

**WDFW Steelhead Management Plans – Region 5  
Coast Stratum Workgroup  
Summary**

**Workgroup Meetings:**

• March 3, 2015 – Cathlamet Council Room	•
• April 29, 2015 – River St Room – Cathlamet	•
• May 19, 2015 – Cathlamet Council Room	•
• June 9, 2015 – River St. Room - Cathlamet	•
•	•

**Workgroup Members:**

- Calvin Goodell** Chinook Nation
- Dotty Prescott** CCA/Fish First
- Richard Casapulla** CCA
- Hal Mahnke** Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
- Bob Bailey** Lower Columbia Fly Fishers
- Rob Allen**
- Tim Whitesel** US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Kyle Hanson** US Fish and Wildlife Service
  
- Michael Martin**
- Dave Hopkins** NW Steelheaders
- Chris Vandenberg** WA/OR Farm Bureau
- Pat Frazier** Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Ron Nanney** Wild Steelhead Coalition/Willapa Anglers
- Ray Leibe**
- Bruce Peterson**
- David Allred**
- Nick Larson** Trout Unlimited
- Jake Crawford** Native Fish Society

Workgroup Member	Meetings Attended									
	3/3/15	4/29/15	5/19/15	6/9/15						
Calvin Goodell	X			X						
Dotty Prescott	X			X						
Richard Casapulla	X	X	X	X						
Hal Mahnke		X	X	X						
Bob Bailey	X	X	X	X						
Rob Allen	X	X	X	X						
Tim Whitesel	X	X	X							
Kyle Hanson	X	X	X	X						
Michael Martin	X	X	X	X						
Dave Hopkins	X	X	X	X						
Chris Vandenberg	X	X	X	X						
Pat Frazier	X			X						
Ron Nanney	X	X		X						
Ray Leibe	X	X	X	X						
Bruce Peterson	X	X	X	X						
David Allred	X	X	X	X						
Nick Larson	X	X	X	X						
Jake Crawford	X	X	X	X						

\*Substitutes sent  
S = called in sick

Public Attending	Meetings Attended									
	3/3/15									
Peter	X									
Renee	X									

**Topics Covered by Workgroup:**

WDFW solicited input from the workgroup on the following areas of the Steelhead Management Plan:

*Natural Production – Wild Stock Gene Banks*..... 4

*Artificial Production – Steelhead Program Options* ..... 9

*Fisheries Management – Proposed Regulation Changes*..... 10

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*Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management – Monitoring Needs*..... 13

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## Summary of Workgroup Discussions:

### *Natural Production – Wild Stock Gene Banks*

ISSUE: Establish Network of Wild Stock Gene Banks. Establish a network of wild stock gene banks across the state where wild stocks are largely protected from the effects of hatchery programs. At least one wild stock gene bank will be established for each major population group in each steelhead DPS. Each gene bank established will have the following characteristics and management:

- a. Each stock selected for inclusion in the gene bank must be sufficiently abundant and productive to be self-sustaining in the future.
- b. No releases of hatchery-origin steelhead will occur in streams where spawning of the stock occurs, or in streams used exclusively by that stock for rearing.
- c. Fisheries can be conducted if wild steelhead management objectives are met as well as any necessary federal ESA determinations.

#### *Discussion:*

- Need some information on angler days to make a decision
- Action item: Need to get miles of public access – number of access sites
- Limiting harvest fisheries may move anglers to other areas with listed fish
- Action item: fix Elochman barrier language – 400 feet – Cindy

#### **Grays/Chinook Winter Steelhead Gene Bank**

##### Pros

- Has the greatest miles of spawning habitat – 77 miles
- Have a failing hatchery – infrastructure
- Primary population – consistent with cascade and gorge
- Would be no hatchery plants in this system after transition to Beaver Creek – there are ecological competition from other species
- HSRG recommended integrated steelhead program
- If Grays Hatchery closes, would have a hatchery free zone for all species
- Recommended by HSRG
- Potential increase to local economy from a catch and release fishery on wild fish.
- Number of “fishable” days on Grays is less due to high turbidity in winter.

##### Cons

- Would have a large impact on the sport harvest fishery
- Effective segregated program – fish return to the hatchery – unsure how this is on the Elochoman
- Economic impact with loss of harvest fishery – local community
- Active logging rotation in upper Grays, with harvesting of 3<sup>rd</sup> growth – continued high levels of sediment input. – More habitat, but larger degradation impacts.

##### Other

- Eliminating hatchery fish would not have an impact on the mainstem fishery because the fishery mostly occurs of the WF Grays and downstream

### **Elochoman/Skamokawa Winter Steelhead Gene Bank**

#### **Pros**

- Hatchery fish bypassing the hatchery
- Less harvest per release

#### **Cons**

- Would have a large impact on the sport harvest fishery
- Where/how to get hatchery fish for Grays River
- Economic impact with loss of harvest fishery – local community
- Development along the shoreline – reduces wild habitat

#### **Other**

- Consider option for new weir for steelhead higher in the system
- There are more fish harvested in the Elochoman versus the Grays
- One option would be Beaver Creek sill for a new weir – just below Beaver Creek Hatchery

### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany Winter Steelhead Gene Bank**

#### **Pros**

- Primary population – consistent with Cascade and Gorge
- Uncertainty in funding for the research program – if you don't choose this, this might occur anyway, and then you have two gene banks because you chose Grays or Elochoman
- This would be a good choice for a gene bank and continuing the research program – as long as the program does not reduce the genetics of the wild fish
- Already intensive monitoring program in this system
- Put weirs on these creeks to remove hatchery fish
- Hatchery fish have the same timing as the wild fish
- Good land use compared to other two – landowners not harvesting trees in the upper areas as much as other two
- Least likely hatchery influence over time

#### **Cons**

- Would have a large impact on the sport harvest fishery
- Would create a conflict with AFTC research program – unique situation for the state – seems to be a valuable program – would lose the research results
- Hatchery fish have the same timing as the wild fish
- 

#### **Other**

5/19/15	Gene Bank Recommendation Options			
Name	Grays	Eloch	MAG	
Calvin Goodell				
Dotty Prescott				
Richard Casapulla	2	3	1	
Hal Mahnke	2	3	1	
Bob Bailey	3	2	1	
Rob Allen	1	2	3	
Tim Whitesel	0	0	0	
Kyle Hanson	1	3	2	
Craig Brown				
Michael Martin	1	3	2	
Dave Hopkins	1	3	2	
Chris Vandenberg	1	3	2	
Pat Frazier				
Ron Nanney				
Ray Leibe	3	2	1	
Bruce Peterson	2	3	1	
David Allred	3	2	1	
Nick Larson	2	3	1	
Jake Crawford	1	2	3	
	6	0	7	
6/9/15	Gene Bank Recommendation Options*			
Name	Grays		MAG	
Calvin Goodell				
Dotty Prescott				
Richard Casapulla			X	
Hal Mahnke	X			
Bob Bailey	X			
Rob Allen	X			
Tim Whitesel				
Kyle Hanson	X			
Craig Brown				
Michael Martin	X			
Dave Hopkins			X	
Chris Vandenberg	X			
Pat Frazier				
Ron Nanney	X			
Ray Leibe			X	

Bruce Peterson			X	
David Allred			X	
Nick Larson			X	
Jake Crawford	X			
	8		6	

\*{Workgroup members in attendance at 5/19/15 meeting agreed that only members present at 1 or both of gene bank discussions (4/29 & 5/19) be able to formally vote on Gene bank recommendation. Other members (in red font) who attended at the 6/9/15 meeting were asked to provide input on pros/cons and their opinion, but did not vote.}

Comments:

- Would like to see research continue at AFTC – if Gray/Elochoman become gene bank would have two gene banks if program loses funding/closes at AFTC
- MAG – Abernathy fish going into Germany Creek – MAG should be gene bank
- Skamokawa Creek is getting a lot of strays from Elochoman
- If MAG is gene bank – funding question at hatchery – more changes have to be made if MAG is gene bank versus Grays
- Grays may have a higher probability of increasing and supporting a fishery
- Few people fish MAG – having Grays/Eloch as gene bank would affect the fishery more - affects the economics more
- Concern about making a decision on gene bank prior to knowing what fishery regulations would be
- Could we increase late coho production if we eliminate steelhead?
- Can we move the production from the gene bank to another stream?
- Increasing production on Grays/Elochoman transferred would require more effort so that the population in the non-gene bank river would not be increased
- Can we put more fish in the Naselle?
- Need to ask ourselves whether we value the information we are getting from the research at AFTC.
- Access:
  - Grays has best boating access
  - Grays has the best access to bank angling
  - Access is ok Germany and Abernathy
- Could the Grays be segmented into above the Canyon and lower river?
  - No – because winters spawn and rear in areas below canyon as well and hatchery winters can get above the canyon.
- Are there opportunities to mitigate with increased hatchery programs along the coast?
- Not enough information on how soon/feasible implementation of a gene bank is on MAG.

**Escapement Goal Discussion** – Thomas presentation on monitoring & BRP

- Support research to continue refining monitoring methods.
- Continue current efforts using best available methods now.
- 

***Natural Production - Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:***

**OPTIONS considered by workgroup**

- 1) Grays/Chinook population be designated as gene bank for winter steelhead.
- 2) Elochoman/Skamokawa population be designated as gene bank for winter steelhead.
- 3) Mill/Abernathy/Germany (MAG) population be designated as gene bank for winter steelhead.

**Final Recommendations:**

- Elochoman should not be considered for designation as a gene bank.
- No consensus on choice of Grays/Chinook vs. MAG as gene bank
  - Work group split: Grays (8) v. MAG (6)
  - Several members concerned about lack of information on how soon/feasible implementation of a gene bank is on MAG.

## ***Artificial Production – Steelhead Program Options***

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### ***Discussion:***

Points from “Considerations for the use of segregated vs. integrated steelhead hatcheries in the Lower Columbia Region” document – covered by Thomas Buehrens.

### **Grays/Chinook-**

•

### **Elochoman/Skamokawa –**

•

### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany–**

### ***Artificial Production - Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:***

#### ***Short Term:***

#### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

#### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

#### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

#### **Hatcheries:**

4.

#### ***Long Term:***

#### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

#### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

#### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

## *Fisheries Management – Proposed Regulation Changes*

*Discussion:*

*Closed unless open rule:*

*Regulation structure – 3-Tier concept:*

•

Grays/Chinook-

•

Elochoman/Skamokawa –

•

Mill/Abernathy/Germany–

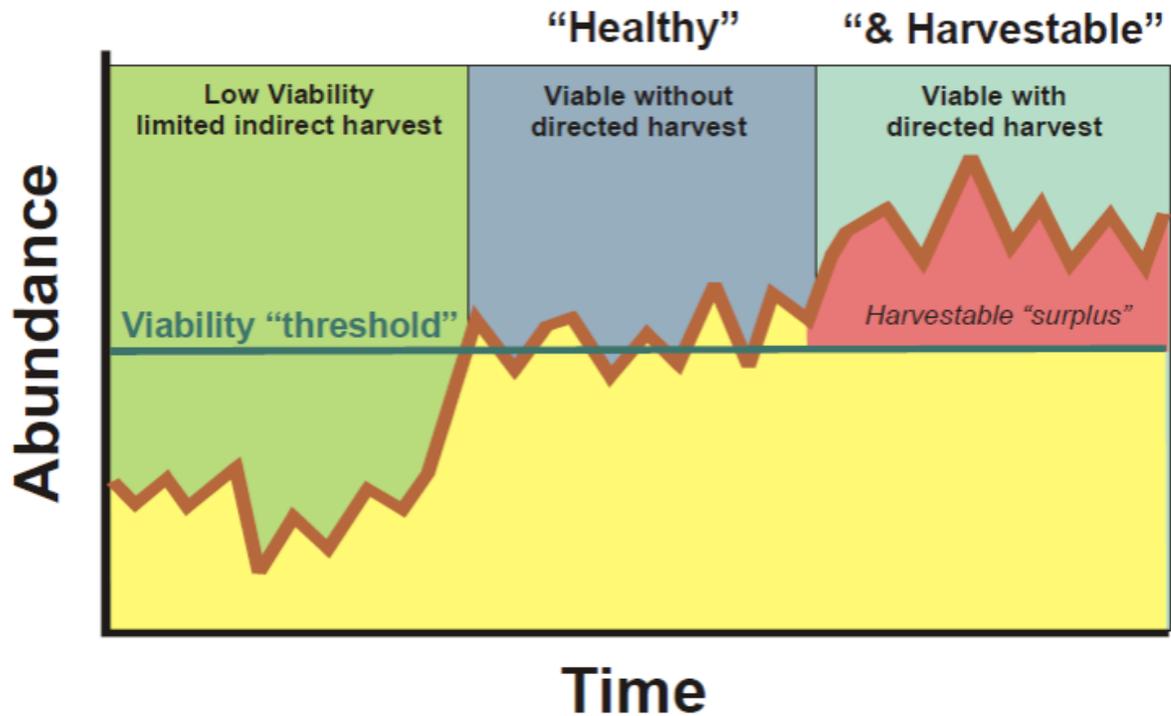


Figure 4-3. Example recovery trajectory illustrating healthy and harvest goals of this Plan.

### *Fisheries Management - Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:*

*Short Term:*

**Grays/Chinook:**

1.

**Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

**Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

***Long Term:***

**Grays/Chinook:**

1.

**Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

**Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

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## ***Regulatory Compliance – Enforcement Issues***

### ***Discussion:***



#### ***Regulatory Compliance – Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:***

##### ***Short Term:***

##### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

##### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

##### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

##### ***Long Term:***

##### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

##### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

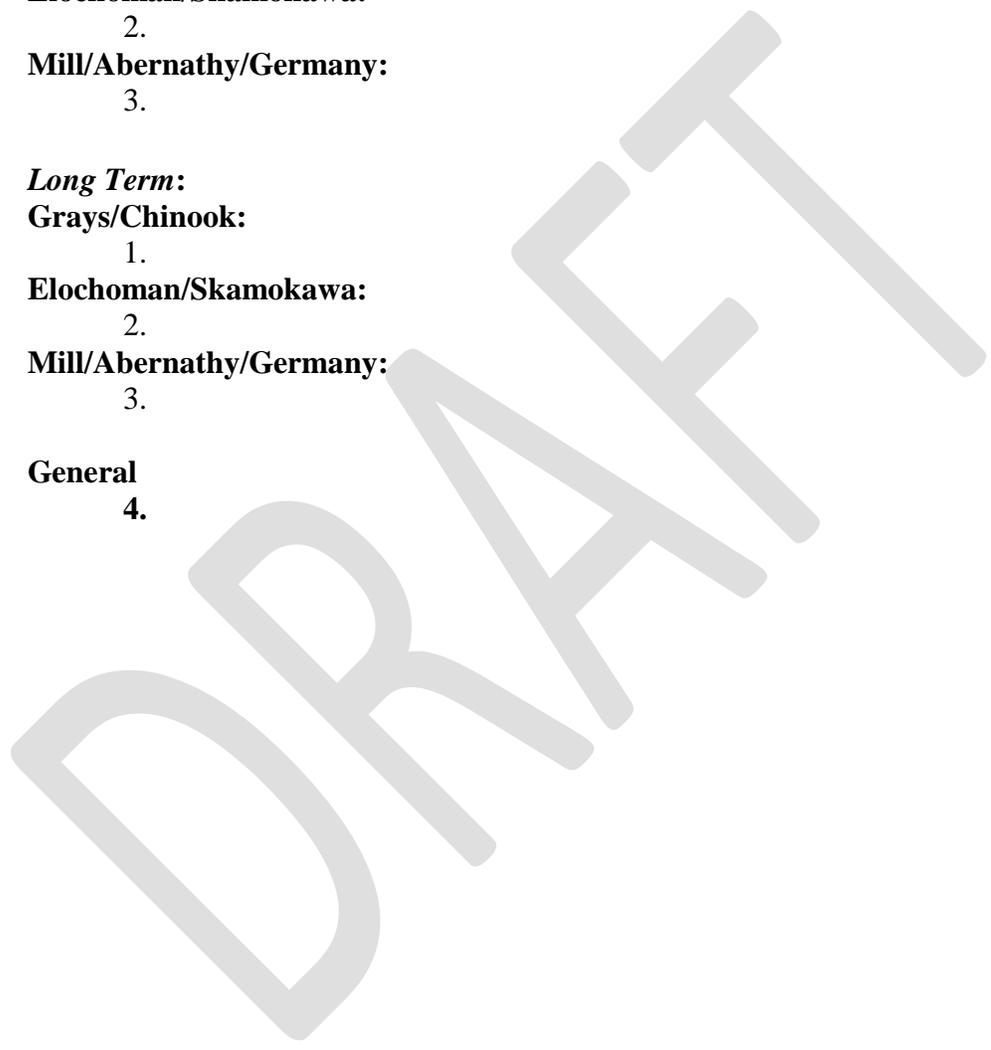
2.

##### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

##### **General**

4.



## ***Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management – Monitoring Needs***

### ***Discussion:***

- Smolt monitoring on Elochoman
- Monitor impacts of low flow conditions at mouth of Elochoman and potential predation issues.

## ***Monitoring, Evaluation & Adaptive Management - Workgroup***

### **Conclusions/Recommendations:**

#### ***Short Term:***

##### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

##### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

##### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

#### ***Long Term:***

##### **Grays/Chinook:**

1.

##### **Elochoman/Skamokawa:**

2.

##### **Mill/Abernathy/Germany:**

3.

#### **General**

1.

## ***Research – Research Needs***

### ***Discussion:***

- 

### ***Research - Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:***

1.

## ***Outreach & Education - Identify Opportunities***

***Discussion:***

- 

***Outreach & Education - Workgroup Conclusions/Recommendations:***

- 1.

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**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

<b>SHORT TERM</b>		
	<b>Topic Category</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
<b>Grays/Chinook</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	
	<i>Research</i>	
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	

**SHORT TERM (Continued)**

<b>Elochoman/Skamokawa</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	•
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
	<i>Research</i>	•
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•

**SHORT TERM (Continued)**

<b>Mill/Abernathy/Germany</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	• •
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	•
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
	<i>Research</i>	•
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•
<b>General</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	•
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•

	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
	<i>Research</i>	•
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•

<b>LONG TERM</b>		
	<b>Topic Category</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
<b>Grays/Chinook</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive</i>	

	<i>Management</i>	
	<i>Research</i>	
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	
<b>LONG TERM (Continued)</b>		
<b>Elochoman/Skamokawa</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	•
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
	<i>Research</i>	•
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•

## LONG TERM (Continued)

<b>Mill/Abernathy/Germany</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	• •
	<i>Artificial Production</i>	•
	<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
	<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•
	<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
	<i>Research</i>	•
	<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•
<b>Genera</b>	<i>Natural Production</i>	•
	<i>Artificial</i>	•

<i>Production</i>	
<i>Fisheries Management</i>	•
<i>Regulatory Compliance</i>	•
<i>M&amp;E, Adaptive Management</i>	•
<i>Research</i>	•
<i>Outreach &amp; Education</i>	•

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