

## FINAL MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island HCPs Hatchery Committees  
**Date:** April 15, 2015

**From:** Mike Schiewe, HCP Hatchery Committees Chair

**Cc:** Kristi Geris

**Re:** Final Minutes of the March 18, 2015 HCP Hatchery Committees Meeting

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The Wells, Rocky Reach, and Rock Island Hydroelectric Projects Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) Hatchery Committees meeting was held at Douglas PUD headquarters in East Wenatchee, Washington, on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Attendees are listed in Attachment A to these meeting minutes.

### ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Keely Murdoch will provide a draft Yakama Nation (YN) Kelt Sampling Protocol for sampling at Wells Dam in 2015, to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees and discussion during the Hatchery Committees meeting on April 15, 2015 (Item I-A). *(Note: Murdoch provided the protocol to Geris on April 2, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*
  - Mike Tonseth and Craig Busack will consult Ken Warheit (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]) regarding decision rules for White River and Little Wenatchee River broodstock assignments for the Nason Creek Conservation Program (Item II-A).
  - Mike Tonseth will provide the revised draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols to Kristi Geris by Monday, March 23, 2015, for distribution to the Hatchery Committees and Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review, with Hatchery Committees' comments due to Tonseth by close of business Thursday, March 26, 2015; Tonseth will provide a final revised draft for approval by Friday, March 27, 2015, with email vote due by Monday, April 6, 2015 (Item II-A). *(Note: Tonseth distributed the revised draft protocols for approval to Kristi Geris on March 27, 2015, as discussed; and the Colville Confederated Tribes [CCT], Chelan PUD, and Douglas PUD provided edits on the revised draft protocols for approval to Geris on March 31, April 1, and April 6, 2015, respectively, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees those same*
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*days. Tonseth then provided the final draft protocols for approval to Geris on April 8, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*

- Keely Murdoch will verify the YN's approval, disapproval, or abstention on the draft Chelan PUD Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production Statement of Agreement (SOA) by Wednesday, April 1, 2015 (Item III-A). *(Note: Murdoch provided a separate SOA for approval to Kristi Geris on March 20, 2015, which the Hatchery Committees approved as revised on March 31, 2015.)*
- The Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team (HETT) will convene to discuss a timeline for finalizing the Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan appendices and will report back to the Hatchery Committees during the next meeting on April 15, 2015 (Item III-C). *(Note: a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2015.)*

## **DECISION SUMMARY**

- The Hatchery Committees representatives present approved the 2015 Steelhead Release Plan (Item III-B).
- The Hatchery Committees approved via email the Final SOA "Regarding Timeline for Review of 'Evaluation of Hatchery Programs Funded by Douglas County PUD 5-Year Report 2006-2010'", as revised, as follows: Chelan PUD, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), WDFW, the CCT, and the YN approved March 27, 2015, and Douglas PUD approved March 31, 2015.
- The Hatchery Committees approved via email the Final 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as follows: Chelan PUD, NMFS, WDFW, and the CCT approved April 8, 2015, Douglas PUD and the YN approved April 9, 2015, and USFWS approved April 10, 2015 (Item II-A).

## **AGREEMENTS**

- The Hatchery Committees unanimously agreed to revisit the results of M&E in the Methow Basin to date, and develop an adaptive management plan to improve the performance of the Methow Hatchery Programs (Item III-A).
  - The Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to reconvene the HETT to finalize the Hatchery M&E Plan appendices (Item III-C).
  - The Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed for Chelan PUD to continue
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their Summer Chinook Size Target Study for an additional year (Item III-D).

## REVIEW ITEMS

- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Hatchery Committees on March 27, 2015, notifying them that the revised draft Broodstock Collection Protocols for approval is available for review, with approval, disapproval, or abstention due to Mike Tonseth by April 6, 2015 (Item II-A). *(Note: the CCT, Chelan PUD, and Douglas PUD provided edits on the revised draft protocols for approval to Kristi Geris on March 31, April 1, and April 6, 2015, respectively, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees those same days. Tonseth then provided the final draft protocols for approval to Geris on April 8, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*
- Kristi Geris sent an email to the Hatchery Committees on April 1, 2015, notifying them that the draft 2014 Chelan PUD and Grant PUD Hatchery M&E Annual Report is available for a 60-day review, with edits and comments due to Tracy Hillman by Monday, June 1, 2015.

## FINALIZED DOCUMENTS

- The final 2015 Steelhead Release Plan for the Wenatchee Basin was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on March 19, 2015 (Item III-B).
- The final 2014 Wells HCP Annual Report was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on March 27, 2015.
- The final 2014 Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP Annual Reports were distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on April 10, 2015.
- The final 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on April 13, 2015 (Item II-A). *(Note: a revised final protocols was distributed on April 14, 2015.)*

## I. Welcome

- A. *Review Agenda, Review Last Meeting Action Items, Approve the February 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes (Mike Schiewe)*

Mike Schiewe welcomed the Hatchery Committees and asked for any additions or changes to the agenda. Greg Mackey added an update on the Wells Hatchery Modernization.

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The Hatchery Committees reviewed the revised draft February 18, 2015 meeting minutes. Mackey requested clarification of the exchange between Craig Busack and Keely Murdoch about Chelan PUD's Methow spring Chinook salmon hatchery production and low smolt-to-adult return rates (SARs) for Methow Fish Hatchery (FH). Murdoch clarified that the discussion was regarding a number of spring Chinook salmon programs in the Methow Basin, not just Methow FH. Kristi Geris will incorporate the edits, as discussed, into the revised minutes. She said that all other comments and revisions received from members of the Committees have been incorporated into the revised minutes. The Hatchery Committees members present approved the draft February 18, 2015 meeting minutes, as revised.

Action items from the Hatchery Committees meeting on February 18, 2015, and follow-up discussions were as follows (italicized item numbers below correspond to agenda items from the meeting on February 18, 2015):

- *Kirk Truscott will provide the CCT's edits and approval of the revised draft Hatchery Committees January 21, 2015 meeting minutes via email to Kristi Geris by Thursday, February 19, 2015 (Item I-A).*

Truscott provided CCT approval of the revised draft minutes via email to Geris on February 19, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.

- *Chelan PUD will coordinate with Douglas PUD, Grant PUD, and WDFW on actions needed to finalize the Hatchery M&E Plan Appendices, and will report back to the Hatchery Committees during the next Hatchery Committees meeting on March 18, 2015 (Item I-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Keely Murdoch will coordinate internally with YN staff and with Charlie Snow (WDFW) on drafting a kelt sampling protocol for Wells Dam by April 15, 2015; the YN will provide the draft protocol to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item I-A).*

Murdoch said that she will provide a draft YN Kelt Sampling Protocol for sampling at Wells Dam in 2015, to Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees and discussion during the Hatchery Committees meeting on April 15, 2015.

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- *Chelan PUD will provide a summary report on the water recirculation pilot studies at Eastbank FH and Chiwawa Fish Facility to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item I-A).*

Underwood provided the final report to Geris following the meeting on February 18, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees on February 19, 2015; a corrected final report was distributed on February 24, 2015.

- *Chelan PUD will provide their draft Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production Obligation SOA to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees (Item III-B).*

Alene Underwood provided the draft SOA to Geris following the meeting on February 18, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees on February 19, 2015. This will be discussed further during today's meeting.

- *Hatchery Committees representatives will submit edits and comments on the revised draft Wenatchee Spring Chinook Permit Re-initiation Letter to be sent to the NMFS from the Hatchery Committees and Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Sub-Committee (PRCC HSC) to Alene Underwood by Friday, February 27, 2015 (Item III-D).*

No edits and comments on the revised draft letter were received, and the final letter was sent to NMFS on March 6, 2015.

- *The YN will provide a revised draft YN Upper Methow Spring Chinook Acclimation Proposal and revised SOA to Kristi Geris for distribution to the Hatchery Committees by Friday, February 20, 2015; Hatchery Committees representatives will submit their approval, disapproval, or abstention via email to the YN (with a copy to Geris) by Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (Item IV-B).*

The final draft proposal and SOA were distributed to the Hatchery Committees on February 20, 2015, as discussed; the Hatchery Committees approved the proposal and SOA, with NMFS abstaining, as follows: the YN approved on March 3, 2015, NMFS abstained on March 3, 2015, Chelan PUD, Douglas PUD, WDFW, and the CCT approved on March 4, 2015, and USFWS approved on March 5, 2015.

- *Hatchery Committees representatives will submit edits and comments on the draft 2015 Steelhead Release Plan to Mike Tonseth and Catherine Willard by Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (Item V-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

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- *Hatchery Committees representatives will submit edits and comments on the draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols to Mike Tonseth by Wednesday, March 6, 2015 (Item VI-A).*

Edits and comments on the draft protocols were received, and the revised draft protocols were distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on March 12, 2015. This will be discussed further during today's meeting.

- *Kristi Geris will distribute the draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committees for review, with comments due to Mike Tonseth by Wednesday, March 6, 2015 (Item VI-A).*

Geris distributed the draft protocols to the Wells HCP Coordinating Committees on February 19, 2015. Revised draft protocols were distributed on March 12, 2015.

- *Mike Tonseth will coordinate with Craig Busack regarding an adult management section for the draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Item VI-A).*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Kristi Geris will add Tracy Hillman to the Hatchery Committees email distribution lists (Item IX-B).*

Geris added Hillman to the appropriate distribution lists on February 19, 2015, as discussed.

- *Kristi Geris will contact Julene McGregor (Douglas PUD Information Systems Staff) to request access to the HCP Hatchery Committees Extranet site for Tracy Hillman (Item IX-B).*

Geris sent an email to McGregor on February 19, 2015, requesting access for Hillman, as discussed.

## **II. WDFW**

### *A. DECISION/Discussion: Revised Draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols (Mike Tonseth)*

Mike Tonseth said several members provided comments on the draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols, and the revised draft protocols (Attachment B) were distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on March 12, 2015. Tonseth said that he provided responses to almost all comments, and that there are only a few outstanding items regarding marking for the Okanogan, Chiwawa, and Nason programs. The Hatchery Committees discussed additional comments, as follows:

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### **Douglas PUD Comments**

#### Methow River Basin Spring Chinook (page 7, first paragraph)

Greg Mackey noted he will provide edits to this statement, which clarifies what needs to occur.

### **YN Comments**

#### Methow River Basin Spring Chinook (page 3, first paragraph of this section)

Keely Murdoch said that the YN does not agree with Chelan PUD's deletion of, "including the Methow and Chewuch programs." Murdoch said she understands that because this is a composite broodstock it is technically not a program; however, she said this is similar to the Nason "program." Alene Underwood suggested changing "program" to "releases." Mackey said that neither are accurate because the statement is referring to the actual collection of fish from a population, irrespective of where the fish are going (i.e., the statement is about removal of fish). Kirk Truscott suggested adding, "brood collection of NORs at Wells will be based upon assignment of Twisp to the Twisp program and non-Twisp with the non-Twisp NORs being used to support Methow and Chewuch River releases."

#### Chiwawa River Conservation Program Broodstocking (page 20, second bullet, fourth sub-bullet)

Murdoch cautioned that indicating, "up to 50% of the total broodstock requirement would be collected," could result in not collecting enough broodstock. She suggested including a statement that allows the opportunity mid-season to increase that number collected, if needed. Tonseth said that opportunity will be available, and he noted that hatchery staff will be continually tracking the run. Murdoch suggested removing 50% and indicating sufficient broodstock will be collected to meet program. Tonseth explained the protocols provide guidance to hatchery staff, and including numbers is intended to avoid potential confusion. He added that he still provides real time updates. Murdoch said leaving 50% is okay, so long as there is an understanding that the number may change. Tonseth suggested adding a disclaimer that actual collection of hatchery fish may be higher or lower depending on run composition. Truscott suggested revising the language such that in the event that insufficient natural-origin recruits (NORs) are collected to meet program, hatchery-origin recruits (HORs) will be collected to make up any shortfall. Craig Busack said that for permitting NMFS needs explicit language.

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Nason Creek Conservation Program Broodstocking (page 21, first bullet)

Murdoch said, as the YN noted in the draft Section 10 Permit and Biological Opinion (BiOp), they were unaware that Little Wenatchee fish were as genetically distinct as White River fish. She asked if Little Wenatchee fish can be identified with a high degree of certainty. Busack asked about the intent of this protocol. Truscott said the protocol allows collection of up to 11% of fish that do not assign to Nason or Chiwawa. Murdoch said that when fish return to Nason Creek, they typically do not type back to Nason Creek. She vaguely recalled a study where only one fish typed to Nason. Busack said that his recollection of this study was that of fish collected and classified as Nason Creek, there was about a 30% chance the fish typed to Chiwawa. However, he said he would need to confirm this. He asked Murdoch if she was requesting further clarification on the decision rule, and Murdoch said that is correct. Murdoch added that the YN initially considered excluding White River, Nason, and Chiwawa broodstock; however, the draft BiOp included the Little Wenatchee for exclusion, and now both are listed in broodstock protocols. Busack reviewed a 2013 study by Ken Warheit, and based on this study, Busack said inclusion of the Little Wenatchee may have been an error. Todd Pearsons (Grant PUD) asked if the concern is that fish will be released that should be kept. Murdoch agreed that this is a concern, as well as the inability to distinguish Little Wenatchee fish. Busack suggested removing the Little Wenatchee for now and consulting Ken Warheit. Busack asked if the protocol would be acceptable if the Little Wenatchee was removed, and Murdoch said it would be. Truscott suggested the over-collection percentage be based on the proportion of NORs that do not assign to Nason and Chiwawa. Murdoch said she thought that all fish collected would be kept, excluding those assigning to White River. Pearsons suggested establishing decision rules for guidance, including minimum assignment rates. Tonseth said that other rules may address if/then scenarios. He suggested also reviewing the sidebar language established in 2013. Busack noted there is a lot of uncertainty in any given assignment. He added Warheit has likely already established decision rules. Truscott asked if the 11% was based on certainty. Murdoch said that she calculated the 11%, which is the proportion of fish that spawn in White River; however, it does not account for spawning probabilities. Busack asked if this meant that on average, 11% of NORs spawn in the White River. Murdoch said that is correct, during about a 10-year period. She also added it should be a safe over-collection number. Busack asked if decision rules are needed, and Pearsons recommended doing so to

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clearly define for hatchery staff when to keep or release fish. Tonseth and Busack said they will consult Warheit regarding decision rules for White River and Little Wenatchee River broodstock assignments for the Nason Creek Conservation Program.

### **CCT Comments**

#### Appendix B (page 29, BY 2015, Okanogan spring Chinook)

Truscott noted that spring Chinook salmon released from the Okanogan Reintroduction Program will be adipose-present. Tonseth said that this will be okay in the near-term, but may be problematic if Wells Dam is used for adult management or returns of HORs are so low they are collected at the dam.

Tonseth said that he will provide the revised draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols to Geris by Monday, March 23, 2015, for distribution to the Hatchery Committees and Wells HCP Coordinating Committee for review, with Hatchery Committees' comments due to Tonseth by close of business Thursday, March 26, 2015. Tonseth will then provide a final revised draft for approval by Friday, March 27, 2015, with email vote due by Monday, April 6, 2015. *(Note: Tonseth distributed the revised draft protocols for approval to Geris on March 27, 2015, as discussed; and the CCT, Chelan PUD, and Douglas PUD provided edits on the revised draft protocols for approval to Geris on March 31, April 1, and April 6, 2015, respectively, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees those same days. Tonseth then provided the final draft protocols for approval to Geris on April 8, 2015, which Geris distributed to the Hatchery Committees that same day.)*

The Hatchery Committees approved via email the final 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols, as follows: Chelan PUD, NMFS, WDFW, and the CCT approved April 8, 2015, Douglas PUD and the YN approved April 9, 2015, and USFWS approved April 10, 2015. The final protocols was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on April 13, 2015.

### **III. Chelan PUD**

#### *A. DECISION: Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production SOA (Alene Underwood)*

Alene Underwood said the draft Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production Obligation SOA was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on February 19, 2015.

Underwood said the only comments received on the draft SOA were from the YN

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(Attachment C), which were distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on March 17, 2015. Underwood said that Chelan PUD does not support incorporation of the YN edits. She explained that a 1-year sharing agreement is: 1) not an option; 2) does not provide necessary stability or assurance that any party to the agreement meets its HCP obligations; 3) goes against the spirit of hatchery sharing agreements; and 4) makes uncertain the ability to meet long-term obligations. She added, regarding Chelan PUD developing and implementing a study to address conditions in the Methow Basin, Chelan PUD does not recognize this as their sole responsibility. She noted that Chelan PUD is fulfilling their Methow Basin obligation by releasing fish in the Chewuch, and if the Hatchery Committees wish to develop a proposal addressing issues above and beyond that, Chelan PUD is willing to participate, separately from this SOA.

Matt Cooper asked if Chelan PUD wants any dates in this SOA, and Underwood said that they do not. Underwood added this SOA is intended to be consistent with all HCP long-term agreements, which Greg Mackey noted is at least 10 years. Tom Kahler noted that logistically, an agreement cannot be made for only 1 year because fish need to be on station longer than that. Murdoch said that, as discussed last month and the month before, the YN are not prepared to agree to a long-term commitment to a program they think does not work. She added that data show poor results for Methow-reared fish, and the YN will not enter into an agreement unless there are efforts to remedy the concerns. She added that the YN considers their edits to be a condition of reaching agreement.

Greg Mackey noted the Hatchery Committees agreement is separate from the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD. He explained all PUDs are obliged by law to have ILAs when sharing resources with each other. He said this relates to distribution of rate payers' money, and the limitation of giving away something of value without being compensated. He also added that ILAs are a very rigid process. He said what Douglas PUD looks for in this agreement is long-term stability, mutually beneficial terms, and ease of implementation. He added that Douglas PUD's concern is that Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD have already negotiated an ILA, so Douglas PUD may not be able to support anything different than the currently proposed SOA. Tom Kahler added that Grant PUD is affected by this agreement as well, so it is not a simple matter to start changing things. He

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also added that there is a lot of legal staff time and approval that is required; so, it is also impractical for Douglas PUD to develop a short-term agreement.

Kirk Truscott said he understands the YN revisions being problematic to the PUDs. He added he also understands the YN concerns regarding lack of homing fidelity to the Chewuch. He said, however, if the options are agreeing to Chelan PUD's proposed SOA or reverting back to last year's broodstock collection methods, then he would agree with the SOA as originally presented. He said there are understandable concerns with homing fidelity to the Chewuch, which he believes the Hatchery Committees should commit to addressing. He noted that approving Chelan PUD's SOA does not preclude addressing issues in the Chewuch.

Mike Tonseth agreed with Truscott and Murdoch in terms of SAR performance and homing fidelity; however, he said these issues are not limited to just one program. He recalled that during the last recalculation of the HCP programs, the Joint Fisheries Parties agreed not to compartmentalize the Methow program. He added, based on the last Five-Year Hatchery M&E Report, the Chewuch is not the only place with homing fidelity issues. He said these issues are bigger than just Chelan PUD's mitigation obligation, and the YN's revisions unfairly tie Chelan PUD to a commitment that is really the responsibly of all signatories to the HCPs, as well as Grant PUD. He suggested Douglas PUD and Chelan PUD move forward with their proposed ILA, and a separate "sister" SOA could be drafted that commits the Hatchery Committees to address the issues in the Methow jointly. Murdoch said the YN could probably agree to a separate SOA; however, they will not agree to a long-term SOA until such an SOA is approved.

Craig Busack said NMFS welcomes this new agreement between Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD; and added NMFS may not even be able to permit Chelan PUD's fallback plans. He said NMFS prefers that Chelan PUD's program returns to how it operated before. He said, in moving forward, NMFS agrees with WDFW and the CCT (i.e., fix what is broken and change things moving forward, as needed).

Kahler noted, even if this SOA was not being considered, this discussion would still be occurring. Busack asked what existing data indicate about homing fidelity in the Methow.

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Murdoch said about 80% of the Chewuch-released fish return to Methow FH. Mackey noted 80% is the high, and 40% is more typical, which is still higher than desirable. Busack said that it appears there is a high degree of attraction to Methow FH, and he suggested working on fixing that. Mackey said, because this is a conservation program, the goal is to recover the population. He said this involves evaluating metrics and how they affect progress toward meeting this goal, and then making informed decisions. Busack said returning the program to the way it was presents the smallest number of problems for permitting. He added there is a good chance the Chelan PUD Program may fall behind in permitting again if this is not settled soon.

Murdoch noted that addressing the issues in the Methow was discussed in the Five-Year Hatchery M&E Report, and the Hatchery Committees have not responded to them. Busack noted, however, for the past 4 to 5 years, fish have been released from YN acclimation sites to investigate this. Murdoch agreed, but noted all releases were in the vicinity of Methow FH. Busack asked about the purpose of those releases. Murdoch replied it was to test the concept of remote acclimation and not to address issues in the Chewuch.

Underwood said Chelan PUD needs to start collecting broodstock by May 1, 2015, and an agreement is needed before then. She added Chelan PUD is not drafting the sister SOA because their SOA is already drafted. Truscott asked why another paragraph cannot be added to Chelan PUD's SOA just to put the YN at ease about the Hatchery Committees' commitment to investigate improving the Methow program. Mike Schiewe said that Chelan PUD's SOA is just asking permission to enter into an ILA with Douglas PUD; anything further is the responsibility of the Hatchery Committees. Mackey noted Chelan PUD's SOA is a Rocky Reach and Rock Island HCP document, so committing the entire Hatchery Committees in their SOA is not appropriate.

Tonseth said the Hatchery Committees need to review the Five-Year Hatchery M&E Report and develop a plan, which will not happen before Chelan PUD needs approval of this agreement. He asked if it may be possible for the Hatchery Committees to enter in a "gentleman's agreement" that the Committees are committed to actions to improve the Methow programs, with the meeting minutes serving as the record of this agreement, as has been done in the past. He said actions could then start next month and suggested assigning a

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small subcommittee to evaluate all options and discuss how to develop a plan. Schiewe asked Hatchery Committees representatives if they would consider approval of Chelan PUD's SOA, with an agreement included in the meeting minutes to develop a plan to address the issues in the Methow starting with the results of the M&E program. Chelan PUD, USFWS, the CCT, WDFW, and NMFS approved, and the YN disapproved at this time. Murdoch added she will need to review this with Tom Scribner, and a gentleman's agreement was not likely acceptable. Chelan PUD and Douglas PUD agreed that a drop dead date for needing approval of this SOA would be April 1, 2015. Murdoch said she will verify the YN's approval, disapproval, or abstention on the draft Chelan PUD Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production SOA by Wednesday, April 1, 2015. The Hatchery Committees unanimously agreed on the need to revisit the results of M&E in the Methow Basin to date, and develop an adaptive management plan to improve the performance of the Methow Hatchery Programs. *(Note: Murdoch provided a separate SOA for approval to Geris on March 20, 2015, which the Hatchery Committees approved as revised on March 31, 2015.)*

**B. DECISION: 2015 Steelhead Release Plan (Catherine Willard and Mike Tonseth)**

Catherine Willard said the draft 2015 Steelhead Release Plan for the Wenatchee Basin was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Kristi Geris on February 17, 2015, with edits and comments due to her and Mike Tonseth by Wednesday, March 4, 2015. Willard said no comments were received on the draft plan.

Keely Murdoch said the YN likes the plan and what it is testing; however, she added that as discussed last month, the plan does not identify the metrics monitored or how those data will be analyzed. Willard said that she remembers this comment, and recalled that because the plan indicates that M&E objectives for the Wenatchee River summer steelhead hatchery program will be assessed, it was decided no revisions were needed. Murdoch said she thought additional information on metrics other than those in the M&E (e.g., rates of residualism) was going to be added. Willard clarified that this plan evaluates metrics that may cause fish to residualize—it does not evaluate residualism itself. Mike Tonseth said, for example, the plan includes gonadal examination. Willard emphasized the document describes a release strategy and is not a research proposal. Murdoch said that next year, the YN would like to see a study proposal. The Hatchery Committees representatives present

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approved the 2015 Steelhead Release Plan. *(Note: the final plan was distributed to the Hatchery Committees by Geris on March 19, 2015.)*

*C. Hatchery M&E Appendices Review (Catherine Willard)*

Catherine Willard said, per Chelan PUD's action item to coordinate on actions needed to finalize the Hatchery M&E Plan Appendices, Chelan PUD reviewed the last draft appendices, which were distributed in fall 2013, and suggested reconvening the HETT to finalize the document. Alene Underwood said that this approach can complete the task without bogging down the entire Hatchery Committees. The Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed to reconvene the HETT to finalize the Hatchery M&E Plan appendices. The HETT will convene to discuss a timeline for finalizing the appendices and will report back to the Hatchery Committees during the next meeting on April 15, 2015.

*D. Summer Chinook Size Target Study (Catherine Willard)*

Catherine Willard said Chelan PUD is proposing to continue the Summer Chinook Size Targets Study for 1 additional year, evaluating the same size targets as were used in the past 2 years, as described in a Brood Year (BY) 2014 Summer Chinook Size Targets Summary (Attachment D) that Willard distributed during the meeting and distributed via email by Kristi Geris following the meeting on March 18, 2015.

Willard said during the first year of this study, there were challenges to reaching the specific size targets. She explained that at Chelan Falls, the four incremental size targets were not achieved (two "small" groups and two "big" groups; instead, two size targets were achieved (i.e., one "big" and one "small" group). At Dryden, fish sizes were not at target until fall, and then growth increased when it needed to flatten out, so the small fish sizes caught up to the large fish sizes. She recalled that for BY 2012, as discussed during the Hatchery Committees meeting on January 21, 2015, size targets were generally met, and preliminary results showed a difference in juvenile performance by rearing vessel x size target group for Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon.

Alene Underwood said Chelan PUD is proposing to continue testing for an additional year to replicate last year's success, which will better inform a long-term decision. She added testing was initially planned for 2 years, with a decision in the third year; however, adding an

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additional year of testing will push back making a long-term decision another year. Willard added hatchery staff indicated that BY 2013 fish are currently on track to meet size targets.

Kirk Truscott asked if the same compensatory growth is expected this year as was observed in previous years, and if there is a concern there are not distinct size groups. Willard said, for Dryden, the study is intended to contribute information about the performance of smaller sized hatchery-origin fish, which may help Chelan PUD meet the phosphorus total maximum daily load targets at the facility. Underwood added Chelan PUD is uncertain about what to expect this year. She said she hopes that compensatory growth is not as significant as the first year of the study. Todd Pearsons said some compensatory growth may be good in the spring, noting the positive correlation between growth in spring and migration speed and survival. Tracy Hillman asked if the density of fish is changed when fish are transferred to the acclimation ponds (i.e., compensatory growth affect). Willard said that the density decreases when the fish move to the acclimation ponds, and Pearsons clarified the discussion is about physiological growth.

The Hatchery Committees representatives present agreed for Chelan PUD to continue their Summer Chinook Size Target Study for an additional year.

#### **IV. NMFS**

##### *A. HGMP Update (Craig Busack)*

Craig Busack said he will provide a more comprehensive review on permitting progress during the next NMFS/USFWS BiOp coordination meeting on March 26, 2015. He reviewed brief HGMP updates, as described in the following sections.

##### **Wenatchee Spring Chinook Salmon**

The revised draft Wenatchee Spring Chinook Re-initiation BiOp is nearly complete. Amilee Wilson is passing the BiOp to Busack for finalizing so she can tend to the legal action that was recently filed against Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

##### **Winthrop Safety-Net and Methow Conservation Spring Chinook Salmon**

As discussed last month, Busack plans to re-engage on this BiOp in April 2015. Busack recalled recommending the PUDs and USFWS discuss the following items: 1) sharing

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research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME) responsibilities; and 2) adult management with regard to developing a proportionate natural influence (PNI) approach for applying a PNI standard to reduce the contribution of the Winthrop Program to percent hatchery-origin spawners. Busack asked if the PUDs and USFWS have discussed these items. Alene Underwood said that regarding shared RME responsibilities, the PUDs and NMFS drafted language which is now with USFWS for review. Busack asked if there has been further discussion, and Underwood replied there has not. Busack said that he will follow up on this. Greg Mackey said, regarding developing a PNI approach, Douglas PUD developed a draft PNI sliding scale, which is also with USFWS for review.

### **Wenatchee Steelhead**

This BiOp is undergoing final formatting. Some elements in the latest template need to be added.

## **V. USFWS**

### *A. USFWS Bull Trout Consultation Update (Matt Cooper)*

Matt Cooper said Karl Halupka (USFWS) is still waiting to receive comments on the draft USFWS Wenatchee BiOp and Incidental Take Statement. Mike Tonseth added Halupka will provide more details on bull trout consultation during the next NMFS/USFWS BiOp Coordination Meeting on March 26, 2015.

## **VI. Douglas PUD**

### *A. Wells Hatchery Modernization Update (Greg Mackey)*

Greg Mackey recalled that the last update was when Douglas PUD was nearing completion of the Conceptual Detailed Design Phase. He said the final design is now complete and that the project is now out to bid, with the bid opening at the end of this week. He said that assuming an acceptable bid is received, Douglas PUD plans to hire a contractor within a couple of weeks. He said construction is scheduled to begin in late-spring 2015. He also recalled that Wells Hatchery will remain fully operational during construction.

Kirk Truscott asked how long construction is expected to last, and Mackey replied through the end of August 2017.

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## **VII. HCP Administration**

### *A. Next Meetings*

The next scheduled Hatchery Committees meetings are on April 15, 2015 (Chelan PUD); May 20, 2015 (Douglas PUD); and June 17, 2015 (Chelan PUD).

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment A	List of Attendees
Attachment B	Revised Draft 2015 Broodstock Collection Protocols
Attachment C	Draft Methow Spring Chinook Hatchery Production Obligation SOA – YN Comments
Attachment D	BY 2014 Summer Chinook Size Targets Summary

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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
Tracy Hillman	BioAnalysts, Inc.
Alene Underwood*	Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard*	Chelan PUD
Greg Mackey*	Douglas PUD
Tom Kahler*	Douglas PUD
Todd Pearsons	Grant PUD
Craig Busack*†	National Marine Fisheries Service
Matt Cooper*	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Tonseth*	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kirk Truscott*	Colville Confederated Tribes
Keely Murdoch*	Yakama Nation

Notes:

- \* Denotes Hatchery Committees member or alternate
- † Joined by phone for Decisions Items and HGMP Update