

Memorandum

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

Date: August 24, 2021

From: John Ferguson, HCP Coordinating Committees Chairman

cc: Kristi Geris, HCP Coordinating Committees Support

Re: **Final Minutes of the July 22, 2021, 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 Thursday, July 22, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.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).
- Anchor QEA, LLC (Anchor QEA) will coordinate with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) to obtain an email vote on the Statement of Agreement (SOA) *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023* (Item IV-E). (Note: Scott Carlon provided NMFS approval of this SOA via email following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021, and Kirk Truscott provided CCT approval of this SOA via email on August 2, 2021.)
- The HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., by conference call (Item V-D).

Decision Summary

- Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the *2020 Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County Northern Pikeminnow Removal and Research Program* (Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report) (Item III-A).
- Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023* (Item IV-E). (Note: Scott Carlon provided NMFS approval of this SOA via email following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021, and Kirk Truscott provided CCT approval of this SOA via email on August 2, 2021.)

Agreements

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

Review Items

- Notification of Wells Project Land-Use Permit Application for LUP 831-01 was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on July 30, 2021.

Finalized Documents

- The final Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021 (Item III-A).

I. Welcome

A. Review Agenda (John Ferguson)

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

- Tom Kahler added: 1) Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report.
- John Ferguson added: 1) HCP Policy Committees June 8, 2021, conference call minutes.

B. Meeting Minutes Approval (John Ferguson)

The HCP Coordinating Committees reviewed the revised draft June 22, 2021, conference call minutes. Kristi Geris said all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated into the revised minutes. She closed the Chelan PUD action item about considering a potential spill shape adjustment at Rock Island Dam—this was implemented starting on June 25, 2021. She also added distribution of the draft SOA *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023* under the Review Items. HCP Coordinating Committees members present approved the June 22, 2021, conference call minutes, as revised.

C. Last Meeting Action Items (John Ferguson)

Action items from the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on June 22, 2021, and follow-up discussions, were as follows. (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the meeting on June 22, 2021*):

- *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 discussed during today's conference call and will also be carried forward.
- *Chelan PUD will consider a potential adjustment to the shape of 10% spill during spring at Rock Island Dam to better align the shape of the daily operation with estimated diel passage patterns for yearling migrants (Item III-D).*

Adjustments to the summer fish spill shapes at both Rocky Reach and Rock Island dams were implemented starting on June 25, 2021, at 0000 hours, as distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Kristi Geris on June 24, 2021.

- *Douglas PUD will notify the HCP Coordinating Committees when it looks like the “thermal block” sets up in the Okanogan River (i.e., temperatures greater than or equal to 21°C at the U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 12447200 Okanogan River at Malott Washington gage for a period greater than or equal to 12 hours), as it pertains to sockeye salmon trapping at Wells Dam¹ (Item IV-B).*

Tom Kahler provided this notification on June 28, 2021, which Kristi Geris distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees and HCP Policy Committees that same day.

- *Anchor QEA, LLC, will set a reminder for September 2021 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 end of August 2021; Item V-A).*

Kristi Geris set this reminder, 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 this month. However, the Committees did review two Small Projects Program applications, as follows:

- *Cashmere Mill Site – Phase 1 Project:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a Small Projects Program proposal from Cascadia Conservation District titled: *Cashmere Mill Site – Phase 1 Project*. The purpose of the project is to reduce the incidence of flooding of the industrial part of Cashmere along lower Brender Creek, a tributary to Mission Creek, by installing beaver deceiver devices and beaver dam piping. The total cost of the project was \$67,773.15. The sponsor requested \$60,530.25 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project. The Committees are not interested in funding projects that manage beaver ponds by adding piping and beaver deceivers, and, importantly, the project as proposed would not benefit Plan Species. It is a short-term solution intended to reduce flooding issues in the industrial development area, which may be better addressed through appropriate water management actions (e.g., irrigation system management). On the other hand, the Committees would be interested in learning more about long-term solutions that would benefit Plan Species (Phase II of this project).
- *Eagle Creek Fish Passage – Cutler Project:* The HCP Tributary Committees received a Small Projects Program proposal from Cascadia Conservation District titled: *Eagle Creek Fish Passage – Cutler Project*. The purpose of the project is to develop a design to improve fish passage (by

¹ Per the HCP Policy Committees SOA, approved October 6, 2020.

removing a perched culvert) and riparian habitat at river mile 2.9 on Eagle Creek, a tributary to Chumstick Creek. The total cost of the project was \$99,706.78. The sponsor requested \$85,220.98 from HCP Plan Species Account Funds. The Committees declined the opportunity to fund this project. There are at least 13 potential fish passage barriers downstream from the proposed restoration site. According to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife data, eight of those downstream barriers are 33% passable and the rest are 66% passable. Without addressing the downstream passage issues, removing the proposed barrier is unlikely to provide benefits to Plan Species. In addition, the amount needed to support the feasibility and design of this project appeared excessive.

- *Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the HCP Tributary Committees will be on August 12, 2021.

Hillman updated the HCP Coordinating Committees on the following actions and discussions that occurred during the HCP Hatchery Committees conference call on July 21, 2021 (*Note: Joint HCP Hatchery Committees/Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Hatchery Subcommittee items are noted by "Joint," Wells HCP Hatchery Committee items are noted by "Wells," and Rock Island and Rocky Reach HCP Hatchery Committees items are noted by "Rock Island/Rocky Reach"*):

- *Hatchery Production Recalculation Data Sources and Methods (Joint):* The PUDs shared a presentation on the adult datasets to be used in the recalculation process. They also identified data sources for the calculation of smolt-to-adult return rates. Members reviewed the data and provided feedback on data sources and methods. The PUDs also walked the HCP Hatchery Committees through the sensitivity analyses that were used during the last recalculation. Based on feedback from the Committees, the PUDs will update the data and methods and send those to the Committees for additional review. To date, the Committees are on schedule to complete the 2024 to 2033 implementation plan by the end of the year.
- *Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Report Review (Joint):* The first bundle of chapters of the comprehensive monitoring and evaluation report were submitted to the HCP Hatchery Committees for review on July 1, 2021. Each bundle of chapters will undergo a 30-day review. The next bundle will be submitted on August 1, 2021. The entire review process will take 90 days.
- *Alternative Mating Strategies (Joint):* Douglas PUD provided a presentation on hatchery broodstock and mating practices for Wells Fish Hatchery summer Chinook salmon. The goal of the mating strategy (based on Hankin et al. 2009²) is to return larger adult fish, reduce negative ecological impacts, and minimize negative genetic impacts. This would be accomplished by emulating mate choice structure found in the wild (i.e., spawning females with larger males to

² Hankin, D. G., J. Fitzgibbons, and Y. Chen, 2009. *Unnatural random mating policies select for younger age at maturity in hatchery Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) populations*. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 66:1505-1521. Doi:10.1139/F09-085.

drive the population towards older age at maturity). The size-selected mating strategy would be simple to implement and would be low risk. It could have long-term benefits. Douglas PUD proposed to implement the mating strategy for the Wells Fish Hatchery summer yearling and subyearling inundation programs. Members see value in the strategy but requested additional time to consider the recommendation. John Ferguson asked if this mating strategy has never been done to date. Tom Kahler said this is a new strategy that has been under consideration for some time, and Greg Mackey (Douglas PUD HCP Hatchery Committees Representative) finally had the time to present the idea to the Wells HCP Hatchery Committee.

- *Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Monitoring and Evaluation Activities (Joint)*: Each member of the HCP Hatchery Committees discussed the effects of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on their respective monitoring and evaluation activities. There were no significant changes since last month. There is a possibility the Committees can convene in person in August or September 2021. Tracy Hillman said he understands Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reopened their offices and can now gather in small meetings; however, federal agencies are still under lockdown.
- *Chiwawa River Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock (Rock Island/Rocky Reach)*: Chelan PUD reported that they successfully collected 84 natural-origin spring Chinook salmon for the Chiwawa Program. A total of 78 natural-origin Chinook salmon (39 females and 39 males) are needed for the program. Trapping at the Chiwawa Weir began on July 8, 2021, and lasted 6 days. A total of 38 Bull Trout were intercepted, which is well below the allowable interception of 105 Bull Trout. Jim Craig asked if the methodology, timing, or placement of the weir changed. Tracy Hillman said the timing changed but not the placement. Craig said he wonders if this was a positive change, in that the collection targets were met while minimizing encounters with Bull Trout. Hillman said this year, Chelan PUD piloted a small Bull Trout bypass structure, but it did not work as well as the PUD had hoped. The intent of the structure is to allow Bull Trout through but not Chinook salmon. Even with adjustments, Chinook salmon were still getting through the structure. The Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committee will further discuss whether to continue pilot-testing the bypass or not.
- *Next Meeting*: The next meeting of the HCP Hatchery Committees will be on August 18, 2021.

III. Douglas PUD

A. DECISION: Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report (Tom Kahler)

The draft Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report was distributed to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on June 8, 2021, and was available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to Tom Kahler by July 8, 2021. Kahler said the review period concluded and no comments were received. Consistent with the 2018 and 2019 reports, Douglas PUD is requesting approval of this 2020 report.

Wells HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the Douglas PUD 2020 Northern Pikeminnow Annual Report. The final report was distributed to the HCP Coordinating Committees by Geris following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021.

B. Wells Dam Bypass Operations Update (Tom Kahler)

Tom Kahler said bypass operations at Wells Dam have been proceeding according to the *Wells Bypass Operating Plan*, with no deviations. River flow has decreased since June 2021, and there is no longer the potential to pull bypass barriers this season due to high discharge.

IV. Chelan PUD

A. 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Blue Leaf Environmental (Blue Leaf) are continuing to process the dataset and are on schedule to deliver a clean dataset to Dr. John Skalski (University of Washington, Columbia Basin Research) by August 1, 2021. The Tag Life Study is still ongoing at the Rocky Reach Juvenile Sampling Facility. A subset of tags is being monitored for failure in order to develop a tag life curve for the tags used in the survival confirmation study. It is no surprise the tags are still running as the tags are equipped with a 70-day battery life. The last tags included in the Tag Life Study were added when the last replicate group was released in May 2021. Chelan PUD expects there to be minimal or no correction in estimated survival due to Tag Life Study results. That is, study fish had enough time to travel through the Rock Island Project prior to tag failure. Everything is on schedule to distribute preliminary results to the Rock Island HCP Coordinating Committee by September or October 2021.

B. Rock Island Dam Subyearling Chinook Salmon Behavior Study Update (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller said Chelan PUD and Four Peaks Environmental Science and Data Solutions (Four Peaks) are continuing to implement this study. This week marks the fourth week of releases. Tonight, crews will release study fish at the black train bridge at the town of Rock Island, Washington. Everything has been going smoothly with the exception of a couple of logistical issues. First, the local wildfires forced crews to move study fish from the tagging site to the Rocky Reach Juvenile Sampling Facility. Second, there was a brief power outage last night, but this was addressed. Also of note, there have been surprisingly high water temperatures in the post-tag holding vessels, including some above 20°C. However, to date, there have only been three post-tag mortalities prior to release, which is good. After this week, there are two more weeks of releases remaining. Releases will be complete by the first week in August 2021.

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

Lance Keller said the wet commissioning of Turbine Unit B4 is continuing to progress. Crews are taking it slow and being extra cautious, as this is the first small unit to be returned to service. Crews

plan to release Turbine Unit B4 for operation by the end of July 2021. Crews are also conducting work on Turbine Unit B5 and Turbine Unit B7. The return-to-service date for Turbine Unit B7 is mid-October 2021, and Turbine Unit B5 is expected back in service by December 1, 2021.

A mechanical crew from Rocky Reach Dam is moving down to Rock Island Dam to work on Turbine Unit B3 and help maintain the return-to-service schedules for Turbine Unit B5 and Turbine Unit B7.

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

Lance Keller said the Turbine Unit C7 return-to-service date is June 23, 2021. Work continues on Turbine Unit C3 and Turbine Unit C6. The Turbine Unit C3 return-to-service schedule has slipped 1.5 weeks and is now the first week in September 2021. The Turbine Unit C6 return-to-service schedule is holding around the first couple of weeks in December 2021.

Keller said delays in the Turbine Unit C3 return-to-service schedule are due to issues with the bridge crane, which developed a slight drift. Essentially, the crane would operate without anyone touching the controls. The manufacturer was able to inspect the crane and resolve the issue.

E. 2022 Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study (Lance Keller)

Lance Keller recalled last month, notifying the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee about a possible shift in the turbine unit repair schedules—as well as in the workforce between the Rocky Reach and Rock Island projects—that may result in turbine units out-of-service (OOS) during the scheduled study period for the 2022 Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study. Since then, he has had the opportunity to speak with all Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives, including Kirk Truscott and Scott Carlon (both absent from today's meeting), to describe what the repair schedules look like in terms of implementing a survival confirmation study in 2022 versus 2023.

Keller said, ultimately, because of the issues and delays experienced with Turbine Unit B4, Chelan PUD has decided to move a mechanical crew from Rocky Reach Dam to Rock Island Dam to provide a level of quality assurance and quality check that is not there now. He noted that some of the delays to date have been caused by actions needed based on quality checks. Moving this mechanical crew unstacks the current trunnion bushing repair schedules for small units, Turbine Unit C4 and Turbine Unit C5, and moves the tail end of the Turbine Unit C4 outage and beginning of the Turbine Unit C5 outage into the anticipated study period for the 2022 Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study. This study period is similar to the 2021 Rock Island Dam Survival Confirmation Study, which started in mid- to late-April and was implemented through May.

Keller said the proposed schedule discussed with Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives includes an 8-month outage for Turbine Unit C4 and an 8-month outage for Turbine Unit C5. Chelan PUD also acknowledged that repair schedules have not yet been met for the trunnion bushing corrections, with the average outage lasting approximately 15 months—the

shortest approximately 11 months, and the longest at 18 months. Therefore, the proposed schedule also includes a 4-month contingency period. Should the Turbine Unit C4 outage take 8 months and the Turbine Unit C5 take 8 months, Turbine Unit C5 would be back in service by December 2022, providing 4 months of contingency before starting the Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study in April 2023. Part of meeting these timelines involves internal support to allow mechanical crews to work 5 days per week and 10-hour shifts. If needed, this will move to 6 days per week and 10-hour shifts.

Keller said in speaking with Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives, everyone seemed to be onboard for deferment, given that studying in 2023 provides the best chance to address the trunnion bushings in Turbine Unit C4 and Turbine Unit C5 and complete repairs in all of the small units (i.e., Turbine Units C1 to C7) prior to the study. Additionally, work still continues to address the servo rod crack repairs in the large units at Rocky Reach Dam, with Turbine Unit C8 and Turbine Unit C9 being addressed to date. The current schedule does have one large unit, Turbine Unit C11, OOS during the 2023 Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study. As discussed before, having Turbine Unit C11 OOS will not be an issue because, by addressing the trunnion issues in the small units, there will be no operational gaps from Turbine Unit C1 to Turbine Unit C10. With a reduced powerhouse capacity, should the water year produce flows above powerhouse capacity resulting in necessary spill, Chelan PUD plans to address this consistent with how it was addressed while studying in 2011. That is, if forced spill occurs, the project is wired up in such a way that all fish passing the dam when spill is provided will still be detected, and fish that pass the dam through the spillway can be removed from the analysis to eliminate any positive or negative influences on overall project survival.

Keller said when he last spoke with Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives, he received verbal support from all representatives. He then asked if any other questions or comments have come up since these one-on-one calls. Jim Craig said he has no additional questions or concerns. Keely Murdoch said she does not either and appreciates the phone call, which was very helpful. Chad Jackson echoed Murdoch's comments.

Keller said after the phone calls, the draft SOA *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023* was distributed to the Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee by Kristi Geris on July 16, 2021. Keller acknowledged the draft SOA did not get distributed 10 days before today's meeting; therefore, Chelan PUD is not requesting a vote unless Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives feel comfortable doing so. He explained that this SOA is essentially the same SOA from the deferment of the 2021 Rocky Reach Dam Survival Confirmation Study to 2022; only additional language was added to the Background section explaining the delay was caused by unanticipated maintenance, COVID-19, manufacturing issues, and increased demand for supplies needed for repairs.

John Ferguson asked if Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives have questions or suggested edits to either the Statement or Background sections of the draft SOA. Murdoch said the draft SOA seems straightforward and the Yakama Nation is comfortable voting today. Craig and Jackson agreed.

Rocky Reach HCP Coordinating Committee representatives present approved the SOA *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023*.

Ferguson said that Anchor QEA will coordinate with NMFS and the CCT to obtain an email vote on the SOA *Deferment of the Rocky Reach Project Confirmation Survival Study from 2022 to 2023*. (Note: Carlon provided NMFS approval of this SOA via email following the HCP Coordinating Committees conference call on July 22, 2021, and Truscott provided CCT approval of this SOA via email on August 2, 2021.)

V. HCP Administration

A. COVID-2019 Updates (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson asked if there are any updates HCP Coordinating Committees members would like to share regarding impacts of COVID-19 on HCP activities. He said it seems some agencies are starting to reopen, but recalled Tracy Hillman indicating that federal agencies seem to be behind state agencies in terms of reopening. Ferguson said there has been outreach to Grant PUD regarding their protocols for reconvening in person at their office in Wenatchee, Washington, and he will report out once he hears back.

No other new updates were shared.

B. Subyearling Studies Quarterly Check-In Reminder (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson said the next Subyearling Studies Quarterly Check-In will be next month during the HCP Coordinating Committees meeting on August 24, 2021.

C. HCP Policy Committees June 8, 2021, Conference Call Minutes (John Ferguson)

John Ferguson notified the HCP Coordinating Committees that the draft HCP Policy Committees June 8, 2021, conference call minutes were distributed to the HCP Policy Committees for a 2-week review on July 21, 2021, with edits and comments due to Kristi Geris by August 4, 2021.

D. Next Meetings (John Ferguson)

The next scheduled HCP Coordinating Committees meeting is on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., to be held by conference call.

The September 28 and October 26, 2021, meetings will be held by conference call or in person, 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
Jim Craig*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chad Jackson*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

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