

Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Meeting Minutes

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

Meeting called by: Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD
Type of meeting: LCFF Meeting
Note taker: Debby Bitterman

Attending Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Graham Simon	WDFW	509-662-0503	Graham.Simon@dfw.wa.gov
Travis Maitland	WDFW	509-665-3337	Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov
Emily Johnson	USDA-FS	509-784-1511 x570	ekjohnson@fs.fed.us
Hugh Anthony(phone)	NPS	360-854-7324	Hugh_Anthony@nps.gov
Ashley Rawhouser(phone)	NPS	360-854-7317	Ashley_Rawhouser@nps.gov
Anna Harris	Ecology	509-454-7277	anha461@ecy.wa.gov
Mark Peterschmidt	Ecology	509-454-7843	mape461@ecy.wa.gov
Skip Morehouse	City of Chelan		morehouse@cityofchelan.us
Phil Archibald	LCSA	509-784-2471	kim.l.lohse@gmail.com
Maria Kieninger	Chelan PUD	509-661-4216	kmaria.kieninger@chelanpud.org
Jeff Osborn	Chelan PUD	509-661-4176	jeff.osborn@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum to develop the 2015 Lake Chelan Fishery Forum Annual Work Plan

Agenda

Jeff Osborn, Chelan PUD, welcomed everyone to the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum (LCFF) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes only.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Review of November 2014 Action Items

- Jeff will contact Eastbank, Chelan, and Chelan PUD hatchery staff to discuss successes and potential improvements to the cutthroat hatchery program for rearing fish to catchable size. **In process**
- Hugh will send his handouts from the November meeting to attending members. **Completed**
- Jeff will contact Kari Grover Wier, USDA-FS, and emphasize the importance of USDA-FS participation in the Form. **Completed**
- Jeff will verify Chelan PUD's vehicle policy. **Completed**
- Jeff will compile a tributary photograph report. **Will be completed April 1, 2016**
- 23 January 2015: Graham will send out the draft 2015 Annual Work Plan for comments to the LCFF. **Completed**
- 6 February 2015: LCFF comments back to Graham. **Completed**
- 20 February 2015: Final 2015 Annual Work Plan sent out to the LCFF. **Completed**

Review 2015 Annual Work Plan (Monitoring and Evaluation results for 2015)

Travis Maitland, WDFW, noted that WDFW conducted tributary abundance surveys as planned in 2015. He stated that there was lack of fish in the tributaries due to environmental conditions, low water. Lack of fish will affect meaningful data summary as far as population. Kokanee egg collection was lower this year as well, approximately 55,000 that will result in approximately 38,000 fry available for stocking in 2016.

Hugh Anthony, NPS, noted that the 2015 expanded kokanee survey was completed. Hugh reported that the 2015 survey results were very poor. The 2015 surveys estimated total escapement of 33,964 kokanee; 17% of the return estimated in 2010.

There was extremely low water in mainstem Stehekin River and in many of the side channels that were surveyed. During the 2015 Stehekin River side channel snorkel surveys, no westslope cutthroat trout redds or actively spawning fish were observed. One westslope cutthroat caught via angling in a Company Creek side channel had numerous scrapes on its side and emaciated appearance, appearing to have spawned. DNA analysis of newly emerged trout fry concluded that rainbow-cutthroat hybrids are widespread and common, with rainbow trout prevalent.

Ashley Rawhouser, NPS, shared with the LCFF information regarding an eDNA-based survey that may be able to provide presence of bull trout. NPS is considering a joint, cost-share, project with the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station and National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation to survey potential bull trout habitat in the Stehekin watershed using eDNA. NPS staff would follow protocols developed by the USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station. These data have the potential to provide precise, robust information about the presence of bull trout, and can be collected quickly, at low cost. After additional discussion, the LCFF agreed that Anges Creek would be a good candidate to include in this field experiment.

Emily Johnson, USDA Forest Service, reported that westslope cutthroat were not observed during the spring spawning ground monitoring conducted by the USFS in past years.

Jeff, Chelan PUD, gave a brief summary of Lance Keller's, Chelan PUD, email regarding Chelan PUD's 2015 kokanee survey report (handout provided).

- Company Creek: 14,775 (peak count: 6,661 kokanee on 10/5/2015)
- Blackberry Creek: 87 (peak count: 58 kokanee on 10/13/2015)
- Fish Creek: 7 (peak count: 6 kokanee on 9/21/2015)
- Prince Creek: 22 (peak count: 22 kokanee on 10/5/2015)

Unfortunately, Lance was not able to produce a 2014 report due to the time necessary to address the Wanapum Dam incident, but plans to complete and provide the 2015 Kokanee Survey Report to the LCFF soon.

2016 Annual Work Plan

National Park Service 2016 proposed scope of work:

- Stehekin side channel trout spawning surveys: 6 surveys from 1 May 2016 to 31 August 2016
- Stehekin side channel trout abundance surveys: 2 surveys in October 2016
- Assist Chelan PUD with kokanee surveys on Chelan PUD index sites: 2 surveys in October 2016
- DNA analysis of newly emerged fry: 4 sites, 25 samples from each site
- eDNA sample collection: 2 surveys September 2016 to October 2016

USDA Forest Service 2016 proposed scope of work:

Emily Johnson, USDA Forest Service, reported that due to budget cuts and change in their staffing that no monitoring would take place in 2016. The USDA Forest Service plans to move forward in 2017 and consider an eDNA option.

WDFW 2016 proposed scope of work:

Travis Maitland, WDFW, reported they plan to conduct juvenile westslope cutthroat and rainbow trout tributary abundance surveys in September and October. Comprehensive and kokanee creel surveys will be performed every other week, 1 April 2016 thru 15 October 2016.

Chelan PUD:

Jeff reported that Chelan PUD will be lacking staff to perform kokanee spawning ground survey work, but emphasized that funding is available through the Monitoring and Evaluation Program. He asked the agencies to consider options for conducting future surveys take over. The agencies discussed options of combining their efforts.

Action Item:

- Jeff will provide the historical estimated kokanee escapement surveys information to compare with the current 2015 survey results to the LCFF.
- Ashley will contact Emily Johnson, regarding time and location, for the January 2016 eDNA sampling meeting with Mike Young, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Emily will inquiry with Board of Trustee for the Holden Mine NRDA process as to projects that have been prioritized for funding, and will share this information with the Lake Chelan Fishery Forum.
- Hugh and Emily will draft a joint effort proposal, (National Park Service and USDA Forest Service) regarding a 2017 eDNA project.
- Jeff will talk to Rosana Sokolowski regarding combining WDFW funding, kokanee surveys and comprehensive kokanee creel, into one task.
- Jeff will draft a letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to adjust Annual Work Plan submittal date January 10 to April 1.
- Hugh and Travis will discuss joint effort for conducting kokanee spawning ground surveys due to Chelan PUD budget cuts and staff unavailability.
- Jeff will add the agenda item “entrainment investigation” to future agendas.
- Debby Bitterman, Chelan PUD, requested agencies that have updated contact information regarding LCFF members to email the update to Jeff and cc Debby.
- 8 January 2016: agencies provide text update from there sections and budget to Emily
- 29 January 2016: Emily will provide first draft to Jeff and LCFF
- 12 February 2016: LCFF comments back to Emily
- 26 February 2016: final 2016 Annual Work Plan to Chelan PUD for will forward to the LCFF