

From: [Pope, Von](#)
To: [Sokolowski, Rosana](#)
Subject: FW: December 11, 2012 meeting minutes, 2013 weed proposal, next meeting October 1, 2013
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2013 2:27:46 PM
Attachments: [RRWF mtg minutes Draft December 11 2012.docx](#)
[2013 RRWF ITIPCP proposal.docx](#)

Rosana,

Here is the 2013 weed control proposal for the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum. No comments were received, so the proposal is the final plan, which was implemented in 2013.

From: Pope, Von
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2012 3:03 PM
To: 'Andrea Lyons'; Andrew Fielding; 'ARNETT, JOSEPH (DNR)'; Bitterman, Deborah; Bob Huber (tutones51@gmail.com); 'Brigitte M Ranne'; Cordell-Stine, Kelly; Dave Volsen ; Erik Ellis (edellis@blm.gov); Jack Oelfke (jack_oelfke@nps.gov); James Blanchard; 'Keith Vradenburg'; Ken Finicle; Matt Monda; mboyter@blm.gov; Osborn, Jeff; Pat Irle; Patrick Tonosket; Patrick Verhey; Robert_Kuntz@nps.gov; Ron Fox (ron.fox@dfw.wa.gov); Stephen_Lewis@fws.gov; Tracy Hames
Cc: Smith, Michelle; Sokolowski, Rosana
Subject: December 11, 2012 meeting minutes, 2013 weed proposal, next meeting October 1, 2013

Dear Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum Members,

Attached are the minutes from the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) meeting held on December 11, 2012. As decided in the meeting, unless comments are received by December 21, 2012, the minutes will be considered final.

During the meeting the RRWF approved payment for the 2012 weed project implemented by the forum and approved the Ute Ladies' Tresses Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Species Control Plan (ITIPCP), which is similar to the Rocky RRWF ITIPCP. Approval of this Plan allows the Ute Ladies' Tresses Subcommittee to implement approved projects that focus on managing terrestrial plant species that may pose risk to Ute Ladies Tresses plants within the Rocky Reach Project Boundary.

We also discussed the 2013 proposal for weed control. I have attached the 2013 project proposal for weed control by the RRWF in the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area. This project proposal is similar to last years' project, continuing the release of biological controls for Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed along Rocky Reach Reservoir. Please review the proposal and provide comments by January 11, 2013.

There was considerable discussion about the RRWF weed control projects for 2012, 2013, and beyond, including questions about: 1) the density of biological controls per release, 2) if monitoring should be done, and 3) if the RRWF is limited to \$10,000 annually per the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, or if they can borrow from the future.

I have invited Dale Whaley with the WSU Douglas County Extension to discuss these and other questions RRWF member may have about biological controls at our October 1 , 2013 RRWF meeting. However, Dale did tell me the more bugs the better. He also confirmed that photos are taken at each release and release sites are periodically checked to see if the populations are still present. Below is a link to an excellent reference on the biological control of Dalmatian Toadflax.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/Toadflax.pdf>

With regard to the RRWF borrowing funds from the future to fund projects that may cost more than the annual allocation of \$10,000, (the 2012 project spent funds that accrued from previous years); it can be done but it has a cost. In order to fund the Rocky Reach mitigation projects, Chelan PUD set aside enough cash up front to meet the mitigation requirement long term (44 years). Over the term of the license the set aside funds earn interest and have inflation adjustments that yield an increase in the principle initially. Therefore, if the RRWF takes funds at a faster rate than agreed upon, the principle is reduced and the funds will not last for the term of the license. That being said, it is okay to borrow from the future for larger projects. As required in the RRWA ITIPCP, RRWF weed control projects need to be approved in October of the year prior to implementation so they can be budgeted for appropriately.

There was also some general discussion about the status of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.

Lastly, the RRWF scheduled the next meeting for October 1, 2013. At this meeting we will wrap up the 2013 RRWF weed project, consider the 2014 proposals, and have a presentation from the WSU Douglas County Extension on biological controls.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Von

Von Pope

Wildlife Programs Manager

Chelan County PUD

(509) 661-4625

Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) Meeting Minutes

Date: December 11, 2012

Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA
Engineering Conference Room

Call in number: (509)661-4844, Password is 4000.

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD

Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting

Note taker: Deb Bitterman

Attending Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ellis, Erik	BLM	(509) 665-2100	edellis@blm.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Pope, Von	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4625	von.pope@chelanpud.org
Volsen, Dave	WDFW	(509) 663-9764	volsedpv@dfw.wa.gov

Attending Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Fox, Ron	WDFW	(509) 665-3383	ron.fox@dfw.wa.gov
McCarty, Jesse	USDA-FS	(509) 784-4630	jmccarty@fs.fed.us
Ranne, Brigitte	USDA-FS	(509) 784-1511	branne@fs.fed.us
Osborn, Jeff	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4176	jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org
Cordell-Stine, Kelly	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4762	kelly.cordell-stine@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum to continue Rocky Reach license implementation

Minutes

Jeff Osborn welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Wildlife (RRWF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only.

The agenda was reviewed and the following adjustments/additions were approved:

- Review and approval of the 18 April 2012 meeting minutes
- Ute Ladies' Tresses Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan approval
- Attachment correction-no draft letter to FERC or draft Integrated Noxious Weed Plan
- Attachment should have been: 2012 Chelan PUD Biological Weed Control Project invoice

Von Pope reviewed the minutes from the 18 April 2012 RRWF meeting and asked if there were any comments/edits. No comments were received for the 18 April 2012 meeting minutes and the minutes were approved.

Jeff clarified that while the statement "monitoring or measures for success will not be supported by the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan (ITIPCP)" contained in the plan may not seem appropriate from a biological perspective, it is critical language to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Jeff noted that the reason why the ITIPCP does not include monitoring or measures for success, is that FERC requires that lands: where a measure of success is a criterion or where Operation and Maintenance funding was provided, those lands would need to be brought into the project boundary and have a level of FERC jurisdiction, which is likely not in any RRWF participants' best interest.

Review 2012 Weed Control Project

Von presented an invoice for approval by the RRWF for payment for work conducted via subcontractor through Chelan PUD as requested by the RRWF.

Project summary:

- Multiple locations within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA) between Burch Mountain and the Entiat River on the Chelan County side of the Rocky Reach Reservoir were identified from the project that could benefit from biological control weed control. A total of 6,910 *Mecinus janthinus* (stem-mining weevil) for the Dalmatian toadflax, and 4,075 *Larinus minutus* (seed head feeder) and 25 *Cyphocleonus achates* (root weevil) both for the diffuse knapweed were released at various locations within the defined project area. Total number of biological control insects released: 21,010.
- GIS and photo points were collected for each individual release location.
- Wood stakes were used to mark release sites.
- This work was conducted by the University of Washington Douglas County Extension for a cost of \$24,331.80.

During the review of the biological control release site map it was observed that one of the diffuse knapweed release site was located outside the RRWA. The RRWF believed that the location might have been a GIS error.

After further discussion regarding the annual \$10,000 funding allotted in section 4.4 of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan, Dave Volsen asked if the RRWF could borrow from future noxious weed control funds to implement near-term projects. Von will look into that possibility.

For the 2013 proposal, it was agreed that up to \$16,000 would be available, which if spent, would use up the money made available for the first 4 years (\$40,000) since the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Plan was approved by the FERC.

Von pointed out that the ITIPCP states that weed control projects are to be considered in October of each year for the subsequent year's work, so that the project can be budgeted for appropriately.

Von stated that he has received one proposal for the RRWA 2013 ITIPCP, which is to continue the effort of collecting and releasing bugs for biological weed control of Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed.

After discussion, Von called for a vote regarding reimbursement to Chelan PUD from RRWF funds for the biological weed control project that was completed. All attendees were in support of reimbursement to Chelan PUD. The RRWF weed control account will be decreased by \$24,331.80 in December of 2012.

The following invoice submittal schedule was agreed to:

- 13 December 2012: Debby submit draft meeting minutes to Von
- 14 December 2012: Von will submit draft meeting minutes and the updated proposed RRWA 2013 ITIPCP to the RRWF for review/comments
- 21 December 2012: RRWF comments on draft meeting minutes.

Action Items:

- Ron Fox will contact the Foster Creek Conservation District to discuss monitoring and evaluation results of their biological releases
- Von will contact Rosana Sokolowski regarding borrowing from future funds.
- Von will contact Dale Whaley to discuss the following topics:
 - Repeated releases in a concentrated area to keep the bug population levels up vs. releases spread over a larger area at a lower density.
 - Verify the possibility of a GIS error
 - What type of monitoring for success does WSU Extension utilize?
 - What type of monitoring for success would Dale recommend to the agencies?

After further discussion, the attending RRWF members agreed that if RRWF members do not reply or provide comments to Von on the 11 December 2012 meeting minutes by 21 December 2012, the meeting minutes would be

considered approved. Meeting minutes are the official "signature" for transferring funds from the RRWF for the 2012 weed control work.

Ute Ladies' Tresses Plan Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan

Von reported that the Ute Ladies' Subcommittee (ULTS) has reviewed and commented on a Ute Ladies' Tresses Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan (ULTITIPCP), Version 1. Von has incorporated the comments received on the draft from the ULTS. This ULTITIPCP is very similar to the RR ITIPCP, but focuses on weed management adjacent to known populations of Ute Ladies' Tresses within the Rocky Reach Project Boundary. Once the plan is approved by the RRWF, the Subcommittee will be able to propose weed control projects consistent with the plan for 2013.

After further discussion, the attending RRWF members approved the Ute Ladies' Tresses Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan Version 1. By approving the ULT ITIPCP, the RRWF agrees to allow the ULTS to implement the approved plan without further approval from the RRWF.

Action Item:

- Von will notify the Ute Ladies' Tresses Subcommittee that the RRWF approved the Ute Ladies' Tresses Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan Version 1.
- ULTS will meet (sometime in late January or early February) to discuss potential weed control proposals submitted by members of this subcommittee.

Review 2013 Project Budgets and Schedules

Von provided a 2012/2013 project and budget (handout) for review by the RRWF and requested updates by each of the member agencies. Von noted the importance to be aware of project changes that affect budgets and being able to prepare for budget changes as necessary.

Review Status of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan

RRWF participants expressed concern regarding lack of flexibility within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (RRWHMP) for using funds for unforeseen circumstances, such as the fires that occurred in 2012. Von acknowledged the concern regarding the lack of flexibility in the RRWHMP. The RRWHMP was approved by the FERC on 22 September 2010, which expires 2015. Section 4.4 of the RRWHMP directs implementation of an integrated noxious weed control program in the RRWA, but does not accommodate for natural disaster response. The FERC Order approving the RRWHMP also directs that all contingency projects be approved by FERC prior to implementation, thus also restricting flexibility. Therefore, Von offered different options to provide potential future flexibility for natural disasters: 1) in the new RRWHMP (2015) draft a plan that is very robust and would cover many situations, or 2) add a new paragraph under each respective agency's section that addresses the contingency of responding to natural disasters. Von also noted that if the RRWF chose to, they could end the current plan early and draft a new plan that addresses any desired changes, or wait until 2015 when the current plan expires. Any major changes to the existing RRWHMP would likely result in the need to amend agency payment agreements as well. The RRWF will contemplate these options going forward; there were no motions to make any changes to the current RRWHMP.

Jeff recommended to contact FERC and ask their recommendation as to how to build natural disaster response into the RRWHMP. Steve Lewis suggested reviewing Grant PUD's wildlife plan for ideas.

Action Item:

- Von will review Grant PUD's Wildlife Plan.
- Jeff and Von will contact FERC

Next Steps

The next RRWF meeting is scheduled for 1 October 2013.

RRWF Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan

2013 Project Proposal

Purpose

The Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan (ITIPCP) was developed by the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) in 2012 to implement an integrated noxious weed control program as required in the Rocky Reach Settlement Agreement (Chelan PUD 2006) and new license for Rocky Reach Dam. The ITIPCP outlines the process for using funding made available annually to the RRWF under Section 4.4 of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (RRWHMP) to implement weed control projects. This 2013 Project Proposal is a component of the ITIPCP necessary for project implementation and requires RRWF approval before implementation.

Consistent with the Rocky Reach Settlement Agreement (Chapter 7; Section 4.2.5, Chelan PUD 2006) and the RRWHMP (Section 4.4, Chelan PUD 2009), Chelan PUD shall make available \$10,000 per year, for the term of the new license and any subsequent annual licenses, for implementation of an integrated noxious weed control program, in consultation with the RRWF, within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA), which includes a 3 mile buffer on either side of Rocky Reach Reservoir (Chelan PUD 2009). Implementation of the integrated noxious weed control program will be conducted by Chelan PUD personnel or other qualified personnel selected by the RRWF (Chelan PUD 2006). Projects proposed shall not require maintenance or monitoring to ensure success, rather, all projects are one-time treatments (Chelan PUD 2009).

Recent wildfire (2010 Swakane fire) within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA) in Chelan County has increased the cover of invasive plant species, including Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica*) and diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), which are both class B noxious weeds in Chelan County, Washington (Chelan County Weed Control Board website, 2012). The heaviest infestations occur in post-fire areas between Swakane Canyon and the Entiat River. In 2012, the RRWF approved and implemented a project to release over 16,000 biological control insects for Dalmatian toadflax and 5,000 biological control insects for diffuse knapweed.

During 2012, the Byrd Canyon fire burned considerable acreage on public lands north of the Entiat River along the Chelan County side of the Columbia River within the RRWA. Since this fire occurred late in the year, the extent of post-fire spread of Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed are unknown. However, the areas burned in the Swakane fire and the Byrd Canyon fires both contain important habitat for mule deer and bighorn sheep. These areas also host known populations of sensitive plants. Therefore, the RRWF proposes to use some of the funding available under Section 4.4 of the RRWHMP to continue the release of biological control agents in 2013 to reduce the cover of Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed within the RRWA.

Project Detail

For 2013, the RRWF proposes that Chelan PUD contract with the WSU Douglas County Extension to collect and release the biological control agents *Mecinus janthinus* for Dalmatian toadflax and *Larinus minutus* and *Cyphocleonus achates* for diffuse knapweed control at multiple locations within the RRWA in Chelan County between Burch Mountain and Knapp Coulee along Rocky Reach Reservoir. The contract with WSU Extension will not exceed \$16,000 and will be conducted between May 2013 and August 2013. The WSU Douglas County Extension may subcontract or assign other entities to conduct or assist with this work, but billings related to the work will be via the contract with Chelan PUD.

While much of the area around Swakane Canyon has already received biological control agents, there may be additional sites in this area that may benefit from additional releases. Release of biological controls will take place during spring and summer of 2013. Timing of releases will take into consideration the phenology of Dalmatian toadflax and diffuse knapweed at the proposed release sites. Releases may have to occur at different times and intervals so as to give the biological control agents the best opportunity to become established at the proposed release sites. The number and location of release sites may change depending on phenology, cover, availability of biological control agents, and site conditions at the time of release.

Proposed release areas are shown in Figure 2, and were selected in consultation with the RRWF. In general, release sites will be situated on south to southeast slopes. However, releases will be made at sites deemed necessary by the WSU Douglas County Extension based on appropriate site conditions which may occur outside the proposed areas. The WSU Extension will mark release sites with GPS and photograph each release site and include this documentation with the final billing to Chelan PUD. A final summary report will be provided to the RRWF stating the number and location of release sites, dates of release, and approximate number of biological control agents released at each site. Release sites will be restricted to public lands within or near the RRWA boundary in Chelan County.

Considerations for Species of Conservation Concern

Populations of sensitive plant species known to occur within the RRWA and the 2013 proposed project area are shown in Table 1. Biological control agents proposed for this project have been approved by an USDA APHIS Technical Advisory Group for widespread use on Dalmatian toadflax (USDA 1996) and diffuse knapweed in North America (USDA 2012). The biological control agents proposed for this project have demonstrated narrow host specificity, attacking only closely related Eurasian species with no effect to non-target native plants (Wilson et al 2005) are already widely used within Chelan County and may already exist at some of the proposed sites. However, the RRWF proposes to increase numbers of these agents in the field, increasing their impact on the host species by reducing their cover and limiting their ability to produce seed. At this time, we are not aware of any property owner limitations or restrictions that would prevent this activity.

Table 1. Species of Conservation Concern which occur with the proposed project area for 2013.

Species	Wa State Status	Federal Status
Chelan rockmat <i>Petrophyton cinerascens</i>	Endangered	Species of Concern
Longsepal globemallow <i>Ilamna longisepala</i>	Sensitive	USFS Sensitive
Snake River cryptantha <i>Cryptantha spiculifera</i>	Sensitive	-
Thompson's clover <i>Trifolium thompsonii</i>	Threatened	Species of Concern
Whited's penstemon <i>Penstemon eriantherus</i> var. <i>whitedii</i>	Sensitive	-

Literature Cited

Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Board website. Accessed May 10, 2012
http://www.co.chelan.wa.us/nw/nw_weed_list.htm

Chelan PUD. 2012. Rocky Reach Wildlife Area Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan. Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2145. Wenatchee, WA.

Chelan PUD. 2009. Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan. Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2145. Wenatchee, WA.

Chelan PUD. 2006. Rocky Reach Settlement Agreement. Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 2145. Wenatchee, WA.

USDA. 2012. Technical Advisory Group for Biological Control Agents of Weeds.
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/permits/tag/

USDA. 1996. Field release of the exotic weevil, *Mecinus janthinus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) for biological control of the weeds Dalmatian toadflax *Linaria dalmatica* and yellow toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris* (schrophulariaceae). Environmental Assessment.

Wilson, L. M., S. E. Sing, G. L. Piper, R. W. Hansen, R. De Clerck-Floate, D. K. MacKinnon, and C. Randall. 2005. Biology and Biological Control of Dalmatian and Yellow Toadflax. USDA Forest Service, FHTET-05-13.

Figure 1. Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum Weed Control Proposal 2013: Potential release sites for Dalmatian toadflax biological control agents. Areas likely to be infested with toadflax (south, south-southeast, and south-south west slopes, shown in orange)

