

Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: October 28, 2009

Time: 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA
2nd Floor Conference Room

Call in number: (509)661-4844, Password is 4000.

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn,
Chelan PUD

Type of meeting: RRFF Meeting

Note taker: Debby Bitterman

Representatives

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Participants

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ATTENDEES IN BOLD

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum to continue Rocky Reach license implementation.

Minutes

Jeff Osborn welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Wildlife Forum (RRWF) meeting. After introductions of attendees, the Forum approved the October 28, 2009 meeting minutes.

The RRWF discussed whether it was necessary to develop a protocol document, similar to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum. The Forum agreed that they could function without a protocol document at this time, but reserve the right to revisit the issue if a protocol document is deemed necessary in the future.

Decision:

RRWF agreed that at this time a protocol document was not necessary, with the option to address in the future, if needed.

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan – Article 403

Von Pope updated the RRWF regarding the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP). After internal review and recommendations this DRAFT was streamlined to only include proposed projects (what, where, and schedule). In order to get the draft plan submitted within the 1-year timeline required by the FERC, the following schedule was set.

Oct 29 – DRAFT WHMP available for 30-day comment period

Nov 27 – RRWF comments back to Von

Dec 11 – final DRAFT WHMP complete

Feb 1 – submit WHMP to FERC (no later than February 1, 2010. It was noted that it could take 3-6 months to receive FERC approval)

After going through individual sections of the draft Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for each agency, the Forum agreed to submit the draft plan for the required 30-day review. Comments from forum members present would be reflected in the draft document submitted for review.

Von explained that all comments would be compiled into a comment chart, which would be included in an appendix of the Wildlife Habitat plan.

Von addressed Chelan PUD's proposal that no future maintenance take place of Canada goose nesting structures on the Rocky Reach Reservoir. Dave Volsen, WDFW, asked Chelan PUD to consider a joint effort to maintain the platforms, but not to include the maintenance program in the WHMP. The Forum agreed that this was a feasible approach. With volunteer assistance, artificial structures in need of repair can be addressed. This project will be reviewed in 5-years to determine whether to continue this joint effort.

Action item:

- ✓ Kelly Cordell-Stine will identify the potential man made nesting structures that are in need of repair and forward that information to Von Pope and Dave Volsen.
- ✓ WDFW and Chelan PUD will coordinate recruiting volunteers (preferably master hunters) to work on this joint effort.

Ute Ladies' Tresses Management Plan – Article 404

Von reported that he would request comments from Karen Kelleher, BLM, Ron Fox, WDFW and Steve Lewis, USFWS, regarding the Ute Ladies'-Tresses Management Plan. He plans to submit this annual plan to FERC December 16, 2009.

Von reported to the forum that an email was sent to FERC within the 10-day notification period and a letter sent to FERC September 30, 2009 regarding the discovery of a new Ute Ladies'-Tresses population.

Action item:

- ✓ Jeff will send an email to poll the RRWF for December 8, 9, or 10 meeting.