

Rocky Reach Ute Ladies' Tresses Subcommittee Meeting

Date: September 19, 2017

Time: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Rocky Reach Reservoir – Meet at Beebe Springs at 0930 am.

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD

Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting –Ute ladies' Tresses subcommittee

Note taker: Kelly Cordell

Representatives

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Participants

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Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Ute Ladies' Tresses Subcommittee, site visit

Minutes

The attendees (in bold above) met at WDFW Beebe Springs site at 0930. Meeting minutes from 11/16/2016 were not reviewed, but will be reviewed during the November 2017 meeting, along with the minutes from this meeting.

None of prescribed spring weed treatments occurred at any of the *Spiranthes* sites due to prolonged inundation from higher than average flows experienced during 2017. Most sites were either inundated or experiencing high enough flow so as to preclude work through from late March through early July. This included the proposed monitoring of yellow flag iris emergence, flower, and seed set during 2017. None of the funds allocated for weed control work under the 2017 ITIPCP proposals were spent.

Von discussed the disbanding of the Mid-C coordination team for hydro flow ops on the Columbia River, and how that may have contributed to wide swings in reservoir fluctuations due to the lack of coordination of generation and flow management between the mid-Columbia hydros. Flows were higher than the historical average during April – early July. Von noted that we haven't yet gone through the Wells Dam Outflow data for 2017, but will be looking at it this fall and include it in the annual report.

The WDFW Beebe Springs site was visited first. *Spiranthes* was observed blooming at flagged sites. No additional plants were located during the visit. Increased cover of reed canary grass was noted, as well as some Canada thistle with some large galls. Both biological controls (*Nanophyes* and *Galerucella*) were observed on loosestrife plants, and defoliation as well as reduced flowering was observed. The Threat Matrix was updated to reflect current site conditions.

The PUD pond site was visited next. A reduction in Russian knapweed where the biocontrol was released in 2016, as part of a separate project, on the neighboring WDFW property was observed. Reed canary grass was observed in the south and north parts of the pond, along with increased cover of dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*). Adder's tongue (*Ophioglossum pusillum*) was observed at the north end of the pond. Along the river site, no *Spiranthes* were located in 2017. Bouncing bet (*Saponaria officinalis*) was observed and the cover of reed canary grass (*Phalaris*

arundinacea) cover has increased along the river side, as well. Some areas appear to have been scoured from high flows. The Threat Matrix was updated to reflect current site conditions.

Gallagher Flats site was visited next. No *Spiranthes* were located here during 2017. Blackberry starts ringed the meadow, and patches of reed canary grass are trying to establish. Potential for broadcast spray here with no *Spiranthes* up this year, but will have to get feedback from USFWS. The Threat Matrix was updated to reflect current site conditions.

The BLM site was then visited. Dense vegetation was observed along the riparian zone. A total of 8 new *Spiranthes* were observed and marked with tees and flagging near the upstream portion of the site. Two of these appeared to be *S. romanzoffiana*, one of which was arranged strangely, only exhibiting 2 rows of flowers instead of 3. The Threat Matrix was updated to reflect current site conditions.

The Stocker parcel was then toured. Increased cover of reed canary grass was noted, and an unknown rhizomatous wheatgrass was observed in the main meadow. Dense vegetation was observed at the main meadow which was primarily composed of yellow-flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), and Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) At the south meadow, *Apocynum* cover was thick, replacing the near monoculture of the birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) from 2016. The Threat Matrix was updated to reflect current site conditions.

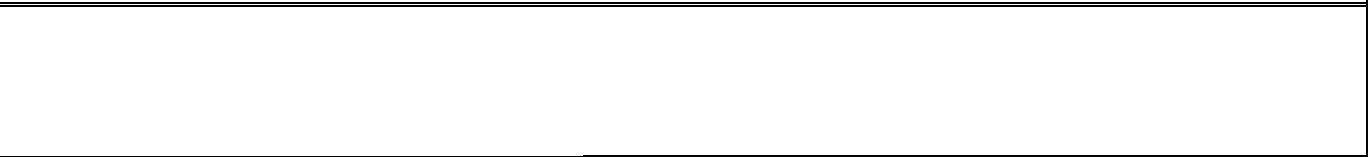
Action Items:

The Threat Matrix will be updated based on this visit to reflect current site conditions. The group decided to add a +/- factor to each of the High/Med/Low categories. A +/- is worth 0.5 point, plus or minus. *Unknowns* or *n/a* will not receive any points in order to avoid unnecessary inflation of the scoring.

Kelly will send out a draft of the 2017 Proposed fall treatments under the ITIPCP on 9/22/2017. The amended document, upon subcommittee approval, will supersede the previous one approved in January 2017.

Molly, Von, and Ron will look up reed canary grass control options. Ron and Von will look into Garlon residual. Von will look to see what, if any, biocontrol options may be available for fall 2017.

The next meeting was set for Weds. November 15, 2017 at 9am at Chelan PUD. This is the annual meeting to approve work completed in 2017 and propose work for 2018.



Additional Information

Threat Matrix – updated