

# Rocky Reach Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 February 2015

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD First Floor Parks Conference Room

Wenatchee, WA



Meeting called by Steve Hemstrom

Notes taken by Heidi Kunz

Chairperson, Tracy Hillman

## ***Attending Representatives:***

Hemstrom, Steve	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4281	steven.hemstrom@chelanpud.org
Kerec, Matt (phone)	Alcoa	(412) 553-4361	matthew.kerec@alcoa.com
Lewis, Steve (phone)	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Rose, Bob (phone)	YN	(509) 865-5121	rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov

## ***Attending Participants:***

Hillman, Tracy	BioAnalysts	(208) 321-0363	tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net
Jackson, Chad (phone)	WDFW	(509) 754-4624 x250	chad.jackson@dfw.wa.gov
Keller, Lance	Chelan PUD	(509)661-4299	lance.keller@chelanpud.org
Kunz, Heidi	Chelan PUD	(509)661-4758	heidi.kunz@chelanpud.org
Nelle, RD	USFWS	(509) 548-7573	RD_Nelle@fws.gov
Rainey, Steve (phone)	USFWS Contractor	(503) 260-6990	wsteverainey@aol.com

## Meeting Minutes

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) meeting. Participants introduced themselves.

### **II. Review of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

### III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November RRFF meeting were approved. Steve Hemstrom clarified that all of the spill gates at Rocky Reach Dam are capable of being operated from the control room. Fish spill gate configurations are preprogrammed and can be automated with one button.

Minutes from the January RRFF meeting were reviewed and approved with minor edits on pages 4 and 7.

### IV. Review of January Action Items

- Tracy Hillman will email the RRFF and ask them if there are any objections to sending the draft meeting minutes to the entire distribution list each month. **Complete. All on the distribution list want to see the draft notes.**
- Steve Hemstrom will check to see if there are any requirements in the license regarding who should receive draft meeting notes. **Complete. Steve Hemstrom stated that when commenting on the RRFF minutes, anyone who has attended the meeting may comment on what was said during the meeting. People who have not attended the meeting may only comment on the facts.**
- Steve Hemstrom will review comments from Steve Hays on the 5 November 2014 meeting minutes and make any edits necessary. **Complete.**
- Lance Keller will review the Monitoring Report from Blue Leaf Environmental and arrange to have Corey Wright of Blue Leaf Environmental give a presentation to the RRFF in February or March. **Ongoing.**
- Lance Keller will contact Chris Mott at Grant PUD and Corey Wright at Blue Leaf Environmental to discuss the use of the Ecopath with Ecosim model. **Complete.**
- Chad Jackson will modify the 2015 Statement of Agreement for the 2016 juvenile white sturgeon release group and send it to Tracy Hillman. **Complete.**
- Bob Rose will work on finalizing the “Pacific Lamprey Culture Investigations: DRAFT Proposal to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum.” **Ongoing.**
- The Pacific Lamprey Work Group will meet on Friday, 30 January 2015 at Chelan PUD to flesh out Pacific Lamprey NNI. **Complete.**
- Steve Hemstrom will provide comments on the revised Concept Paper to Bob Rose. **Complete.**
- The Rapid Assessment tour at Tumwater Dam will be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015. RD Nelle will provide Steve Hemstrom specific details on what equipment will be used during the tour and who will attend. **Ongoing.**
- Steve Hemstrom will provide Tumwater Dam information to RD Nelle. **Complete.**
- Steve Hemstrom will look into the possibility of Chelan PUD funding the Rapid Assessment. **Ongoing.**

- A tour of the dewatered Rock Island fish ladders is scheduled for Monday, 12 January 2015. **Complete.**
- Steve Hemstrom will contact Blue Leaf Environmental for assistance in analyzing adult lamprey travel time data at Rocky Reach Dam. **Complete.**
- Steve Hemstrom will provide the 2014 Adult Run-at-Large Report to the RRF. **Complete.**
- Comments on the “2014 Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring and Control Report” are due to Marcie Steinmetz on Monday, 2 February 2015. **Complete.**

## V. Pacific Lamprey

### Rocky Reach Project Effects – Results from 30 January Small Group Meeting

Tracy Hillman reported on the RRF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup, which met on 30 January 2015 at Chelan PUD. The Subgroup is working on recommendations for the RRF regarding Pacific lamprey NNI. The Subgroup understands that it may not be possible to measure NNI anytime soon. Therefore, the Subgroup discussed the possibility of Chelan PUD setting up a Pacific lamprey NNI Account that would be under the control of the RRF for funding Pacific lamprey NNI measures to mitigate for assumed juvenile and adult losses associated with operation of Rocky Reach Dam. The account would be an interest bearing account under the control of the RRF. The funding of projects would not have to be approved by Chelan PUD Commissioners. Annual contributions by Chelan PUD to the account would be adjusted for inflation.

The group discussed how an NNI Agreement would be set up and what the duration of the Agreement would be. The group discussed both 7-year and 15-year check-ins and what those would entail. There was considerable discussion on whether or not juvenile survival studies would still be required. The group will continue to discuss this issue. There also was discussion about what type of studies would be eligible for funding under the NNI Agreement. Some of the possible studies discussed by the Subgroup included translocation and monitoring of translocation activities, tracking of adults to spawning areas and tributaries, reducing juvenile entrainment into irrigation facilities (with a focus on Dryden dam), and also propagation for supplementation of juvenile lamprey in the tributaries. The latter would include both the development of hatchery techniques to produce juveniles and outplanting those juveniles in tributaries upstream from Rock Island Dam. The Subgroup will continue to meet in order to come to an agreement on recommendations, which will be forwarded to the RRF for discussion and voting. Bob Rose noted that the Yakama Nation would like to see some projects funded this year under the NNI Agreement.

Steve Hemstrom commented that there are some substantive elements of the agreement that still need to be worked through within the Subgroup. Tracy Hillman requested that participants in the Subgroup return comments on the draft notes by Friday, 13 February 2015.

## Action Items:

- **Pacific lamprey Subgroup participants need to return comments on the draft notes to Tracy Hillman by Friday, 13 February 2015.**
- **Tracy Hillman will send a Doodle poll to the Subgroup in order to identify up to three meeting dates for the Pacific lamprey Subgroup.**

## Artificial Propagation Update

Bob Rose reported that he had not received any comments from the RRFF on his proposal, "Pacific Lamprey Culture Investigations: DRAFT Proposal to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum," which was submitted at the January RRFF meeting. Tracy Hillman also reported that he had not received any feedback on the proposal. Tracy stated, based on Forum discussions during the last meeting, that Bob Rose and his group should fully develop the artificial propagation proposal and submit it to the RRFF for review. Bob indicated that he was unsure how detailed the proposal needed to be for the RRFF. He would prefer to use the current proposal and add budget numbers. He also asked for some guidance from Steve Hemstrom on how to develop the scope of the project. Steve Hemstrom stated that Chelan PUD still needs to look at their 2015 budget to determine how much money is available for Section 4.2.3 of the PLMP to support artificial propagation work this year. This dollar amount will help guide the scope and the work products for the proposal, and help prioritize the needs of the study. Steve Hemstrom will also look at the payment mechanism and processes that determine how Chelan PUD would fund and distribute payments for this work. It's possible the money could be distributed as Chelan PUD contract work that has specific requirements and criteria that must be followed.

Bob Rose reminded the RRFF that the proposal is not time sensitive yet, but it will be by April or May 2015. Tracy Hillman stated that Table 1 in the proposal includes a list of tasks associated with each objective. It would be useful to have a budget for each identified task. He also suggested that it would be helpful if the RRFF could see how the budget is broken down among the different agencies, and how much each agency is contributing as a cost share. Bob Rose stated that this would be very difficult to do, but that the matching costs are currently in the proposal. Bob commented that he would like to receive feedback and direction on the proposal now in order to help him identify what final products should be included in the proposal.

Bob Rose will provide Tracy Hillman with an updated version of the proposal including the budget within the next few days. Tracy will distribute the proposal to the RRFF for a 30-day review period and vote. Steve Hemstrom commented that if it is determined that the proposal will be carried out as contract work for Chelan PUD, there could be an issue with time and materials. According to Chelan PUD Service Agreements, in certain cases where the value of the purchased materials is over a certain amount, Chelan PUD retains ownership of those materials. Steve Hemstrom will explore Chelan PUD policy details further and provide this information to the RRFF.

#### **Action Items:**

- **Steve Hemstrom will look into policies within Chelan PUD that determine how the monies will be processed for the proposal and check contract policies on the value and type of materials Chelan PUD would maintain ownership of at the end of the study.**
- **Bob Rose will add the budget to the proposal, “Pacific Lamprey Culture Investigations: DRAFT Proposal to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum” and send it to Tracy Hillman.**
- **Tracy Hillman will send the revised proposal to the RRFF for a 30-day review period.**

#### **Lamprey Passage at Tumwater (Rapid Assessment)**

Tracy Hillman reported that the tour of Tumwater Dam and the rapid assessment of the fishway will take place on the morning of 18 February 2015. RD Nelle reported that the plan is to meet at the parking lot across from Alps Candy in Tumwater Canyon at 8:30 am on 18 February, and then carpool to the dam. There will be a general tour of the dam and members of the rapid assessment team will tour the dewatered fishway. RD Nelle stated that there will be a limited number of people going down into the fishway and he is in the process of determining who will do the rapid assessment. Steve Hemstrom stated that individuals going into the fishway will need leather boots, safety vests, safety goggles, and hard hats. Steve Hemstrom stated that he will need to provide a list to the Chelan PUD Safety Department of who will be on the tour and who will be in the fishway.

Steve Hemstrom stated that Terry Lucas is the most knowledgeable person at Chelan PUD on the operations and maintenance of the fishway. There was discussion about the ideal number of people to tour the fishway in order to keep it manageable. Tracy Hillman will email members of the RRFF asking them to respond by 11 February if they plan to attend the tour. RD Nelle will provide Steve Hemstrom with a list a people who will be on the rapid assessment team. Steve Hemstrom will consult with the Chelan PUD Safety Department to determine what Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be required. Once a list of tour participants has been established, Chelan PUD will provide the appropriate PPE if participants do not have their own PPE. Steve Hemstrom proposed that the list of people touring the fishway should include members of the rapid assessment team who have technical assessment abilities. RD Nelle agreed. Steve Lewis stated that he would like to tour the fishway in order to better understand the structure. Steve Hemstrom commented that he was just making a recommendation. Steve Lewis stated that he would like the assessment team to consider other species that may be affected by the Tumwater Dam fishway during their tour of the dewatered ladder.

#### **Action Items:**

- **RD Nelle will finalize the list of people who will conduct the rapid assessment within the Tumwater fishway.**
- **Tracy Hillman will email the RRFF asking people to respond by 11 February if they intend to participate on the Tumwater Dam tour.**

## Wanapum Response: Rock Island Lamprey Passage Structures

Lance Keller reported that the January Interim Fish Passage Plan (IFPP) monthly update report will be the last monthly update report. Chelan PUD has begun work on the Retrospective Biological Assessment (BA) on 2014 activities in response to Wanapum, as well as the future removal of the denils in late 2015/early 2016. Operations have basically returned to normal at Rock Island Dam. Chelan PUD is in the middle of fishway overhauls. The right and left ladders are both currently down for maintenance. Lance Keller confirmed that the denils will be removed in late 2015 or early 2016 to coincide with the fishway overhaul process and to confirm that Wanapum has been back to normal operations for a significant period of time.

Steve Lewis commented that he will be meeting with Jeff Osborn next week to review the outline of the BA. Steve Hemstrom will be writing the bull trout portion of the BA for Chelan PUD. He asked Steve Lewis if the matrix the USFWS uses to assess project effects on bull trout is an updated tool that is currently being used. Steve Hemstrom noted the last version he saw was a 1998 version. Steve Lewis responded that the matrix was used during Wells Dam relicensing and is currently being used by the Service. He will send Steve Hemstrom the most up-to-date version.

### Action Item:

- **Steve Lewis will send Steve Hemstrom the updated Diagnostics/Pathways and Indicators matrix to be used for the Retrospective BA.**

## 2014 Rocky Reach HDX-PIT Tagged Lamprey Detections from All Sources

Steve Hemstrom reported that he has no substantial information to provide on the results of the 2014 adult lamprey tagging studies. He said that all of the detections are in and that passage efficiency is still about 70%. He has evaluated the five different tag sources and tag locations and their passage efficiencies from each location. The tag sources are Bonneville Dam, John Day Dam, Ice Harbor Dam, Wanapum Dam, and Rocky Reach Dam. All of the passage efficiencies are between 68-75% for each tag location. He does not have the median travel times yet for the fish for each source. He would like to provide a summary report of what was done, how it was assessed, and a comparison to the 2004-2005 radio telemetry report using some of the same metrics. This would help to determine if the fishway modifications at Rocky Reach have improved passage.

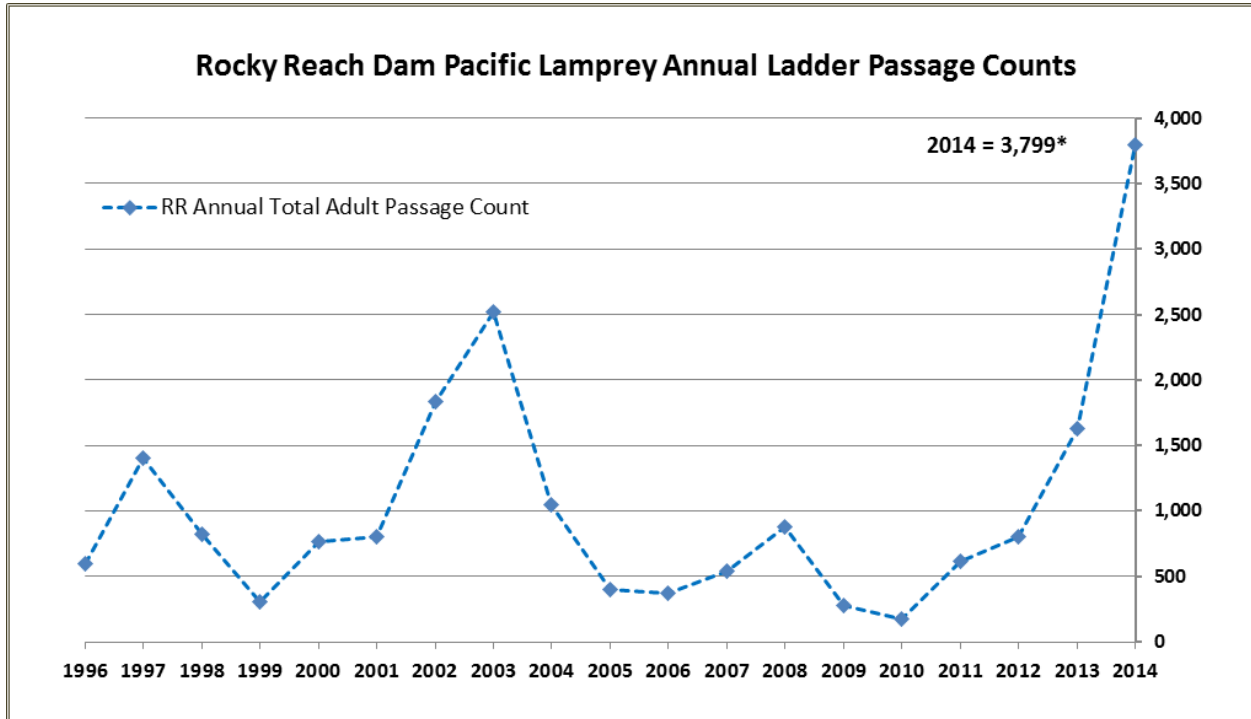
### Action Item:

- **Steve Hemstrom will meet with Rod O'Connor at Blue Leaf Environmental to discuss how to estimate adult lamprey travel times.**

## 2014 Adult Run-at-Large – Run Timing at RR

Steve Hemstrom reported on graphs he had previously distributed to the RRF. The first graph illustrates

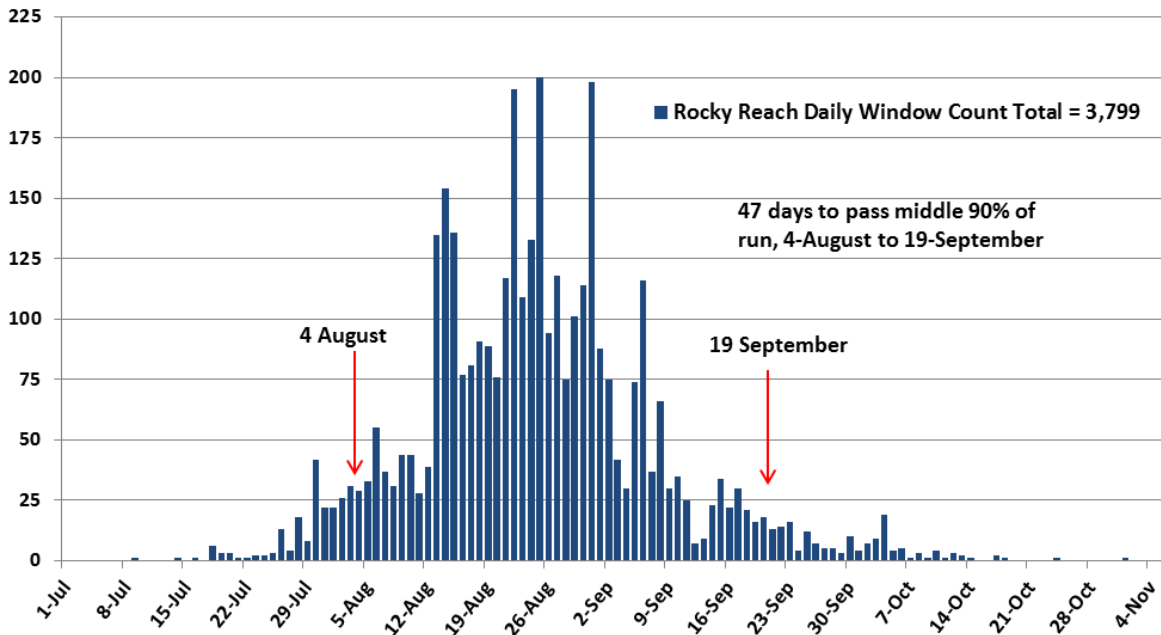
the annual total passage numbers at Rocky Reach Dam from 1996-2014. He noted that the 2014 number of 3,799 adult lamprey passing Rocky Reach looks great, but we need to keep in mind that approximately 2,140 fish were transported upstream from Priest Rapids Dam and released into the Rock Island pool at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park. He noted that a couple thousand lamprey did pass on their own at Rock Island in 2014.



\* The 2014 total passage count of Pacific Lamprey at Rocky Reach Dam (3,799) includes a number of adults transported and released by Grant PUD at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park in Rock Island Reservoir (1,910) and below Rocky Reach Dam (286) for a ladder passage study by Chelan PUD.

The second graph shows Rocky Reach 2014 daily passage count numbers and run-timing for adult lamprey. The information shows when lamprey passed, including the dates between which the middle 90 percent of the adult lamprey run passed the project. It took 47 days to pass the middle 90% of the fish, between 4 August and 19 September.

## 2014 Rocky Reach Adult Lamprey Daily Fishway Passage Counts



Steve Hemstrom also noted that this information could be used to help determine when fish would have historically been present at Tumwater Dam. In terms of river flows through the Wenatchee, it helps to frame when the fish would have been at the dam and when they would have wanted to pass based on adult passage characteristics. The information may be useful to determine when the fish would have been at Tumwater Dam and what the flow conditions may have been like in that time frame. Steve Rainey asked if it is known what percentage of the lamprey would show up at Tumwater that are holdovers from the previous year's run, as opposed to coming up that same summer. RD Nelle said there are no telemetry data from that area, but other telemetry data from the Entiat River indicates that the fish can run a fair way beyond the mainstem Columbia in that same first run year. Considering this information along with water temperature at the time they would be passing, RD would expect them to make it at least to or past Tumwater during the first year. Steve Hemstrom stated that there are no data on the percentage of fish that will overwinter relative to river flow and temperature.

## VI. Bull Trout

### Bull Trout and Tumwater Dam

Steve Lewis reported that he had no new updates on bull trout at Tumwater Dam at this time.

#### Action Item:

- Tracy Hillman will keep the bull trout issue on the agenda as a placeholder for Section 10



consultation.

## VII. White Sturgeon

### Rearing Update

Lance Keller reported that Chelan PUD is starting to schedule their seasonal crews at Columbia Basin and Chelan hatcheries for tagging activities. He reported that the fish are healthy and that the fish at Columbia Basin are quite large. Lance will provide fish per pound data and a comparison to previous year's data at the next RRF meetings. Chad Jackson reported that he had no additional information on juvenile rearing at this time.

#### Action Item:

- **Lance Keller will provide growth and comparison data from Columbia Basin Hatchery.**

### Monitoring Update

Lance Keller reported that Chelan PUD is doing an internal review of the 2014 monitoring report prepared by Blue Leaf Environmental. He will provide the RRF with the draft report as soon as possible. Corey Wright, Blue Leaf Environmental, will give a presentation at the March RRF meeting, and Dave Robichaud will hopefully be available for questions as well.

### Decision: Approve Release Strategy for 2016

Chad Jackson reported that he received comments from Jason McClellan on the "White Sturgeon Brood Stock Collection, Spawning, and Yearling Release Statement of Agreement for the Rocky Reach Project Area." He agreed with Jason's comments/edits. The edits mostly involved changing "half-siblings" to "unique crosses." Chad said that he will send the revised SOA to Tracy for distribution to the RRF. The RRF will review the revised SOA and let Tracy know by Friday, 20 February if they approve the SOA.

#### Action Items:

- **Chad Jackson will send the revised SOA to Tracy Hillman for distribution to the RRF.**
- **The RRF will review the revised SOA and let Tracy Hillman know by Friday, 20 February if they approve the SOA.**

### Phase 2 Sturgeon Conservation Program – Ecopath with Ecosim Model

Lance Keller said that he had no new information on the Ecopath with Ecosim model at this time. He will contact Chris Mott at Grant PUD and Corey Wright at Blue Leaf Environmental to discuss the Ecopath with Ecosim model.

**Action Item:**

- **Lance Keller, Chris Mott, and Corey Wright will conference to discuss the Ecopath with Ecosim model.**

## **VIII. Large Unit Repair**

### **Update on Repairs at Rocky Reach Dam**

Lance Keller reported that the last four units on the north end of the power house at Rocky Reach Dam, C-8, C-9, C-10 & C-11, have been put in a temporary repair state. Measures have been taken to keep the blades in a fixed position so the units can be put back into service. The units will be taken out of service one at a time for permanent repair work. Each unit will be out for about one year; unit C-8 is scheduled for 2015, C-9 for 2016, C-11 for 2017, and C-10 for 2018. Once the units are repaired, they will be returned to their Kaplan configuration, which means the blades can be adjusted to change their pitch. Lance Keller reported that cavitation has not been a problem and the blades run very well in their fixed blade configuration. Steve Lewis asked if the outages would affect fish passage in any way. Lance Keller reported that there would not be any changes in operations for fish passage.

## **IX. Next Steps**

The next regular meeting of the RRFF will be Wednesday, 4 March 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room.