



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

9:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD HED – Trailer T

15655 Wanapum Village Lane S.W., Beverly, WA 99321

PRCC Members

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

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC member)

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Bryan Nordlund, NMFS* | Jim Craig, USFWS* |
| Jerry Marco, CCT* | Tom Dresser, GCPUD* |
| Bob Rose, YN* | Curt Dotson, GCPUD |
| Bill Tweit, WDFW* | Denny Rohr, Facilitator* |
| Russ Langshaw, GCPUD | Chris Carlson, GCPUD |
| Dave Duvall, GCPUD | Ben Lenz, GCPUD |
| Stuart Hammond, GCPUD | Randy Nash, GCPUD |

Action Items:

- Dotson will supply spill data to PRCC members prior to the May meeting.
- Dotson will contact HTI regarding transducer technology that can be utilized for fish air bladder identification.

Decisions:

- PRCC members approved additional 30-day review of the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI), 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski), and Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007.
- PRCC members approved the 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report.
- PRCC members approved the 2007 Avian Predation Report.
- PRCC members approved the ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) Okanogan Nation Alliance funding letter

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Jan 23, 2008 meeting - approved
 - Feb 27, 2008 meeting - approved
 - March 26, 2008 meeting – PRCC members will review, approval to be asked for at the May PRCC meeting.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – No discussion took place.
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** – New right and left bank video fish count systems have been installed at Wanapum Dam. Fiber optic hookups will be completed next week. Ladder counts are currently being done by the existing system. Dresser explained that duplication counts will be completed periodically throughout the season per Rose's request, but that the counts would be basic, not statistical.
- VI. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass Site Tour and Dedication** – Rohr thanked PRCC members for attending the WFUFB dedication.
- VII. **Grant PUD Document Storage Site** – Dresser explained details of a document storage site that can be developed by Grant PUD for PRCC and other committees use. The password protected site could be developed within 30 days, and would allow members access to PRCC documents and draft study plans. Costs associated with the site are: \$1,600.00 one time fee to cover the 40 hours of Grant PUD staff time for development, and \$1,000.00 per year for minimal ongoing maintenance for shared hardware and webpage updates. Dresser requested the funds to support the site be paid out of the NNI fund, noting that Douglas PUD uses their Habitat or Tributary fund to cover website administrative cost. Nordlund stated the HCP has earmarked \$80,000 for administrative fees, and if administrative costs exceed that amount, the additional monies will be taken from the Tributary committee. Rose noted the Settlement Agreement does not discuss administrative fees and who's responsible to pay for them. Discussion to continue at the next meeting.
- VIII. **Wanapum Pool Raise Concept Update** – No discussion took place.
- IX. **Wanapum Generator & Transformers Upgrade** – Stuart Hammond presented the PRCC with an overview of changes to turbines and generators that will allow for continued reliable cost effective operation and to capture the increased output from available water. PRCC members discussed the timeline of generator installation. Nordlund suggested Grant PUD determine if Green Credits can be received for the installation of the new generators. Hammond noted that Grant

PUD will seek a license amendment to FERC for the new generators and transformers and currently expects to have associated review documentation prepared near the end of May 2008.

- X. **Future Unit In Fill Project** – Randy Nash, Grant PUD Engineer, presented and discussed with the PRCC Grant PUD’s plan to pursue a safety measure associated with the stabilization of the Wanapum Future Units by implementing the Future Unit Infill Project (FUIP). The FUIP will require approximately 52,000 cubic yards of concrete, and the \$40 million project construction is estimated to take four years. Provisions for future seismic reinforcement are being developed. Grant PUD is confirming terms of necessary permits and presently anticipates contract award in fall 2008, with contract completion estimated at the end of 2012.
- XI. **Priest Rapids Top-Spill**
 - A. **Action Item: 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI)** – approval requested – PRCC members approved additional 30-day review of the 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI), 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski), and Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007.
- XII. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – approval requested – See discussion above.
- XIII. **Action Item: Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007** – See discussion above.
- XIV. **Sockeye –**
 - A. **Skaha Lake Sockeye Reintroduction** – A 12 broodyear. Sockeye Study Plan presentation was given by Duvall, Carlson, and Lenz. Grant PUD is in year five of an artificial propagation program and habitat enhancement for sockeye in British Columbia with Okanagan Nation Alliance. The 12 yr. Study Plan which is fully funded by Grant PUD will allow for reintroduction of 15.7 million sockeye into the Okanagan Basin through 2017. The first four years met all M & E plan goals and objectives. This presentation will also be presented to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee on May 22, 2008. Discussion will continue at May’s PRCC meeting.
 - B. **Short term ONA building contract** – No discussion took place.
- XV. **Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs**
 - A. **Action Item: 2007 Northern Pikeminnow Report** – approval requested – PRCC members approved the 2007 Northern

Pikeminnow Report. Pikeminnow fishing started two weeks ago. The average weekly take is 200 pikeminnow. Grant PUD has increased efforts to focus on high predation locations, using double the number of set lines previously used. Fishing will also occur on weekends.

- B. **Action Item: 2007 Avian Predation Report – approval requested** – Andonaeguis comments were incorporated into the 2007 Avian Predation Report, stated Dresser. **PRCC members approved the 2007 Avian Predation Report.** USDA will be conducting avian hazing and lethal take in the Wanapum and Priest Rapids tailrace around the clock during the 2008 salmonid out migration, stated Dresser. He noted all permits required for installation of the Priest Rapids avian arrays have been obtained. Arrays will be installed upon completion of the 2008 spill season. Grant PUD will meet with USFWS on May 6, 2008 regarding lethal tern take. Dresser does not expect a permit to be granted this year. Rose asked what percent of pikeminnow are found to have salmonids in their gut. Dresser replied 2% on average. Rose questioned if the predation program is a waste of effort, or a program to appease Grant PUD. Dresser stated that at certain times of the year pikeminnow do regurgitate their gut, but believes the program does support recovery. Small numbers of walleye and small mouth bass are also believed to be predators in the Wanapum and Priest Rapids reservoirs, stated Dresser. Rose questioned if hydro-acoustic tags could be used to determine predatory fish species based on their air bladders. He explained the Japanese use this technology to determine fish species when they are commercial fishing. **Dotson will contact HTI regarding transducer technology that can be utilized for fish air bladder identification.**

XVI. **Predation Study Update**

- A. **Contract Signatory Rights** – Dotson has reviewed the groundwork for the predation study. He is working with Teresa Walker, WDFW in Olympia regarding contract information. In order for Grant PUD to work with USGS, a straight technical assistance agreement contract needs to be developed. Contracting issues are ongoing. WDFW and USGS are currently working on task division. Dresser stated that since NNI funds have already been approved by the Grant PUD commission, contracts would not have to go back through the commission for signature, Tim Culbertson would be authorized to sign, saving approximately two weeks.

XVII. **Habitat/NNI Funding**

- A. **Account Updates** – No discussion took place.

- B. **NNI Recalculation Proposal** – A NNI recalculation proposal received from the JFP is undergoing review internally by Grant PUD staff, noted Dresser. Grant PUD will notify the PRCC when they are ready to discuss the NNI recalculation proposal. Marco requests that if there is a counter offer from Grant PUD that the PRCC be given time to review it prior to the next PRCC meeting.
- XVIII. **BiOp Update** – No discussion took place.
- XIX. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Langshaw provided a brief update on PRCC HSC business. The White River, Nason Creek, and summer Chinook HGMPs are still in development, drafts should be complete in a couple of weeks. The Coho 10 yr. funding agreement with the Yakama Nation is up for approval by the commission. Thermal marking will be utilized for the fall Chinook brood. Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) designs are being discussed between Grant PUD and WDFW. Grant PUD will conduct a VE study on the PRH designs. Objectives for the fall Chinook M & E have been defined, the next step is to identify the matrix, and determine which hypothesis will be used. WDFW is continuing to work on a reasonable draft of the spring Chinook management in the Wenatchee Basin white paper, and has provided a draft module to the Yakama Nation that covers escapement. WDFW is currently waiting for review and comments. All Grant PUD projects will need to undergo anti-degradation testing in the future. The Yakama Nation has requested that Grant PUD be proactive in locating temporary acclimation sites in the White River and Nason Creek. Rotary trapping is going well. Because of water flows, the 5' trap will be replaced with an 8' trap. This will allow for better efficiencies and to get a better estimate of production.
- XX. **PRCC Habitat SC Report**
 - A. **ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative)** – ONA funding letter – **PRCC members approved the ORRI (Okanagan River Restoration Initiative) Okanogan Nation Alliance funding letter.**
- XXI. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.