

FINAL MEMORANDUM

To: Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs Hatchery Committees **Date:** September 17, 2014
From: Mike Schiewe, HCP Hatchery Committees Chair
Cc: Kristi Geris
Re: Final Minutes of the August 20, 2014 HCP Hatchery Committees Meeting

The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Hatchery Committees meeting was held at Chelan PUD headquarters in Wenatchee, Washington, on Wednesday, August 20, 2014, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Chelan PUD will provide a final report on the water recirculation pilot studies at Eastbank Fish Hatchery and Chiwawa Fish Facility to the Hatchery Committees by December 2014 (Item I).
 - Hatchery Committees representatives will submit comments on the sample size section in the memo clarifying the standardized methods for Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan Objective 8.3, Fecundity at Size, to Mike Tonseth (Item I).
 - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will add a revised summary table to the draft 2014 Wenatchee Basin Steelhead Release Proposal and will redistribute the final revised draft to the Hatchery Committees (Item I).
 - Tom Kahler will coordinate with Ritchie Graves (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) and Scott Carlon (NMFS) for clarification on the Wells HCP requirement to submit the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee and NMFS Hydro Program for annual approval prior to trapping at Wells Dam; Kahler will also discuss this with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee at their next meeting on August 26, 2014 (Item II-A).
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- Mike Schiewe, Lynn Hatcher, and Mike Tonseth will revise the draft Broodstock Collection Protocols Statement of Agreement (SOA) and will also develop a draft schedule to meet the April 15 submittal deadline to NMFS (Item II-A).
 - Mike Tonseth will coordinate with NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to develop a list of key components that need to be included in the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols; he will also tentatively identify components that may be removed in order to streamline the annual review and approval process (Item II-A).
 - Lynn Hatcher will confirm NMFS' willingness to delegate approval of the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols to their HCP Hatchery Committees and Coordinating Committees representatives (Item II-A).
 - Steve Lewis (USFWS) will obtain an update from Karl Halupka (USFWS) on USFWS Wenatchee Section 7 consultation and will provide the update to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item II-B).
 - Lynn Hatcher will discuss spring Chinook salmon broodstock compositing in the Wenatchee Basin during the Hatchery Committees meeting on September 17, 2014 (Item II-C).
 - Steve Lewis will obtain clarification from Jessie Gonzales (USFWS) regarding how incidental take is assigned when multiple parties are requesting take authorization and will provide the clarification to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item III-A).
 - Chelan PUD will add Methow spring Chinook salmon to Table 1 of the draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan and will provide the revised draft to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item III-B). *(Note: Catherine Willard provided the revised draft plan to Geris on August 21, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*
 - Hatchery Committees representatives will submit edits and comments on the revised draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan to Chelan PUD by September 10, 2014 (Item III-B).
 - Chelan PUD will provide the revised draft Non-Target Taxa of Concern (NTTOC) SOA to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item III-D). *(Note: Catherine Willard provided the revised draft SOA to Geris following the meeting on*
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August 20, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)

- Mike Tonseth will provide Keely Murdoch with a list of deadlines for when WDFW needs approvals in place prior to conducting coded wire tagging (CWT) activities (Item IV-A).

DECISION SUMMARY

- There were no decisions approved during today's meeting.

AGREEMENTS

- There were no agreements considered during today's meeting.

REVIEW ITEMS

- Kristi Geris distributed a memo to the Hatchery Committees on February 24, 2014, that clarified standardized methods for Hatchery M&E Plan Objective 8.3, Fecundity at Size. Comments on this memo, with regards to sample size, are due to Mike Tonseth (Item I).
- Kristi Geris distributed a revised draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan to the Hatchery Committees on August 21, 2014. Comments on this draft plan are due to Chelan PUD by September 10, 2014 (Item III-B).

FINALIZED DOCUMENTS

- There are no documents that have been recently finalized.

I. Welcome

A. *Review Agenda, Review Last Meeting Action Items, Approve the HCP-HC July 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes (Mike Schiewe)*

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Hatchery Committees and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. The following revisions were requested:

- Alene Underwood added a brief update on the Carlton Facility pump system.
 - Lynn Hatcher added spring Chinook salmon broodstock compositing in the Wenatchee Basin.
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The Hatchery Committees reviewed the revised draft July 16, 2014 meeting minutes. Kristi Geris said that all comments and revisions received from members of the Committees were incorporated in the revised minutes and there were no outstanding edits or questions to discuss. She also noted that Kirk Truscott provided the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT) approval of the meeting minutes via email on August 18, 2014, pending the addition of one minor edit, as distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day. Keely Murdoch also noted that during the discussion about rearing Coho salmon at Wells Hatchery for the Yakama Nation's (YN's) Coho Salmon Reintroduction Program, she said that the YN is having permitting issues with building their own facility in the Wenatchee—not the Methow. Geris said that she will make this revision prior to distributing the final meeting minutes to the Committees. The Hatchery Committees members present approved the draft July 16, 2014 meeting minutes, as revised.

Action items from the Hatchery Committees meeting on June 18, 2014 and follow-up discussions were as follows (italicized item numbers below correspond to agenda items from the meeting on July 16, 2014):

- *Chelan PUD will provide a final report on the water recirculation pilot studies at the Eastbank Fish Hatchery and Chiwawa Fish Facility to the Hatchery Committees by September 2014 (Item I).*

Alene Underwood said that Chelan PUD will provide this report by December 2014. This action item will be carried forward.

- *Alene Underwood will coordinate with Steve Lewis (USFWS) and arrange for Lewis to discuss how incidental take is assigned by USFWS during the next Hatchery Committees meeting on August 20, 2014 (Item I).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Hatchery Committees representatives will submit comments on the sample size section of the memo clarifying standardized methods for Hatchery M&E Plan Objective 8.3, Fecundity at Size, to Mike Tonseth (Item I).*

This action item will be carried forward.

- *WDFW will add a revised summary table to the draft 2014 Wenatchee Basin Steelhead Release Proposal and Mike Tonseth will redistribute the final revised draft to the Hatchery Committees (Item I).*

This action item will be carried forward.

- *NMFS will develop a draft SOA that requires Hatchery Committees approval of the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols before submission to NMFS and will distribute the draft SOA to the Hatchery Committees by August 2014 (Item I).*

NMFS provided this draft SOA to Kristi Geris on August 5, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will provide their draft 2015 Hatchery M&E Annual Implementation Plan to the Hatchery Committees for review 10 days prior to the Hatchery Committees meeting on August 20, 2014 (Item I).*

Chelan PUD provided this draft plan to Kristi Geris on August 8, 2014, and Geris distributed the plan to the Hatchery Committees on August 9, 2014. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Chelan PUD will develop a draft SOA that acknowledges partial fulfillment of Hatchery M&E Plan Objective 12 (formerly Objective 10) and also includes the qualifications of this partial fulfillment, as discussed during today's Hatchery Committees meeting (Item II-C).*

Chelan PUD provided this draft SOA to Kristi Geris on August 18, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *WDFW will provide NMFS' approval to modify trapping operations at Tumwater Dam from 3 days per week, 16 hours per day, and not exceeding 48 hours per week, to 7 days per week, 10 hours per day, and not exceeding 48 hours per week (i.e., "modified trapping operations") to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item IV-B).*

Mike Tonseth said that the local wildfires temporarily halted trapping operations at Tumwater Dam, making this action item unnecessary, as explained in an email distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on July 22, 2014.

- *WDFW will obtain USFWS approval of the modified Tumwater Dam operations no later than Thursday, July 17, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., and will provide USFWS' approval to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item IV-B).*

Mike Tonseth said that the local wildfires temporarily halted trapping operations at Tumwater Dam, making this action item unnecessary, as explained in an email distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on July 22, 2014.

- *WDFW will re-evaluate the modified Tumwater Dam operations and will provide a recommendation for a path forward to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees no later than Monday, July 21, 2014, at 12:00 p.m. (Item IV-B).*

Mike Tonseth said that the local wildfires temporarily halted trapping operations at Tumwater Dam, making this action item unnecessary, as explained in an email distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on July 22, 2014.

B. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service HCP-HC Alternate Representative Change (Mike Schiewe)

Mike Schiewe said that Bill Gale provided a letter from USFWS changing the USFWS HCP Hatchery Committees Alternate Representative from Jim Craig to Matt Cooper. Gale added that Cooper will likely attend the Hatchery Committees meeting on September 17, 2014, and will also attempt to attend meetings on a regular basis.

II. NMFS

A. DECISION: Draft Broodstock Collection Protocols SOA (Lynn Hatcher)

Lynn Hatcher said that a draft Broodstock Protocols SOA was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on August 5, 2014. Comments were received from Chelan PUD, the YN, USFWS, and WDFW, and a revised draft Broodstock Protocols SOA was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on August 15, 2014. Douglas PUD also provided suggested language for the SOA, which Geris distributed in a separate email to the Hatchery Committees on August 15, 2014. Kirk Truscott indicated via email on August 18, 2014, that the CCT do not have additional edits to the revised draft SOA. He indicated that the CCT would approve a final SOA that stipulates that the Committees will approve the annual protocols and provide them to NMFS by April 15 (schedule to be developed) and NMFS will review the protocols for consistency with permit take provisions and respond in writing.

Hatcher said that NMFS is already planning to include in the new Section 10 permits that the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols will be reviewed and approved by the Hatchery Committees by April 15. He added that NMFS is not advocating changes to the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols process; rather, this new language is just explaining the approval process. He also agreed with Mike Tonseth's recommended edit which indicates that implementation of this SOA satisfies both the Hatchery Committees' submission requirement and subsequent responsibility of NMFS to provide a written response to the Permit Holders.

Greg Mackey said that Craig Busack recently distributed the draft spring Chinook salmon permit, which includes a statement simply indicating that the Hatchery Committees will develop and submit the Broodstock Collection Protocols by April 15; which, Mackey said, is essentially all this SOA should reiterate. Hatcher agreed and said that originally this SOA was only one statement, but has since grown. Mike Schiewe noted that Truscott also recommended, prior to the meeting, the SOA be shortened to simply indicate that the Hatchery Committees will develop and submit the Broodstock Collection Protocols by April 15.

Tonseth said that he agrees with submitting the annual protocols by April 15; however, he also recommended developing an amendment process that can be implemented in the event a component of the protocols is not ready for submission by the April 15 deadline.

Alene Underwood said that Chelan PUD is supportive of the SOA so long as it moves away from the annual reauthorization language that existed in the previous permits. Schiewe recommended shortening the SOA to a simple statement of intent and also incorporating a schedule to meet the April 15 deadline. Tonseth said that Douglas PUD had a good suggestion for a simplified version in the email that was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on August 15, 2014.

Tonseth also noted that he does not recall receiving written concurrence from NMFS on the annual protocols, as stipulated in the current permits. He suggested that this was partially satisfied when NMFS approved the annual protocols via Hatchery Committees vote. Hatcher

agreed with Tonseth, adding that he (Hatcher) is in frequent communication with Busack, who has approval authority.

Bill Gale asked about the approval process when Chris Peterson was the NMFS HCP Hatchery Committees representative. Tonseth recalled that Peterson used to provide email concurrence of the annual protocols, but NMFS would abstain from voting in the Hatchery Committees because they were a regulatory party.

Tom Kahler said that, related to scheduling and the April 15 submittal deadline to NMFS, he recently noticed that the Adult Passage Plan portion of the Wells HCP stipulates "...Broodstock Collection Protocols are developed by WDFW and are annually submitted to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee and NMFS Hydro Program for annual approval prior to trapping at the Dam..." Kahler said that Douglas PUD has not been doing this; only recently, has Douglas PUD been presenting the proposed schedule for all parties planning trapping at Wells Dam to the HCP Coordinating Committees. He said that these approvals should be built into the schedule for the Broodstock Collection Protocols and he will coordinate with Ritchie Graves (NMFS) and Scott Carlon (NMFS) for clarification on this Wells HCP requirement and will also discuss this with the Wells HCP Coordinating Committee at their next meeting on August 26, 2014.

Gale asked Hatcher if accepting NMFS' approval of the protocols via Hatchery Committees vote would serve as final approval by NMFS. Hatcher said that this has been discussed, but he will verify internally NMFS' delegation of approval of the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols to their HCP Hatchery Committees and Coordinating Committees representatives. Schiewe, Hatcher, and Tonseth also indicated that they will revise the draft Broodstock Collection Protocols SOA and will also develop a draft schedule to meet the April 15 submittal deadline to NMFS.

Tonseth recalled discussions of removing unneeded information from the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols in order to streamline the review process. Gale asked if there was interest in separating the protocols by basin. Tonseth said that the old permits had different deadlines for spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead programs; however, to

streamline the process, the two documents were combined. He added that he does not believe that producing two documents would be beneficial. Underwood added that because Chelan PUD has fish in both basins, this would create more work to track. Tonseth said that he will coordinate with NMFS and USFWS to develop a list of key components that need to be included in the annual Broodstock Collection Protocols; he will also tentatively identify components that may be removed in order to streamline the annual review and approval process.

B. Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP) Update (Lynn Hatcher)

Lynn Hatcher reported good progress with the permitting process and that NMFS is still targeting to complete permitting by the end of this year.

Greg Mackey noted an email recently distributed by Amilee Wilson (NMFS). He explained that there was a discussion within NMFS (general council and NEPA staff) regarding the need for a reduced hatchery program alternative for Environmental Impact Statements on hatchery programs. He said that this has held up progress with permitting; however, Rob Jones (NMFS) ultimately decided on the need to include a reduced program alternative. Mackey said that this specific email was regarding steelhead; however, his understanding is that all National Environmental Policy Act processes will now need to consider a reduced program alternative. He added that this decision was based on two lawsuits that established a legal precedent that appears to be in conflict with NEPA guidelines.

Mackey said that Craig Busack distributed the draft Methow Hatchery spring Chinook salmon permit (as well as the Winthrop NFH draft permit and the Okanogan Section 10[j]), which is now under review by Douglas PUD. Mackey said that Douglas PUD plans to complete their review by September 1, 2014. Mike Tonseth said that he is also reviewing the draft Methow spring Chinook salmon and Winthrop spring Chinook permits and plans to complete them by September 1, 2014, as well.

Alene Underwood asked for an update on the USFWS Wenatchee Section 7 bull trout consultation. Bill Gale said that the local wildfires have caused a lot of delay due to emergency consultations and Steve Lewis said that he will obtain an update from Karl

Halupka and will provide the update to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

C. Spring Chinook Salmon Broodstock Compositing in the Wenatchee Basin (Lynn Hatcher)

Lynn Hatcher requested that spring Chinook salmon broodstock compositing in the Wenatchee Basin be added to the Hatchery Committees September 17, 2014 meeting agenda.

III. Chelan PUD

A. Incidental Take Discussion (Alene Underwood and Steve Lewis [USFWS])

Alene Underwood recalled the Hatchery Committees' interest in better understanding how incidental take is assigned when the operators are not owners of the facility. She said that Karl Halupka distributed a general question and answer memorandum that defined incidental take and explained rules on incidental take; however, the memorandum did not explain facility owner liability with regard to third party operators at a facility.

Bill Gale asked Steve Lewis if the Rocky Reach Biological Opinion (BiOp) includes blanket coverage of all operations at Tumwater Dam, and if so, what the limits were for this coverage. He said that he was particularly interested in the situation when parties other than Chelan PUD conducted operations at Tumwater Dam and how the cumulative effects are analyzed. Lewis replied that most routine operations are covered under the Rocky Reach BiOp, but new or unrelated studies requiring use of the facilities typically require a separate BiOp and take coverage. He said that cumulative effects of multiple programs are considered when issuing permits and Incidental Take Statements.

Tom Kahler said that at Wells Dam, Douglas PUD has incidental take permits for operating the fish ladders and broodstock facilities in the ladders and WDFW is a co-permittee. He added that Douglas PUD's Wells Dam BiOp covers all mitigation actions under the Wells HCP. He asked if actions implemented by contractors and the co-permittee are covered by Douglas PUD's permit. Lewis replied that they generally are. Kahler then asked, for example, if the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) wants to sample sockeye salmon at Wells Dam during which they may take steelhead at Wells Dam, does Douglas PUD have incidental take coverage for CRITFC's actions? Lewis said that in this

particular case, CRITFC should have their own permit, and therefore, incidental take would be assigned to them. Kahler said that it was his understanding, based on hearsay from within the local fisheries community that even if CRITFC has coverage, then incidental take would be assigned to Douglas PUD. Lewis said that is not the case. Underwood asked if the entity conducting the action has the appropriate permits in place to perform that action, and the action is not linked to the facility owner's program, then incidental take is not assigned to the facility owner? Lewis said that is correct.

Keely Murdoch asked how incidental take is assigned when the take is caused by facility infrastructure. She said, for example, if the gaskets around false flooring were installed to prevent fish from slipping through the cracks, and the gasket then deteriorates allowing fish to slip through the cracks when a third party is operating the trap, would it be the owner's—not the operator's—responsibility for any take from a failure? Lewis said that in this case, there should be coordination with the action agency on the need for maintenance and repair and it would be up to the operator and the facility owner to agree on assignment of take; if an agreement is not reached, then USFWS would decide how to assign the take.

Gale noted that regarding cumulative effect, the PUDs may have coverage for multiple actions at a single facility. He asked how take is assigned when considering cumulative effects, when additional parties use the facility. He added that if several operators request take, and then the cumulative take approaches or exceeds the allowable take, who is assigned that take? Lewis said that he has not encountered this situation, but will obtain clarification from Jessie Gonzales (USFWS) regarding how incidental take is assigned when multiple parties are requesting take authorization. He said that he will provide clarification to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees.

Greg Mackey asked how facility owners can verify that an entity requesting to operate at the facility has the appropriate coverage for their actions; he asked if the operator should contact USFWS to obtain a letter verifying that the third party's permit properly covers take for the proposed action at the facility. Lewis replied that yes, the operator can contact USFWS to confirm the proper coverage is in place. Mike Tonseth suggested that the facility owner should be copied on the issuance of the permit. Lynn Hatcher added that the facility owner

should request a copy of the permit to verify that the operator is covered. Mackey pointed out that the onus of proof of proper coverage would be on the third party requesting to use the facility, not on the owner. The facility owners are not ESA experts or enforcement. Kahler said that Douglas PUD's policy has been that if it turns out the entity requesting to operate at the facility does not have the proper coverage, they would not be allowed to operate at the facility.

B. Draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan (Catherine Willard)

Catherine Willard said that the draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan was distributed to the Hatchery Committee by Kristi Geris on August 9, 2014. Kirk Truscott provided comments to Chelan PUD on the draft plan on August 18, 2014, and a revised draft plan was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on August 19, 2014. Truscott indicated that the revised draft adequately addressed the CCT's comments and the CCT are in general agreement with the plan; however, he would like to hear the outcome of the Committees discussion before the CCT approves the plan.

Willard said that the revised draft 2015 plan is essentially the same as the 2014 plan with the sockeye salmon addendum incorporated, as shown in tracked changes located at the end of the revised draft. Willard reviewed other key changes including Truscott's edits as well as the addition of a sentence regarding potentially modifying methods in the 2015 plan based on the completion and evaluation of 2014 M&E activities. Mike Tonseth noticed that Methow spring Chinook salmon were not included in Table 1 (study design elements and associated objectives) and Willard said that she will add Methow spring Chinook salmon to Table 1 and will provide the revised draft to Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees. *(Note: Willard provided the revised draft plan to Geris on August 21, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*

Tonseth also suggested adding sockeye salmon to Table 1. Alene Underwood explained that because Table 1 applies to plan objectives that did not pertain to sockeye salmon, they were omitted from the table. Hatchery Committees representatives agreed to submit edits and comments to the revised draft 2015 Chelan PUD Hatchery M&E Implementation Plan to

Chelan PUD by September 10, 2014; Chelan PUD will request approval of the plan at the Hatchery Committees meeting on September 17, 2014.

C. Spring Chinook Surveys and Wildfire Closures (Catherine Willard)

Catherine Willard said that due to the local wildfires, Chelan PUD has not been able to access the Little Wenatchee River and Peshastin Creek to conduct spring Chinook salmon surveys until this week. Mike Tonseth also noted that WDFW distributed an email on August 5, 2014, notifying the Hatchery Committees that tangle netting efforts were temporarily halted due to the wildfires. Willard said that prior to the wildfires, Chelan PUD was able to obtain 49 spring Chinook broodstock in the Chewuch River via tangle netting efforts.

D. Hatchery M&E Plan Objective 12 (formerly Objective 10) NTTOC SOA (Alene Underwood)

Alene Underwood said that a draft NTTOC SOA was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on August 18, 2014. Underwood said that this SOA is intended to memorialize the partial fulfillment of Hatchery M&E Plan Objective 12 (formerly Objective 10) and to also document future plans to complete this objective, when possible. She said that today, she would like to discuss the draft SOA, and then request approval of the SOA at the Hatchery Committees meeting on September 17, 2014.

Bill Gale noted that NMFS was not included in the statement section of the SOA and Underwood added NMFS, as noted. Gale also commented that the last sentence in the statement section reads as though future evaluations may occur only if additional information becomes available for lamprey and he added that this should apply to other species as well. Greg Mackey agreed that there will likely be more data forthcoming for all species; however, he suggested that future risk assessment of NTTOC should be done via a new Objective rather than keeping the current Objective 12 open indefinitely. He added that this SOA should only address the recent effort to fulfill M&E Objective 12, and if the topic of NTTOC is revisited, he suggested the need to develop a new study plan, possibly using a different approach. Mackey also indicated that the Hatchery Committees must consider the management implications of findings in any future NTTOC risk assessment. Mackey added that agreements should be reached in advance regarding what actions should

occur based on specific findings; he said that this should be one of the considerations in rethinking the approach. He also added that Busack is considering ways to get this model recoded into a more current format and would like to use it in future ESA consultations.

Hatchery Committees representatives discussed and agreed on revisions to the draft SOA to ensure that future NTTOC evaluations may be conducted and will include any potential species. Underwood said that she will provide the revised draft NTTOC SOA to Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees. *(Note: Catherine Willard provided the revised draft SOA to Geris following the meeting on August 20, 2014, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*

E. Carlton Pump System (Alene Underwood)

Alene Underwood said that two weeks ago, Chelan PUD conducted a semi-annual, routine maintenance at the Carlton Ponds intake. She said that divers cleared the screens of sediment build-up, large sticks, and other debris, and overall, the screens were in good condition. She explained that to clean the screens, the screens are removed and a blind is inserted to keep unscreened water out of the area while debris is removed; once complete, the blind is pulled and the screens are put back in place. She said that when the screens were put back in place, a vacuum effect was noticed, and Chelan PUD thinks they may have allowed debris to get into the pump. She said that a diver also observed several small fish swimming behind the screens; however, the species of fish were unidentifiable by the diver. She said that Chelan PUD is now monitoring the screens as directed by their Permit 37 and they are currently working to develop a plan to prevent this situation in the future. She said that the solution may require installing different equipment so the screens will not need to be pulled for cleaning.

Mike Tonseth asked if this issue is anticipated to affect planned fish transfers this fall and Underwood replied that it should not. Steve Lewis asked if lamprey were found in the sediment. Underwood said that Chelan PUD did look for lamprey and found four, which were removed and relocated.

IV. Yakama Nation

A. 2015 Expanded Acclimation Request Update (Keely Murdoch)

Keely Murdoch said that since 2010, the YN's annual expanded acclimation request for Grant PUD spring Chinook salmon production has been reviewed and approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committees Habitat Sub Committee (PRCC HSC); however, she said that this request may also be relevant to the Hatchery Committees as it relates to the Methow Fish Hatchery. Murdoch said that the request is essentially the same as last year. She said that last year, the YN requested approval to acclimate 50,000 spring Chinook salmon at the Mid-Valley Pond Acclimation Site and the PRCC HSC approved 25,000. She said that 50,000 was requested because CWT marked groups were tagged in groups of 50,000 fish. She said that this year, a spreadsheet was distributed to the PRCC HSC, which will be discussed during the PRCC HSC meeting on August 21, 2014. She said that passive integrated transponder (PIT)-tagging is planned for the end of September 2014. She said that this year, the YN will be using the USFWS PIT-tagging trailer (last year, Biomark was contracted to conduct the PIT-tagging). Tom Kahler asked about the crew doing the PIT-tagging; Murdoch said that she did not have this information but hoped to have it by tomorrow's PRCC HSC meeting.

Greg Mackey explained that, for context, the Methow Hatchery historically targeted production of 550,000 spring Chinook salmon. He said that now, the number is 165,000. He said that this reduced number is a result of several changes, including recalculation of No-Net-Impact requirements and Chelan PUD moving their spring Chinook salmon production from Methow Hatchery. He said that the Methow program strives to obtain natural-origin recruits (NORs) for broodstock, so reliance on hatchery-origin recruits (HORs) is reduced related to the smaller program size; however, HORs are still needed. He added that some of those HORs will also be transferred to Winthrop for use as broodstock in their safety-net program. He said that Douglas PUD's draft Methow Hatchery permit includes a sliding scale for percent hatchery origin spawners (pHOS). He said that if fish are acclimated off-station, it may compromise the ability to manage for pHOS because fish will be less likely to home to the volunteer channel at Methow Hatchery (and Winthrop NFH). He summarized that NMFS wants to manage pHOS, but the actual level depends on NORs.

Murdoch said that she believes many of the issues that Mackey refers to factored into the PRCC HSC's decision last year. She added that, regarding lower fish numbers with unique CWTs, the number of fish returning to the hatchery versus the number of fish that do not return to the hatchery can be estimated, whereas without a unique CWT, it is hard to tell. Bill Gale asked, in future years, can plans be developed to allow more flexibility?

Mike Tonseth said that he would have to review past meeting minutes; however, he said that he believes the PRCC HSC settled on 25,000 for two primary reasons: 1) adult management and what Mackey just discussed; and 2) lack of dedicated CWT groups because the request was not made in time (i.e., the 25,000 group was not unique). Murdoch said that these deadlines need to be better communicated. Tonseth agreed, noting that there is flexibility; however, not for this year. He added that if the request was made in February or March 2014, then fish could have been marked differently; he said that now, they are all co-mingled. He added that there are three separate CWT codes available and Murdoch said that she understood there were more. Tonseth said that there are not and that PIT-tags would be needed to assess additional specific release groups. He said that he will provide Murdoch with a list of deadlines for when WDFW needs approvals in place prior to conducting CWT activities.

Tonseth said that as for the YN's request, constraints are almost identical to last year and added that he is probably more inclined to lean towards the 25,000 this year. Mackey commented on control and treatment groups. He said that in the past, he believes the control group on station was held in a raceway rather than the on-station acclimation pond where all the other fish were held and suggested instead that this year the control group be held in the acclimation pond. He said that according to the table that the YN distributed, in pond survival was not substantially different from the hatchery during the first and second years; however, in 2012, in pond survival was 7% lower and then became progressively lower. He said that the smolt-to-adult return ratio (SARs) from Twisp and Chewuch acclimation ponds are dramatically lower than SARs from fish released on-station at Methow Hatchery. He said that apparently somehow, transferring fish results in lower SARs in spring Chinook salmon. Charlie Snow (WDFW) confirmed that the reduction in SARs is not attributable to mortality in the ponds, and said that no real cause or reason for this has become evident to him. Combined, these two sources of mortality could have a large effect

on the overall number of returns and could indeed result in a net loss of spawners in reaches targeted by off-site acclimation and a potential for broodstock collection problems. He said there are a lot of unknowns that converge on management issues that influence how many fish should be acclimated off-station.

Gale asked if acclimated fish may be returning to the hatchery (i.e., not homing to the acclimation site) and if it is possible that the difference in the SARs is due to the efficacy of recovering fish that return to the hatchery. Snow said that there may be variability in some stocks; however, he did not think this was the case because the vast majority of CWT recoveries are on the spawning grounds and not in the hatchery. Mackey said that using a measure of central tendency to assess the spatial distribution of spawners is not the appropriate metric. What is important is the spatial distribution by reach. Mackey noted that the spatial distribution graphs in the 5-Year Hatchery M&E Report indicated that essentially all reaches were at 50% HORs or higher; so all reaches were well-populated with HORs. He also added that considering all of these issues, it is critical to understand how many spawners are needed for each reach targeted by off-site acclimation and how many hatchery fish should be released in order to augment wild spawner numbers to meet the reach-level spawner escapement goal. He asked what is the net gain or loss?

Mackey recommended that the PRCC HSC consider what metrics they would like to have for decision making. He stressed that making acclimation requests at least 1 year ahead of time would allow more time to evaluate assessment data and management options, and agree on numbers and marking.

V. HCP Administration

A. Next Meetings

The next scheduled Hatchery Committees' meetings are on September 17, 2014 (Douglas PUD); October 15, 2014 (Chelan PUD); and November 19, 2014 (Douglas PUD).

List of Attachments

Attachment A List of Attendees

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Name	Organization
Mike Schiewe	Anchor QEA, LLC
Kristi Geris	Anchor QEA, LLC
Alene Underwood*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Greg Mackey*	Douglas PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Todd Pearsons	Grant PUD
Lynn Hatcher*	National Marine Fisheries Service
Bill Gale*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Lewis	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Tonseth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlie Snow†	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- * Denotes Hatchery Committees member or alternate
- † Joined by phone