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Memo

To:	WRIA 35 Planning Unit		
From:	Ronan Igloria	Project:	WRIA 35 Instream Flow Assessment
CC:	Brad Johnson, Tim Simpson, Ben Floyd, Terry Shepherd		
Date:	May 2, 2006	HDR Project No:	00052-29609
Re:	**Preliminary Agreements on Tucannon Instream Flows**		

After the April 2006 planning unit meeting, a subgroup met to discuss minimum instream flow levels for the Tucannon River. This memorandum summarizes the preliminary agreements made by landowners present based on discussions with Department of Ecology staff and consultants. This is for informational purposes and information presented here can be discussed at the May 11, 2006 meeting.

PARTICIPANTS:
Terry Bruegman, Dick Ducharme, Dick Rubensor, Don and Janet Howard, Mimi Wainwright, Bill Neve, Jim Pacheco, Ben Floyd, Ronan Igloria

OBJECTIVES:
- Agree where to develop instream flow levels and closures on the Tucannon River system.
- Develop preliminary recommendations for instream flow levels.

AGREEMENTS:

MP-1a – Tucannon River at mouth (to Territorial Rd.)

Month	Flow (cfs)
October	85
November	85
December	85
January	100
February	105
March	105
April	105
May	105
June (1-15)	90
June (16-30)	70
July	50
August	50
September (1-15)	50
September (16-30)	70

Basis:
- Values are derived from methods in described in Tech Memo 2a (June 2005) using the IFIM study results (by Ecology at Smith Hollow), fish periodicity (table discussed at January 2006 meeting), and historical flow data from USGS 13344500.

- October – May focuses on steelhead juvenile as species/lifestage being managed for and achieve ~98%+ of the optimum WUA based on the instream flow study results.
- June and September are split because of the moderate activity of steelhead juvenile in the early part of June and late part of September in this reach of the Tucannon.
- June – September there is no observed activity for fisheries and these instream flow values are based on aesthetic reasons and historical flow conditions.

MP-1b – Tucannon at River at Territorial Rd. (to Marengo)

Month	Flow (cfs)
October	85
November	85
December	85
January	100
February	105
March	105
April	105
May	105
June (1-15)	90
June (16-30)	75
July	75
August	75
September	75

Basis:

- Values are derived from methods in described in Tech Memo 2a (June 2005) using the IFIM study results (by Ecology at Smith Hollow), fish periodicity (table discussed at January 2006 meeting), and historical flow data from USGS 13344500.
- October – May focuses on steelhead juvenile as species/lifestage being managed for and achieves ~98%+ of the optimum WUA based on the instream flow study results.
- June – September focuses on steelhead juvenile as species/lifestage being managed for and achieves ~78%+ of the optimum WUA based on the instream flow study results.
- June is split because of the flow transition that occurs this month.

MP-3 – Tucannon River at Marengo (to headwaters)

Place a year-round closure from Marengo to headwaters (including all tributaries) with exceptions to be defined in detail to allow flow enhancement projects and domestic wells. An allocation for domestic wells will be developed based on zoning densities and "developable land" in the watershed.

Basis:

- Not much development is expected in the area.
- There is currently not a long period of record of flow data to make reliable decisions for instream flow levels.

MP-2 – Pataha Creek at mouth (to ~Pomeroy) and MP-4 Pataha Creek near Pomeroy (to headwaters)

Pataha Creek was not specifically discussed, but a closure similar to MP-3 will likely be defined for Pataha Creek. No instream flow study is available.

PENDING CONSIDERATIONS

The preliminary agreements are contingent, in part, on results from the temperature modeling study to see the relationship between flows and potential temperature limitations for fish migration, especially in the lower Tucannon River. The group also needs to confirm the fish periodicity information in these reaches.

Other points of discussion:

- Ecology is going to clarify how conditions are placed on water rights applications that have been submitted prior to an instream flow.
- Ecology is going to look into how many pending water rights applications are present on the Tucannon River.
- Is an allocation needed for out-migration flows?
- Do flushing flows, channel forming flows need to be considered as part of the instream flow levels.