

# Rocky Reach Ute Ladies' Tresses Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 30, 2013  
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Location: Wenatchee Headquarters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD      Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting –Ute ladies' Tresses subcommittee  
Note taker: Debby Bitterman

## ***Representatives-Attendees***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Boyer, Molly	BLM	(509) 665-2137	molly_boyter@blm.gov
Fox, Ron	WDFW	(509) 665-3383	ron.fox@dfw.wa.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Pope, Von	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4625	von.pope@chelanpud.org

## ***Participants-Attendees***

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Cordell-Stine, Kelly	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4762	kelly.cordell-stine@chelanpud.org
Arnett, Joe	DNR, NHP	(360) 902-1710	joseph.arnett@dnr.wa.gov
McCracken, Tim	USFWS		timothy_mccracken@fws.gov

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

## **Minutes**

Von Pope 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.

Von reviewed the 11 July 2012 meeting minutes with the Subcommittee. The minutes were approved with one correction; Environmental Site Assessment change to Endangered Species Act.

### **2012 Annual Monitoring Report Review**

Kelly Cordell-Stine gave a brief summary of the survey results from the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report. Although the individual site results for 2012 were lower than 2011 observations, observations were slightly below the long-term average overall (AVG = 476). The majority of sites had counts lower than the long-term average, but 2 sites had counts above the long-term average (Gallagher Flats, Stocker Sites). *See page 4 for further details on the 2012 Monitoring Report efforts.*

Kelly highlighted the Ute Ladies' Tresses 2012 survey results (plants observed):

- Chelan PUD Pond: 64 (AVG = 156)
- Gallagher Flat: 46 (AVG = 30)
- Stocker Sites: 177 (AVG = 169)
- BLM: 150 (AVG = 179)
- WDFW: 2 (AVG = 40)
- PUD Beebe: 0 (AVG = 1)

Kelly noted that although some individual field marking efforts were compromised by coyote vandalism, 94% of all plants located during 2012 were marked with survey-grade GPS (Global Positioning System).

A discussion regarding the steps that are taken in predicting the peak high flow forecast occurred. While daily forecasts are generated by larger storage dams upriver, the predictions are seldom correct. On a large scale, power producers must try to balance flood storage, dissolved gas, demand, and runoff on a daily basis. Chelan PUD has no control over flows coming from upriver. Von stated that while it is likely that flows have some relationship to the presence of Ute ladies' tresses these plants have persisted under both high and low flow episodes over the past 12 years. Since Columbia River flows are not manageable, it may be more beneficial to focus on managing habitat for the benefit of Ute ladies' tresses..

Hard copies of the 2012 Annual Monitoring Report were mailed to the Subcommittee Representatives. For those who did not receive a hard copy, Von noted that hard copies are available upon request. Some general discussion of the 2012 monitoring effort ensued.

### **2013 Weed Control Proposals**

Von noted that Chelan PUD had not received any weed control proposals from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for Subcommittee consideration. After discussion the Subcommittee agreed that the Chelan PUD Pond Site should be the first consideration for weed control treatment. Consensus of the Subcommittee was to use the cut & daub method-using Garlon to treat for Blackberry.

Ron Fox recommended a dual weed control effort for Blackberry and Yellow-flag iris at the Chelan Pond site. After discussion, it was concluded that weed control for Yellow-flag iris and Blackberry at the same time would be a challenge. Yellow-flag iris was upgraded on the Risk Matrix during the 6 June 2012 site visit. Kelly recommended reviewing the Rocky Reach Wildlife Area Integrated Terrestrial Invasive Plant Control Plan (ITIPC) because it does include recommended treatment methods for Yellow-flag iris. After further discussion, the Subcommittee agreed that further research would be necessary to determine the best approach for weed control of Yellow-flag iris.

Von emphasis that the Chelan Pond site weed control proposal needs to include the location of the proposed action, the expected cost, schedule for treatment, and address any species of conservation concern as well as landowner considerations, agency, or private.

#### **Action Item:**

- Von will contact the Chelan PUD weed control contractor regarding their experience/knowledge concerning weed control for Yellow-flag iris.
- Von and Kelly will draft Chelan Pond Site weed control proposal.
  - 15 February 2013: Von will send draft proposal to Subcommittee for comments
  - 25 February 2013: Subcommittee's comments are due to Von
  - 8 March 2013: Von will compile comments into a final proposal and send final proposal to Subcommittee for review/comments.
  - 15 March 2013: Subcommittee comments on final due to Von.

### **Chelan PUD Proposal for 5-year Monitoring Plan**

Von reviewed the proposal to conduct the 5-year monitoring for Ute Ladies' Tresses along Rocky Reach Reservoir as required under Article 404. Every five years Chelan PUD will conduct a survey of suitable habitats along the project reservoir to identify the establishment of any new Ute Ladies' Tresses populations. Von used existing Chelan PUDGIS data for defining suitable shoreline habitats along Rocky Reach Reservoir. The Subcommittee discussed the proposed monitoring area map (handout was provided). Joe Arnett recommended that a couple of additional sites should be considered. After discussion, Von said that he would send the map to Joe Arnett to identify additional survey areas. Once received, Von will update the proposal including the monitoring area map and send to the Subcommittee for their review.

Action Item:

- 5-year Monitoring Plan schedule:
  - 1 February 2013: Joe will provide the additional sites for consideration for monitoring to Von.
  - 15 February 2013: Von will add the additional sites to the map and send to the Subcommittee for their review/comments.
  - 25 February 2013: Subcommittee comments due to Von.

Next Steps

Next meeting has been for 4 December 2013, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, to finalize weed control work and approval of reimbursement to Chelan PUD.

## *Spiranthes summary for 2012 surveys*

Year	PUD Pond site	Gallagher Flat	Stocker Sites	BLM	WDFW	PUD Beebe	Total
2000	185	7	60	.	.	.	<b>252</b>
2001	71	0	0	.	.	.	<b>71</b>
2002	128	1	46	.	.	.	<b>175</b>
2003	178	19	58	.	.	.	<b>255</b>
2004	193	15	172	.	.	.	<b>380</b>
2005	217	29	72	20	.	.	<b>318</b>
2006	180	18	173	25	.	.	<b>396</b>
2007	177	48	398	336	.	.	<b>959</b>
2008	193	43	182	135	.	.	<b>553</b>
2009	145	29	220	235	42	1	<b>672</b>
2010	153	43	320	280	109	1	<b>902</b>
2011	149	92	320	247	8	0	<b>816</b>
2012	64	46	177	150	2	0	<b>439</b>
<b>long-term AVG</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>476</b>

### *2012 notes*

High water came a month later than 2011. Plants were vigorous at PUD River site, BLM, and in the South meadow of the Stocker parcel. Lowest # ever recorded along PUD pond and WDFW sites. Gallagher Flats inundated through 23 August 2012 (incomplete survey due to rising water).

### *2012 comparison to averages*

AVG's in the last 5 years have been higher than the long-term AVG.

	PUD Pond site	Gallagher Flat	Stocker Sites	BLM	WDFW	PUD Beebe	Total
<b>AVG: previous 5 yrs (07-11)</b>	163	51	288	247	53*	1*	780
<b>2012 vs 5yr AVG</b>	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower
<b>2012 vs long-term AVG</b>	Lower	Higher	Higher	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower

\*2009-11 only; population discovered during 2009 season.