

Rocky Reach Fish Forum

Wednesday, 2 July 2014

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room

Wenatchee, WA



Meeting called by Steve Hemstrom
Notes taken by Teneille Hatmaker

Chairperson, Tracy Hillman

Attending Representatives:

Hemstrom, Steve	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4281	steven.hemstrom@chelanpud.org
Irle, Pat (phone)	Ecology	(509) 454-7864	pir461@ecy.wa.gov
Kerec, Matt (phone)	Alcoa	(412) 533-4361	matthew.kerec@alcoa.com
Lewis, Steve (phone)	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Rose, Bob	YN	(509) 865-5121	rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov
Verhey, Patrick	WDFW	(509) 754-4624	patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov

Attending Participants:

Hatmaker, Teneille	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4758	teneille.hatmaker@chelanpud.org
Hillman, Tracy	BioAnalysts	(208) 321-0363	tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net
Jackson, Chad (phone)	WDFW	(509) 754-4624 x250	chad.jackson@dfw.wa.gov
Nelle, RD (phone)	USFWS	(509) 548-7573	rd_nelle@fws.gov
Steinmetz, Marcie	Chelan PUD	(509) 661- 4186	marcie.steinmetz@chelanpud.org

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes.

II. Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved with minor adjustments. A discussion on 25 Mile Creek and additional topics related to Bull Trout were added to the agenda.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Because of vacations, the RRF requested additional time to review the draft June meeting minutes. The June meeting minutes will be reviewed and finalized during the August meeting.

IV. Water Quality

Marcie Steinmetz shared with the RRF draft comments prepared by Chelan PUD on the AquaTechnex, LLC, Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit and Discharge Management Plan for treatment of submergent aquatic plants in the Columbia River at Entiat Park. She said that the comment period closes on 6 July 2014. She noted that Chelan PUD reviewed the permit application and has concerns regarding the proposed list of herbicides to be used, ambiguity in some of the responses, and lack of consistency between statements in the Permit Application and the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP). To assist with this effort, Marcie encouraged entities of the RRF to submit comments to the coordinator as they see fit. Steve Lewis indicated that he would share the USFWS draft comments with the RRF.

Action Item:

- **Steve Lewis will share the USFWS draft comments on the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit and Discharge Management Plan with the RRF.**

V. All Fish Species

Rocky Reach Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report

Steve Hemstrom reported that all comments received by Chelan PUD on the Rocky Reach Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report were placed into a Comment-Response table within the report. Steve indicated that he received comments from the Yakama Nation, WDFW, USFWS, and Ecology. Based on the comments received, revisions were made to the document. The document was revised, finalized, and sent to Ecology. Members asked Ecology why they needed the status report. Pat Irle indicated that it is for the record and is used to assess progress on Chelan PUD's requirements.

Action Item:

- **Michelle Smith will check to see if the biological report can be filed with FERC.**

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Rocky Reach Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report

Steve Hemstrom indicated that the Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report is required by FERC, but FERC did not require comments on the report from the RRF. However, during a previous meeting, members of the RRF requested that they have an opportunity to provide comments on the report. With the help of Michelle Smith, provisions were made that allow members to comment on the status report. Comments will be accepted on all future Pacific Lamprey Five-Year status reports.

Steve Hemstrom said that for the consultation record, FERC requires separate comments on the Pacific Lamprey Status Report. Steve noted that some members asked that their comments on the Biological Status Report be applied to the Pacific Lamprey Status Report. Steve indicated that comments must be applied directly to the lamprey report. Therefore, the comment period has been extended to 25 July 2014. Chelan PUD will review, finalize, and submit the report to FERC by 5 August 2014.

Action Items:

- **Comments on the Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report are due on 25 July 2014.**
- **Chelan PUD will send the final report to FERC by 5 August 2014.**

Rocky Reach Project Effects (No Net Impact)

Bob Rose outlined what he thought are the high priority actions to do in the next two to four years. They include identifying entrance and passage efficiencies of the fishway, what information will be collected from tagged lamprey, and what work should occur within the tributaries. He noted that the entrance and passage efficiencies at the dams are the core areas of interest at this time. To that end, Bob recommended that the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee meet to discuss entrance and passage efficiencies. Bob indicated that his goal here is to identify what we already know about efficiencies and identify any gaps. Bob said that he will prepare a doodle pole that will help set up a time and date for the subcommittee meeting.

Steve Hemstrom indicated that Chelan PUD conducted an adult lamprey passage efficiency study in 2004 at Rocky Reach Dam before the fishways were modified in 2011 and 2012 for lamprey passage. He shared the following results with the RRF:

- Adult lamprey tagged and released on 2 August through 1 October
- 125 adults tagged and released 7 km downstream of RRH; 63 East shore, 62 West shore
- 25 additional adults released within the RR fishway
- Mean time from release (7 km downstream) to top of fishway exit = 7.32 days
- Mean time in tailrace = 5.05 days
- Mean time in fishway = 2.50 days

- 93.6% (117 of 125) of tagged fish released downstream were detected at Rocky Reach
- 94% (SE = 0.0286) of those fish (110 of 117) entered the fishways (**entrance efficiency 94%**)
- 55% of the adults that entered the fishway (61 of 111) exited the ladder into forebay
- 21.5% fell back (13 of 61)
- 41.0% successfully re-ascended (5 of 13)
- Net fallback rate 12.7%
- Net passage efficiency 47.75%

Steve Hemstrom indicated that he will share the final telemetry report with the RRF.

Bob Rose said he will distribute the doodle pole as soon as possible. Steve Hemstrom reminded the Forum that the doodle pole will not be limited to the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee members, but all are encouraged to participate if interested.

Action Items:

- **Chelan PUD will review existing information on entrance and passage efficiencies and compile data.**
- **Steve Hemstrom will submit the 2004 lamprey telemetry study report and his summary of results to Tracy Hillman, who will distribute them to the RRF.**
- **Bob Rose, Steve Lewis, and Patrick Verhey will organize a meeting with the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee that will take place later in the month.**

Grant Adult Trap and Haul: Potential to Increase HD PIT Tag Numbers for Rocky Reach Fishway Evaluation

Steve Hemstrom stated that low numbers of half-duplex (HD) PIT tagged adult lamprey escaping into the upper Columbia River have slowed the determination and evaluation of passage improvements made to the fishway and passage efficiency at Rocky Reach Dam. Given that Grant PUD is proposing a trap and haul program at Wanapum Dam, there is an opportunity to increase the number of tagged fish possibly passing Rocky Reach Dam. Grant PUD will begin trapping adult lamprey in July and all lamprey captured will be released upstream from Rock Island Dam. Thus, Chelan PUDs is coordinating with Grant PUD to haul adult lamprey to Rocky Reach Dam for tagging. Fish will be tagged with HD PIT tags and released at Confluence Park downstream from Rocky Reach Dam. Chelan PUD has about 150 HD PIT tags that can be used for the study. Steve Hemstrom stated that this could substantially increase the numbers for evaluation, but this will be determined by the number of fish that Grant PUD can catch and haul to Chelan PUD. Depending on the number of fish trapped, Chelan PUD hopes to have multiple release events.

Steve Hemstrom has prepared travel timing calculations for adult lamprey at Rocky Reach Dam and will distribute this to the forum. The group briefly discussed lamprey holding and release times, and surgical protocols. Steve Hemstrom will check with Aaron Jackson with the Umatilla Tribes on lamprey holding

and handling protocols.

Action Items:

- **Steve Hemstrom will distribute to the RRF the lamprey timing distribution measured at Rocky Reach Dam.**
- **Steve Hemstrom will check with Aaron Jackson, Umatilla Tribes, regarding the holding and handling of lamprey.**
- **Steve Hemstrom will develop a study plan to assess passage efficiency at Rocky Reach.**

Lamprey Conversion Rates

Steve Hemstrom said that during the last meeting, it was suggested that he compare the RI-RR and RR-Wells conversion rates with total numbers of adult lamprey counted at Bonneville Dam. Steve indicated RI-RR conversion rates correlated positively with counts at Bonneville Dam. No such relationship was found with RR-Wells conversion rates and Bonneville Dam counts.

The group discussed the possibility that the presence of lamprey in an area attract other adult lamprey to that area. That is, pheromones may be drawing large numbers of lamprey together. Thus, occurrence of large numbers of lamprey in a given location may not simply be coincidence. Bob Rose cautioned that despite the tremendous amount of effort put forth on the pheromone hypothesis, there is behavioral information that we simply cannot know. He noted that we may never know what is driving the behavior of these fish despite our extensive research.

Action Item:

- **Steve Hemstrom will finalize his conversion rate analysis and provide it to the RRF.**

Pacific Lamprey at Tumwater Dam

Steve Lewis has made arrangements with Steve Rainey to visit Tumwater Dam on 9 July 2014. They will report back to the RRF during the August meeting. Steve Lewis will work with Steve Hemstrom to get Hydro Access.

The group also discussed lamprey passage at Tumwater Dam. Steve Hemstrom noted that Bryan Nordlund, NOAA, had sent an email to Chelan PUD, agencies, and Tribes on fish passage at Tumwater Dam and potential effects on lamprey passage from trapping operations. Steve Hemstrom was not on the distribution list for that email and asked Steve Lewis if he would forward the email to the RRF. Steve Lewis agreed to do so.

Action Items:

- **Steve Hemstrom will get Steve Lewis and Steve Rainey hydro access for water velocity**

sampling at Tumwater Dam.

- **Steve Lewis will forward the email from Bryan Nordlund on fish passage at Tumwater Dam to Tracy Hillman, who will distribute it to the RRF.**

Regional Implementation Planning Process

RD Nelle has been holding meetings and working with participants to fill out a regional Pacific lamprey template (USFWS Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative) that lists threats and possible solutions, along with possible funding and implementation plans. Most of the meetings have been completed. RD indicated that the Rock Island and Rocky Reach meeting is set for 16 July 2014. A doodle pole has been sent out to identify a meeting date for the Methow and Wells meeting. RD plans to arrange a meeting later in the month to address the Okanogan.

RD Nelle said there is a larger regional meeting scheduled for the end of the month. He anticipates that this entire process will be completed by the end of July.

Wanapum Response: Rock Island Lamprey Passage Structures

Steve Hemstrom noted that at this time, Columbia River flows are still high and fish are going through the ladders. The tailrace has not lowered enough to allow for the use of the denils.

VII. Bull Trout

Bull Trout and Tumwater Dam

Steve Lewis reported that a letter to clarify the Section 6 Permit is still being written. Steve Lewis asked if anyone is currently PIT tagging any bull trout. Steve Hemstrom verified that Chelan PUD is not PIT tagging bull trout. Tracy Hillman added that WDFW occasionally PIT tags juvenile bull trout captured at their rotary screw traps. He added that one could check on PTAGIS (PIT Tag Information System) to see if bull trout are being tagged.

VIII. White Sturgeon

Adult Broodstock Collection

Steve Hemstrom read a note from Lance Keller indicating that broodstock collection in 2014 is complete and was successful.

Spawning and Rearing Update

Steve Hemstrom said that the second spawning occurred on 2 July 2014. The second spawning consisted of four females and five males. Recall that the first spawning consisted of five females and five males. Fish at Columbia Basin Hatchery have hatched and all groups except one are doing well. There is one half-sib group that is not doing as well as the others.

Phase 2 Sturgeon Conservation Program

According to Steve Hemstrom, Lance Keller has yet to reach the University of British Columbia (UBC) to get more information on the model they use for calculating numbers of fish to release. He will try to make contact with them this week.

Action Item:

- **Lance Keller will check with the University of British Columbia for information on their model for sturgeon releases beyond 2015.**

Monitoring

Steve Hemstrom indicated that four additional adult sturgeon (three females and one male) were tagged in Rocky Reach Reservoir. These fish were tagged with acoustic tags, each with a battery life of ten years. Three additional tags remain to be used.

Action Item:

- **Steve Hemstrom will find out the location where the sturgeon were collected, tagged, and released and report this to the RRFF.**

IX. 25 Mile Creek

Steve Hemstrom reported that Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG) is transferring ownership and project care of the 25 Mile Creek project to Chelan County. He noted that CCFEG and the County would like to attend the October meeting of the RRFF to discuss the project. The RRFF questioned why the entities need to meet with the RRFF. Currently, the RRFF has no contract with the entities. The group agreed that Tracy Hillman will contact CCFEG and identify whether or not there are specific issues that the RRFF needs to resolve. Tracy will report back to the RRFF in August.

Action Item:

- **Tracy Hillman will contact Columbia Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group and Chelan County to identify why they need a meeting with the RRFF.**

X. **Next Steps**

The next regular meeting of the RRFF will be Wednesday, 6 August 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room.