

## FINAL MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs Hatchery Committees      **Date:** August 21, 2013  
**From:** Mike Schiewe, Chair  
**Cc:** Kristi Geris  
**Re:** Final Minutes of the July 17, 2013 HCP Hatchery Committees Conference Call

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Hatchery Committees' meeting was held by conference call, on Wednesday, July 17, 2013, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

### ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Mike Tonseth will consult with Ken Warheit (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW] geneticist) and provide the Wenatchee spring Chinook trapping and sampling protocols, including the criteria for genetic inclusion or exclusion, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (action item carried forward from the Hatchery Committees meeting on June 19, 2013) (Item I).
  - Chelan PUD will provide a schedule and timeline outlining their Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Request for Proposal (RFP) and 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan processes, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item II-A).
  - Chelan PUD will provide an update regarding when their draft Spring Chinook Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) will be available for review, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item II-B).
  - Mike Tonseth will provide a summary of the genetic assignments of the spring Chinook broodstock that were collected at Tumwater Dam (TWD), to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item II-C).
  - Keely Murdoch will update the Hatchery Committees on potential co-acclimation of Chelan PUD's spring Chinook Methow production and the Yakama Nation's (YN's) coho salmon production at the Chewuch Pond (Item III-A).
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- The Hatchery Committees' meeting on August 21, 2013 will be held at Douglas PUD, with the Wells Hatchery Master Plan Workshop in the afternoon (Item IV-A).

## STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT DECISION SUMMARY

- No Statements of Agreement (SOAs) were approved at today's meeting.

## AGREEMENTS

- Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to Chelan PUD's proposed schedule to provide their draft 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan for Hatchery Committees review as early as September 2013, and no later than October 2013 (Item II-A).
- Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to the YN's request to continue planning for co-acclimation of Chelan PUD's Methow spring Chinook production with the YN coho salmon production at the Chewuch Pond in 2015 (Item III-A).

## REVIEW ITEMS

- There are no items that are currently out for review.

## FINALIZED REPORTS

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Hatchery Committees on August 2, 2013, notifying them that the Wells Hatchery Master Plan was finalized following a 60-day review period, which ended on July 13, 2013. As noted in the email, no comments were received from Hatchery Committees members on the draft plan.

## I. Welcome, Agenda Review, Meeting Minutes, and Action Items

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Hatchery Committees and asked for any additions or other changes to the agenda. Schiewe requested that Chelan PUD provide an update on spring Chinook broodstock collection at TWD. No other additions or changes were requested.

Action items from the last Hatchery Committees meeting on June 19, 2013, and follow-up discussions were as follows:

- *Mike Tonseth will consult with Ken Warheit (WDFW geneticist) and provide the*
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*Wenatchee spring Chinook trapping and sampling protocols, including the criteria for genetic inclusion or exclusion, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (action item carried forward from Hatchery Committees meeting on May 15, 2013).*

Tonseth requested that this action item be carried forward.

- *The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will provide a letter of concurrence for transport back to the river of Wenatchee spring Chinook adults collected for the Nason Creek and Chiwawa River programs that do not assign to either Nason Creek or Chiwawa River (Item II-A).*

NMFS provided approval for transport back to the river of Wenatchee spring Chinook adults not assigning to either Nason Creek or Chiwawa River via email on June 19, 2013.

- *Lynn Hatcher will distribute an update on the status of Wenatchee spring Chinook permitting to the Hatchery Committees prior to June 27, 2013 (Item II-A).*

Craig Busack provided an update on the status of Wenatchee spring Chinook permitting that Kristi Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees on June 26, 2013.

- *Kristi Geris will arrange a conference line to review the status of Wenatchee spring Chinook permitting and potential paths forward, scheduled for June 27, 2013, at 10:00 am (Item II-A).*

Kristi Geris arranged a conference line; however, the Hatchery Committees agreed that the conference call was not needed following receipt of Craig Busack's update on the status of Wenatchee spring Chinook permitting.

- *Greg Mackey will arrange and distribute a date for the Wells Hatchery Master Plan Workshop, planned to discuss engineering aspects of the modernization with HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) (Item IV-B).*

Greg Mackey scheduled the Wells Hatchery Master Plan Workshop on the afternoon of August 21, 2013, as Kristi Geris informed the Hatchery Committees on July 8, 2013.

- *Greg Mackey will develop an agenda for the next Hatchery M&E Workgroup meeting, to be attached to the doodle poll distributed to arrange the meeting (Item IV-C).*

Greg Mackey developed an agenda for the next Hatchery M&E Workgroup meeting that was attached to the doodle poll distributed to arrange the meeting, as the Hatchery Committees were notified by Kristi Geris on July 5, 2013.

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The Hatchery Committees reviewed the revised draft June 19, 2013 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said that a second draft of the revised minutes was distributed to the Hatchery Committees today, prior to the call. She said that the second draft incorporated additional edits, which are tracked in redline in the meeting minutes; these edits are as follows:

- Regarding the NMFS' HGMP update, Bill Gale clarified that the October 2013 deadline for submitting Biological Opinions (BiOps) would allow the fall 2013 transfer of fish from Winthrop National Fish Hatchery (NFH) to the acclimation ponds in the Okanogan and subsequent release in the spring of 2014 to initiate the experimental population.
- Regarding WDFW's decision item about Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission's (CRITFC's) request, it was clarified that, in 2012, samples of non-listed species were obtained from Priest Rapids Fish Hatchery (FH)—not from Spring Creek NFH.
- Regarding the Colville Confederated Tribe's (CCT's) discussion on Chief Joseph Wenatchee spring Chinook brood collection at Leavenworth NFH, Truscott clarified the sequence of events and reasoning surrounding the decision to close—and the subsequent decision to reinstate—the CCT spring Chinook fishery on the Icicle River.

Geris said that all other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated in the revised minutes. The Hatchery Committees members present approved the June 19, 2013 meeting minutes as revised. Keely Murdoch confirmed Tom Scribner's approval of the revised minutes, and Lynn Hatcher provided NMFS approval of the revised minutes via email on July 26, 2013. Geris will finalize the meeting minutes and distribute them to the Committees.

## **II. Chelan PUD**

### *A. Hatchery M&E RFP Update and 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan Schedule (Alene Underwood)*

Alene Underwood said that the Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E RFP closed on July 8, 2013. She said that three proposals were received, which are currently being reviewed for completeness. She said that Grant PUD and Chelan PUD have a call scheduled for July 30,

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2013, to discuss which proposals qualify as “complete,” and also to determine a path forward for interviews. Once it is determined which proposals are complete, those proposals will be provided for review to those Hatchery Committees members who do not have a conflict of interest.

Mike Tonseth asked what assurances the Hatchery Committees would have, as a whole, that what is being proposed meets program needs—specifically as related to aspects of proposals that may be different from past Hatchery M&E Implementation Plans. Underwood replied that it is up to the proposer to demonstrate how objectives will be met. Where different methods are proposed, the proposer will be required to show congruence with past data collection, with no data gaps. She said that if alternative methods are proposed, they will be included in the draft 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan that will be available for review by the entire Hatchery Committees. Tonseth recalled that, last year, the Hatchery Committees agreed that the draft Hatchery M&E Implementation Plans were to be available for review no later than July 1. (*\*Note: this agreement was made at the Hatchery Committees’ meeting on December 12, 2012.*) Underwood acknowledged that although the draft Implementation Plan was originally scheduled for review in July, the RFP review process has affected the schedule; and she proposed that the draft Implementation Plan instead be submitted to the Hatchery Committees for review in September or October 2013. Tonseth said that, in order to remain consistent with that agreement, as long as the draft Implementation Plan is a precursor to contracting, there should be no issues with submitting the draft plan at a later date. Underwood clarified that developing the draft Implementation Plan and contracting will be completed on parallel paths because contracting cannot happen without knowing the scope of work. Keely Murdoch said that her main concern in reviewing the Implementation Plan before contracting is to make sure the plan is consistent with the M&E Plan. Underwood said that Chelan PUD is also committed to meeting the objectives outlined in the M&E Plan. She added that even if contracts are in place in general terms, they can be adjusted as needed to meet M&E objectives. Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to Chelan PUD’s proposed schedule of providing their draft 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan for Hatchery Committees review as early as September 2013, and no later than October 2013.

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Underwood said that if interviews with the proposers were judged necessary, they will likely be conducted around the first part of August 2013. She noted that the interviews are separate from the RFP review panel, and both are likely to occur in parallel. She said that about 10 scientists had been recommended by Hatchery Committees representatives for the RFP review panel, and that those recommended will be contacted regarding their availability. She said she expects that 3 to 5, out of the 10 total, may be available; however, she also has no plans to exclude recommended reviewers if they are available. She said that she will have a better idea of what the RFP review panel will look like following Chelan PUD and Grant PUD's coordination call on July 30, 2013. Underwood also said that she will provide a schedule and timeline outlining Chelan PUD's Hatchery M&E RFP and 2014 Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan processes, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

Tonseth asked if Hatchery Committees representatives with a conflict of interest would still be allowed to review the proposals, but just not comment or participate in the decision-making. Underwood said that she was uncertain about the benefits of including such a step. Schiewe said that it would be highly unusual for a conflicted person to review the proposal at all; and added that there is a certain level of confidentiality with these proposals. Tonseth asked which Hatchery Committees members were not conflicted, and Underwood replied that they include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the CCT, and NMFS. Kirk Truscott suggested that, although conflicted parties are not participating in the selection of a contractor, the Hatchery Committees and the RFP review panel may still benefit from a conflicted party's review of the proposals. Schiewe said that if a non-conflicted party decides to seek input from conflicted parties outside of the Hatchery Committees venue, then that is up to them. However, he said that the Conflict of Interest Policy clearly establishes a protocol for review that puts conflicted parties at arm's length in the review process; he added that this is a traditional thing to do.

*B. Methow Spring Chinook HGMP Update (Alene Underwood)*

Alene Underwood said that, as discussed at the Hatchery Committee's meeting on June 19, 2013, Chelan PUD has been asked to submit a full Methow Spring Chinook HGMP. She said that Chelan PUD planned to have a draft ready for Hatchery Committees review by July 22, 2013; however, the draft may not be ready until July 26, 2013. Underwood said that she will

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provide an update regarding when the draft HGMP will be available for review, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

*C. Spring Chinook Broodstock Collection at Tumwater Dam (Alene Underwood)*

Alene Underwood said that after the Hatchery Committees meeting on June 19, 2013, WDFW commenced collection of spring Chinook broodstock at TWD; and as of July 12, 2013, Grant PUD, Chelan PUD, and WDFW have obtained Section 10 permits for Wenatchee spring Chinook. Mike Tonseth said that 172 adult spring Chinook were collected at TWD as described in the 2013 Broodstock Collection Protocols, and that genetic assignments for a full Chiwawa River spring Chinook program were obtained; however, they were not obtained for Nason Creek. He added that the majority of fish trapped at TWD assigned to the Chiwawa River, followed by White River, Leavenworth, and then Nason Creek. Bill Gale asked how many adults assigned to Leavenworth, and Tonseth replied that about 10 assigned as having originated at Leavenworth NFH; however, only four or five assigned given the broodstock criteria. Tonseth said that assignments will be confirmed once scale analyses are available, and he added that he will provide a summary of the genetic assignments of the spring Chinook broodstock that were collected at TWD, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees. Tonseth said that the 55 of 172 adults that did not assign were returned to the Wenatchee River at Swiftwater. He said that fish were sorted in the morning, then trucked to the release location, and released in the afternoon. He said that there were two releases, which were both water-to-water transfers. Tonseth said that he was present for the first transfer, which went well. Fish were released in deep pools so they could become oriented and gain their bearings; and after a short while, they swam into deeper water. He added that, currently, water temperature at the release location is slightly warmer than that at Eastbank.

Underwood said that spring Chinook collection at TWD is now complete, and that high numbers of sockeye are now passing TWD. She said that, as of July 12, 2013, TWD switched to a 3-day trapping schedule, and that weekly monitoring for potential delays associated with

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trapping has been ongoing. She said that no delays in excess of the criteria previously agreed to by the Hatchery Committees have been observed.

### **III. Yakama Nation**

#### *A. Potential Acclimation Locations for Chelan PUD Methow Spring Chinook (specifically as it relates to the Chewuch River) (Keely Murdoch)*

Keely Murdoch said that an agreement is being explored between the YN and Douglas PUD for use of the Chewuch Pond for the YN's coho salmon production and acclimation, and she added that there has been discussion about possibly co-acclimating Chelan PUD's spring Chinook Methow production at the site as well. Mike Tonseth said that the proposal was worth considering; however, he said, additional discussion of long-term adult management would be required. He asked what is known about past acclimation at that location, and he noted that when Douglas PUD's program operated out of the Methow Hatchery, about 40 percent of returning adults did not return to the Chewuch. Murdoch agreed that additional discussion of adult management was appropriate; she also noted that she was uncertain about what effect acclimation at the Chewuch Ponds would have on percent hatchery-origin spawners (PHOS) in the Chewuch. She noted that the Chewuch Pond is also a secure facility, which is advantageous when dealing with listed fish. With regards to previous data, Murdoch said that it was her understanding that closer to 50 percent of Douglas PUD's program did not return to the Chewuch while operating out of the Methow Hatchery. She speculated that this may have been because the fish were homing to the Methow Hatchery. Murdoch said, however, that since Chelan PUD's spring Chinook will be overwintered at Carlton, they may exhibit a higher fidelity to home back to the Chewuch, as opposed to the Methow. She added that depending on how they are marked, options for removal could include Wells Dam.

Tonseth suggested that, in order to evaluate this option, the Hatchery Committees should consider what the expectations are for the program in terms of overwintering at Carlton and spring acclimating in the Chewuch. Bill Gale said that he is more interested in how Chelan PUD is going to collect broodstock than in how they are going to release them. He also said that he is not opposed to the idea, and added that he agrees with Tonseth that NMFS will

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want to see data that demonstrate that fish will return to the Chewuch. Kirk Truscott noted that he is unaware of options other than what the YN is suggesting; and asked if coho and spring Chinook have been co-acclimated before. Murdoch replied that coho and spring Chinook have been co-acclimated in the back-channel at Winthrop, and she added that fish at Chewuch Pond could either be commingled or be separated by a net. Truscott asked what the capacity is at Chewuch Pond, and Tom Kahler replied that he believes the design capacity is 223,000 fish. Tonseth noted that spring Chinook have lower bacterial kidney disease (BKD) rearing density requirements than coho; and Alene Underwood said that, as described in their Methow Spring Chinook HGMP Addendum, Chelan PUD is not anticipating density issues with regards to their Methow spring Chinook obligation. Tonseth said that it is not Chelan PUD's program that will cause the density issue, but combining the YN's 180,000 coho is what will increase the density. He asked how many coho the YN planned to acclimate in the Chewuch Pond, and Murdoch replied that those figures depend on what other acclimation options are agreed upon in the Methow and Chewuch. She added that the YN is cognizant of keeping densities low with commingled acclimation—they do not intend to acclimate an unhealthy number of fish in one location.

Truscott asked if there are fish health concerns with commingling coho and spring Chinook, and Gale replied that he did not recall any concerns with commingling them in the back-channel at Winthrop. Gale added that there is a correlation between a fish's condition when transferred and subsequent fish health problems. He said that in the past, minor fish health issues arose when fish arrived and the stress of transfer triggered secondary fish health issues. Tonseth said that he has observed behavioral issues among commingled steelhead and spring Chinook, such as fin nipping, and asked if anything of that nature was observed at Winthrop. Gale replied that he had not observed that at Winthrop.

Murdoch noted that the commingled acclimation would be short-term, and she said that, at this point, the YN just wanted to share the concept with the Hatchery Committees to make sure there were no red flags before the YN continues investigating this option. Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to the YN's request to continue planning for co-

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acclimation of Chelan PUD's Methow spring Chinook production with the YN coho salmon production at the Chewuch Pond in 2015. Murdoch said that she will update the Hatchery Committees as plans solidify.

#### **IV. HCP Administration**

##### *A. Next Meetings*

Mike Schiewe reminded the Hatchery Committees that the next meeting on August 21, 2013, will be held at Douglas PUD, with the Wells Hatchery Master Plan Workshop to follow in the afternoon. Alene Underwood added that Chelan PUD and Grant PUD have been discussing inviting Dr. Kim Hyatt of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (DFO), to provide an update on the Sockeye Reintroduction Program on the morning following the meeting (August 22, 2013). Tom Kahler said that Douglas PUD would be fine with that arrangement, but that they would want Hyatt to also include information on the implementation of the Douglas PUD-funded Fish Water Management Tool (FWMT). Underwood said that she would finalize the arrangements with Grant PUD.

The next scheduled Hatchery Committees' meetings are on August 21, 2013 (Douglas PUD); September 18, 2013 (Douglas PUD); and October 16, 2013 (Chelan PUD).

#### **List of Attachments**

Attachment A      List of Attendees

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

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Mike Schiewe	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Alene Underwood*	Chelan PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes
Bill Gale*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Tonseth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlie Snow	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Notes:

\* Denotes Hatchery Committees member or alternate

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