asked about the first release date and Gingerich said it is scheduled for April 13, 2020. Gingerich said 15 replicates are planned for release, with the last release on May 12, 2020. He said there may be flexibility to push the study back 1 week; however, as of now, he is optimistic the study will stay on schedule. He said a dry run is planned for April 8 and 9, 2020, which will involve transporting the tanks with no fish inside.

Scott Carlon asked, if the contractors are not allowed to work due to COVID-19, will Douglas PUD convene a conference call with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee to discuss how to proceed? Ferguson said if Douglas PUD cannot execute the study this year due to COVID-19, he is unsure what the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee can do about this. He said Douglas PUD may just need to notify the Committee the study was terminated and begin planning for a study in 2021 during the next HCP Coordinating Committees meeting. Gingerich agreed but asked, what if the Stay-At-Home Order jeopardizes the start date of April 13, but the study can start on April 20, 2020? He asked if this would still be a representative study of spring migrating fish? He asked, how much of a delay is acceptable where Douglas PUD's obligation and the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee's needs are still met? He said another thing to consider is, not only does terminating the study result in a loss of funds expended and time already invested into the study but delaying and then carrying out the study has additional costs, including time and energy. He asked, what if Douglas PUD carries out the study 1 to 2 weeks late without the direction of the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee? He asked if the Committee would accept the results even though the study was delayed? Ferguson agreed these are all good points. He added that the updated flow duration curves also come into this. Tom Kahler

also agreed these are good points and said he plans to review the data used to establish the release dates so he will be prepared to have a more informed conversation if the study timing needs to shift.

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee will be prepared to convene by conference call to discuss a path forward for implementing the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study, in the event the study cannot begin by the scheduled start date of April 13, 2020 (due to impacts of COVID-19).

Gingerich said Douglas PUD really wants to conduct this study in 2020. He said half of the work is already complete. He said, however, if it cannot be done there is really nothing anyone can do.

E. 2019 Wells HCP Annual Report (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said no comments were received on the draft *2019 Wells HCP Annual Report*, and Douglas PUD plans to submit the final report to FERC today or tomorrow.

The final *2019 Wells HCP Annual Report*, which was approved by the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee on March 6, 2020, after no disapprovals were received prior to the 30-day review period deadline, was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 26, 2020.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1 Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said maintenance continues on Turbine Unit B4 and the return-to-service date of May 2020 is still on schedule. He said, however, impacts of COVID-19 are already affecting the contractor workforce dedicated to Turbine Unit B4, which may result in delays in the schedule. He said he will keep the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee updated as news becomes available.

B. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Units Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said on March 16, 2020, Turbine Unit C1 was returned to service for operation. He said intake screens were installed and on March 19, 2020, a marked fish release was conducted in the intake structure. He said almost all fish released were recaptured at the bypass system and were free of injury and descaling, and there were no mortalities. He said additionally, in the surface collection structure, there was a joint effort with Douglas PUD and Biomark using PIT-tagged fish to test detection efficiency at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System. He said PIT-tag arrays installed in 2010 were tested and detection efficiency was equal to or greater than 92%. He said Biomark believes additional tuning will increase this detection efficiency.

Keller said disassembly of Turbine Unit C2 is continuing. He said the rotor is out, but he has not yet heard about the diagnosis or condition of the servo rod seals.

Keller recalled during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting, indicating that Turbine Unit C3 was returned to service in the hydraulically locked configuration. He said this unit was recently taken offline for inspection and oil was observed in the hub. He said no oil was released to the river. He said engineering staff knew it was possible that oil might escape from the governor control system and are now evaluating different options. He said the return-to-service date is unknown largely due to COVID-19 and limited staff and social distancing requirements.

C. DECISION: 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled that the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating committees approved the 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan during last month's meeting. He said, however, since this approval there has been additional discussion with Rock Island Dam staff about how the notch gates that have been converted to full gates will integrate into the spill gate sequence at the beginning of the full gate sequence. He said there is a specific frame to allow a notch gate to move up and down (open or close). He said removing this frame just leaves a gate slot and to move the spill gate requires a gantry crane and a full mechanic crew, which could lead to possible delays in adjusting spill volume on an hourly basis. He said there were concerns about the ability to adjust the daily spill shape or if there is a new river forecast, especially outside of normal business hours, and whether staff would be available to be called out to the dam on late notice to adjust spill gates. He said staff discussed remedies to encompass the need for a full gate configuration while maintaining responsiveness. He said the remedy is outlined in the revised draft 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan (v2) that was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 20, 2020.

Keller said the changes are highlighted on pages 7 and 8 (the same language applies to both spring and summer periods). He said gates 18 and 26 will convert back to full-gate function to increase spill capacity but will be removed from the spill gate sequence and be replaced by adjacent gates 19 and 27. He said this shifts the pattern one gate towards Powerhouse 2 and allows use of automatic gates. He said gates 19 and 27 have an auto-hoist system so operators can control the gates instantaneously from the powerhouse control room. He said this allows spill to stay close to Powerhouse 2 and provides more control over the gates.

John Ferguson noted that Rock Island Dam has a small capacity for storing water in the reservoir, thus the need to utilize automated gates. Keller said this is correct. He said there is only 4 feet of storage in the reservoir, which can be depleted in a short amount of time. He said there needs to be a strategic and timely way to open and close the spill bays to adjust spill volumes.

Kirk Truscott said there is no anticipated effect on fish passage because most spill is still associated with the same powerhouse, and Keller said this is correct. Keller said this configuration keeps spill closer to Powerhouse 2 versus Powerhouse 1 or the middle of the spillway. He said acoustic

telemetry data indicate the majority of fish pass Rock Island Dam via Powerhouse 2 and spillway 2. Truscott asked where gates 18 and 26 fall in the sequence, and noted these gates are no longer shown in the revised spill plan. Keller explained that gates 18 and 26 were replaced by gates 19 and 27, and now gates 18 and 26 will only be used at the mechanics' discretion at the end of the sequence outlined in the schedule. Truscott asked if this means that gates 18 and 26 will only be used if the other gates are not able to handle the hydraulic flow. Keller said this is correct.

Keller recalled Truscott asking about the elevation difference between notch and full gate operation. Keller said in a shallow bay (e.g., spillbay 18), there is less than 2 feet elevation difference between the bottom of a full gate versus a notch gate. He said in a deep bay (e.g., spillbay 26), the difference is about 20 feet. Truscott asked if these gates can be only partially opened. Keller said yes and he believes there is a minimum opening of about 2 feet. Truscott said that fish passage effectiveness of the spill may be reduced when a full gate replaces a notched gate in the spill sequence due to juvenile salmonids being surface-oriented, but since this is a safety issue, he can approve these changes.

Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees representatives present approved the revisions to the 2020 Rock Island and Rocky Reach Fish Spill Plan.

The final plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

D. DECISION: 2021 Confirmation Survival Study Species Selection SOAs (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said the draft SOAs, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study* and *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study*, were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on March 20, 2020. Keller said if the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees need more time with the SOAs, Chelan PUD can delay a decision until the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on April 28, 2020. He said the SOAs are straightforward, identifying yearling Chinook salmon for the juvenile component and returning adult springers for the adult component. He said the SOAs also describe that juveniles will be run-of-the-river fish collected at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System and adult springers will be evaluated using returning PIT-tagged adults.

Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study*. Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA, *Selection of Yearling Chinook and Adult Spring Chinook for Chelan PUD's 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study*.

The final SOAs were distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

E. DECISION: 2019 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2019 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 14, 2020, and was available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 16, 2020.

Keller said no edits, comments, or questions were received on the report, which was drafted by Scott Hopkins (Chelan PUD). Keller noted that one unique result from 2019 was the mortality issue identified at the Rock Island Juvenile Sampling Facility caused by a partially open drainage plug, which was ultimately fixed, resolving the issue.

Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2019 Rock Island Smolt and Gas Bubble Trauma Evaluation Report.

The final report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

F. DECISION: 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report (Lance Keller)

The draft 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 14, 2020, and was available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 16, 2020.

Keller said no edits, comments, or questions were received on the report, which was also compiled by Scott Hopkins. Keller said there were only routine operations to report.

Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2019 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Report.

The final report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

G. DECISION: 2020 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft 2020 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 14, 2020, and was available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 16, 2020.

Keller said no edits, comments, or questions were received on the plan. He said routine operations are planned for 2020. He said, however, one thing to note is there will be a partnership between Chelan PUD and Real Time Research to conduct additional steelhead tagging for the Priest Rapids

Coordinating Committee, which will be a part of previous efforts by Real Time Research for avian predation in the Columbia River system.

Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the 2020 Rock Island Bypass Monitoring Plan.

The final plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

H. DECISION: 2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan (Lance Keller)

The draft *2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan* was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on February 14, 2020, and was available for a 30-day review, with edits and comments due to Lance Keller by Monday, March 16, 2020.

Keller said no edits, comments, or questions were received on the plan. He said the plan outlines routine operations, as expected. He said one noted change is the proposed alternate operations language formerly under Turbine Unit C1 has moved to Turbine Unit C2. He recalled this language describes adjusting the soft-limit set point to allow additional flow. He said these operations are expected to occur through the duration of the 2020 bypass season.

Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2020 Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System Operations Plan*.

The final plan was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris on March 31, 2020.

I. COVID-19: Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Department (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD is practicing social isolation and the majority of the Fish and Wildlife staff are working remotely; however, staff are still working. He said if anyone has questions or comments in all three HCP Committees, please continue to reach out to those respective representatives for Chelan PUD.

V. HCP Administration

A. COVID-19: Meeting Logistics (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said he appreciates the flexibility of HCP Coordinating Committees representatives to meet by conference call, and he will keep in touch with everyone as updates become available.

B. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on April 28, 2020, to be held by conference call.

John Ferguson reminded the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee about a possible conference call before the next regularly scheduled monthly call to discuss the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study.

The May 26 and June 23, 2020 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.

VI. List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillmant†	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Bill Towey	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Andrew Gingerich*	Douglas PUD
Scott Carlon*	National Marine Fisheries Service
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
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes

Notes:

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