

From: Maitland, Travis W (DFW) [<mailto:Travis.Maitland@dfw.wa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Mike Rickel
Subject: RE: Entiat Watershed Planning Unit

Hi Mike

Unless it is absolutely critical that I make the October 1st meeting, I will not be able to attend due to the fact that I have an important Bull Trout Spawning ground survey to conduct on that day (every Wednesday). Our crews are conducting these on designated days throughout the early fall and the frequency must remain consistent in order to conduct the most accurate analysis possible.

To get the ball rolling and to address the one direct question in your memo (what were the reason for the delays in the just opened Chinook fishery?).....As you may know, this is a relatively new hatchery "summer" Chinook program, of which the initial broodstock was collected at Wells Hatchery facilities to provide eggs the first several years to get the program started. Thereafter, the hope was that all the broodstock would be collected at the Entiat National Fish Hatchery once all age classes (3, 4 and 5 yr olds)of the initial hatchery releases were successfully returning to the hatchery outfall/trap facilities. For this reason, it was decided to make sure all age classes would return in sufficient enough numbers to meet broodstock collection goals before opening a fishery. This past season was the first year all age classes returned...and it was determined through the estimated return numbers (Pit tag detection analysis, USFWS) that there would be a sufficient amount of fish to fulfill these needs while also supporting a fishery (which will close on September 30). This was successful!!!....and we fully intend on having this fishery every year as long as return numbers allow. This is something I am optimistic being a good chance of occurring each year and if so we would eventually add this fishery to the fishing permanent rules pamphlet.

I hope this clearly explains why we could not open this fishery during those early years of the program.....sure, there were juveniles on hand and being released every year, but we needed to wait for their return.

Please, let me know if you have any further questions regarding this and / or any other questions that I might be able to address before the meeting and I will make it a point to attend the next quarterly meeting. Please let me know as soon as possible when this will be, so that I can make it a priority before something else clogs my schedule.

Thanks

Travis Maitland

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