

Rocky Reach Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 June 2014

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room

Wenatchee, WA



Meeting called by Steve Hemstrom

Notes taken by Teneille Hatmaker

Chairperson, Tracy Hillman

Attending Representatives:

Hemstrom, Steve	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4281	steven.hemstrom@chelanpud.org
Irle, Pat (phone)	Ecology	(509) 454-7864	pir461@ecy.wa.gov
Lewis, Steve	USFWS	(509) 665-3508 x14	stephen_lewis@fws.gov
Rose, Bob	YN	(509) 865-5121	rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov
Verhey, Patrick	WDFW	(509) 754-4624	patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov

Attending Participants:

Hatmaker, Teneille	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4758	teneille.hatmaker@chelanpud.org
Hillman, Tracy	BioAnalysts	(208) 321-0363	tracy.hillman@bioanalysts.net
Jackson, Chad (phone)	WDFW	(509) 754-4624 x250	chad.jackson@dfw.wa.gov
Keller, Lance	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4299	lance.keller@chelanpud.org
McLellan, Jason (phone)	CCT	(509) 263-1082	jason.mclellan@colvilletribes.com
Nelle, RD	USFWS	(509) 548-7573	Rd_nelle@fws.gov
Steinmetz, Marcie	Chelan PUD	(509) 661- 4186	marcie.steinmetz@chelanpud.org
Tonseth, Mike (phone)	WDFW	(509) 663-9678	michael.tonseth@dfw.wa.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 reviewed and approved.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved with minor edits on pages 3, 4, and 6.

IV. Review and Approval of Sturgeon Workshop Notes

Draft Notes from the Juvenile Sturgeon Workshop were approved and finalized.

V. Water Quality

Marcie Steinmetz, Chelan PUD, provided an update on the effects of the Malaga Fire on power generation, dam operations, and consequently total dissolved gas (TDG) at Rock Island Dam. During this time, fish were collected and analyzed for gas bubble trauma (GBT). Pat Irlle reported that Douglas tested 107 fish of different species and found no GBT problems.

Marcie also talked about the Chelan County Weed Control Board Eurasian Watermilfoil Pilot Project. The Board has received grant money and proposes to treat 69 acres of watermilfoil with an herbicide at Entiat Park. The Board has contracted Terry McNabb with AquaTechnex to apply the herbicide. AquaTechnex has applied for a five-year general permit from the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to apply the herbicide. Within the general permitting process, there is a public comment period when comments can be submitted to Ecology. The address for submitting comments is in the packet of information that was provided by Ecology. There is a 30 day comment period that should begin on 6 June 2014.

Action Item:

- **Marcie Steinmetz will put together the proposal packet and provide it to the RRF.**

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Rocky Reach Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report

The Rocky Reach Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report was sent to the RRF for their review. All comments received on the first draft and Chelan PUD's responses are included in the second draft report (see Appendix A: Comment and Response Appendix in the Five-Year report)

Action Items:

- **Comments on the second draft Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report are due on Friday, 20 June.**
- **Steve Hemstrom will forward the Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report to Michelle**

Smith, who will determine whether or not to submit it to FERC (note that Chelan PUD is not required to send this report to FERC).

Rocky Reach Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report

Steve Hemstrom explained that comments made on the Five-Year Biological Objectives Status Report cannot be applied to the Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report. Comments must be provided separately for each report. Therefore, Steve asked the Forum to provide separate comments on the Pacific lamprey report. Comments are due on Friday, 20 June. Further discussion took place around the similarities and differences between the two five-year reports.

Action Items:

- **Comments on the Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report are due on Friday, 20 June.**
- **Bob Rose will send his comments on the Pacific Lamprey Five-Year Adaptive Management Status Report to Steve Hemstrom early next week.**

Pacific Lamprey at Tumwater Dam

Steve Lewis noted that Steve Rainey has not yet visited Tumwater Dam to measure water velocities at the entrance to the Tumwater fishway. Within the next week or two, Steve Lewis will talk with the appropriate party at Chelan PUD to get access to the fishway. Steve Hemstrom will find out who needs to be notified at Chelan PUD and share that information with Steve Lewis.

Action Item:

- **Steve Hemstrom will find out who needs to be notified at Chelan PUD to schedule the measurement of fishway entrance velocities at Tumwater Dam.**

Regional Implementation Planning Process

RD Nelle has been holding meetings and working with participants to fill out a regional Pacific lamprey template (USFWS Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative) that lists threats and possible solutions, along with possible funding and implementation plans. He will schedule additional meetings in the future to populate the remaining templates. He encouraged Chelan PUD to participate in the meetings. Steve Hemstrom asked RD to email the templates so Steve can begin reviewing and populating them. Steve noted that given Chelan PUD's current work load and schedule, it will be difficult for Chelan to participate in the meetings. RD indicated that he would like to have the templates completed by the end of July 2014.

Action Item:

- **RD Nelle will schedule the next meetings and send the lamprey templates to Steve Hemstrom.**

Wanapum Response: Rock Island Lamprey Passage Structures

Lance Keller reported that work is still being conducted on the left adult fishway ladder. The PUD is adding a Denil extension that includes a lamprey ramp attached to the side of it. The ramps and rest boxes are on site and installation will begin this week. All in-water support installation is complete. All work is on schedule and will be completed on 30 June. The upper rest box will take a longer period of time to complete because of a slide gate that is being engineered. Power generation at Rock Island Dam is still reduced at this time.

Lance stated that the June Interim Fish Passage Plan (IFPP) for Rock Island was submitted to FERC. Lance indicated that he would make the report available to the RRF. The report includes pictures of the denil and lamprey ramps.

Steve Lewis asked if adult lamprey would be tagged to assess whether or not the lamprey structure is working at Rock Island. Lance Keller explained that if the fish are detected at Rock Island there is no way of telling whether or not they used the lamprey structure. They would only know that the fish entered the ladder and were able to ascend. Steve Hemstrom said that there are no plans to radio-tag adult lamprey at this time, but Chelan PUD is willing to discuss further options.

Bob Rose expressed the need to evaluate whether or not the fish will be able to use the lamprey ramp. He recommended further discussions and planning within the RRF and stressed the immediate need to understand whether or not the ramp is working. Steve Hemstrom noted that there will be an opportunity to take a preliminary look and agreed that it is important to have a plan in place ahead of time. To that end, Steve Hemstrom stated that he could begin by looking at an hourly analysis of flow. This analysis will provide the approximate time frame in July- August when river flows have receded to a level where the normal fishway entrances in the tailrace may not be useable, and the newly installed denil entrances and lamprey ramps will be available or migrating adult fish and lamprey.

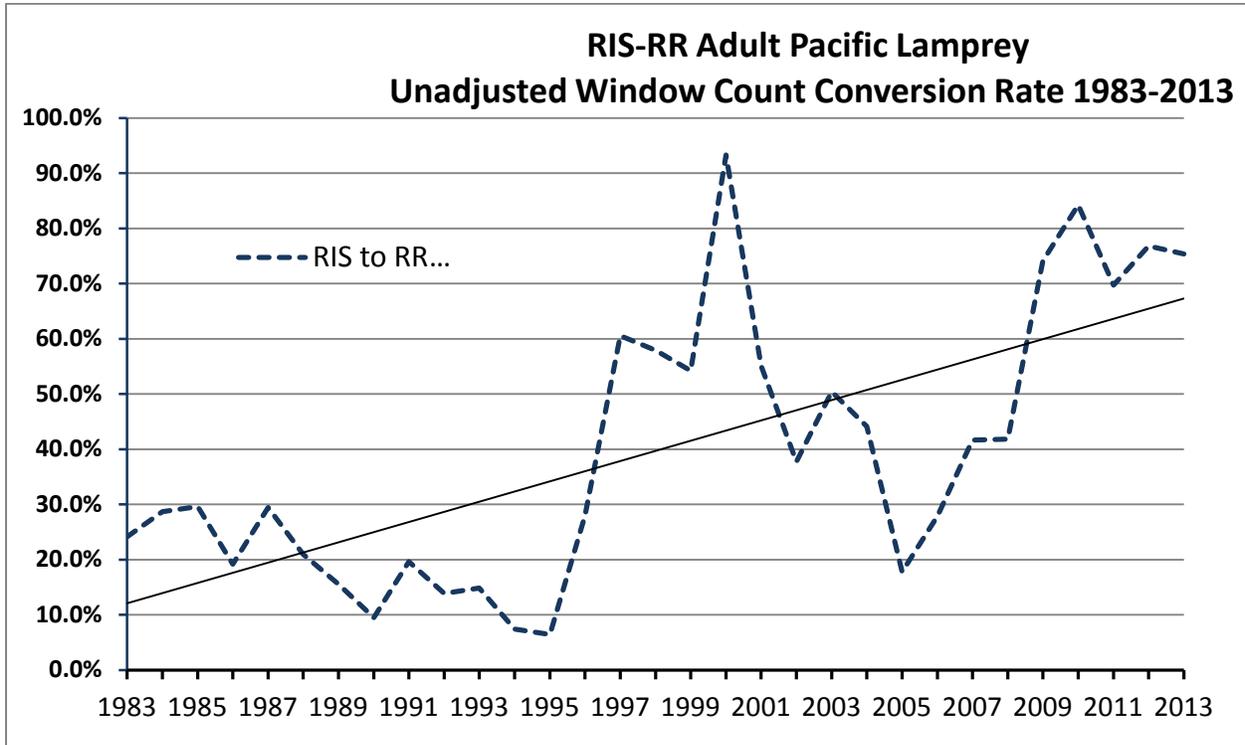
Action items:

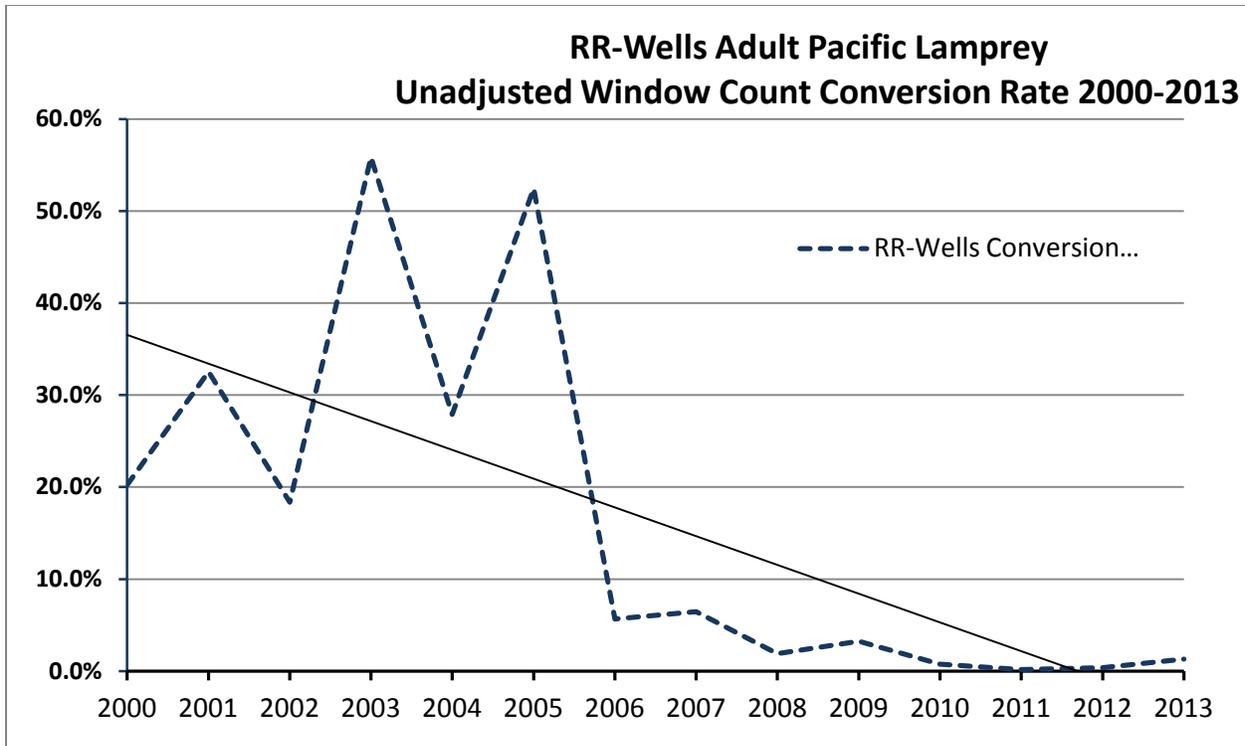
- **Lance Keller will send Tracy Hillman the June Interim Fish Passage Plan (IFPP) for Rock Island Dam that was sent to FERC. Tracy will then distribute the plan to the RRF.**
- **Chelan PUD will arrange a call with Grant County PUD to discuss lamprey tagging.**
- **Chelan PUD will review options for assessing lamprey passage at the denils at Rock Island Dam.**

Adult Pacific Lamprey Conversions (RI-RR and RR-Wells)

Steve Hemstrom provided the RRF with graphs of adult lamprey window passage count conversion rates from Rock Island Dam to Rocky Reach Dam, and from Rocky Reach Dam to Wells Dam. These are unadjusted conversion rates meaning that they are not corrected for fall back, escapement of adult

lamprey into mainstem tributaries, or adults that spawn within the reservoirs. Steve showed the following figures during the meeting.





Based on the window counts, only a small proportion of the adult lampreys that pass Rocky Reach Dam also pass Wells Dam. Discussion took place regarding the need to develop a way to monitor adult lamprey and their passage from Rock Island Dam to Wells Dam, escapement numbers into tributaries, and other possible reasons for the low conversion rates past Wells Dam.

In an effort to move forward and see progress, Bob Rose suggested that a regional meeting be arranged with Chelan PUD, Grant PUD, and Douglas PUD to discuss monitoring options and future studies. Steve Hemstrom explained that although he is willing to have discussions with the other PUDs, Chelan PUD should not be the party to initiate or schedule such meetings. Bob said that he would work on setting up the joint meetings.

Chelan PUD will read the trap-and-haul plans prepared by Grant PUD and then connect with Grant PUD to confirm their plans for adult lamprey. Chelan PUD will evaluate opportunities for use of Pacific Lamprey from the trap-and-haul plan.

Action Items:

- **Steve Hemstrom will provide the RRF with lamprey conversion rate data for next month's Rocky Reach Fish Forum.**
- **Chelan PUD will review the validity of existing data on the Rocky Reach fishway entrance**

efficiencies and passage of lamprey at Rocky Reach.

- **Bob Rose will coordinate a joint meeting with Grant, Douglas, and Chelan PUDs.**
- **Tracy Hillman will work with Mike Schiewe on the logistics for the joint meeting.**

Results from the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee Meeting

Steve Hemstrom summarized the discussions from the 20 May meeting of the Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee. Michelle Smith, Steve Hemstrom, Bob Rose, RD Nelle, and Pat Irle participated in the meeting. Translocation of adult lamprey was the main focus of the discussion.

Bob Rose asked the RRF to take a few minutes to discuss the NNI proposal and requested that the group express their support or non-support for the ten objectives identified in his May PowerPoint presentation. He confirmed his support and described the benefits he believes the proposal contains. He added that the proposal is consistent with all plans and agreements, and encouraged the RRF to use the framework (10 Objectives) from the May meeting as the path forward.

Steve Lewis (USFWS), Pat Irle (Ecology), and Patrick Verhey (WDFW) all supported the ten objectives. Patrick stated that it is important to point out that his support of the objectives does not mean that the PUDs are entirely responsible for funding the objectives. Pat Irle also noted that the objectives do not specify which entity is responsible for which action(s). Jason McLellan (Colville Tribes) abstained and noted that he would need to discuss the issue with Kirk Truscott. Representatives from Alcoa, the City of Entiat, and the National Park Service were not present to vote.

Steve Hemstrom (Chelan PUD) expressed concerns with the NNI proposal and referred the Forum to the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP) where it instructs Chelan PUD to measure project effects and then compensate for any Project effect that is determined to be unavoidable. Steve voiced his discomfort with accepting a Project effect without first measuring it. He went on to add that the framework and objectives are good, but they skip vital steps as outlined in the PLMP. He explained that it is currently difficult to assess what the project effects are, and that Chelan PUD would be accepting effects without the chance to measure them. He also stated that Chelan PUD may be willing to take steps to fund NNI, but that some of the ten objectives provided by Bob, like translocation, were mitigation actions rather than project effects studies. Steve ended by asking the Forum to read and review pages 5-1 and 5-2 in the Executive Summary of the PLMP. Steve explained that the goal of the PLMP is to “measure and then fix. Where fixes cannot be made to avoid a measured impact, then provide mitigation for NNI.”

Bob Rose said that the three PUDs need to work together to begin measuring project effects. Bob noted that the first joint meeting with the three PUDs will begin the process of identifying the appropriate methods for addressing each objective. Bob said that discussion will focus on the approaches to addressing each objective and that there will be no discussion about Licenses and Agreements at that time. The second joint meeting will focus on who is responsible for funding the work under each

objective. At that meeting parties can discuss how objectives link with the Licenses and Agreements.

Action Items:

- **Steve Hemstrom will prepare a document on what Chelan PUD has done to date, and what is required to be done, as identified in the Rocky Reach license.**
- **The RRF should review pages 5-1 and 5-2 in the Executive Summary of the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan.**

VII. Bull Trout

Bull Trout and Tumwater Dam

Steve Lewis reported that the USFWS is currently composing a letter that attempts to clarify the Section 6 Permit and they are also working on the HGMP consultation. These factors could potentially affect Tumwater Dam and/or the Bull Trout Management Plan. Mike Tonseth, WDFW, discussed issues associated with the spring Chinook relative reproductive success studies and permitting at Tumwater Dam.

VIII. White Sturgeon

Adult Broodstock Collection

Lance Keller reported that with additional funding offered by Grant PUD, efforts for collecting sturgeon broodstock doubled between 18 May and 28 May. Chelan PUD worked with Blue Leaf and provided Donella Miller, Yakama Nation, with nine females and 11 males. On 1 and 2 June they extracted and preserved milt from an additional male. They have successfully spawned five females and five males.

Juvenile Monitoring

Lance Keller said that he received comments from Jason McLellan on the 2013 juvenile sturgeon monitoring report. Lance passed those comments to Blue Leaf, who will finalize the report.

Phase 2 Sturgeon Conservation Program

With the protocol approved for the 2015 release, further discussion took place regarding future years. Lance will be contacting the University of British Columbia (UBC) about a model that they have developed that could assist with the process. Pat Irle and Lance Keller reiterated that although the framework has been started, there is still work to be done to finalize policy procedures for future years.

Action Item:

- **Lance Keller will check with UBC for information on their model for releases beyond 2015.**

IX. 25 Mile Creek

Steve Hemstrom reviewed with the RRF an email he received from Jason Lundgren, Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group (CCFEG), regarding the 25 Mile Creek fish passage project. In short, CCFEG is requesting that the RRF communicate and coordinate with Chelan County Natural Resources Department (CCNRD) on this project, because the County will be leading restoration activities on the stream. In the email, Jason indicated that he can help with stakeholder and funding coordination, but recommended that the RRF invite Mike Kaputa, CCNRD, to an upcoming RRF meeting to discuss 25 Mile Creek. Because the County has not requested funding from the RRF for implementing a fish passage project on 25 Mile Creek, the RRF did not see a reason to invite Mike to a meeting anytime soon.

X. Next Steps

The next regular meeting of the RRF will be Wednesday, 2 July 2014 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Chelan PUD Second Floor Conference Room.