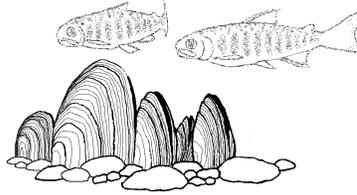


# *Pacific Northwest Native Freshwater Mussel Workgroup*



March 6, 2007

## *Minutes*

Attendees were as follows: Al Smith, Michelle Steg, Molly Hallock, Arden Thomas, Kelly Toy, Wendy Walsh, Jeff Adams, Jake Jacobson, Bruce Lang, and Brian Adair. Kevin Aitkin, Nancy Duncan, Christina Luzier and John Fleckenstein were on the conference line.

**Purpose:** This was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Workgroup.

**Mussel Index Plot Monitoring:** Nancy talked about adopting index plots to monitor mussel populations. Plan is to coordinate through the workgroup, develop protocols, provide training, assist with data collection and create a centralized place where data are being kept.

Nancy put together a proposal and informational poster showing how monitoring went on the North and South Umpqua. The poster will also have a sign up/adopt a watershed section inviting people to get involved. She is proposing participants can contact the workgroup if they need assistance. Nancy agreed to be the contact person.

The workgroup agreed that it was a good idea. Nancy added that we should build in a method to statistically sample small populations.

The first phase is to find mussels/suitable plots. There should be an array of populations – some healthy, some not healthy, small and larger ones. Second phase is to get a statistical sample of population density.

**Condit Dam:** Christina gave an update on the Condit Dam removal and how mussels are being considered. California floaters are in the White Salmon River and are a federal species of concern and a candidate for protection in Washington. They are in the EIS that Washington Department of Ecology drafted but the final EIS is not complete yet and they may not be included in that version. If they are included then Pacificorp may be legally mandated to do mussel survey and potentially salvage work prior to the dam removal in October 2008. Molly is going to contact the USFWS liaison for the Condit Dam workgroup and WA Dept. of Ecology to find out what is being done from the state of Washington's perspective.

The workgroup wondered if we should plan to survey the White Salmon for mussels, pre and post-dam removal. We agreed that the project was worth doing but we should wait to decide until the final draft of the EIS was complete to see if funding was available. The workgroup

thought other streams nearby should probably be surveyed as well in case seeding would be necessary. Other species such as snails should probably be considered as well. The White Salmon River is large and deep so finding mussels may not be easy and monitoring them after the dam removal will not be easy. Access issues are also a problem although John talked to the WDFW biologist in the area and looked at topos for the reach from the mouth of the White Salmon to Condit Dam. It sounds like we could find several access points.

**2007 Symposium:** Molly and Christina reported that the symposium plans are coming along nicely. The speaker roster is full and we have 6 posters. The keynote addresses will be given by Tom Watters from Ohio State and Karen Mock from Utah State. There will be a Bear Creek session and other local and regional speakers. The current tentative agenda can be found on the mussel website [www.fws.gov/columbiariver/musselwg.htm](http://www.fws.gov/columbiariver/musselwg.htm).

We have also secured enough funding for the symposium. Sponsors include the Environmental Information Cooperative, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, Clark County Solid Waste, BLM - Interagency Special Status/Sensitive Species Program, Oregon AFS and the Water Resources Education Center. Jake Jacobson and the Northwest Chapter of the Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) offered to handle the money for the symposium. The sponsors will be able to write their checks to SER to be held in an account from which we can write checks.

We are going to have an after symposium social at 6 pm at the Red Lion Hotel at the Quay in Vancouver just down the street from the Water Resources Center. The workgroup will probably offer appetizers for the attendees.

We completed the registration form and it is available on the mussel website along with maps and directions to the symposium and social, the tentative agenda and the flyer that Michelle Steg-Geltner created. Michelle agreed to maintain the database of registrants. We decided not to have a limit on participants but people must register by April 1.

We still need to work on the program/printing, a raffle (?), a volunteer sign-up and duty sheet, break snacks/coffee, social menu, etc.

**Xerces Affiliation:** Scott Black from Xerces and Al have been working on finalizing the MOU. Al reviewed the percentages that Xerces would receive from the workgroup for various tasks. Xerces will take 40% of each publication sold to cover postage, accounting, envelopes, marketing, etc. The workgroup thought this sounded high. Shouldn't shipping and handling be a fixed charge and not tied to the cost of the product? It will still have to be sliding based on the weight of the book and shipping materials but the workgroup wondered if a percentage was the right way to go.

Xerces will take 10% cut of gross receipts for symposia and 15% for grants. If the amount of money is small ~\$300 they will do it for free. There was some question as to what was included in each of these categories and if we were being hit twice on some things. For example, is sponsorship money considered a grant and if so does Xerces get a cut for the grant and for gross receipts from a symposium? Al agreed to read the documents more closely and clarify with

Scott. He recommended inviting Scott to our next meeting in June to answer everyone's questions.

Credit cards can be used for purchasing registration fees and publications. Budgets must be turned into Xerces two months (instead of three months) before an event.

**Mussel Guide Reprinting:** Key issue is are we going to reprint as is or make changes? Anodonta characterization is still the major problem. Genetic work is still ongoing so do we wait until work is done? When will this be? 2 years, 10 years? Cynthia Tait also has suggestions for changes. Do we open the book for review maybe for two months and then meet to decide what gets changed? Someone suggested adding an Anodonta variants page to show possible outcomes of genetic work. Arden suggested to make a long range plan outlining a schedule of revisions. Another suggestion was made to keep the book as is and create a more technical book as a separate publication.

Final outcome was that the book is supposed to be for everyone and the genetic work will not be done soon enough for this reprinting so it will probably be reprinted as is with any typos fixed of course.

**2008 Symposium:** Al was asked to convene a one or two day mussel section at the Oregon AFS/Western Division AFS meeting to be held in Portland next May. The workgroup agreed that we should roll our symposium into this event. Will there be enough material? With 13 states there should be. Should snails or other aquatic mollusks be included? Al will have to review submitted papers and may not be comfortable with reviewing snail issues. Could he get help reviewing these? Quagga mussels will probably have to be included.

Al said he would mostly likely have to step down from the workgroup chairperson position in order to plan this meeting. Workgroup should be thinking of a replacement.

**Next Meeting:** Mid June 2007 in Vancouver, WA. (Specific date to be determined)