

Rocky Reach Fish Forum

Wednesday, 1 May 2013

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room

Wenatchee, WA



Meeting called by Steve Hemstrom

Chairperson, Tracy Hillman

Notes taken by Suzanne Hodgson

Attending Representatives:

Hemstrom, Steve	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4281	steven.hemstrom@chelanpud.org
Irle, Pat (phone)	Ecology	(509) 454-7864	pir461@ecy.wa.gov
Rose, Bob (phone)	YN	(509) 865-5121	rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov
Verhey, Patrick	WDFW	(509) 754-4624	patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov

Attending Participants:

Clement, Mike (phone)	Grant PUD	(509) 754-5088 x2633	mclemen@gcpud.org
Hillman, Tracy	BioAnalysts	(208) 321-0363	tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net
Hodgson, Suzanne	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4758	suzanne.hodgson@chelanpud.org
Keller, Lance	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4299	lance.keller@chelanpud.org
Murauskas, Josh	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4181	Josh.murauskas@chelanpud.org
Nelle, RD (phone)	USFWS	(509) 548-7573	RD_Nelle@fws.gov

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes.

II. Review of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the 3 April 2013 meeting were approved with edits, including a clarification that the spreadsheet mentioned in Section V is the RRFF's Juvenile Lamprey Effects Spreadsheet.

Tracy Hillman reported to the RRFF that Josh Murauskas and Joe Miller have accepted positions with Anchor QEA, a consulting firm, and will be leaving Chelan PUD in May.

IV. Water Quality

Update on Water Quality Reports

Tracy Hillman stated that Waikele Frantz gave him a brief update on water quality issues before the meeting. He relayed that the annual water quality report was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) this week and that Steve Hays sent a proposed schedule to Pat Irle that identifies when the macrophyte bed report will be available for review. Pat Irle indicated that Steve Hays will send the draft report to both the Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the RRFF on 17 June 2013, comments will be due back to Chelan PUD on 26 July 2013, and the final report will be sent to Ecology, the RRFF, and FERC on 30 August 2013. Pat asked if Waikele could be available at the beginning of the meetings to address any questions that she and the rest of the RRFF may have for her.

Action Item:

- Tracy Hillman will check with Waikele Frantz to see if she can be present at the beginning of RRFF meeting to address questions.

V. Pacific Lamprey

Rocky Reach Project Effects

With regard to the effects of Rocky Reach operations on Pacific lamprey (i.e., No Net Impact or NNI), Bob Rose said that in his mind's eye the key issues include (1) the fate of adult lamprey in the reservoirs, (2) basic status and trend monitoring information, (3) juvenile lamprey predation (particularly in the tailrace), and (4) adult lamprey translocation and/or juvenile propagation. He indicated that these are not all the responsibility of the PUDs, but the issues need to be considered in context with the Regional Conservation Agreement. He added that he needs more time to discuss these issues and identify critical questions with RD Nelle, Steve Lewis, Patrick Verhey, and some of the other managers on how to proceed. He said that he envisions that this work will take the next three or so years, and that he does not yet know how the work fits into NNI. Bob added that he knows what the Yakama Nation can do to assist with several issues, but he has not yet talked with the other agencies.

Tracy Hillman noted that Chelan PUD will need to submit a progress report to FERC on this topic in

February 2014. Steve Hemstrom added that this is the five-year report on meeting NNI and downstream and upstream passage, and that it is due to FERC on 14 February 2014. Steve described the progress that has been made on the first three of four objectives for the Lamprey Management Plan in the license. Bob suggested convening a subgroup of interested parties to develop a table of contents for the progress report and decide what conclusions can be drawn for the FERC report.

Steve stated that he heard an informative presentation at the Western Division American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting in Boise, ID, that described adult lamprey passage at dams. He asked if the group would be interested in having the presenters, Chris Caudill and Chris Noyes from the University of Idaho (U of I), give the presentation to the RRFF. The RRFF said they would like to hear the presentation. Steve Hemstrom said that he will check with the researchers to see if they can give the presentation to the RRFF. Discussion took place regarding possible lamprey research on a regional scale.

Action Items:

- Bob Rose will meet with other managers to discuss priorities and link efforts with NNI.
- Bob Rose and Steve Hemstrom will convene a meeting of the Pacific Lamprey sub-group to put together a table of contents and bullet points for the five-year progress report to FERC that is due in early 2014.
- Steve Hemstrom will pursue the possibility of having Chris Caudill and Chris Noyes give their Western Division AFS presentation to the RRFF.

Juvenile Effects Spreadsheet

Tracy Hillman reported that Steve Hemstrom sent out the most recent version of the juvenile lamprey effects spreadsheet with comments from Ralph Lampman and Steve Lewis. Bob Rose stated that the spreadsheet is an inventory of all the issues that might affect juvenile lamprey, and that the group should pick the top two or three concerns that can be evaluated in a cost-efficient manner. RD Nelle noted that he hopes that the effects spreadsheet will link to the regional conservation agreement. Tracy agreed, but noted its original intent was to be linked to the NNI discussions. Discussion took place around the use of the spreadsheet.

Action Item:

- Bob Rose and Steve Hemstrom will go through the Juvenile Lamprey Effects Spreadsheet to prioritize actions and edit comments as necessary.

WDAFS Pacific Lamprey Presentations

Tracy Hillman reported that Josh Murauskas presented his lamprey paper at the Western Division AFS meeting. Steve Hemstrom said that there were several good presentations that might be available for review, either by contacting individual authors or the facilitator of the lamprey symposium.

Action Item:

- Steve Hemstrom will look for other AFS Symposium presentations that might be useful for to the

RRFF.

Adult HD PIT Monitoring

Steve Hemstrom noted that the lamprey PIT-tag downloading team is in place and that no adult lampreys have yet been detected at Rocky Reach Dam this year. He added that lampreys are more likely to be detected in July. Tracy Hillman noted that impingement monitoring will take place at Rocky Reach Dam from 15 May through 15 June 2013.

VI. Resident Fish

Resident Fish Report – WDFW Revision

Tracy Hillman reported that after the RRFF agreed to finalize the Resident Fish Report, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requested additional time to conduct an internal review of the document. The review is intended to improve readability. There will be no changes in conclusions or recommendations. Chad Jackson will work with Dave Burgess and Katrina Simmons on editing the report. Tracy added that after they finish their review, the report will be sent to Chelan PUD. Tracy said that the final version should be available in a month or two. Steve Hemstrom indicated that the RRFF can decide what the timeline is for the next set of three resident fish evaluations, per the RRFF's decision at the April meeting. Steve added that he would like to wait until the WDFW report is final and then set the timing for those evaluations, building some flexibility into the timeline.

Action Item:

- Steve Hemstrom will provide a proposed timeline for the remaining three resident fish evaluations, which were agreed upon at the April 2013 RRFF meeting.

VII. White Sturgeon

Broodstock Collection and Coordination

Josh Murauskas reported that a large number of volunteers have signed up to help collect adult sturgeon broodstock. He noted that WDFW has provided bait for collecting adult sturgeon.

Juvenile Rearing and Release

Josh Murauskas stated that all juvenile sturgeon have been scute marked and PIT tagged, and that they are getting ready for stocking in the near future. He added that the Statement of Agreement (SOA) was approved for stocking up to 6,500 juvenile sturgeon next year. These fish will be reared at the Columbia Basin Hatchery and Chelan Falls Hatchery. Lance Keller said that 65 acoustic tags were implanted into juvenile sturgeon over the last four days and that the fish looked very healthy. He added that some of the acoustic tags are pressure sensitive (i.e., they provide data on depth) and that some V7 tags were

also used to gather data on smaller fish. Josh said that up to 7,600 fish will be released most likely in May.

Update on Juvenile Monitoring

Tracy Hillman reported that he received no comments on the Rocky Reach Reservoir White Sturgeon Index and Monitoring Annual Report 2012 that was recently completed by Blue Leaf Environmental and LGL Limited. He added that the final version should be available in the next few weeks.

VIII. Next Steps

The next regular meeting of the RRFF will be on 5 June 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Chelan PUD Second-Floor Conference Room.