



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee MEETING

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2007
Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Jerry Marco, CCT	Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Bob Rose, YN	Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW	Denny Rohr, Facilitator

ATTENDEES:

Jim Craig*, USFWS	Denny Rohr, facilitator
Carmen Andonaegui*, WDFW	Debbie Williams, Grant PUD
Jerry Marco*, CCT (by phone)	Shannon Lowry, Grant PUD
Bob Rose*, YN (by phone)	Tom Dresser*, Grant PUD
Bryan Nordlund*, NMFS	Curt Dotson, Grant PUD
Scott Carlon*, NMFS	Dana Jeske, Grant PUD

Distributed Items:

- **A letter to Town of Oliver Municipal Manager Tom Szalay with comments from PRCC members incorporated.**
- **Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) project specification sheet.**
- **List of questions for potential predator study contractors and a LGL/University of Idaho response to those questions.**

Action items:

- **Dotson will distribute a final tally of broodstock collection and egg take for Grant PUD's 2007 fall Chinook mitigation program.**
- **Langshaw will provide information to Andonaegui concerning whether the Priest Rapids Hatchery modification designs could accommodate mass-marking activities.**
- **Dresser will distribute a draft White River program summary to both the PRCC HSC and PRCC within the next few weeks.**
- **Fisher will pursue a determination of what will be included in and who will conduct monitoring efforts in the post-project phase of the Okanagan River re-channelization. Rohr will distribute the information to PRCC members.**

- Rohr will distribute the ORRI project engineering designs to PRCC members.
- The new McIntyre Dam project designs requested by Nordlund will be distributed by Fisher and Rohr once they are received from the project engineers later this week.
- Fisher will notify Dresser once a determination is made on who the lead contractor will be on the McIntyre Dam project.
- The Priest Rapids top-spill presentation will be distributed to PRCC members.
- Dec. 18 meeting materials will be hard-copy mailed to Scott Carlon, who will be unable to be in attendance.
- Dotson will e-mail predator study questions to Marco, Rose and Steve Lewis prior to the Nov. 29 meeting.

Decision summary:

- **Members agreed to finalize the Town of Oliver letter with revisions from Bob Rose incorporated by Dresser.**

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Rohr welcomed attendees and introduced Grant PUD FWWQ Administrative Assistant Debbie Williams.
- II. Agenda Review – Rohr noted several changes to the agenda, including call-ins updates/presentations from Russell Langshaw (Grant PUD), and Chris Fisher of CCT. Also added were discussion of the ORRI habitat project, a letter drafted for the City of Oliver concerning the McIntyre Dam project, and Wanapum Pool Raise discussion.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - Affirmation from Jerry Marco re: NNI funding approval for the McIntyre Dam Project – PRCC members affirmed PRCC approval for NNI funding of the McIntyre Dam Project.
 - Oct. 12 PRCC/PRCC Habitat CC – approved
 - October 24 meeting - approved
 - Oct. 30 CC – approved w/revisions from WDFW
 - Nov. 1 CC - approved
- IV. **Action Items Review – Rohr walked members through action items generated from the Oct. 24 meeting.**
- V. **ORRI Habitat Project (Chris Fisher, CCT) – A total of \$411,000 is being requested from NNI funds for the ORRI project (partially funded by the HCP Habitat Subcommittee and Canadian funding sources).**

PRCC Habitat Subcommittee members approved requesting funding for the project from NNI Habitat Funds. The project involves converting a channelized reach of the Okanogan River to its original pre-channelized pattern. The project will give back 1,780 meters of the Okanogan River to its natural channel. This project, which was started by the Okanogan Nation Alliance in 1998, will restore a critical portion of Okanogan River by setting back dykes, restoring meanders, and reconnecting the river to its former floodplain. This should benefit sockeye, Chinook, steelhead, and other species by increasing egg-to-fry survival and by creating rearing habitat. The project will be phased to reduce the costs in any single fiscal year and to provide a "proof of concept" for further work. Construction in 2007/8 will be limited to the southernmost property (500 meters of river) where the river will be reconnected with two original meander loops. However, the set-back dyke will be constructed for both properties to save money by avoiding the need to repeat the construction steps later on. The Canadian Okanogan Basin Technical Working Group (COBTWG) submitted the project proposal to both the PRCC and to the HCP Tributary Committee requesting a funding partnership. Andonaegui asked if any design modifications are planned as the project moves forward on the upper reach and whether engineering has taken into consideration further expansion of the project. Nordlund stated that he has not reviewed the project design, but noted his concern that if upper half is left as is (with the exception of moving the dykes), the benefits to the lower part of the project would be reduced. Fisher stated that the benefit to fish from the isolated reach would be limited without the full reconnection. Members discussed why the lower 500 meters of the reach was chosen over the upper reach. Fisher noted that further land purchases are being pursued to secure another 300 meters north of the current project site to fully rehabilitate the channelized reach of the Okanogan River. Andonaegui asked if additional funding for upper reach work would likely be requested in the future. Fisher noted there is that possibility. Andonaegui asked about post-project M&E. Fisher noted that the Canadian Ministry conducts snorkel surveys in mainstem in addition to ONA spawning surveys. Between them they would continue those surveys and include the reconnected reaches. Andonaegui suggested habitat M&E in addition to the spawning and redd surveys. Fisher will pursue what will be included in the monitoring and who will conduct it. Andonaegui requested it be put in writing. Andonaegui also asked why the project funding request is not appropriate for funding from the PR Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement Habitat Account. Fisher noted that the project best fits the NNI funding criteria. Andonaegui noted the need to weigh the ORRI project's benefits to sockeye in the upper Okanogan River area against the benefits of the potential predator study, also being considered for funding by NNI dollars, if NNI funding becomes limiting. Because there is no habitat plan in place to guide the PRCC in its decision-making,

Andonaegui questioned how the best choice can be made. Fisher noted that the funds will not be needed until late in 2008. Andonaegui requested more discussion time following the predator study presentation on Nov. 29. Fisher noted that permits for the project are being held up until formal funding commitments are made. Carlon also requested more time for discussion, but agreed to give the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee a decision time-frame. Dresser noted that he votes yes for funding the project, but would rather wait until the predator study discussion occurs. Craig voted yes for the project, and noted the project's significant value for the relatively small amount of requested dollars. Marco also indicated his support for the project, but noted his willingness to wait on a decision until the predator study is decided on. Rose (who is also a member of the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee) recommended that the committee vote yes for the project and reminded members that Douglas PUD is also supporting projects in that area, noting the project's benefit to sockeye. Rose also stated his position that the ORRI project benefit is greater to the resource than that of the predator study. Members agreed to further discuss funding of the project at the next PRCC meeting on Dec. 18.

- VI. McIntyre Dam/City of Oliver Letter** – The PRCC approved \$1.8 million in NNI funds for the McIntyre Dam project, based on three contingencies. Formal commitments have been requested on both sides of the project, noted Rohr. A letter to Town of Oliver Municipal Manager Tom Szalay with comments from PRCC members incorporated was distributed. Members agreed to finalize the letter with revisions from Bob Rose incorporated by Dresser. Project engineers are looking at a different riffle configuration in the tailrace to increase the pool depth and are doing QA/QC on the new design and expect to have a response by the end of this week, stated Fisher. The redesign was requested by Nordlund and involves reconfiguration of riffle and water surface profile over the new dam gates that would show the range of conditions over a passage season. The new designs will be distributed once they are received from the project engineers. Rohr noted a letter from the Town of Oliver was received on Nov. 14 with a commitment to install new screening for the McIntyre project. Fisher will notify Grant once further discussion occurs with ONA and CCT concerning project construction.
- VII. Fall Chinook ladder counts/broodstock collection update** – 1,317 females have been collected as of Nov. 26, 2007, stated Dotson. Of those females, 99 of those were collected at the Priest Rapids Off Ladder Fish Trap (OLAFT) and 1,254 were captured at the volunteer trap at Priest Rapids Hatchery. An estimated total of 5.17 million eggs have been collected to date, with 33,870 eggs provided by Ringold Hatchery. To date, 90% of Grant PUD's mitigation requirement has been met, stated Dotson. No contribution has been received from

Bonneville Hatchery. Dotson will distribute a final tally once egg collection efforts are completed. Craig recommended moving forward with 90% of the program, rather than finding eggs from other sources to make up the remaining 10%, citing a healthier rearing environment when less fish are in the program. Marco asked if a Nov. 14 e-mail from Dotson was erroneous when it stated the full 5 million egg take would be fulfilled. Dotson noted that as of Nov. 14, it appeared there were enough hens to produce the required number of eggs. Two weeks later, however, it appears some females may not have been as productive as initially thought and there were additional mortalities since that date. The final tally spreadsheet will outline the correct number of broodstock collected and egg-take. Dresser noted that additional females expected to be spawned may have not been included in the Nov. 26 total. Another success was reached by the PRCC, stated Nordlund.

- VIII. Wanapum Future Unit Bypass Update** – Concrete work is complete, but mechanical work continues, stated Dotson, noting contract issues are being worked out. Operation of the bypass should coincide with the 2008 spring fish out-migration season, followed by evaluation.
- IX. PR OLAFT Update** – The Priest Rapids Off-Ladder Fish Trap has been shut down and winter maintenance has occurred. No salmon were found in the trap during sweeping. Staff is tweaking the trap, based on issues revealed during its first season of use. Nordlund asked if any modifications would occur over the winter. Dresser noted that internal Grant PUD discussion is occurring over potential modifications to the trap during the winter outage. The facility begins operation in mid-summer. Dotson also noted that the right bank fish ladder has been shut down for the winter based on PRCC agreement. Members discussed whether a closure date was outlined in the Listed Salmon Operation Plan (LSOP). Nordlund noted that Chelan and Douglas PUD shut down one ladder starting on Dec. 1. Dresser noted Detailed Fishway Operations Plan may have closure dates included.
- X. Priest Rapids Top-Spill/Trip to Iowa** – Duncan Hay (Oakwood Consulting) and Dana Jeske of the PR Bypass Design Team provided information regarding the development of surface spill being used as a passage route at Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). The PRD top-spill was tested in 2006 and 2007 using spillbays 19 and 20. Fish passage efficiency at the dam in 2006 was 12% for Chinook, 15% for steelhead and 20% for sockeye, and in 2007 it was 13% for Chinook, 19% for steelhead, and 12% for sockeye. On average, 15% of the fish are passing through the top-spill with 7-8 kcfs per bay and the powerhouse fully loaded. Fish collection efficiencies during both years indicate that most fish within 50-feet of the top-spill bulkhead select the top-spill for passage. Testing shows that the top-spill configuration is efficient in

collecting the fish within that 30- to 50-foot zone, stated Hay. Based on modeling of both spill bays in 2006 and 2007, an operation change is proposed for the 2008 testing period of: no change in flows through spillbays 19 and 20 (at 7-8 kcfs each), with an additional bottom spill of 7 kcfs through spillbay 21. With the 2008 proposed prototype/operations, the Design Team expects: an increase in the percentage of non-turbine fish passage, the ability to compare results directly to the results of 2006 and 2007, that egress will remain close to powerhouse flows, no change in TDG uptake, and a reduction of the area available for predators between the spillway and powerhouse. Hay presented video clips of the physical modeling performed in Iowa of various flow configurations through bays 19, 20 and 21. Nordlund asked if modelers had tried to control recirculation mode to keep it out of potential predation areas. In the event there is a failure to get desired survival rates, Andonaegui asked how it would be determined whether the problem occurred at the dam or in the area between the dam and the first detection point at Vernita Bar. Because route-specific passage through the dam will be determined, detection downstream will allow for measurement of tailrace conditions, including predation. Carlon noted that the entire Wanapum Dam spillway was in operation when performance standards were met with spring Chinook. Historically, spillway survival at Wanapum Dam was low, which resulted in the May 2004 Biological Opinion RPA to develop the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass, stated Dotson. However, because spillway survival is higher at PRD, if it's possible to get equal survival without spilling 61% of the water, it's worth exploring, noted Dotson.

- XI. **2007 PR Top-Spill Behavior Study Presentation** – A final draft should be available prior to Dec. 18 and further discussion will occur at that time.

- XII. **Draft 2007 Steelhead Head-to-Head Fish Source Comparison Study Results** – Final draft will be available prior to Dec. 18. Dotson noted the study occurred due to a 3% 48-hour post-surgical mortality during the 2006 steelhead survival study and differences seen in the reach survival estimates between Chelan & Grant Steelhead between Rock Island and Sunland Estates. The result was a request to conduct a study comparing fish sources to determine the source of the mortality. Fish were collected at Chelan PUD's Rocky Reach facility and at the Wanapum Dam gatewell, with fish handled by Chelan PUD and LGL. Three release groups included Chelan fish tagged by Chelan handlers, Chelan fish trucked to Wanapum Dam and tagged by LGL staff, and Wanapum gatewell fish tagged by LGL staff. All fish were released into the Rock Island Dam tailrace. While results of the study revealed no significant difference in survival based on fish source, individual handling did seem to have an effect on survival, stated Dotson. Members discussed whether high total dissolved gas (TDG)

issues had an effect on the 2006 survival numbers. Dotson noted that handling protocols were altered to address mortality issues. Fish collected at Grant PUD were slightly larger. Based on size, larger fish tend to go through the powerhouse vs. other routes. Nordlund stated that Chelan PUD is looking at the past year's study to pick out particular taggers which had may have had a negative effect on survival.

- XIII. Draft 2008 Steelhead Survival and Priest Rapids Top-Spill Behavior Study Plan** – A final draft of the 2008 study plan is not available, but Dotson noted the standard paired release survival study will be conducted on steelhead with acoustic tags. WFUFB will be operated at Wanapum Dam during the study (which will also allow gathering of behavior information for spring Chinook, steelhead and sockeye). Operations at Priest Rapids Dam will be the same for both the behavior and survival study, because they occur simultaneously, noted Dotson. A study plan will be distributed prior to the Oct. 18 meeting.
- XIV. Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs Presentation; 2007 NPM/Avian reports and 2008 NPM/Avian Study Plans** – A final draft of these reports will be distributed at the Oct. 18 PRCC meeting and further discussion will occur at that time. Dresser noted that the avian study began on May 1, 2007 and concluded on Aug. 1, 2007. There were more than 23,000 control actions done on avian predators, with 679 stomachs analyzed. More than 72% of the stomachs contained smolts, with a total of 377 coded-wire tags, 42 PIT-tags, and 2 hydroacoustic tags. Next year's efforts will focus on installation of an avian array over the Priest Rapids tailrace. A criss-cross design is proposed and staff presence by boat will be increased during the study. At Wanapum Dam a quadrant-based study will help in design of new arrays in the tailrace. A presentation will be given at the Dec. 18 meeting. Only gulls, cormorants and mergansers have been controlled, but Grant PUD is also preparing to request lethal take of Caspian terns, noted Dresser. Such a permit has been denied in other locations, stated Andonaegui. While no pelican nesting has been observed on the Project to date, predation by pelicans nesting in the Potholes and Banks Lake areas could potentially be an issue in the future, stated Dresser. More than 20,000 northern pikeminnow were removed during the 2007 season. Of those, 17,000 were over 9 inches (about 12% of the population estimate). Very little was found in the sub-samples for dietary contact and 64% of the stomachs were empty. Only 25 salmonids were found. In 2008 Grant PUD staff plans to conduct similar control efforts as in 2007.

XV. PRCC Hatchery SC Report (Russell) –

- **Priest Rapids Hatchery** – Members discussed release channel issues as they related to the PRH modifications and a potential value engineering (VE) study following 90% completion of the designs. Andonaegui asked if the 90% design included accommodations for mass marking if a decision is made to go to mass marking. Langshaw noted that the 90% design would likely be able to accommodate mass-marking if it occurs. Langshaw will provide the information to Andonaegui following discussion with Grant PUD engineers. Langshaw noted that a decision on mass-marking has not been made.
- Reporting requirements of the White River spring Chinook Section 10 permit will be provided to the hatchery subcommittee in December.
- Trials will be conducted next year regarding White River spring Chinook cryogenic efforts.
- Water evaluations in the Nason Creek basin are stalled due to difficulty in removing a well casing on the Boyce property and weather conditions. Evaluation will continue next spring or summer. Purchase of the property is on hold. The property is likely only appropriate for acclimation, adult holding and incubation due to its water limitations.
- Langshaw provided a Nason Creek screw-trap summary. Collected were 152 BY 06 spring Chinook, 73 Steelhead, 72 parr and 1 fry.
- A potential short-term acclimation site at RM 10.5 on the White River has been tabled due to spring icing issues. Further evaluation will occur next spring.
- Grant PUD has submitted permits for the Lake Wenatchee net pen acclimation and release program for White River spring Chinook. The nets will be launched from the state park, noted Langshaw.
- Tagging protocols for BY06 White River are being developed. 20,000 White River spring Chinook will be PIT-tagged to look at differential survival rates for different ELISA levels to be used for SAR rates and migration-timing.
- Grant PUD staff met with Bonneville Hatchery and ODFW staff concerning potential excess capacity for the White River F1 program. However, it was determined that nothing would be available until 2009 and limited space beyond that point. The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee has approved the transport of F1s from AquaSeed to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (LWS). A transport protocol is being developed. Egg-take total as of October was 58,512 eggs at LWS and 58,271 at AquaSeed. A .04

mortality for F2s occurred at LWS. Grant PUD is working on a genetics contract to make sure that BY07 collected for the F1 portion of the program are of natural origin.

- The White River screw-trap captured 15 wild natural origin sub-yearling Chinook in October. Of those, three were precocial males. A total of 16 hatchery Chinook were captured, none of which were precocial. The trap is being removed this week.
- **White River Position Statement** – A program summary to dispel misperceptions about the program is being developed by the PRCC HSC followed by contact with members of the public with interest in the White River program. The summary is designed to outline which facilities are being proposed for construction in the White River basin and which are not. Dresser will distribute a draft to both the PRCC HSC and PRCC within the next few weeks.
- Members are also discussing and re-drafting the **Okanogan Spring Chinook SOA**.
- Discussion concerning Grant PUD's **steelhead program** occurred at the Nov. 15 PRCC HSC meeting. Committee is uncomfortable with splitting more of Grant PUD's program to the Colville's steelhead program. Currently, 80,000 are provided from Douglas PUD's Wells Hatchery, with the remaining 20,000 from the CCT Cassimar-Bar facility.
- JFP HGMP meeting is being scheduled to answer questions for the **White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook HGMPs**. Langshaw said he is unsure whether that meeting has occurred.
- **White River and Nason Creek HGMPs** are on hold until further JFP discussion occurs. The **fall Chinook/Priest Rapids Hatchery HGMP** and M&E plan are under development. Grant PUD and WDFW staff met Nov. 19 to discuss fall Chinook M&E issues. The foundation of the M&E plan should be completed in early 2008. Andonaegui asked if an SOA extending the M&E timeline should be discussed. Langshaw noted that because progress is being made toward completion of the plan, an SOA may not be necessary. The issue will be discussed at the PRCC HSC level. Langshaw noted that otoliths are currently being collected to determine the origin of PRH fall Chinook. PRCC members are currently reviewing a draft **summer Chinook HGMP**.

XVI. PRCC Habitat SC Report (Ben)

- A. McIntyre Dam status (see discussion above under item VI)
- B. Habitat Funds/NNI Fund Report (see discussion above under item VI)

XVII. Wanapum Pool Raise – Rose noted that policy level staff is discussing a proposed Wanapum pool raise. Rohr noted that Grant PUD senior policy advisor Joe Lukas represents Grant PUD on a policy advisory group to Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire which is exploring water storage opportunities. The group, which is developing the Columbia River Water Management Plan, has identified several options for water storage and has approached Grant PUD concerning the potential water storage opportunity through raising the Wanapum pool. No structural changes to Wanapum Dam are proposed, only a pool elevation, stated Dresser. Stored water is being discussed for consumptive usage, fish passage, irrigation, and other reasons.

XVIII. White River policy meeting - A policy meeting between Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County, NMFS and WDFW to discuss the White River spring Chinook program is scheduled for Dec. 14, noted Rohr.

XIX. Predation Study meeting update – Tomorrow’s meeting with potential contractors for a proposed NNI-funded predator study will begin at 8:30 a.m. Dotson distributed a list of questions and a LGL/University of Idaho response to those questions. Carmen Andonaegui, Tom Dresser, Curt Dotson and Scott Carlon will be in attendance. Steve Lewis, Bob Rose and Jerry Marco will call-in.

XX. Video Fish Count – Dresser noted that a proposal is being drafted for moving Wanapum count stations further down the ladder for a one-year test period and direct all fish through one orifice and up through the water column. A letter to request completion of the junction pool RPA is also being drafted.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 18, 2007, 9:00 a.m. @ Grant PUD SeaTac office.