

Article 3. White Sturgeon Management Plan

Chelan PUD shall implement a White Sturgeon Management Plan, as described in Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan, which is incorporated herein by reference. Specifically:

(a) **Brood stock planning and collection.** Within one year of the effective date of the New License, Chelan PUD shall prepare a brood stock collection plan, in consultation with the RRFF, which considers such factors as genetics and questions of imprinting. Chelan PUD shall begin collection of white sturgeon brood stock after the Rocky Reach Fishery Forum (RRFF) has selected a source of such fish, as described in section 4.1.1 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

(b) **Juvenile white sturgeon stocking.** Chelan PUD shall initiate a white sturgeon stocking program as described in section 4.1.2 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

(1) **Initial stocking of yearling white sturgeon.** Within three years of the effective date of the New License, Chelan PUD shall release of up to 6,500 yearling white sturgeon into the Reservoir annually for three years.

(2) **Adjustments to stocking levels.** Following the third year of supplementation, Chelan PUD shall stock juvenile white sturgeon annually during the term of the New License, at an age class and stocking level determined by the results of the monitoring program. On a schedule developed in consultation with the RRFF (see Table 1 in Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan), Chelan PUD shall implant active sonic tags in a percentage of such fish, in anticipation of future monitoring efforts described in section 4.2.2 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

(3) **Long-term production.** In year 7 of the New License, Chelan PUD shall, in consultation with the RRFF, determine a long-term source of fish to be used for continuing the supplementation program for the term of the New License, as described in section 4.1.3 of the Comprehensive Plan.

(c) **Determine the effectiveness of the supplementation program.** Chelan PUD shall conduct a monitoring program for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness of the supplementation program.

(1) **Index monitoring program.** Beginning in year four of the New License and continuing for three succeeding years, Chelan PUD shall conduct an initial three-year index monitoring program for juvenile and adult sturgeon in the Reservoir to determine age-class structure, survival rates, abundance, density, condition factor, growth rates, and to identify distribution and habitat selection of juvenile sturgeon, as described in section 4.2.1 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan. After the initial three-year indexing period, Chelan PUD shall continue long-term index monitoring every three years over the term of the New License, or on a schedule determined by the RRFF.

(2) Investigation of emigration rate and habitat use of supplemented population.

Beginning in year five of the New License and continuing for three succeeding years, Chelan PUD shall conduct tracking surveys of juvenile white sturgeon that were released with active tags, as described in section 4.2.2 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan, to determine emigration rates and habitat use. Chelan PUD shall conduct additional such surveys in years 14 and 20 of the New License, or on a schedule determined by the RRF.

(3) Supplementation program review. As described in section 4.2.3 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan, Chelan PUD shall compile information on other white sturgeon supplementation programs in the Columbia River Basin in order to assess whether the supplementation program described in sections (a) and (b) of this Article is consistent with similar regional programs; whether improvements can be made; and if economies can be achieved in meeting the objectives of the monitoring program through utilization of research developed at other hydroelectric projects. Such information shall be included, and updated as new information becomes available, in the annual reports to the RRF described in section (e) of this Article.

(d) Determine natural reproduction potential and adjust supplementation program accordingly. Chelan PUD shall track reproductively viable adult sturgeon that were captured and implanted with active tags during the index monitoring program for the purpose of identifying potential spawning locations. As described in section 4.4 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan, five additional annual surveys of natural reproduction will occur between years 8 through 18 of the New License, as recommended by the RRF based on flow conditions or other data.

(e) Reporting. Chelan PUD shall provide a report to the RRF each year that summarizes its activities undertaken pursuant to this Article, as described in section 4.5 of Chapter 3 of the Comprehensive Plan.