

**Rocky Reach Ute Ladies’  
Tresses Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: November 15, 2017  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Location: Second Floor Conference Room**

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD    Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting –Ute ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee  
Note taker: Deb Bitterman

**Attending Representatives**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Fox, Ron	WDFW	(509) 665-3383	Ron.Fox@dfw.wa.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508x14	Stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Pope, Von	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4625	von.pope@chelanpud.org

**Attending Participants**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ranne, Brigitte	USDA-FS	(509) 682-4941	branne@fs.fed.us
Fertig, Walter-phone	DNR, NHP	(360) 902-1710	Walter.fertig@dnr.wa.gov
Cordell, Kelly	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4762	kelly.cordell@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Ute Ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee, weed control efforts, and 5-year monitoring

**Minutes**

Von Pope, Chelan PUD, welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Ute Ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes.

**Review of 11/16/16 and 9/19/17 Meeting Minutes**

Von Pope, Chelan PUD, summarized the 11/16/16 and 9/19/17 meeting minutes

**Review 2017 Annual Monitoring Report**

*Chapter 1 – Annual Surveys*

Kelly Cordell, Chelan PUD, provided a quick summary of Chapter 1 of the Draft 2017 Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies’ Tresses Annual Monitoring Report. In 2017, surveys occurred earlier in the season. Plants were observed bolting in late August with only a few plants were seen flowering. The number of plants observed in 2017 (72) were lower than the average observed years, 2000-2015 (461). Overall, Columbia River flows during 2017 were observed to be average; however, the flows were higher and longer than average during the months of April thru early July.

Kelly noted that she observed two *Spiranthes* that are not the *S. diluvialis* (suspected *S. romanzoffiana* or *S. porrifolia*), at the BLM parcel. Kelly identified the two within the text of the Annual Monitoring Report but did not combine these to the *S. diluvialis* totals in the *Spiranthes* summary charts, since the Ute Ladies’ Tresses Management plan is specific to *S. diluvialis*.

No Spring weed treatments took place due to prolonged inundation.

### *Chapter 2 – Invasive Plant Control Measures*

Von summarized the 2017 Invasive Plant Control Measures of Chapter 2 from the Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies' Tresses Annual Monitoring Report. No spring work was conducted during 2017 due to prolonged inundation at the proposed work sites. The 2017 work plan was amended to facilitate weed control actions based on site conditions documented during site visit, September 2017. Chelan PUD's contractor, Cascade Weed and Pest, conducted blackberry, reed canary grass and yellow flag iris control in the fall of 2017. The PUD Pond site, WDFW site and Gallagher sites were treated in October 2017. At the PUD Pond and WDFW sites, blackberry canes were cut and daubed with Garlon 3A similar to previous years. In addition, Reed canary grass and yellow flag iris were wicked with glyphosate at the PUD Pond and WDFW sites. No Ute Ladies' Tresses were observed at the Gallagher flats site, therefore blackberry, and reed canary grass were treated by spraying blackberry with Garlon 3A and reed canary grass with glyphosate at this site. The cost of chemical control work completed by the contractor in the fall of 2017 was \$1,943.88.

In addition to targeted chemical control for blackberry, reed canary grass, and yellow flag iris in 2017, Chelan PUD contracted with the Washington State University to collect and release biological control insects to help control purple loosestrife in the vicinity of Ute Ladies' tresses. In spring of 2017, the WSU Douglas County Extension collected and released a total of 6,450 *Gallerucella* beetles (leaf beetles) and *Nanophyes marmoratus* weevils (seed weevil) at 3 sites. The total project cost to collect and release 6,450 biological controls for purple loosestrife in 2017 was \$4,000. The total cost for chemical treatment and biological release was **\$5,943.88**.

There is approximately \$12,500 available for 2018 weed control activities.

### **2017 Weed Control Invoice**

**After review and discussion of the 2017 weed control invoice the Subcommittee approved the 2017 weed control invoice for payment totaling \$5,943.88.**

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 hydro's. We had extreme high flows early and stay high until July. And then flow went low. Flows were higher than the historical average. The extreme fluctuations may impact Ute ladies' tresses. This agreement expired November 1, 2017.

After further discussion, the Subcommittee supported that at the field visit in 2018 not to focus on the Threat matrix like we have done in the past but discuss more on how we could document more meaningful data.

### **Proposed Weed Control for 2018**

The Subcommittee reviewed the Threat Matrix and propose vegetation control measures to reduce the threat of invasive species on *S. diluvialis* habitat After general discussion, the following options should be considered for 2018 activities:

Option A: Spring Chemical treatment via wick/daub/wipe/ and/or clip

Option B: Fall Chemical treatment via wick/daub/wipe/ and/or clip

Option C: Biological control agents

Cost activity summary:

- Chemical treatment (June and Fall treatment): \$10,000
- Biological release for purple loosestrife: \$2000

### **2018 5-year Monitoring Requirement**

The primary goals of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Habitat Management Plan 2010 to 2015 were to protect and enhance wildlife habitats adjacent within the Rocky Reach Project boundary and in a corridor within the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area (RRWA). The RRWA is defined as state and public lands in Chelan and Douglas countries within an approximate 6-mile corridor of the Rocky Reach Reservoir.

In 2013 Chelan PUD added 15 additional segments of shoreline which added 8.3 miles more to the survey. And thru that process the Stocker Ute Ladies' Tresses population was extended.

After discussion, the Subcommittee recommended that Chelan PUD do a visual survey and target sites that may have an establish Ute Ladies' population. A boat survey to identify potential Ute Ladies' Tresses habitat areas would be the method. A visual inventory of what is believed to be suitable habitat is based on experience and knowledge. The boat survey would occur between Wells Dam and Bebee Bridge. This area was identified as prime location, establish rapiarn habitat, for Ute Ladies' Tresses.

It was also noted that high flows may postpone the survey. If the determination is, no survey, a letter would need to go to FERC explaining that the Subcommittee agreed to delay the survey to the next year.

### **Action Items**

- Von and Kelly will schedule a pre-visit at potential treatment sites to flag weeds for elimination for the weed contractor.
- Von will contact Bureau of Rec to request notification regarding Grand Coulee gate maintenance operations so that we can provide comments
- Von will send Walter Fertig the link for out flow data, Dart website, and also will check to see if he wants copies of previous reports.
- Subcommittee's comments on the Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies' Tresses Monitoring Report, 2017: Annual Summary and Weed Control to Kelly by November 30, 2017
- Weed proposal schedule:
  - 2018 January 29: Kelly will send out draft to Subcommittee for comments/edits

- 2018 February 16: Comments/edits due back to Kelly
- 2018 February 28: Final sent out to the Subcommittee
- Monitoring Survey
  - 2018 January 29: Von will send out draft to Subcommittee for comments/edits
  - 2018 February 16: Comments/edits due back to Von
  - 2018 February 28: Final sent out to the Subcommittee
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**Next Steps**

The next field visit/meeting will be sometime in late August/early September depending on parcels condition. Details will be finalized as the field visit date approaches. Next business meeting will be 2018 November 14 @ 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.