

**Rocky Reach Ute Ladies’  
Tresses Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: November 16, 2016  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Location: Second Floor Conference Room  
Conference phone: 509 661-4844 password 4000**

Meeting called by: Von Pope, Chelan PUD    Type of meeting: RRWF Meeting –Ute ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee  
Note taker: Deb Bitterman

**Attending Representatives**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Boyster, Molly	BLM	(509) 665-2137	molly_boyster@blm.gov
Fox, Ron	WDFW	(509) 665-3383	Ron.Fox@dfw.wa.gov
Pope, Von	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4625	von.pope@chelanpud.org

**Attending Participants**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Ranne, Brigitte	USDA-FS	(509) 682-4941	branne@fs.fed.us
Cordell, Kelly	Chelan PUD	(509) 661-4762	kelly.cordell@chelanpud.org

Meeting Purpose: Meeting of the Ute Ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee, weed control efforts, and 5-year monitoring

**Minutes**

Von Pope, Chelan PUD, welcomed everyone to the Rocky Reach Ute Ladies’ Tresses Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting and made known that voice recording of the meeting was initiated for note-taking purposes.

**Review 2016 Annual Monitoring Report**

*Chapter 1 – Annual Surveys*

Kelly Cordell, Chelan PUD, provided a quick summary of Chapter 1 of the Draft 2016 Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies’ Tresses Annual Monitoring Report. In 2016, surveys occurred earlier in the season, as plants were observed emerging during a Subcommittee site visit in June and bolting plants were observed in early June at the Gallagher Flats site. All plants observed flowering were large and robust. The number of plants observed in 2016 (426) was slightly lower than the average observed years, 2000-2015 (463). Overall, Columbia River flows during 2016 were observed to be average; however, the August flows were below average for most of the season. The emergence of many annuals and some perennial’s (especially birds foot trefoil) after the 2015 fire made searching some areas more difficult due to plant density.

Kelly noted that another species of orchid within the same genus, *S. romanzoffiana* (Hooded ladies’ tresses), was observed at Gallaher Flat. After discussion, the Subcommittee recommended that Kelly identify the Hooded ladies’ tresses within the text of the Annual Monitoring Report but not combine the two species, *S. romanzoffiana* and *S. diluvialis*, in the Spiranthes summary chart since the Ute Ladies’ Tresses Management plan is specific to *S. diluvialis*. The current Draft 2016 Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies’ Tresses Annual Monitoring Report will need to be adjusted to remove the *S. romanzoffiana*

numbers from the summary tables provided. Summary numbers provided above and on the summary sheet provided in the meeting included *S. romanzoffiana* numbers for 2016 (30).

Spring weed treatments took place at the Stocker Parcel, PUD Pond and River, and WDFW north. Fall weed treatments took place at the Stocker Parcel, Gallaher Flats, PUD Pond and River, and WDFW north and south (see below).

### *Chapter 2 – Invasive Plant Control Measures*

Von summarized the 2016 Invasive Plant Control Measures of Chapter 2 from the Rocky Reach Reservoir Ute Ladies' Tresses Annual Monitoring Report. The PUD Pond site, WDFW site, and Stocker Parcel sites were treated in April of 2016, repeating the work conducted in the fall of 2015 by wicking blackberry and yellow flag iris. Gallagher Flat site was not treated in the spring of 2016 due to high Columbia River Flows that inundated the meadow. Blackberry stems were clipped near the base of the plant and the open stem was daubed with Garlon 3A using a wick applicator. Yellow flag iris blades at the treated sites were wiped with glyphosate. The total cost for spring weed control at Ute Ladies' Tresses sites was \$1,351.74. In the fall of 2016 the same sites (WDFW, PUD Pond, and Stocker Parcel) were treated again for blackberry using the cut and daub method during early November along with new areas at the WDFW Beebe Natural Area and the Gallagher Flat site. Similarly, yellow flag iris was treated by wiping the iris blades with glyphosate at the Chelan PUD Pond and traditional WDFW sites. The cost of chemical treatment of blackberry and yellow flag iris during the fall of 2016 totaled \$2,473.12. The total cost for chemical treatment (spring and fall) for 2016 was **\$3,824.86**.

In addition, Chelan PUD contracted Washington State University (WSU) to collect and release biological control insects to help control purple loosestrife near at known Ute ladies' tresses sites. In spring of 2016, the WSU Douglas County Extension collected and released 8,300 *Gallerucella* beetles and 2,727 *Nanophyes marmoratus* weevils at 3 known sites. The total project cost to collect and release 11,027 biological controls for purple loosestrife in 2016 was **\$7,000**.

There is approximately \$12,000 available for 2017 weed control activities.

### **2016 Weed Control Invoice**

**After review and discussion of the 2016 weed control invoice the subcommittee approved the 2016 weed control invoice for payment totaling \$10,824.86.**

### **Proposed Weed Control for 2017**

After general discussion, the following options should be considered for 2017 activities

- Blackberry control: spring and fall effort at all sites (PUD Pond, WDFW north/south, Stocker Parcel and Gallagher Flat), except BLM
- Yellow flag iris: wicking with glyphosate
- St. John's wort: biological release at Gallagher, Stocker, and WDFW

Cost activity summary:

- Chemical treatment: \$4000
- Biological release: \$4000
- Contingency options: \$4000

**Action Items**

- Von will contact Dale Whaley, Washington State University Extension, regarding the potential of biological release on private property, Stocker.
- 22 November 2016: Kelly will email 2016 Annual Monitoring Report for comments/edits, if no response is received, the report will be considered final 1 December 2016.
- 15 December 2016: Kelly will email draft 2017 Weed Control Proposal to subcommittee requesting review/comments
- 31 December 2016: Final 2016 Monitoring Report will be sent to subcommittee.
- 13 January 2017: Subcommittee's comments on 2017 Weed control proposal due back to Chelan PUD.
- Von will develop contracts for 2017 weed proposal to be completed by February 2017.
- Von will email to the subcommittee the new bug species that is available for biological control of Russian knapweed.
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**Next Steps**

The next field visit/meeting will be 8 June 2017 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Details will be finalized as the field visit date approaches.