

# Chelan River Fishery Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2015  
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Location: Chelan PUD Headquarters, Wenatchee, WA  
Engineering Services Conference Room

Call in number: 1-509-661-4844, Access Code is 4000

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn,  
Chelan PUD

Note taker: Debby Bitterman

## Attending Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Graham Simon	WDFW	509-662-0503	<a href="mailto:Graham.Simon@dfw.wa.gov">Graham.Simon@dfw.wa.gov</a>
Travis Maitland	WDFW	509-665-3337	<a href="mailto:Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov">Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov</a>
Chris Coffin	Ecology	509-575-2821	<a href="mailto:ccof461@ecy.wa.gov">ccof461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
Jim Pacheco	Ecology	360-407-7458	<a href="mailto:jpac461@ecy.wa.gov">jpac461@ecy.wa.gov</a>
Phil Archibald	LCSA	509-784-2471	<a href="mailto:kim.l.lohse@gmail.com">kim.l.lohse@gmail.com</a>
Marcie Steinmetz	Chelan PUD	509-661-4180	<a href="mailto:marcie.steinmetz@chelanpud.org">marcie.steinmetz@chelanpud.org</a>
Paul Pickett	Ecology		
Jeff Osborn	Chelan PUD	509-661-4176	<a href="mailto:jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org">jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org</a>
Steve Hays	Chelan PUD	509-661-4181	<a href="mailto:steve.hays@chelanpud.org">steve.hays@chelanpud.org</a>

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 purpose only.

Jim Pacheco's, Ecology, presentation, Chelan Fish Channel Habitat Study, provided steelhead spawning habitat data. Jim concluded the following:

- Gravel enhancement increased amount of suitable steelhead spawning habitat
- Reduced spawning flow made more suitable habitat
- Depth and velocities are outside the preferred steelhead spawning criteria in many areas of the channel

Jim suggested that the next steps for potential habitat improvement to be considered are:

- Additional and continuous gravel enhancement
- Increase overall stream width to 100'
- Increase channel within select ideal spawning areas to 100'
- Model habitat under a 3 pump operation

Jeff noted a difference of understanding between Chelan PUD and Ecology in the process of developing the habitat channel. Jeff stated that a number of options for channel configuration in both Reach 4 and the Project's tailrace were considered during Relicensing. The Natural Sciences Work Group (NSWG) selected an independent consultant (Stillwater Sciences) to develop a number of concepts to provide habitat for spawning and rearing prior to license issuance. The development of configurations and subsequent evaluations were done interactively between other consultants and the Chelan River Fishery Forum after license issuance.

Steve Hays, Chelan PUD, noted that the habitat channel design was for more than just steelhead spawning. Rearing habitat was also an objective in the channel design.

After further discussion, the CRFF requested additional PHABSIM modeling comparing similar natural rivers, Mad River, lower Entiat River, and Nason Creek, to Reach 4 for percentage of suitable steelhead spawning area within the study section. This information will provide a data resource to manage expectations and determine a benchmark for the habitat channel.

Phil Archibald, LCSA, noted the importance of overhead cover, and suggested adding additional log structures to the Habitat Channel as an alternative for increasing steelhead spawning habitat.

### **2015 Biological Objectives Status Report**

Steve reported the 2015 Biological Objectives Status Report format was revised to follow the Biological Chapter 7 Settlement Agreement Table 7-10. The draft will be out no later than March 15 followed by a 30-day CRFF review period, with the final due April 30.

### **Lake Chelan lake levels**

Scott Buehn presented “License Intent Risk Assessment for Operating Chelan Higher in the Spring”. CRFF acknowledged and appreciated the intensive steps Chelan PUD took for evaluating lake level operations. Scott noted that due to technology advancement Chelan PUD is able to refine and improve the modeling guidelines to manage the elevation of Lake Chelan to meet license objectives.

### **Tailrace Egg/Fry Survival Investigation**

Steve reported that sampling activities will take place next week by BioAnalysts. The CRFF discussed the ability to mark fish to determine whether natural fish are returning to Reach 4 to spawn, which is a Biological Objective. Further discussion included factors limiting the ability to mark both Chinook subyearlings (too small) and steelhead (few juveniles observed in the Habitat Channel), with conclusion that there is not, currently, the ability to determine Chelan River/tailrace-origin fish returning to spawn.

### **Chelan River Temperature Modeling**

Steve reported that the model is being built and the consultant is working out some kinks.

### **Riparian Feasibility Investigation**

Jeff reported that Herrera Environmental Consultants completed their 2-day fieldwork. CRFF agreed to the following scheduled:

- 20 February 2015: Herrera draft plant and limiting factor list submitted to Chelan PUD
- 27 February 2015: Chelan PUD will submit to CRFF for review/comments
- 13 March 2015: Comments from the CRFF are due to Chelan PUD
- 27 March 2015: Herrera draft Riparian Feasibility Assessment submitted to Chelan PUD
- 3 April 2015: Draft Riparian Feasibility Assessment submitted to CRFF for review/comments
- 17 April 2015: Comments from the CRFF are due to Chelan PUD
- 30 April 2015: Chelan PUD will send out a final Riparian Feasibility Assessment

### **Chelan River westslope cutthroat trout stocking proposal**

Jeff recommended to stock cutthroat into Reach 1 to increase the number of cutthroat to provide more data for assessing the potential for achieving the 200 fish Biological Objective. The stocking would occur late March or early April. Travis Maitland, WDFW, confirmed that WDFW will be able to provide the juveniles for stocking. Snorkel surveys in Reach 1 are schedule for March, August, and November in 2015 as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation Program. Intensive, monthly snorkel surveys in Reach 1 are scheduled for 2016. Stocking cutthroat prior to these surveys will provide opportunity to observe cutthroat behavior in the upper Chelan River.

### **Other Items**

Travis reported that there was no public comment regarding fishing regulations in the Chelan River, therefore WDFW noted that Chelan River will be closed to all fishing.

### **Action Items:**

- Jim will conduct model runs comparing percentage suitable steelhead spawning habitat in natural rivers (Mad River, lower Entiat River, and Nason Creek) to Reach 4.
- Phil will compile information regarding overhead log structures.
- Steve and Jeff will inspect the accuracy of the flow meters at the low-level outlet and pump station.
- Jim requested that “Next steps for Potential Habitat Improvement” as an agenda item at the next meeting.

- Jim requested that the CRFF review Chapter 7, Section 2 and 3 for the next meeting.
- Jeff will poll (email) the CRFF regarding their recommendation for pump operation during the 2015 steelhead-spawning period, 4 pump vs. 5 pump operation.
- Steve will schedule taking updated aerial photos of Chelan River Habitat Channel prior to spring, before leaf-out.
- Travis will notify Cory the request for cutthroat release at the end March.
- Jeff will send the links engineering designs to the Chelan Habitat Channel designs.
- Agenda item for the next CRFF meeting “Tailrace Egg to-Fry-Survival Investigation”

The next CRFF meeting has been scheduled for 21 May 2015, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.