

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, March 28, 2007
9:00 – 3:00
Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Committee Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	Brian Cates, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Steve Parker/Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees (*denotes PRCC member)

*Scott Carlon, NMFS	*Brian Cates, USFWS
Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
*Jerry Marco, CCT	*Tom Dresser, GCPUD
*Bob Rose, YN	Denny Rohr, Facilitator
*Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD (by phone)	
Ben Lenz, Grant PUD (by phone)	

Draft Minutes

Decision summary:

- A. SOA 2007-15 approved 2006 Fish Source Comparison Study Plan
- B. SOA 2007-9 approved 2006 Top-Spill Behavior Study Report (*pending comments from Scott Carlon by Friday, March 30*).
- C. SOA 2007-11 approved Ultrasound to Control Algae Growth on Fish Viewing Window
- D. SOA 2007-4 approved Priest Rapids Hatchery Fall Chinook HGMP's M&E Plan Development Time Extension

Distributed items:

- A. List of action items from Feb. 28 meeting and March 9 conference call.
- B. Study Plan for "Fish Source" Evaluation Pilot Study Using Acoustic Tags at Wanapum Dam in 2007.
- C. SOA 2007-15 – 2007 Fish Source Evaluation Study Plan for Juvenile Steelhead.
- D. SOA 2007-9 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Bulkhead Behavior Report
- E. White Paper - Potential Effects of Ultrasonic Devices on Columbia River Fishes.
- F. SOA 2007-11 Use of an Ultrasonic Device to Reduce or Eliminate Algal Growth at a Wanapum Right-Bank Video Fish Count Window

- G. SOA 2007-4 – Priest Rapids Hatchery Fall Chinook HGMP’s M&E Plan Development Time Extension

Action items:

- Dresser will e-mail weekly updates on the status of coffer cell removal at the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass, in addition to fish counts through McNary Dam.
- The Priest Rapids Video Fish Count system will be turned on April 2.
- Dotson will have HTI edit the executive summary of the report to reflect the range of collection efficiency percentages in the 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study Report.
- Carlon will offer comments on the 2006 Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study Report by Friday, March 30.
- Rohr will explore the intention of the PRCC HSC concerning the Fall Chinook SOA’s distinction between the HGMP and M&E deadlines.
- Grant PUD will provide an update of Priest Rapids Hatchery design development at the May 23 PRCC meeting at Wanapum Dam.
- Andonaegui will present a NNI funding proposal to the PRCC at the April 25 meeting.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr reviewed agenda items with attendees and requested additions. No changes were made
- III. **Approval/Finalize Meeting Minutes**
A. **February 28, 2007 meeting** - approved
B. **March 9, 2007 conference call** - approved
C. **Affirm Marco Approval of PR Top Spill 2007 Behavior Study Plan (verbal approval to Rohr by telephone discussion)** - approved
- IV. **Review of Action Items (Feb 28 meeting, March 9 conf call)** – Rohr distributed a list of action items generated from the Feb. 28 meeting and March 9 conference call.
- V. **PRCC Spill Reps for 2007 (added March 24)** – Members appointed Curt Dotson, Grant PUD; Scott Carlon, NMFS; and Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW, as spill reps for 2007.
- VI. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass**
A. **Update** - Construction activities are ongoing. Dresser noted there was concern that the current HPA for construction may not cover current underwater activities. Eric Pentico of WDFW agreed that flow fairing installation and cofferdam removal are covered under the current HPA. Completion of work on the flow fairing is scheduled for April 15. High tailwater elevation was of further concern, but the cofferdam was reinforced, which addressed the issue, stated Dresser. Prior to removing the cofferdam, the contractors are proposing to cap the bottom of the abatement ponds with concrete, which will encapsulate any debris and/or sediment that have settled to the bottom of the ponds. Once the cell is removed, the wing wall extensions will be installed, which could require an extended HPA. The current HPA expires July 31. Additionally, a fish tunnel in the original design was included in the current HPA, but was not included in construction per a decision made by the PRCC in Iowa in 2004. Grant PUD plans to submit the supplemental HPA in the next week or so. The submission will include a time extension to April 1, 2008 and removal of the fish tunnel design. Dresser also stated that concrete spillage into Unit 10 was removed. The spillage is being

investigated. Another HPA will need to be submitted to remove spillage into the tailrace and for further clean-up. Work will likely occur next fall.

- B. SE-3 Open/Close Status** – Grant PUD engineers have recommended that SE-3 be closed during the continued construction of the WFUFB, particularly during high tailwater. Fish passage will continue to be provided on the right bank fishway and at the left-bank ladder. SE-3 will be opened as soon as the cofferdam is removed or if spring Chinook are observed passing at Priest Rapids Dam. Grant PUD staff is also monitoring fish counts. DART reported this morning that 42 spring Chinook adults had been through Bonneville Dam, 26 through Dalles Dam, 9 through John Day Dam, 0 through McNary Dam, and 1 through Ice Harbor Dam. Steelhead numbers were: 198 - Bonneville, 124 - Dalles, 308 - John Day, 135 - McNary, 112 - Ice Harbor, and 493 - Lower Granite. Dresser will e-mail weekly updates on the status of cofferdam removal and fish counts through McNary Dam (which will indicate that SE-3 needs to be re-opened). Per Bryan Nordlund's suggestion, Grant PUD agreed to turn on the video fish count system at Priest Rapids Dam beginning April 2.

VII. Steelhead Survival Study

- A. ACTION: SOA 2007-15, Detailed Source Fish Study Plan (this is the Plan to support SOA 2007-12 which approved performing the source fish evaluation)** - Discussion and verbal agreements have been reached between Grant and Chelan PUD concerning coordination on providing and handling study fish for the 2007 evaluation. Dotson noted that USGS surgical staff has been contracted to evaluate methodology to identify potential fish-handling issues. A report with recommended actions will be made available by USGS following the study. Members approved SOA 2007-15.
- B. Discussion of Potential Coordination of Grant and Chelan PUD Survival Studies** – Dotson stated that Grant PUD staff presented to Chelan PUD a proposal for coordination of upcoming survival studies. Chelan PUD indicated they would like to continue discussions after the 2007 study season. Discussion is also occurring on the possibility of using the same tagged fish for coordinated survival studies. Dotson will keep members advised.

VIII. PR Top Spill Behavior Study Report

- A. ACTION: SOA 2007-9, 2006 Top Spill Behavior Study Report (close of comment period – document distributed Feb 28th)** – Nordlund noted the executive summary statement indicating a collection efficiency of 97% needs to clarify that the efficiency is based on collection within 50 feet. Dotson noted that a table within the report shows collection efficiencies at further distances. Nordlund suggested the executive summary state the range of efficiencies. Dotson direct HTI to make the change to the report. Carlon requested three more days to review the report and stated he will provide comment by Friday, March 30. SOA 2007-9 is approved pending Carlon's comments. Andonaegui questioned what the consecutive (2006 and 2007) behavior studies will be used for. Dotson stated that inadvertent spill in 2006 facilitated the need for a more realistic study of fish behavior in 2007. The data from these studies will be used to further develop concept designs for the PR Fish Bypass.
- B. Presentation of Updated/Detailed 2006 Study Plan for Repeat in 2007 (proposal to repeat 2006 Study Plan in 2007 was approved Feb 28th) - (SEE ABOVE)**

- IX. PR OLAF T Update** – The project is scheduled to be completed May 11. Dresser stated that WDFW crews will conduct a test run with water in June or early July, noting that WDFW and the Yakama Nation will use the facility for trapping beginning in mid-July.

- X. Video Fish Counting**
- A. Update** – Testing is complete and fish counters will begin soon, stated Dresser.
- B. ACTION: SOA 2007-11 - Using Ultrasound to Control Algae Growth on Fish Viewing Window** – Grant PUD proposes doing a one-year test of the device. Dresser distributed a white paper on potential effects of ultrasonic devices on Columbia River fish behavior. The device would clean the windows at the Wanapum Dam right bank video fish count window. The white paper provides members with information concerning possible effects to Columbia River fishes. SOA 2007-11 was approved by members. Dresser will provide updates on the system at future meetings.
- XI. ACTION: SOA 2007-4, PR Hatchery Fall Chinook HGMP's M&E Plan Development Time Extension** – Andonaegui requested clarification of the purpose of the SOA. Rohr will explore the intention of the PRCC HSC concerning the SOA's distinction between the HGMP and M&E deadlines. The SOA as approved as written.
- XII. Discussion of Spring Facilities Tour – 3 Committee Joint Meeting** – Rohr noted there is a PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee public meeting scheduled for May 17, which would conflict with the possible joint meeting. Carlon stated that a NOAA meeting also conflicts with the date. Andonaegui noted that holding the joint meeting on May 23 would coordinate with a scheduled HCP meeting. Rohr suggested holding the PRCC meeting at Wanapum Dam on May 23 with an invite extended to the PRCC subcommittees. A joint meeting will tentatively be scheduled for June.
- XIII. PRCC Hatchery SC Update (Russell)**
- A. White River Spring Chinook** – Following an emergency consultation received from NMFS earlier this week, WDFW and USFWS crews are mobilizing to transfer fish from the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (Thursday, Friday, March 29 & 30) and AquaSeed (Monday, April 2) to net pens in Lake Wenatchee. Another 150,000 (BY06 sub-yearlings) at LWS also need to be moved and released. These fish were not covered under the emergency consultation, but a pending Section 10 permit would allow the moving and direct planting of these fish in the White River. USFWS need the raceways holding the fish emptied next week. If the Section 10 is not issued, Grant PUD is uncertain what will happen with those fish. NMFS has indicated that an additional emergency consultation to transfer and release these additional fish is not likely. Carlon will follow up with NMFS staff on the issue. Langshaw stated that the release sight is downstream from the rearing grounds of the wild fish, noting that a current contract with WDFW to move the BY05 fish may also allow moving the BY06 fish. Andonaegui will follow-up with WDFW internal staff.
- B. Scheduling and Planning** – Grant PUD has contracted with Greg Ferguson of Sea Springs Inc. to develop HGMPs for Grant PUD's hatchery programs. The PRCC HSC has developed timelines associated with HGMP development. The PRCC HSC is planning public meetings (May 17 and July 19) to involve the public in HGMP and design development. Development of HGMPs for Nason Creek and White River are on the same timeline and will both be discussed during the public meetings. A public newsletter concerning ongoing and upcoming program activities is being mailed next week.
- C. M&E proposal for spring Chinook** – Langshaw presented an M&E proposal involving manipulating spawning ground composition as a reference condition in the treatment stream. The approach could eliminate confounding problems with the reference stream. The PRCC HSC is currently reviewing the technical aspects of the proposal. Langshaw noted that the Hatchery Evaluation Technical Team (HETT) is meeting April 9-10 to recommend whether reference streams are a viable option.

- D. BY06 spring Chinook are being CWT-marked at LWS (a group of these will also be PIT-tagged).** A group (of a single ELISA level) is too small to mark and were segregated for later marking, stated Langshaw. All others have been marked.
- E. Section 10 status** – Carlon stated that the Environmental Assessment associated with the Section 10 permit application is in Washington, D.C. for signature. The NMFS regional office is working on the ESA Section 7 consultation (Biological Opinion), also associated with the permit application.. When the EA returns from Washington, D.C., the BiOp can be signed at the regional level.
- F. Bull trout BiOp** – The USFWS Bull Trout Biological Opinion was issued March 14, 2007 and includes language to cover White River activities.
- G. Subyearling release of BY06 White River spring Chinook** – Grant PUD staff originally discussed obtaining a population estimate, but concerns over emergence, is not yet completed, did not allow for gathering of a complete population estimate. Grant PUD staff will instead conduct a presence/absence survey.
- H. Property** - Grant PUD is exploring two possible parcels on the White River. Water evaluation is continuing at Cascade Gardens on Nason Creek and additional properties are also being explored in that river basin.
- I. Priest Rapids Hatchery** – Designs for raceways were presented at the March 23 PRCC HSC meeting. An area of continued concern is the adult holding ponds if Grant PUD continues to support the Yakama and Umatilla programs. Grant PUD staff is still working with both tribes to determine whether those programs will continue and at what level. One adult holding pond could hold both the John Day and Grant PUD mitigation fish, with the Umatilla and Yakama program in the other. However, there is not enough well water available to meet new WDFW density criteria for all four programs, and some of the adults would have to be held in river water (at a higher temperature). Dresser also noted that white sturgeon can be held in river water. Grant PUD will provide an update on design development at the May 23 meeting at Wanapum Dam.
- J. Summer Chinook** – Discussions are underway on production tributary splits for Grant PUD's summer Chinook program. The JFP has recommended 30% at Methow, 30% Wenatchee, 30% Okanogan, and 10% Entiat. Grant PUD has concerns about an Entiat program, including the efficacy of a summer Chinook fishery in the Entiat. Because hatchery adults would have to be captured to eliminate interaction with non-target fish, success of such a fishery is a concern to Grant PUD. Langshaw noted that because USFWS is not in support of rearing summer Chinook at the Entiat Fish Hatchery (recommended by the JFP), new facilities would need to be built. Additionally, M&E and spring Chinook reference stream issues are also of concern to Grant PUD. While acknowledging that a potential fishery in the Entiat is a fish management decision, Dresser noted that summer Chinook is a consensus species among signatories to the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSA). Langshaw also stated his concern that questions about the proposed fishery are not being addressed by the JFP. Andonaegui noted that while the tributary percentage split is in fact a management decision, actual implementation of the programs is a PRCC HSC issue. She suggested a meeting among all parties to discuss the issue. A PRCC HSC conference call is scheduled for Thursday, April 5 to allow Grant PUD to outline its concerns about implementing a summer Chinook program in the Entiat. Andonaegui acknowledged the questions and concerns of Grant PUD and suggested WDFW internal and public processes take their course before a final decision is made. Marco stated that further discussion needs to occur among the JFP following the April 5 conference call. Rohr will keep PRCC members informed of future discussion. Rohr also noted that Langshaw and Dresser are

meeting soon with Sarah Walker of the Chelan County Conservation District to discuss Entiat fishery programs.

- K. Sockeye Reintroduction to Skaha Lake program** – 1.51 million fish will be marked and released the week of May 15. An event is being planned to celebrate Okanagan Nation Alliance's long-term contracts with Chelan and Grant PUDs.
- L. USFWS Hatchery Review Team** is scheduled to complete a report on the Entiat National Fish Hatchery in the next couple of weeks (this evaluation was received by Grant PUD on March 29). Langshaw stated that Grant PUD has requested that USFWS take over the White River Captive Brood program, which would allow the removal of F1s from AquaSeed to USFWS facilities. USFWS supports taking on the full program as long as there is support among the fish co-managers. USFWS has tentatively expressed interest in rearing the F2s in the Entiat Hatchery and F1s at LWS.
- M. Hanford Reach** – Temperature Units are at 955 (as of Monday, March 26), which puts start of emergence between April 2-4, stated Langshaw, noting the river level has not dropped below critical elevation.

XIV. NNI Fund Discussion – The PRCC Habitat Subcommittee has requested development of a Habitat Plan which will outline project selection and spending protocol. Once the draft plan has been developed, it can be discussed at the joint PRCC meeting in June. Rohr and Lenz are currently writing a preliminary draft of the plan. Marco requested transparency and positive communication when it comes to spending of the NNI fund provided for in the Salmon Settlement Agreement. Marco also requested a timeline for Habitat Plan development. Andonaegui stated that WDFW plans to present a project proposal to use NNI funds for conducting fish predation studies within the pools of Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. Marco and Andonaegui both expressed support of Grant PUD and the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee developing a spending plan (which is required under the Salmon Settlement Agreement) for NNI funds. Dresser noted that a proposal for such predation studies should come to the PRCC rather than the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee. Cates stated he expects that the Habitat Plan will identify appropriate use of the SSA NNI funds for performance standards. Rohr will send members a project specification for, which will also be available on Grant PUD's FTP site. Andonaegui will present the proposal to the PRCC its April 25 meeting. Marco also suggested a report each month of a current NNI Fund total and associated expenditures. Lenz reported that the NNI fund currently totals \$2,454,000 (as of Feb. 28).

XV. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee Update (Ben) –

- A.** A request by the Colville Tribe on March 9 for the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee to approve an additional \$10,000 in Habitat Funds for completion of the Omak Creek Culvert project. A request by USFWS for \$5,000 to supplement appraisal fees for a parcel on the Upper Twisp River was also made. The 16-acre parcel is being purchased by the Methow Conservancy and is adjacent to US Forest Service property. The proposal involves possible turnover of the property to the USFS.
- B.** A proposal to purchase a 63-acre piece of property on Nason Creek (Godwin property) is pending an internal WDFW purchase process.
- C.** A proposal to purchase the Kahler Glen property (8 acres adjacent to the Godwin Property) will undergo an appraisal this spring.

XVI. Update on PR BiOp – Carlon noted he will complete a draft of the Priest Rapids Biological Opinion within the next three weeks or so. Another three weeks will be required for NMFS internal review.

- XVII. Update on PR 401 Certification Process** – WDOE opened another comment period, which resulted in discussion last week between WDFW and Grant PUD on resident fish issues. Additional discussions are occurring with other interested stakeholders. A final 401 Certification is anticipated by mid-April. Issuance could trigger an appeal process.
- XVIII. Update on PR Final License Order** – FERC is waiting for NMFS' BiOp and 401 Certification. Grant PUD is still expecting a final license order in late summer.
- XIX. Update on Hanford Reach** - (above)
- XX. Update of new Grant PUD FTP Site** – Grant PUD's FTP site is now working and all members have been given access instructions.
- XXI. Review of Meeting Action Items** – Lowry reviewed the action items.
- XXII. Next Meeting** - Wednesday, April 25, 2007, 9:00 am, Grant SeaTac Office