

Rocky Reach Meeting Minutes

To: Distribution List
From: Gregg Carrington
Date: September 28, 2000
Subject: Rocky Reach Relicensing Issues
Attendees: Refer to Sign-Up Sheet
Location: Chelan PUD Auditorium, Wenatchee, WA

Meeting Purpose

- 1) To get updates on studies currently underway and study proposals
- 2) To get updates on working group meetings

1999 – 2000 Baseline Studies (see study update handouts)

Scott Kreiter, Chelan PUD (PUD), referred the group to the detailed natural sciences study update handout. He provided a brief update on the following studies:

Water Quality Monitoring

Fieldwork was completed in September and a draft report is due November 30, 2000.

Aquatic Habitat Mapping

Survey work was conducted during August 1999. A draft report is due December 2000.

Fish Presence & Habitat Use

Sampling was completed in October 1999, May 2000 and concluded in August 2000. A draft report is due December 2000.

Creel Survey

Gregg Carrington (PUD) noted that although the results concluded that the effort was low, sampling did not occur during salmon season. Draft report is due October 2000.

Benthic Analysis

Fieldwork and taxonomy are completed. A draft report is due October 2000.

RTE Plants

Scott pointed out that during the RTE survey, five sensitive species were located. Three populations of *Spiranthes diluvialis*, a federally-listed species, were found. One population was found on PUD land, one on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land and one on private land. He mentioned the working group would discuss management objectives. A draft report is due October 2000.

RTE Wildlife & Covertypes Mapping

Wildlife surveys were completed in August 2000 and cover-types delineated in September 1999. A draft report is due October 2000.

Recreation Use Assessment

Michelle Smith (PUD) provided a handout summarizing social sciences working group efforts. The handout included a summary of the report and stated that Debby Howe (Howe Consulting) would present the results at the November 8 working group meeting. She explained that an Entiat Park survey was done to assess the relationship, if any, between the Entiat Park and up river US Forest Service (USFS) campsites. Fieldwork was completed after Labor Day. The Entiat Park addendum will be mailed to working group members separately in order to allow time to analyze the surveys.

Cultural and Historical Resources – Proposed Consultation Process

Scott (PUD) explained the handout was a description of the steps for Section 106 Compliance for Rocky Reach relicensing. He pointed out that Step 1, establish policy level consultation, was a major land mark. On May 24, 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) sent a letter to the Colville Confederate Tribe (CCT) and Yakama Nation (YN) initiating day-to-day consultation to the PUD. Until that time, the PUD has consulted with both tribes at the technical level. Currently, the working group is developing study methods.

2000 – 2001 Studies (see handouts)

Literature Investigation

A draft report is due in October. After review of the issues identified, it could potentially lead to full studies if the working group feels there are too many holes in the data.

White Sturgeon

Incidental take permits were not obtained in time for 2000, but the study would be conducted in 2001 if permits were obtained. Phil (USFS) asked if Chelan PUD would coordinate efforts with Grant PUD. Steve (PUD) explained that PUD did not coordinate efforts with them, but has received periodic updates from them.

Bull Trout Investigation

In the engineering phase of designing traps that will not interfere with ESA listed species at Rock Island and Rocky Reach, the scope of the study was expanded to include the Grand and Douglas PUDs. However, trapping would not be conducted at Grant because only one bull trout was observed.

Mule Deer Mortality

To date, thirty-eight deer have been captured and fitted with radio-collars. Tony, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW), noted that it was interesting to see that the deer captured in Chelan County did not move to Lake Chelan as originally anticipated, but moved west and northwest.

Socioeconomic

The draft report was completed and distributed to working group members on September 18. The study is divided into four sections, baseline conditions, Rocky Reach Project economics, impacts of changes in Project operation and Appendix A, which was included at the request of the Entiat Focus Group to assess the impact from Rocky Reach Project on the city of Entiat and Entiat School District. Report comments are due by October 20, 2000.

Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory will provide a more complete list and description of all the recreation sites within the Project boundary as well as developed sites, undeveloped sites, public land, private land, mitigation land, railroad properties, and lands owned by federal, state, local and NGO's.

Land Management

The consultant was in the process of pulling together all relative comprehensive plans and inserting them into a matrix to ensure consistency and identify any conflicts, if any. If new or updated plans were issued, the new information would be inserted or replaced in the matrix.

Shoreline Erosion

Fieldwork was completed and a total of 48 sites were inventoried. A pattern was noticed that many erosion sites were located where grass extends to the water. After the draft report is completed, an erosion control cookbook of treatment and solutions would be developed similar to the one for Lake Chelan.

Tributary Backwater

The survey was completed. The study area included area near the mouth of the Entiat River and the Entiat River bed and adjoining lands to a point beyond the backwater influence of the project. A model is being prepared to evaluate the influence of the reservoir on water levels at the mouth of the Entiat River.

Cultural Resource Overview

A cultural resource overview was completed in 1983 and working group members agreed that the overview was sufficient and not necessary to conduct another. The working group is discussing field survey methods. Scott explained the two tribes, Colville Confederate Tribe and Yakama Nation, have opposing views regarding surveys. CCT preferred evasive/intrusive methods. Whereas, the Yakama Nation recommended keeping subsurface testing to a bare minimum and, only on occasion, approved of shovel testing. The working group will discuss it further at the October 6, 2000, working group meeting. Phil (USFS) recommended more intense survey work be conducted at the mouth of the Chelan River.

Cumulative Impacts (see flow chart)

Cumulative impacts are the effects of multiple activities that add up incrementally that affect resources of regional or national significance. Gregg (PUD) explained that a Cumulative Impact Assessment is one of the requirements for the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis and a requirement for relicensing. Cumulative impact assessments consider and assess the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities.

Although study results were not complete, Gregg recommended that each working group discuss the subject for any resource that may need to be addressed through a cumulative impact assessment. Working groups would look for issues that were affected by more than one project and were of regional and national significance.

Working Group Updates

Included in baseline study and 2000 – 2001 study updates.

Next Meetings

Next Meetings

Cultural Resources Working Group – October 6, 2000
Social Sciences Working Group – November 8, 2000
Natural Sciences Working Group – November 9, 2000
Engineering/Erosion – To be determined
Full Relicensing Team – Postponed until January 2001

Action Items

Phil will provide pre-Project photos to Scott.
Scott will send bull trout trap design to Phil.
Cultural Resource Working Group will discuss increasing the survey effort at the mouth of Chelan River.

Reference materials are posted on the web site, www.chelanpud.org/relicence. Please contact Rosana Sokolowski, (888) 663-8121, Extension 6371, if hard copies are required.

Sign-up Sheet and Distribution List
Socioeconomic Study Report – First Draft
Cumulative Impact Flow Chart
Social Sciences Working Group Update
Natural Sciences Working Group Update
The *Odocoileus* Report (Mule Deer Update)
Spiranthes Diluvialis Fact Sheet