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May 9, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Mark Fritsch

SUBJECT: Update on Prosser Hatchery

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Michael Fiander, hatchery manager; Joe Blodgett, project manager; Charlie Strom, Yakima Basin production coordinator, Yakama Nation Fisheries, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation; Andy Traylor, fish and wildlife administrator, Bonneville Power Administration

Summary: Michael, Joe and Charlie will provide an overview of the new facilities at Prosser Hatchery, which supports coho and Chinook production goals. The Yakama Nation has operated facilities at Prosser for nearly three decades to demonstrate the site's feasibility to produce coho and Chinook and recondition steelhead kelts.

Relevance: In 2020, the Council approved the *Revised Master Plan for Yakima Subbasin Summer- and Fall-run Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead (Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design and Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project)*, of which several artificial production programs are supported at Prosser Hatchery.

In addition, as part of *Project #2008-527-00, Zone 6 Fishery (Prosser Hatchery Upgrades)*, the Council approved capital improvements and upgrades to acclimation infrastructure at Prosser Hatchery to support fall Chinook production under contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

for hatchery mitigation associated with the John Day Dam and impacts to fish. These decisions will allow the Prosser Hatchery to support hatchery programs that serve to meet mitigation and conservation objectives.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division work plan 2023; Program planning & coordination.

Background: Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design and Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project (YKFP)

On October 24, 2019, the Yakama Nation submitted a *revised master plan* addressing the proposed coho and summer-and fall-run Chinook programs, as well as proposed facility modifications to Prosser Hatchery.

The emphasis of the revised plan is to implement an in-basin segregated harvest coho program at Prosser Hatchery downstream of Prosser Dam. The segregated coho program will continue to reside at Prosser Hatchery with a smolt release goal of 500,000 fish, but with the updates, all fish culture activities from rearing to release will occur at Prosser Hatchery instead of relying on other facilities in the lower Columbia River.

The current summer Chinook reintroduction program is dependent on transfers of surplus fish from other hatchery facilities. The revised master plan aims to transition to an integrated production program at Prosser Hatchery, with the long-term goal of potential new facilities in the middle reaches of the Yakima River Basin.

All fish culture activities for the Yakima integrated fall Chinook program (i.e., funded through the Council's Fish and Wildlife Program) would continue to occur at Prosser Hatchery, with 500,000 subyearlings released in the Yakima and Naches rivers upstream of Prosser Dam. The Yakima segregated fall Chinook program (i.e., funded through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) will continue to release approximately 1.9 million Upriver Bright fall Chinook from Prosser Hatchery, with infrastructure modifications described below.

On December 16, 2020, the Council approved the *Revised Master Plan for Yakima Subbasin Summer- and Fall-run Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead*, associated with *Project #1988-115-25, Yakima River Design and Construction-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project*, subject to the condition that the Yakama Nation provide an update to the Council on the segregated coho program and the two Chinook programs (integrated summer/fall Chinook program and segregated upriver bright fall Chinook program) once funding, environmental compliance, and permitting have been secured.

Project #2008-527-00, Zone 6 Fishery (Prosser Hatchery Upgrades)

The Accord proposal was received on May 29, 2020 from the Bonneville Power Administration on behalf of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Yakama Nation. This 2008 Accord capital project addresses existing fall Chinook salmon production under contract by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with consensus from the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties. The capital improvement proposal provides upgrades to acclimation conditions at Prosser Hatchery. Bonneville requested an expedited review by the ISRP since it relates to the *Revised Master Plan for Yakima Subbasin Summer-and Fall-run Chinook, Coho Salmon and Steelhead* (Project #1988-115-25).

The ISRP review provided a “Meets Scientific Review Criteria” recommendation but stated that the project was not *strictly amenable to scientific review*. Though the review is favorable, the ISRP found that the proposal would have benefitted from a better link to the master plan and expects that the monitoring of additional information to be tracked under Project #1995-063-25, *Yakima River Monitoring and Evaluation-Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project*. In follow-up discussions with the Yakama Nation, they confirmed the project will be monitored through Project #1995-063-25 as defined in the revised master plan.

On July 15, 2020, based on the ISRP review, the Council recommended the proposal be implemented.