

PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Via Teleconference

Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees

PRCC HSC Members

Bill Gale, USFWS
Lynn Hatcher, NMFS
Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
Keely Murdoch, YN
Todd Pearsons, Grant PUD
Tom Scribner, YN
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Other Participants

Andy Chinn, Ross Strategic (facilitator)
Peter Graf, Grant PUD
Elizabeth McManus, Ross Strategic (facilitator)
Alene Underwood, Chelan PUD
Catherine Willard, Chelan PUD

Actions

1. WDFW will circulate the written proposal for 2014 broodstock collection with the HSC and with CPUD.
2. WDFW will draft and circulate a document outlining proposed parameters for tangle net operations in Nason Creek and Chiwawa weir operation.
3. HSC will continue to refine the composite broodstock SOA to reach agreement on acceptable text.

Meeting Summary

I. 2014 Broodstock Collection

- A. Draft 2014 Broodstock Collection Protocols** – NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center is unable to meet the timelines for PBT analysis previously proposed by WDFW for 2014 broodstock collection. Therefore, in order to meet conservation programs it will be necessary to collect broodstock in the tributaries. WDFW's proposed approach is to: 1) Collect 204 hatchery origin broodstock at Tumwater Dam to ensure the combined CPUD/GPUD mitigation obligation will be met, and as natural origin fish are collected hatchery origin fish would be surplus; 2) Target previously PIT-tagged NORs at Tumwater based on the previous five years' geometric mean; 3) Tangle net in Nason Creek and use the Chiwawa weir. The JFPs discussed this approach during a call on 4/21.
- NMFS supported the WDFW proposal, noting that CPUD and GPUD will need to work out arrangements for additional fish in the Chiwawa facility.
 - USFWS noted that it supported most elements of WDFW's proposal, with the exception of the Chiwawa weir. USFWS does not believe that current permitting

provides sufficient coverage for activities at Chiwawa weir that could adversely affect bull trout. USFWS has not considered whether any side benefit (i.e., data contributing to bull trout recovery in the upper Wenatchee basin) would accrue if bull trout were PIT-tagged at Chiwawa weir. If the HSC decides to move forward with use of the Chiwawa weir, USFWS will participate in planning activities in order to minimize impacts to bull trout but will likely abstain from voting on the 2014 broodstock collection protocols.

- YN and CCT commented that the proposed 2014 solution is not ideal but is the only option available.
- GPUD did not register any strong reservations about WDFW’s draft 2014 broodstock collection proposal. GPUD and CPUD have been in discussions regarding use of the Eastbank facility for backfilling the Chiwawa program.
- CPUD commented that it did not have any issues with the WDFW proposal and expressed interest in meeting its obligation for a full conservation program. CPUD will discuss the proposal internally to ensure there are no issues.

B. Path Forward and Next Steps

- WDFW will circulate the written proposal for 2014 broodstock collection with the HSC and with CPUD.
- WDFW will draft and circulate a document outlining proposed parameters for tangle net operations in Nason Creek and Chiwawa weir operation.

II. Composite Broodstock Collection

A. Draft Composite Broodstock Collection SOA – Following the 4/22 HSC meeting, HSC members considered additional changes to the text of the SOA to clarify the document’s intent.

- YN reiterated that the intent of the SOA was to begin compositing in 2015, if the NMFS effects analysis is favorable. Given that the NMFS effects analysis will be thorough, YN believes the SOA should not include any contingency language that would allow for HSC objections to compositing in 2015. YN believes that compositing is the only existing tool to reach mitigation.

B. NOAA Process for Effects Analysis – NMFS drafted and circulated a brief description of the four-step process that the agency will follow as it begins its effects analysis for composite broodstocking. After an initial assessment of the effects analysis process is completed in May, NMFS will distribute a more detailed timeline.

- GPUD asked about the likelihood of current permits and programs to be exposed to additional public process. HSC members noted that the entire biological opinion would not be open for public process, only the specific element under review. The exact process is under NMFS review and further information will be provided by NMFS as it becomes available.

C. Path Forward and Next Steps

- HSC will continue to refine the composite broodstock SOA to reach agreement on

acceptable text.