

FINAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs Hatchery Committees
Date: November 20, 2013

From: Mike Schiewe, Chair

Cc: Kristi Geris

Re: Final Minutes of the October 7, 2013 HCP Hatchery Committees Conference Call

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Hatchery Committees' meeting was held by conference call on Monday, October 7, 2013, from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Greg Mackey will provide Bob Rogers with Douglas PUD's suggested edits to the revised draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan memorandum (*Incubation and early rearing of juvenile Twisp summer steelhead at Methow Hatchery from incomplete viral sampled adult female summer steelhead*).
 - Bob Rogers will remove references about Winthrop National Fish Hatchery (NFH) from the background section of the revised draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan memorandum, and will instead convey that Methow Hatchery can accommodate the program.
 - Jayson Wahls and Greg Mackey will provide the Yakama Nation (YN) with a budget of expected costs associated with the YN's use of the Methow facility for their Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Program.
 - Bob Rogers will have Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Fish Health staff contact Keely Murdoch regarding the type of sonicator that is needed for processing samples for virus testing of live-spawned Twisp River steelhead at the Methow Hatchery.
 - Keely Murdoch and Bob Rogers will contact Lynn Hatcher, once Hatcher becomes available after the government shutdown, to bring him up to speed on the details of the proposed actions for live-spawning Twisp River steelhead at the Methow Hatchery for the YN's Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Program.
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- Bob Rogers will revise the draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan memorandum, as discussed at the October 7, 2013 conference call, and will provide the updated revised memo to Mike Schiewe and Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

I. Welcome, Agenda Review

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Hatchery Committees, and said that the purpose of today's conference call is to discuss the YN's proposal for live-spawning Twisp River steelhead at Methow Hatchery. This agenda item was originally planned for the Hatchery Committees meeting on September 18, 2013, before it was canceled due to limited availability for participation; and due to the time-sensitive nature of the topic, the YN requested that the topic be discussed as soon as possible.

II. Yakama Nation

A. Live-Spawning Twisp River Steelhead Update (Keely Murdoch)

Keely Murdoch thanked everyone for joining the call. She explained that this topic is time-sensitive because, if the proposed actions for live-spawning Twisp River steelhead are approved by the Hatchery Committees, costs associated to the program need to be included in a budget that needs to be submitted to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) this month. Murdoch recalled that the Hatchery Committees have been discussing the YN Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Program over the course of several meetings now. She said that a draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan Statement of Agreement (SOA) was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on September 12, 2013, and that a revised draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan memorandum (*Incubation and early rearing of juvenile Twisp summer steelhead at Methow Hatchery from incomplete viral sampled adult female summer steelhead*; Attachment B) was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris prior to the conference call on October 7, 2013. Murdoch said that she hoped to reach agreement on the SOA so that program costs can be included in their BPA budget.

Bob Rogers suggested that Hatchery Committees members review the revised draft memorandum (Attachment B), and then he can address any comments or questions. He said

that a revision was made to Planned Action #8 after the revised draft was originally distributed; the revision removed U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) personnel from involvement in the sampling. He said Planned Action #8 now states that Matt Abrahamse and WDFW will handle all sampling.

Greg Mackey said that Douglas PUD is supportive of the seemingly comprehensive, well-thought out biosecurity plan. He suggested, however, in the interest of informing Douglas PUD and the HCP Hatchery Committee to enable them to make a decision based on WDFW Fish Health Staff's opinion of risk, inclusion of a statement addressing the level of risk this new program would pose to the ongoing spring Chinook and steelhead programs. He said that Hatchery Committees approval will largely be based on whether this action—which is not a part of the HCPs—is worth the risk to the HCP programs. Rogers agreed to include a statement as requested; and added that the level of risk will be minimal so long as the planned actions to minimize risk, as outlined in the revised draft memorandum (Attachment B), are met. *(Note: Douglas PUD subsequently requested in writing [email to Rodgers] following the phone conference that WDFW provide the statement of their fish health risk assessment of the kelt program in a separate letter.)*

Mackey asked that Planned Action #16 in the revised draft memorandum (Attachment B) be clarified to include the different categories of disease. For example, if Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) is detected, it should be clear what needs to be destroyed to avoid virus spreading. Rogers clarified that during spawning, any pairings displaying evidence of pathogens will be destroyed.

Mackey also suggested for Planned Action #15 in the revised draft memorandum (Attachment B), that the text specify an approximate number of days after swim up that the fish can be released from Wells Hatchery. Rogers said that fish health screening samples are collected at swim up, and then at 30 days after swim up. He said it takes another 28 to 30 days to obtain the results of the second sample; so, fish should be ready to transfer about 60 days after swim up. Mackey said that in addition to edits just discussed, Douglas PUD has other minor edits to the revised draft memo that he will provide to Rogers.

Mike Tonseth said that, as long as WDFW Fish Health staff is satisfied that spring Chinook and steelhead are not at risk, he is supportive of what is proposed.

Bill Gale agreed with Tonseth, and added, however, that the background section of the revised draft memorandum (Attachment B) should be revised to indicate that the reason why Winthrop NFH could not accommodate the program was due to Section 10(j) fish being on station, and the inability to make additional commitments of space. Mike Schiewe suggested removing all references about Winthrop NFH as they do not seem to contribute to the document. Rogers said that he will remove the references, and will instead convey that Methow Hatchery can accommodate the program.

Gale speculated that homing to the Methow may improve if early rearing progeny on Methow River water continues. Mackey said that he believes that homing to the Twisp River could decrease because fish would also home to the Methow Hatchery, having potentially imprinted to the hatchery as alevins, but noted that any difference may be difficult to detect given the challenge steelhead pose in assessing straying. Murdoch asked if early rearing will be on river or well water, and Rogers replied that eggs and alevins will be on groundwater. Tonseth noted that as long as the fish are passive integrated transponder- (PIT-) tagged, homing can be monitored. Murdoch added that if any issues arise, methods will be re-evaluated. Schiewe suggested adding a planned action to PIT-tag fish prior to release. Mackey said that Douglas PUD is currently PIT-tagging 5,000 Twisp River fish for monitoring in the acclimation pond. He said that low detection rates make it difficult to accurately estimate levels of straying; and added that additional fish would likely need to be tagged in order to tease out a stray signal. *(Note: There are not sufficient pre-treatment data available to identify an effect on homing and straying that could be related to the kelt program implementation at Methow Hatchery.)*

Kirk Truscott said that, like WDFW and USFWS, the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) are also supportive of the proposed plan, so long as WDFW Fish Health staff determine the proposed actions pose acceptably low risk to HCP production. He also noted that the fate of reconditioned adults whose progeny come back positive does not seem to be addressed in the planned actions. Tonseth said that if the juvenile is positive, the adults will be destroyed as well. Mackey said that “all fish linked to that sample” as stated in Planned Action #16 seems

to address this issue. Murdoch asked if vertical transmission from a male is common where the result would be euthanizing a reconditioned kelt, and Rogers replied that likelihood is extremely low. Murdoch added that transmission from males can be tracked because all males will be lethally sampled at Methow Hatchery for a full disease workup.

Mackey asked Rodgers if a dedicated steelhead kelt facility will be needed if this program continues in the long-term, and Rogers replied that he could not speak to that. Murdoch said that funding for this program lasts until 2017, and that future funding will be dependent on the success in the next few years. Jayson Wahls said that this year, additional infrastructure such as screens, curtains, and additional tanks, will be needed for bio-security. He added that other things like salaries and benefits will need to be incorporated into a budget. Mackey said that Douglas PUD also needs to develop an agreement with the YN. Murdoch said that Rogers was very clear on what was needed from the YN from the fish health aspect, and that she was unaware that anything beyond his requests were needed; she asked that WDFW and Douglas PUD provide the YN with those requests as soon as possible. Wahls and Mackey agreed to provide the YN with a budget of expected costs associated with the YN's use of the Methow facility for their Steelhead Kelt Reconditioning Program. Rogers also said that he will have WDFW Fish Health staff contact Murdoch regarding the type of sonicator that is needed for processing samples for virus testing of live-spawned Twisp River steelhead at the Methow Hatchery.

Schiewe said that because this program could affect listed species, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) also needs to be in on the decision. Murdoch and Rogers agreed to contact Lynn Hatcher, once Hatcher becomes available after the federal government shutdown, to bring him up to speed. Schiewe added that WDFW Fish Health's statement characterizing the level of risk also needs to be included in the SOA. Murdoch said that the SOA will reference Roger's revised draft memorandum (Attachment B), which will include the statement about risk. Schiewe said that the SOA will be considered for final approval at the next Hatchery Committees meeting on October 16, 2013, assuming that a full complement of members will be back from the government shutdown. Rogers said that he will revise the draft Twisp River Steelhead Live Spawning Plan memo, as discussed, and will provide the updated revised memo to Schiewe and Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

III. HCP Administration

A. Next Meetings

The next scheduled Hatchery Committees' meetings are on October 16, 2013 (Chelan PUD), November 20, 2013 (Douglas PUD), and December 18, 2013 (Chelan PUD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A	List of Attendees
Attachment B	Memorandum <i>Incubation and early rearing of juvenile Twisp summer steelhead at Methow Hatchery from incomplete viral sampled adult female summer steelhead</i>

Attachment A
List of Attendees

Name	Organization
Mike Schiewe	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Alene Underwood*	Chelan PUD
Greg Mackey*	Douglas PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation
Matt Abrahamse	Yakama Nation
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes
Bill Gale*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Tonseth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Rogers	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jayson Wahls	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlie Snow	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Guy Wiest	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Notes:

* Denotes Hatchery Committees member or alternate
