

## Memorandum

---

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

Date: June 23, 2020

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris

**Re: Final Minutes of the May 26, 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, May 26, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 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).
- Chelan PUD will: 1) share with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) what the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees discussed about deferring the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 and conducting the 2020 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021 as already approved by the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee (on December 4, 2018); 2) ask that WDFW and NMFS provide any comments on these topics to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees; and 3) develop a draft Statement of Agreement (SOA) to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 (Item IV-D). *(Note: Scott Carlon indicated NMFS support via email on June 5, 2020 and Chad Jackson indicated WDFW support via email on June 10, 2020, of Chelan PUD's proposal to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees those same days. A draft SOA to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Geris on June 9, 2020.)*
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on June 23, 2020, will be held at 9:00 a.m., by conference call (Item VI-C).

### Decision Summary

- There were no HCP Decisions approved during today's conference call.

## Agreements

- The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee agreed that Douglas PUD shall immediately notify the Committee of any deviations to the Bypass Operating Plan for Wells Dam, should a deviation occur, and provide monthly updates on bypass operations during Wells HCP Coordinating Committee meetings, in lieu of providing written monthly bypass operation reports as described in the *Summary of Wells Dam Bypass Operations in April 2019* (distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 10, 2019, and discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 28, 2019; Item III-C).

## 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 (Item V-A).
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (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-A).
- A draft Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) notification letter regarding the maintenance rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2 was distributed to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on April 27, 2020, and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Lance Keller or Jeff Osborn (Chelan PUD License Compliance Specialist) by May 27, 2020 (Item IV-A).
- A Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for #LUP 4-06 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on June 3, 2020. This application is available for a 30-day review with comments or indication of no comments due to Tom Kahler no later than Friday, July 3, 2020.
- The draft SOA, *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2021 to 2022*, was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on June 9, 2020 (Item IV-D).

## 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. Lance Keller added a notification of the initiation of summer fish spill at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams.

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

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft April 28, 2020 conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the April 28, 2020 conference call minutes, as revised.

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

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on April 28, 2020, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the conference call on April 28, 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 will be discussed during today's conference call and will also be carried forward.
- *Chad Jackson will update Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Keely Murdoch will update the Yakama Nation (YN) and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) about Douglas PUD's ongoing internal discussions and considerations about how to implement salmon and steelhead trapping activities at Wells Dam fish ladders in 2020, while complying with the evolving COVID-19 restrictions and concerns (Item IV-C).*  
This will be discussed during today's conference call.
- *The YN will further discuss and consider the option of implementing CRITFC's sockeye salmon trapping and tagging concurrent with the Carlton Program trapping at Wells Dam in 2020, versus no CRITFC sockeye salmon trapping and tagging at all (Item IV-C).*  
This will be discussed during today's conference call.
- *Keely Murdoch will discuss with Kraig Mott (YN Fisheries Biologist and Crew Leader for CRITFC sockeye salmon trapping) and Jeff Fryer (CRITFC) about the feasibility of conducting CRITFC sockeye salmon trapping at both east and west fish ladders at Wells Dam in 2020, to possibly meet sample size requirements (Item IV-C).*  
This will be discussed during today's conference call.
- *Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA) will schedule HCP Policy Committees conference calls to follow the HCP Coordinating Committees conference calls in May and June 2020, in the event the*

*Wells HCP Coordinating Committee cannot reach consensus on whether there are no impacts or acceptable impacts to Plan Species associated with CRITFC's request to conduct sockeye salmon trapping and tagging at Wells Dam in 2020 and the issue is elevated to the policy level and needs resolution in a timely manner. The calls will be canceled if not necessary (Item IV-C).*

Following the meeting, Douglas PUD revised researcher access regulations to Wells Dam to address COVID-19 concerns, which made this discussion a moot point; therefore, there is no need to convene the HCP Policy Committees as discussed.

## II. HCP Hatchery and Tributary Committees Update

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

Tracy Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Tributary Committees conference call on May 14, 2020:

- *Upper Burns and Angle Point Areas Habitat Enhancement Project:* The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee received a budget amendment request from the YN on the Upper Burns and Angle Point Areas Habitat Enhancement Project. The YN requested an additional \$187,550, which would increase the Committee's contribution to a total of \$376,550. The YN requested additional funding from the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee because the project did not receive funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board last year. The Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee declined to contribute more than the \$189,000 already approved for the project. The Committee identified concerns with the overall cost of the project, placement of one of the large wood structures, and the amount of excavation work proposed. As the Rock Island HCP Tributary Committee recommended last year, the Committee would like to see a project at this site that minimizes disturbance of existing riparian vegetation.
- *General Salmon Habitat Program Draft Proposals:* The HCP Tributary Committees received 10 General Salmon Habitat Program draft proposals. These are cost-share proposals with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The Committees identified three projects that did not warrant a full proposal, because these did not have strong technical or biological merit or were not cost effective (low benefits per cost). The Committees solicited full proposals from seven projects, which are due on May 29, 2020. The proposed projects are located in the Wenatchee and Methow River basins.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on June 11, 2020, when the Committees will review the final General Salmon Habitat Program applications.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on May 20, 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"):*

- *Re-evaluation of Conservation Program Size (joint):* The HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee are looking at revising the size of the Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon conservation programs. Importantly, total hatchery production will not change; only the allocation of production between the conservation and safety-net programs may change. The Committees reviewed the spreadsheet model that was used during No Net Impact recalculation and are looking to update input parameters to the model. Updated inputs will include spawner escapements, smolt-to-adult recruit ratios, broodstock needs, pre-spawn losses, and updated stock-recruitment estimates. Discussion on this topic will continue over the next few months.
- *COVID-19 and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Activities (joint):* Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee discussed the effects of COVID-19 on their respective M&E activities. Overall, very little has changed since last month. Monitoring is occurring within the hatcheries and crews are operating smolt traps. Steelhead spawning ground surveys remain on hold. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has restarted marking and tagging programs, but other fieldwork is not yet allowed.
- *Chiwawa Spring Chinook Salmon Marking Strategy (Rock Island/Rocky Reach):* Chelan PUD provided an update on the Chiwawa spring Chinook salmon marking strategy that was approved by the HCP Hatchery Committees in March 2019. Chelan PUD noted that about 1% of the brood year 2018 Chiwawa hatchery-by-hatchery spring Chinook salmon, which received a coded wire tag in the snout and a blank wire tag (BWT) in the caudal, had deformed spines. The deformity was likely due to the insertion of the BWT into the spine. The Committees talked about the possibility of reducing the incidence of deformities by modifying the angle at which the BWT is inserted into the caudal peduncle.
- *Subyearling Summer Chinook Salmon for Orcas (Wells):* Douglas PUD reported receipt of a Section 4(d) permit from NMFS for the orca subyearling summer Chinook salmon program produced by Douglas PUD at Wells Fish Hatchery on behalf of WDFW. Douglas PUD also noted that during the marking of these fish by WDFW, about 25% of the fish were cut too deep during adipose fin removal. This could have an effect on the survival of the fish. John Ferguson asked if signs of disease are already being observed that might be indicative of survival issues? Hillman said signs of disease have been observed, including saprolegnia and secondary signs of disease. Tom Kahler said other diseases associated with deep cuts had been observed; however, these fish are now stabilized, and releases are starting today.
- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on June 17, 2020.

### III. Douglas PUD

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

Tom Kahler said Douglas PUD convened an internal meeting on May 28, 2020. He said Wells Dam gets a lot of use, including surplusing of hatchery fish, sockeye salmon tagging, and all the programs relying on collection at the hatchery and dam. He said Douglas PUD needed to arrive at a policy for how to deal with COVID-19 and protect staff at the dam and hatchery. He said as a result, Douglas PUD decided to only allow Wells Fish Hatchery staff and a limited number of Charlie Snow's (WDFW) crew access to the Adult Handling Facility at the hatchery. Kahler said this entails a total of four designated people who can cycle through, two at a time, to process fish for broodstock and collect surplus fish. He said similarly, only four people in total will be allowed access to the fish ladder traps, particularly at the east ladder trap because the west ladder trap sends fish to the Adult Handling Facility. He said this includes three people at a maximum from Snow's crew and one Douglas PUD staff from the Methow Fish Hatchery. Kahler said no other entities will be allowed access, which effectively eliminates the CRITFC crew from trapping. Kahler said Douglas PUD recommended to Jeff Fryer that he coordinate with Snow to determine whether his crew has the ability to tag sockeye salmon for CRITFC. Kahler said Fryer and Snow worked something out to be able to collect and tag sockeye salmon concurrent with other planned trapping activities without prolonging trapping.

John Ferguson recalled that the YN and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) both had action items to discuss this internally at the policy level, and he asked both tribal representatives to share comments from those discussions.

Keely Murdoch said at this point, there is not a whole lot anyone can do because there is no access to the ladder traps. She said the YN is supportive of Snow's crew tagging as many sockeye salmon as possible; however, based on conversations with Snow, he is uncertain how many he can do because it depends on how busy he is with processing trapped Chinook salmon. Murdoch said the YN and CRITFC are seeking authorization from Grant PUD to conduct supplemental tagging of sockeye salmon at Priest Rapids Dam. She said, while these are the plans for this year, the YN believes this issue needs to be resolved for future years because the preference is to continue the CRITFC tagging at Wells Dam because it is more practical than at Priest Rapids Dam. She said the same request will come next year and suggested adding this topic to the next HCP Policy Committees meeting scheduled for fall 2020. She said the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group (COBTWG) also plans to discuss this topic at their upcoming meeting in June 2020. Ferguson asked that Murdoch keep the HCP Coordinating Committees updated on tagging at the Priest Rapids Dam Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap and said that this topic will be added to the next HCP Policy Committees meeting agenda.

Kirk Truscott said the CCT are in agreement that this topic needs to be addressed during the next HCP Policy Committees meeting. He urged folks who want to implement this action to coordinate more closely with the CCT. He said the CCT and Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) are close; however, there has not been much interaction between the two regarding the importance of this activity in managing Okanagan River sockeye salmon. He said it would be a worthwhile endeavor for ONA, Fryer, or Kim Hyatt (Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada) to engage with the CCT on the management needs for these data and activities. Truscott said there is an opportunity here to have some dialogue and a better understanding of the potential costs and benefits of this activity being conducted at Wells Dam.

Murdoch asked if the CCT attend the COBTWG meetings. Truscott said not generally. Murdoch said she thought the purpose of discussing this issue at the next COBTWG meeting, in part, was to have this dialogue with the CCT. She said she still does not know the exact date in June because the YN is not a part of COBTWG, but she knows the meeting is still planned via a virtual conference.

Ferguson thanked the YN and the CCT for the comments and agreed this topic needs additional input from the tribes, ONA, CRITFC, and the HCP Policy Committees.

## **B. Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler reported that Douglas PUD has completed the 2020 Survival Verification Study. He said the last releases occurred the week of May 10, 2020. He said all study fish are now in the water and about one-third have been detected downstream. He said most passage occurs from April to June; however, during the 2010 Survival Verification Study, the last detection was around August 8, 2010. He said Douglas PUD will continue monitoring until it seems there has been as many detections as practical, and at that point Dr. John Skalski (Columbia Basin Research) and his team will begin running analyses. Kahler guessed this would not happen before July 2020. He said there were challenges this year associated with releasing fish during windy conditions, which made it difficult at times to load the barges. He said also, normally about the entire Natural Resources and Lands departments, a line crew, and a mechanic crew are involved in the study; however, due to COVID-19 restrictions, staff to assist with the study were greatly reduced. He said nearly everyone involved worked 30 days straight. Despite these challenges, everything went well. He said he will have another update during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on June 23, 2020.

Kahler also noted that NMFS typically operates an estuary trawl detection site below Bonneville Dam, which provides a detection probability estimate to allow survival to be estimated to Bonneville Dam; however, this year NMFS is not operating the estuary trawl due to COVID-19 restrictions. He said this means there will not be a survival estimate to Bonneville Dam, but there will be estimates to John Day, McNary, and Rocky Reach dams; therefore, this does not affect the survival estimate Douglas PUD is primarily relying upon. John Ferguson said he contacted NMFS and discovered that due to

COVID-19, all field work has been terminated in 2020, including operating the estuary trawl detection site. He clarified that detections at Bonneville Dam are still coming from the passive integrated transponder (PIT) detectors located within the dam, but survival to Bonneville Dam cannot be calculated without an estimate of the probability of detection at Bonneville Dam provided by a detection point downstream from Bonneville Dam.

Kirk Truscott said there is still monitoring at McNary Dam, correct? Kahler said yes, and he noted that detections are lower than last year. He said detections at John Day Dam are really good for some reason; there are way more detections at Bonneville Dam compared to John Day or McNary dams, and there are more detections at John Day Dam compared to McNary Dam. He also said there have been over 30,000 detections at Rocky Reach Dam.

### **C. Wells Dam 2020 Bypass Operations (Tom Kahler)**

Tom Kahler recalled reporting during the last HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on April 28, 2020, that bypass operations at Wells Dam began on April 9, 2020, as specified in the Bypass Operating Plan for Wells Dam. He said the bypass has been running since and there has not been a need to pull any barriers for emergency action or total dissolved gas (TDG) compliance. He said at one point, mechanics were ready to pull the barrier at bypass bay 6; however, after further review of the forecast, operators determined this would not be necessary. He said the bypass system is operating normally.

Kahler recalled last year, there were abnormal compliance issues with bypass operations at Wells Dam during April 2019. He said as an outcome of these issues, Douglas PUD investigated and developed a better way to verify that bypass operations are compliant, by working with technicians and operators at the dam and with Information Services to establish the ability to monitor bypass compliance from a desk. He said the system updates every 30 seconds and shows which bypass bays are operating through the entire spillway, which has been very helpful. He said the memorandum<sup>1</sup> that summarized what happened during April 2019 included how Douglas PUD intended to monitor and ensure compliance moving forward. He said in the memorandum, Douglas PUD indicated their plans to provide the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee with monthly bypass reports; however, it was never discussed what these reports would look like. He said Douglas PUD is unsure what the Committee wants to see other than monitoring is ongoing, and operations are in compliance. He asked if the Committee wants a written report, a memorandum indicating that all systems are working as specified, or just a verbal report during each meeting?

---

<sup>1</sup> *Summary of Wells Dam Bypass Operations in April 2019* distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 10, 2019 and discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 28, 2019.



Kirk Truscott suggested providing an update if something is out of the norm or deviates from the plan. He said an in-depth monthly summary is not necessary because this type of thing will be included in the annual report. John Ferguson also proposed that Douglas PUD provide a verbal update during each meeting.

The Wells HCP Coordinating Committee agreed that should a deviation occur Douglas PUD shall immediately notify the Committee of any deviations to the Bypass Operating Plan for Wells Dam, and provide monthly updates on bypass operations during Wells HCP Coordinating Committee meetings in lieu of providing written monthly bypass operation reports as described in the *Summary of Wells Dam Bypass Operations in April 2019* (distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on May 10, 2019, and discussed during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on May 28, 2019).

## IV. Chelan PUD

### A. Draft FERC Notification Letter Regarding the Maintenance Rehabilitation of Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 2 (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said this item is on the agenda to provide Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee members an opportunity to ask questions, if there are any. Keller said he also wanted to notify the Committee that he received comments from Jim Craig on May 18, 2020. Keller said the recommendation from USFWS is for Chelan PUD to conduct fish salvage protocols as each turbine unit is dewatered, including ancillary work and during the rehabilitation. Keller said this recommendation will be added to a comment/response matrix, which will be included in the FERC consultation packet. He said the response is that Chelan PUD will conduct fish salvages and if bull trout are encountered Chelan PUD will notify USFWS.

Keller said Chelan PUD is requesting comments on this draft FERC notification letter by close-of-business on May 28, 2020. He asked if the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee has any questions. No questions were raised. Keller said Chelan PUD greatly appreciates review of this letter, all comments received will be included in the consultation record, and a final letter will be distributed following the review period.

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

Lance Keller said limited work is restarting in Rock Island Dam Powerhouse 1. He said this includes work that can be completed while maintaining and achieving social distancing requirements for COVID-19. He said Chelan PUD is continually looking into what is needed to provide employees and contractors the ability to move forward with work while achieving social distancing standards. He said working on these turbine units involves confined spaces where there needs to be a couple of

people in a small area at the same time. He recalled that Turbine Unit B4 is currently offline and the return to service schedule has now slipped past the May 2020 timeframe. He said there may be more delays and it is not clear where the final return to service date will land. He guessed maybe September 2020. He said he will continue to keep the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee updated as things change or solidify.

### **C. Rocky Reach Dam Turbine Units Maintenance Update (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller said at Rocky Reach Dam, crews are currently working on Turbine Units C2 and C7. He said similar to Rock Island Dam, all work had stopped due to COVID-19 and now limited work is restarting with social distancing.

Keller said Turbine Unit C3 was returned to service on May 15, 2020. He recalled that this unit was operating in a hydraulically blade block configuration using the governor system to maintain the blade angle. He said crews took Turbine Unit C3 out of service for inspection and found oil leaking from the governor system into the hub, and crews were able to recover and measure all of the leaked oil and it matched what was lost from the governor system. He reiterated that all oil was contained and did not leak past the trunnion seals, and he said the unit was returned to service that same day. He said Turbine Unit C3 will be removed from service again on June 8, 2020, for an additional inspection of the oil level and water in the hub. He said if crews see something that suggests oil levels are changing more rapidly, the unit will be taken out of service prior to June 8, 2020. He recalled that Turbine Unit C3 is the first unit to operate in a hydraulically blade block configuration. He said this leaking oil is an issue engineers and mechanics were worried would happen and that crews will continue monitoring the unit.

Keller said limited work has also restarted on Turbine Units C2 and C7; however, there are schedule delays associated with these units due to COVID-19. He said the return to service for Turbine Unit C2 is now mid-October 2020 and for Turbine Unit C7 is now mid-November 2020. He said previously, the estimated return to service for Turbine Unit C2 was mid-August 2020 and for Turbine Unit C7 was the end of September 2020.

### **D. Deferment of 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller said in the last months, Chelan PUD has provided maintenance updates on the Rocky Reach Dam turbine units and he thinks Committee members can understand the impacts to unit maintenance due to COVID-19. He said Chelan PUD planned to have all maintenance addressed in Turbine Units C2, C3, C4, and C7 prior to starting the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study in mid-April 2021; however, this has been delayed due to COVID-19. He recalled the reasons for addressing the maintenance issues in these units, including: 1) trunnion seal and bushing issues

observed in Turbine Units C1 and C3, which may also exist in the other small units; 2) mechanical and operational challenges with Turbine Unit C3 operating in a hydraulically blade block configuration; 3) servo rod seal issue with Turbine Unit C2, which may be present in the other units but has not yet been tested due to COVID-19 restrictions; 4) Chelan PUD changed the maintenance strategy from simultaneously working on one small unit (Turbine Units C1 to C7) and one large unit (Turbine Units C8 to C11) to simultaneously working on two small units to increase the reliability of the small units, as well as the overall Rocky Reach Dam powerhouse capacity, prior to the confirmation study in 2021; and 5) Turbine Units C10 and C11 are currently mechanically blade blocked due to servo rod cracks.

Keller said it is also worth highlighting that the maintenance required at Rocky Reach Dam is for a different reason than the maintenance required at Rock Island Dam. He said at Rock Island Dam, the maintenance needed on Turbine Units B1 to B4 is due to deferred maintenance during the 2008 to 2010 time period (i.e., maintenance is behind on these units and the units are unsafe to operate). He said at Rocky Reach Dam, the wear on the trunnion bushings is not consistent with the life expectancy of these parts (i.e., the parts are wearing faster than expected). He added that the wearing in Turbine Units C1 and C3 resulted in oil releases, which Chelan PUD takes very seriously.

Keller said the return to service dates for Turbine Units C2 and C7 have been delayed due to COVID-19, which also delays the outage schedule for Turbine Units C3 and C4. He said with the current return to service dates for Turbine Units C2 and C7 in October and November 2020, respectively, this pushes the Turbine Units C3 and C4 outages into mid-April to May 2021, which is when Chelan PUD plans to conduct the juvenile survival study at Rocky Reach Dam. He said Chelan PUD believes with the Turbine Unit C3 and C4 outages, this will not be a representative evaluation of Rocky Reach Dam operations for the following 10 years; therefore, there is good merit to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022. He said this will allow Chelan PUD to address maintenance in Turbine Units C2 and C7 and return the blades to operate in a Kaplan configuration. He said additionally, this will allow time to install new trunnion seals and servo rod seals in Turbine Units C3 and C4. He said completing these maintenance activities will increase the reliability of the small units and the overall reliability and capacity of the Rocky Reach Dam powerhouse.

Keller recognized that representatives from WDFW and NMFS are not present; however, at this time, he said Chelan PUD would like to hear what the other Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee members think about deferring the study and answer any questions. He said understanding if there is general agreement to defer the study will allow Chelan PUD to adjust and release a modified Request for Proposals that excludes the Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study and only includes the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study for 2021.

Keely Murdoch asked if Keller could describe the advantages and disadvantages of studying the two projects together, and she asked if separating the projects will lose any reach-based analyses? Keller explained that combining the projects provides efficiencies from an implementation standpoint; however, regarding the data, the resolution for both the Rock Island and Rocky Reach projects would not change should the studies be conducted together or separately. He said this is due to the nature of an acoustic telemetry survival study approach.

Murdoch said these data factor into hatchery recalculations and hatchery mitigation and she is not sure what it means to only have updated data for one project and not the other. She said mitigation for populations upstream of the Rocky Reach Project are based on survival data from both Rock Island and Rocky Reach projects. She said she does not expect a huge change because one data point will not significantly skew the average; rather, her question is more about process. She said she is not sure if it is desirable to recalculate hatchery mitigation until all data are updated. She said she thinks the last new numbers went into effect in 2012. She said the HCP Hatchery Committees will need to think about this, as it might be a disadvantage.

Keller said this is a good point; however, at the same time, he thinks more information is considered during recalculation than just the survival component. Murdoch said yes and no; and explained that part of deciding on recalculation methodologies originally outlined in the Biological Assessment and Management Plan (BAMP) involved other data such as smolt to adult return ratios. She said, however, in 2012, recalculation methodologies were simplified so that the BAMP method applied only to wild fish and not to the hatchery component. Keller recalled discussing this specific topic when considering deferring the 2020 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study to 2021, and he thought the hatchery program recalculations could move forward and once additional data were available recalculation could be reinitiated. He said, however, he needs to review the meeting minutes to confirm this. Murdoch said she cannot recall what was discussed either but suggested it might be advantageous to delay both studies and recalculation.

Keller said regarding Murdoch's suggestion to delay both studies to 2022, as of now, the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study is on schedule to be conducted in 2021. Keller said deferring the study an additional year will be 12 years between confirmation studies, since this study has already been deferred from 2020 to 2021. He said Chelan PUD would advocate conducting the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021 and only deferring the Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022.

John Ferguson said he reviewed the SOA, *Deferment of the Rock Island Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2020 to 2021*, which was approved by the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee on December 4, 2018, and there is no discussion about hatchery recalculation included in the SOA. Keller said he located the hatchery recalculation discussion in the HCP Coordinating Committees

meeting on October 23, 2018. He said the discussion was about maintenance on Rock Island Dam Turbine Units B1 to B4 and deferring the 2020 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study to 2021. He said Murdoch posed a question about how a shift from 2020 to 2021 would affect recalculation of the HCP hatchery programs. Keller said he responded as recorded in the meeting minutes, as follows:

*Keller said he spoke with Alene Underwood and Catherine Willard (Chelan PUD HCP Hatchery Committees Representative) and reviewed the Rock Island HCP. Keller said the timelines for the check-in studies and hatchery recalculations are not connected. He said the HCP stipulates that recalculation will occur in 2013 and in 10-year intervals, and the confirmation timeline is based on when Phase III Standards Achieved is reached, which was in 2010 for Rock Island Dam. He said, therefore, these are not connected in terms of a formal timeline; however, the check-in results do inform recalculation. Murdoch said it would be helpful to have the latest data opposed to the same data from 10 years prior, because this would essentially mean recalculating hatchery programs with the same data for 20 years. She asked if there are no new data is recalculation performed anyway? Keller said there will still be updated smolt-to-adult ratios and other hatchery performance data.*

Keller said the HCP itself never envisioned a timeline tie-in between confirmation studies and every 10-year recalculation. He said he recalls thinking there was a connection, but it was just a coincidence the two activities aligned.

Kirk Truscott asked if both projects were studied at the same time during previous confirmation studies. Keller said yes and no. He said, for example, the last confirmation study for the Rock Island Project was in 2010 and for the Rocky Reach Project was in 2011. He said when studies were conducted at both projects at the same time, sometimes the same species were studied at each project and sometimes not. He also recalled that studying yearling Chinook salmon at the Rocky Reach Project was put on hold until 2009, and during this time yearling Chinook salmon were studied at the Rock Island Project under the 20% and 10% spill operations.

Truscott asked, regarding a Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021, will study fish be collected at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Fish Bypass System (RRJFBS) and where are the release locations? Keller said this is correct and study fish will be released at the 1,000-foot mark downstream of Rocky Reach Dam and at the 1,000-foot mark downstream of Rock Island Dam to evaluate Rock Island Project survival. Truscott asked, regarding a Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study in 2022, will study fish be collected at the RRJFBS and be released at the 1,000-foot mark downstream of Wells Dam and at the 1,000-foot mark downstream of Rocky Reach Dam? Keller said this is correct. He added that typically in past years, to evaluate route-specific survival there has been an additional release into the surface collector of the RRJFBS in conjunction with the Rocky Reach

Dam tailrace release. Truscott asked if both projects are studied in the same year is the study design the same? Keller said yes and explained that fish released in the Rocky Reach Dam tailrace would be the Rocky Reach Project study control release and also serve as the test fish for the Rock Island Project study. He said separating the studies loses this efficiency.

Ferguson asked about sample size. He asked if there is a biological effect if the studies are combined in that there will not be a need to double-up on Rocky Reach Dam tailrace releases. Keller said if the studies are combined, this saves money on tags when the same species is simultaneously evaluated at both Projects. He said he believes each study requires 1,000 fish. He said in 2011, he believes there were 500-day and 500-night releases. He said each project will need to be wired up independent of one another to evaluate passage survival at each site, so there are no losses there.

Truscott said he is trying to determine if the studies are conducted in the same year, will there be any differences in the study plans? He also noted that Mid-Columbia River studies have been criticized for not studying cumulative impacts. He said if both projects were studied in the same year maybe this could be addressed (i.e., larger release in the upper project area and use these fish for both projects). Keller said because the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCPs are independent of each other, if the studies were conducted in the same year, evaluation of fish released in the Wells Dam tailrace would stop at the boat restriction zone at Rock Island Dam, which is the second detection array downstream of Rocky Reach Dam. He said this detection would calculate survival through the Rocky Reach Project. He said when both projects have been studied together, there has never been a survival evaluation from the Wells Dam tailrace through the Rock Island Project because this is not a requirement of either HCP. Truscott said he understands and was just looking for opportunities to quiet the rhetoric of these studies. Keller said Chelan PUD has a lot of good data, past studies have been very rigorous with high levels of precision, and there are strong statistical analyses to stand on. He said to address Truscott's question, the study designs for the Rock Island and Rocky Reach projects will not change if conducted in the same or different years. He said conducting the studies separately will just lose a little efficiency. Ferguson said there are also cost savings if the studies are conducted in the same year. Keller agreed but said this is not the driver. He said having Turbine Units C3 and C4 out of service is not how Chelan PUD intends to operate the Rocky Reach Project for the next 10 years, and the District is willing to forgo the cost savings to make sure the results from the confirmation study are a representative evaluation of project operations.

Truscott said, as far as delaying the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, if the decision is no, the Committee would be saying conduct the study under "not normal" operations. He said for the CCT, delaying the study is a no-brainer. He said, however, the Committee may want to think about delaying the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, as well.

Murdoch said she agrees with Truscott regarding delaying the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, because she is not sure what else can be done.

Jim Craig said USFWS also supports Chelan PUD's proposal.

Keller said regarding delaying the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, Chelan PUD feels that Rock Island Dam will be in a status to allow for the most optimal testing in 2021. He said as previously outlined with the HCP Coordinating Committees, the ongoing maintenance in Powerhouse 1 is not anticipated to affect survival, and if anything, survival will likely increase as Powerhouse 1 is brought back into tighter operating tolerances, and Turbine Unit B4 will be operational during the confirmation survival study in 2021. He said as noted earlier in Chelan PUD's agenda, maintenance rehabilitation work will commence in Powerhouse 2 in the fall of 2021, further making 2021 the best year to conduct an evaluation at Rock Island Dam. Truscott asked if Keller is saying that delaying the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 may result in a Powerhouse 2 that is less than normal operations compared to 2021? Keller said this is correct, that a survival study in 2021 will have a full Powerhouse 2 (i.e., all units available). He said by fall 2021, the schedule is to start rehabilitating Powerhouse 2, as outlined in the FERC notification letter that is currently under Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee review (see Agenda Item IV-A). He said additionally, units will still be out of service in Powerhouse 1 resulting in a decrease in overall capacity at Rock Island Dam in 2022. Truscott asked about changes resulting from rehabilitating Powerhouse 2. Ferguson said in terms of fish passage, there will be no change. Keller added that the work does not involve changes to the generator nameplate, turbine horsepower, or authorized Project hydraulic capacity. He said this work will just replace parts to bring specifications back into tighter operating tolerances, which should extend their mechanical lifetime for an additional 40 years of operation. He said if there is any change in fish passage, it will likely be an increase in benefit to fish by bringing operations back into tolerances.

Truscott said, provided what was just shared, the CCT support conducting the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021. He said previously, the Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study would have been conducted in 2020, and the Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study in 2021, so originally the studies were not planned to occur in the same year. Keller said this is correct.

Murdoch said the YN has no additional comments and supports staggering the studies if this is the only option.

Craig said USFWS supports the schedule, as proposed.

Chad Jackson said he joined the conference call late and has no opinion at this time but will follow-up with Keller after the meeting.

Keller said Chelan PUD will: 1) share with WDFW and NMFS what the Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committees discussed about deferring the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022 and conducting the 2020 Rock Island Confirmation Survival Study in 2021 as already approved by the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee (on December 4, 2018); 2) ask that WDFW and NMFS provide any comments on these topics to Kristi Geris for distribution to the HCP Coordinating Committees; and 3) develop a draft SOA to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022. *(Note: Scott Carlon indicated NMFS support of Chelan PUD's proposal to defer the 2021 Rocky Reach Confirmation Survival Study to 2022, via email to Geris on June 5, 2020, which Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees that same day.)*

#### **E. Initiation of Summer Fish Spill at Rock Island and Rocky Reach Dams (Lance Keller)**

Lance Keller provided notification that Chelan PUD initiated summer fish spill at Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams on May 23, 2020, at 0000. Keller said on May 22, 2020, subyearlings started showing up at Rocky Reach Dam due to early hatchery releases. He said the last estimate Thad Mosey (Chelan PUD) received from Program RealTime estimated that 0.74% of the subyearling Chinook salmon outmigration had passed Rocky Reach Dam. He said understanding the variability in the subyearling run, Mosey decided to be conservative and initiate summer spill. Keller said this means spilling 9% of the daily average river flow at Rocky Reach Dam and 20% of the daily average river flow at Rock Island Dam.

John Ferguson asked if starting summer spill is early this year? Keller said it is a bit early due to hatchery releases upstream of Rocky Reach Dam occurring earlier than anticipated. He said as of May 22, 2020, a total of 152 subyearlings had passed Rocky Reach Dam.

## **V. Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD**

#### **A. Subyearling Chinook Salmon Studies – Quarterly Check-In (John Ferguson)**

John Ferguson asked if Chelan PUD or Douglas PUD have updates on Subyearling Chinook Salmon Studies.

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD has nothing additional to share since the last check-in.

Tom Kahler said, regarding the *Wells Project Subyearling Chinook Life-History Study 2011-2013 Draft Final Report*, the CCT provided comments last fall 2019. Kahler said he discussed these comments with John Rohrbach (CCT) and prepared responses for Andrew Gingerich to review; however, Gingerich has been busy with the Douglas PUD 2020 Survival Verification Study and has not yet had time to review the responses. Kahler said Gingerich indicated plans to get to this soon.



## **VI. HCP Administration**

### **A. COVID-19 and Meeting Logistics (John Ferguson)**

John Ferguson asked if there are any new updates HCP Coordinating Committees members have to share. Chad Jackson said in terms of field work, WDFW has returned to business-as-usual. He said there are a few pieces that are not allowed, but most is progressing as normal.

### **B. HCP Policy Committee In-Person Meeting (John Ferguson)**

John Ferguson recalled attempting to convene the HCP Policy Committees in early May 2020; however, this was canceled due to COVID-19. Ferguson said the purpose of this meeting was to meet in-person to discuss implementation of the HCPs over the past year and into the next year. He said a discussion about the CRITFC request was also planned. He said this HCP Policy Committees in-person meeting is now rescheduled for September 1, 2020 in the afternoon.

### **C. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)**

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on June 23, 2020, to be held by conference call.

The July 28 and August 25, 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.

## **VII. List of Attachments**

Attachment A List of Attendees

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

---

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
John Ferguson	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Tracy Hillmant	BioAnalysts
Lance Keller*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*††	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
- †† Joined during Agenda Item IV-D