

Chelan River Fishery Forum (CRFF) Meeting Minutes

Date: June 20, 2013

Time: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA
Second Floor Conference Room

Call in number: 1-877-662-4493, Access Code is 23151435.

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD

Note taker: Suzanne Hodgson

Attending CRFF Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Phil Archibald	LCSA	(509) 784-2471	Kim.l.lohse@gmail.com
Brad Caldwell	Ecology	(360) 407-6639	Brca461@ecy.wa.gov
Steve Hays	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4179	Steve.hays@chelanpud.org
Suzanne Hodgson	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4758	Suzanne.hodgson@chelanpud.org
Pat Irle	Ecology	(509) 454-7864	Pirle461@ecy.wa.gov
Steve Lewis	USFWS	(509)665-3508 x14	Stephen_Lewis@fws.gov
Jeff Osborn	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4176	jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org
Travis Maitland	WDFW	(509) 665-3337	Travis.maitland@dfw.wa.gov
Jim Pacheco	Ecology	(360) 407-7458	jpac461@ecy.wa.gov
Graham Simon	WDFW	(509) 662-0503	Graham.simon@dfw.wa.gov
Justin Yeager (phone)	NOAA	(509) 925-2618 x224	Justin.Yeager@noaa.gov

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Chelan River Fishery Forum to continue Lake Chelan license implementation

Minutes

Jeff Osborn welcomed everyone to the Chelan River Fishery Forum (CRFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only. Introductions took place.

Channel Habitat Suitability Index Data Review

Brad Caldwell provided a Power Point presentation illustrating Habitat Suitability Index (HIS) data about water depth, water velocity and substrate size on 16 transects established throughout the Habitat Channel. He noted that generally, the channel shape has not changed significantly from original construction, even though high flows of 5,000 to 6,000 cfs have occurred during the last three years, but the channel has narrowed on many transects. A chart was displayed, illustrating differences in substrate makeup on the transects.

Brad reviewed the channel criteria from 2007 which included a target velocity of 2 feet per second, a depth of 2 feet, and a gravel size of 2 to 4 inches for steelhead spawning in some areas of the Habitat Channel. He noted that transects in the upper channel section and other areas are not meeting these criteria. Brad recommended that the Habitat Channel be widened in order to create conditions on more transects with water depths and velocities of 2 feet deep and 2 feet /sec. Jeff discussed fish use, specifically steelhead spawning, an element of the channel widening Issue Paper. The number of steelhead redds per mile in the Habitat Channel has been equal to or greater than other good steelhead spawning streams in the vicinity of the Chelan River. The high number of redds in the Habitat Channel demonstrate that suitable water depths, velocities, and substrate size for steelhead spawning is available and being used in the channel. Brad stated that comparing the number of redds constructed in the Habitat Channel to the natural environment was not appropriate, and that the physical measurements of 2 feet deep and 2 feet/sec. were the appropriate criteria for success. Much discussion ensued on the topic of widening of the channel. The primary outcome from the meeting regarding widening the Habitat Channel is that Ecology and Chelan PUD representatives have significant disagreement over the need to widen the Habitat Channel and the criteria for success for the Habitat Channel. Additional discussion occurred regarding reduction of water flow and enhancement of substrate.

Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of getting heavy equipment close to the channel in order to move substrate, particularly in transects 4, 5, 6 & 7, and whether or not this would be covered under the PUD's current permit with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Action Items:

- Jim Pacheco agreed to provide the following:
 - fix several incorrect columns on one HSI chart;
 - provide additional transect substrate data for 2010 and 2013;
 - provide Weighted Useable Area (WUA) for steelhead juveniles;
- Brad and Jim agreed to review transects 4, 5, 6, and 7 and identify areas that could benefit from gravel enhancement.
- Jeff Osborn agreed to develop a study proposal to move substrate and conduct flow control testing.
- Jeff agreed to investigate permit issues regarding gravel enhancement with the appropriate PUD staff.

Chelan River Habitat Channel Widening Issue Paper

Discussion of this topic took place as part of the previous section.

Chelan River Westslope Cutthroat Trout Stocking Proposal

Jeff Osborn outlined the proposal, stating that in year five, colonization of cutthroat trout in the Chelan River is going slowly, and that staff are concerned that sufficient data won't be available in year 10 of the Water Quality Certification compliance period. Discussion took place around the details of the proposed stocking, including number of fish, location, timing, and possible tagging and marking. Steve Lewis mentioned possible improvements to the habitat in the upper Chelan River, and Jeff noted that a riparian vegetation feasibility study is also a 401 requirement.

Action Items:

- Jeff agreed to revisit the requirements involved with the Reach 1 Riparian Feasibility Study and report back to the Forum.
- Jeff will incorporate Forum members' comments and edits into the stocking study proposal
- Jeff meet with WDFW to discuss alternative cutthroat trout rearing possibilities
- Jeff will develop an implementation schedule and discuss with the Forum at a future meeting.

Habitat Channel Ramping Rate Investigation

Jeff provided a handout proposing a study on the Habitat Channel ramping rate. He suggested reducing the number of pumps operating for one day in May to determine changes in water surface elevation, document numbers of stranded Chinook fry, if any, and determine whether the ramping rate for shutting down pumps can be altered to avoid future violations. After discussion, the Forum agreed to the investigation.

Action Items:

- Jim agreed to review the location of redds and verify incubation flow for pump reduction investigation to make sure that a pump reduction won't negatively affect them.
- Jeff requested that Forum members send any comments on the study to him, so that he can incorporate them and resubmit the proposal to the Forum at a future meeting.

Habitat Channel Flow Reduction Proposal

Discussion on this proposal took place earlier in the meeting. After discussion, the Forum agreed to the investigation.

Action Items:

- Jeff Osborn will incorporate members' comments and edits into the proposal and review it with the Forum at a future meeting

Chelan River Water Quality Monitoring Results

Steve Hays was not present for this portion of the meeting, but had provided charts detailing water temperature, oxygen levels and pH from August 2012 through June 2013. Pat Irlle requested additional temperature information. Jeff Osborn requested that she contact Steve Hays directly in order to have her request provided clearly, adding that Steve could then provide this information to all Forum members.

Other Items:

Discussion took place regarding the next meetings. After discussion, it was agreed that Jeff Osborn will send out meeting date options to the Forum for a conference call on July 16, 17 or 18 to discuss gravel supplementation progress. Pat requested that temperature modeling be placed on the agenda. Additionally, the group agreed to schedule a larger, four-hour meeting on August 14th or 15th. Jeff suggested that the group meet at the PUD Headquarters at 8 a.m.