

# Chelan River Fishery Forum Conference Call Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2013  
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Location: Chelan PUD Fish and Wildlife Building,  
Wenatchee, WA  
Fish and Wildlife Conference Room

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD

Note taker: Debby Bitterman

## ***Participating CRFF Members***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pat Irle	Ecology	509-454-7864	<a href="mailto:Pirle461@ecy.wa.gov">Pirle461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
Brad Caldwell	Ecology	360-407-6639	<a href="mailto:brca461@ecy.wa.gov">brca461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
Jim Pacheco	Ecology	360-407-7458	<a href="mailto:jpac461@ecy.wa.gov">jpac461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
Phil Archibald	LCSA	509-784-2471	<a href="mailto:kim.llohse@gmail.com">kim.llohse@gmail.com</a>
Jeff Osborn	Chelan PUD	509-661-4176	<a href="mailto:jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org">jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org</a>
Steve Hays	Chelan PUD	509-661-4181	<a href="mailto:steve.hays@chelanpud.org">steve.hays@chelanpud.org</a>

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Chelan River Fishery Forum to continue Lake Chelan license Implementation

## **Minutes**

Jeff Osborn welcomed everyone to the Chelan River Fishery Forum (CRFF) conference call and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only.

### ***Flow Reduction and Ramping Rate***

Jeff noted that there were minor edits to the Habitat Channel Ramping Rate Investigation and Habitat Channel Proposals. Those edits have been made and he will send the edited proposals to the CRFF for their final review/comments. Final discussion may occur at the 14 August 2013 meeting.

### ***Westslope Cutthroat Trout Stocking***

Jeff reported that revisions to the Chelan River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Stocking proposal has been put on hold pending additional investigations regarding installing PIT-tag detection equipment and improving cutthroat rearing practices. Travis Maitland, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), recommended that Chelan PUD consider installing a PIT-tag detection array somewhere near the bottom end of Reach 1 or top end of Reach 2, and PIT-tagging the stocked juvenile cutthroat trout. Adding these two additional activities combined with the snorkel survey data, would enhance the ability to detect cutthroat migrating out of Reach 1. Travis Maitland, Todd Miller, WDFW, Steve Hays, Chelan PUD, and Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD, will plan a site visit in order to determine the best location of the pit-tag detection array and if it would be feasible. (Nice sentence, but I think we covered this previously!) Jeff will be meeting with Cory Morrison, WDFW, and Alene Underwood, Chelan PUD, at the Chelan Hatchery on 22 July 2013 to discuss potential improvements regarding rearing methods for cutthroat. Jeff will include the PIT-tag and rearing information in the stocking proposal and send to the CRFF as soon as possible.

### ***Habitat Channel Gravel Removal/Supplementation Project***

Jeff reported that Steve Hays has submitted to Chelan PUD's Engineering Services a service request to implement gravel removal from the habitat channel immediately upstream of the log structure (Noah's Ark) and placement in the Habitat Channel below Noah's Ark. Engineering Services will review the request and submit their recommendations as to moving forward. Jeff noted that the goal is to complete the gravel removal in September 2013, if at all possible. Jeff stated that the CRFF prefers gravel supplementation to occur first and any change in flow in the Habitat Channel to be second: the methodology being to change only one variable at a time to be able to measure results more accurately. Therefore Plan A is: gravel removal above Noah's Ark and supplementation below Noah's Ark to occur in September 2013. Plan B, the backup plan, is reduce the spawning flow in the Habitat

Channel, 4-pump operation, in spring 2014, and then gravel removal/supplementation in fall 2014. Chelan PUD has received the following agency permit approvals: Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA), from WDFW, and received an exemption for the Shoreline Substantial Development permit, Chelan County Public Works. The two outstanding approvals that are necessary: Colville Tribes (CCT) has requested test digs for cultural resources and a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering Corps.

### **Chelan River Water Quality Monitoring and Temperature Modeling**

Steve Hays reported that the Temperature Model Assessment report is being drafted for the use by the CRRF to help to determine the selection of an appropriate Chelan River water temperature model(s) to use to analyze potential long-term site potential for water temperatures in the Chelan River. Chelan PUD hopes to determine whether they could influence the daily maximum temperatures under the various options described in the Chelan River Comprehensive Plan.

Phil Archibald asked would there be a need to gather additional data to quantify and qualify the temperature model development. It was suggested that an additional weather station at Reach 4 might be a possibility to facilitate supplementary weather information.

Steve asked the CRFF, "What water temperature model would they recommend?" After a lengthy discussion, the CRFF did not suggest other studies/models to be considered for this report at this time.

It was agreed that any model will need to be reviewed and approved by Ecology and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as there is a high probability this model might be challenged at the legal level by others.

### **Other Items**

Phil inquired whether emergent steelhead fry have been observed in the Chelan River. Steve noted that a snorkel survey is scheduled 17 July 2013.

### **Action Items:**

- Jeff and Steve will contact local entities to inquire about riparian feasibility studies they may have conducted, and elements contained in those investigations.
- Jeff will add to the August CRFF meeting agenda Riparian Feasible study
- Jim Pacheco and Brad Caldwell, Dept of Ecology, will determine at which transect they would recommend an automatic water temperature recording station installed.
- Steve will complete updating the PowerPoint presentation in advance of the August meeting.
- Steve Hays will send the Ray Walton draft water temperature modeling report to the CRFF for their review and to prepare for discussion at the August meeting.
- Jeff will update the CRFF of pending items on the habitat channel gravel project at the August CRFF meeting.
- Jeff will send out the link to the 20 June 2013 meeting minutes to the CRFF.
- Jeff will draft a proposal regarding the scope of activities that will be necessary for the Habitat Channel Gravel Removal/Supplementation Project and send out for CRFF review/comments.