

## **PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Meeting**

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Wenatchee, Washington

Meeting Summary

### **PRCC HSC Members**

Craig Busack, NOAA (via phone)  
Matt Cooper, USFWS (via phone)  
Bill Gale, USFWS (via phone)  
Peter Graf, GPUD (alt)  
Keely Murdoch, Yakama Nation  
Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, GPUD (alt)  
Todd Pearsons, GPUD  
Mike Tonseth, WDFW  
Kirk Truscott, CCT

### **Other Participants**

Alene Underwood, CPUD  
Catherine Willard, CPUD  
Elizabeth McManus, Facilitator  
Andy Chinn, Facilitator

### **Decisions**

- A. HSC members approved the December 2015 conference call as amended.
- B. For BY2015, HSC members agreed to follow the size target strategy as outlined in the 2015 broodstock collection protocols.
- C. HSC members agreed to lethally sample 600 fish from Nason Acclimation Facility (300 HxH and 300 WxW) and 300 fish from Carlton Acclimation Facility to examine precocity rates.

### **Actions**

1. WDFW will forward the list of nine elements required for inclusion in the broodstock collection protocol (Status: Complete).
2. WDFW will circulate the draft broodstock collection protocols at least 10 days prior to the February HSC meeting with the goal of approval during the March HSC meeting and submittal to NOAA by April 15.
3. GPUD will circulate a draft SOA memorializing that overwinter acclimation at Dryden is not feasible.
4. Ross Strategic will forward the memo on White River decision making to the PRCC.
5. NOAA will circulate a letter confirming a new HSC representative.
6. Ross Strategic will update HSC members and transition of HSC documents to SharePoint as more information becomes available (Status: Carried over from January 2016 meeting).

#### **I. Update and Meeting Summary Review**

- A. December Conference Call Summary** – HSC members approved the December conference call summary as amended.
- B. HCP-HC Update** – Please refer to the 1/20 HCP-HC meeting summary for joint HCP-HC and PRCC-HSC discussions. In particular, the approval to lethally sample fish at Methow Fish Hatchery, Nason Creek Acclimation Facility, Chiwawa Acclimation Facility, Carlton Acclimation Facility and the Dryden Acclimation Facility (see below).

## II. **Permit Updates**

- A. NOAA Permitting** – The primary activity for GPUD is Methow Spring Chinook consultation and whether USFWS will cover those activities under the 2012 Wells Biological Opinion. Karl Halupka from USFWS is drafting a letter describing the strengths and weaknesses of using the Wells Biop. On a related note, Karl received comments on the Wenatchee biop on January 14.

## III. **Broodstock Collection**

- A. 2016 Protocols** – For the 2016 protocols, HSC members are considering including a rearing regime and targets for size at release. CCT suggested that HSC members consider what elements could be put in separate documents, to prevent the protocol from becoming too cumbersome to use.
- WDFW commented that the revised Wenatchee Spring Chinook permit and biop and the draft Wenatchee steelhead permit and biop specify nine elements that are required for inclusion in the broodstock collection protocols and the HSC should make sure the protocols are consistent with these requirements. The HSC should also make sure that any additional suggested items for the protocol are necessary.
  - GPUD suggested following the size target regime for BY2015 in the 2016 broodstock collection protocols.
  - One of the discussion points for the 2016 broodstock collection protocols is continuation of backup collection for Okanagan and Methow steelhead production.
- B. Next Steps**
- WDFW will forward the list of nine elements required for inclusion in the broodstock collection protocol.
  - WDFW will circulate the draft broodstock collection protocols at least 10 days prior to the February meeting with the goal of approval during the March meeting and submittal to NOAA by April 15.

## IV. **Nason and Carlton Acclimation Facilities**

- A. Precocious Maturation Sampling** – During the 1/20 Joint HCP/HSC meeting, the committees agreed to support lethal sampling of 300 fish from each of the Methow Fish Hatchery, Nason Creek Acclimation Facility, Chiwawa Acclimation Facility, Carlton Acclimation Facility and the Dryden Acclimation Facility. WDFW recommended sampling an additional 300 fish at the Nason Creek Acclimation Facility so that comparisons could be made between the WxW and HxH fish. HSC members agreed to support sampling an additional 300 fish at Nason, such that 300 WxW fish and 300 HxH fish would be sampled during 2016.

## V. **Dryden Facility**

- A. Feasibility of Facility Modifications** – In 2009 the HSC approved an SOA that defined feasibility of overwinter acclimation at the Dryden Acclimation facility. Overwinter

acclimation at Dryden is not feasible at present because CPUD does not support the modifications required to accommodate overwinter acclimation and CPUD owns the facility. Instead, CPUD supports investigating the feasibility of constructing a chilled, water re-use facility at Eastbank Hatchery so that fish size can be controlled and TMDL requirements met in the Wenatchee River. GPUD's alternative is for overwinter rearing to occur at Eastbank.

- GPUD is conducting a meta-analysis of programs throughout the Columbia basin to determine which factors (if any) are more likely to contribute to straying. The analysis will likely be completed and circulated with the HSC by mid-2016.

**B. Next Steps**

- GPUD will circulate a draft SOA memorializing that overwinter acclimation at Dryden is not feasible.

**VI. White River Rotary Trapping**

**A. Contracting** – GPUD reiterated that contracting is not an issue under HSC purview. GPUD remains committed to meeting its compliance obligations – including White River trapping.

- CCT, WDFW, and NOAA agreed that critique of GPUD's contracting practices is not appropriate for the HSC; however, the contracting process should not be an impediment to implementation requirements.

**VII. Tumwater Dam**

**A. Recent Stakeholder Meeting** – HSC members discussed their impressions of the recent stakeholder meeting regarding Tumwater Dam. The meeting was instructive in highlighting fish passage issues at the dam, particularly for lamprey. It was also acknowledged that the dam is important for upper Wenatchee fish management actions.

**VIII. White River Planning**

**A. Draft Update Memo to PRCC** – HSC members reviewed the draft update memo to the PRCC summarizing discussions to-date on White River 2026 planning.

**B. Next Steps**

- Ross Strategic will forward the memo on White River decision making to the PRCC.

**IX. Wrap Up and Next Steps**

**A. Next Meeting:** Thursday, February 18, 2016

**B. Potential February Meeting Agenda Items**

- Draft broodstock collection protocols
- Report outs from recent science conference
- Draft AFS presentations

**Meeting Materials**

The following documents were provided to HSC members in advance of this meeting:

- January meeting agenda
- PRH December 2015 M&E Update
- White River memo and attachments