



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

9:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS

Jerry Marco, CCT

Bob Rose, YN

Carmen Andonaegui, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC member)

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*

Jerry Marco, CCT*

Bob Rose, YN*

Scott Carlon, NMFS*

Eric Lauver, GCPUD

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS*(by phone)

Tom Dresser, GCPUD*

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator*

Mike Nichols, GCPUD (by phone)

Action Items:

- Dresser will find out if Wanapum Pool Raise modeling has been conducted, and how it will relate to the Grand Coulee draw down.
- Williams will send NNI Fund updates to PRCC members.
- Dresser will send NNI Fund recalculation proposal re-draft to PRCC members.

Decisions:

- PRCC approves of Gravity Intake Gate repairs to be conducted the first two weeks of June 2008.
- 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 approves that the 12-year Sockeye Study Plan be sent back to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee for discussion.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Agenda items added: Start of Fish Spill 2008, Priest Rapids license commemoration scheduled for Aug. 21, 2008. PRCC members requested the trip to Iowa be moved to the week of July 8 - 11, 2008 to accommodate schedules.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - March 26, 2008 meeting – approved.
 - April 30, 2008 meeting – approved.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** – A memo (see attached) was distributed to PRCC members from Lauver and Nicholls outlining Gravity Intake Gate repair strategies. Concrete repairs are currently being undertaken. Grant PUD would like to raise the GIG as high as possible, beyond the on-seal position, to a point where the bottom of the gate is approximately 6' feet above its sill. This will effectively make the gate a bottom-spill gate and will allow approximately the same volume of water to flow under the gate as is currently flowing over the top of the gate. Grant PUD proposes to inspect and repair the GIG during the first two weeks of June. The Chinook Run Timing Spreadsheet shows this timeframe as a typical lag period between summer and spring Chinook runs. Three pumps will run continuously to maintain fishway entrance differential criteria, with two pumps in reserve. When tailwater levels rise and more attraction water is needed, one or both reserve pumps will be brought online. It will take approximately fourteen hours to raise the GIG. At hour seven, no water will be going through the GIG, and all AWS will be supplied by pump. Grant PUD will be out of criteria 2 hours either side of hour seven. Nicholls noted Grant PUD has never been able to meet criteria utilizing only the pumps. New cables have been ordered to complete the repairs, and plate steel is onsite. Once the gate is lifted, the bridle and GIG will be inspected. The repair timeframe may be extended if the lifting lugs are damaged. If they are in good condition, repairs could be completed within one week. Carlon suggested the best time to be out of criteria is during the early afternoon, while trying to target 1-2 hrs with little water coming thru GIG. Lauver will watch McNary fish counts to determine if the run is coming toward Wanapum. Repairs will not be performed if they are. **PRCC approves of Gravity Intake Gate repairs to be conducted the first two weeks of June 2008.** Dresser explained no comparison between the old and new fish count systems are being conducted. Lauver stated the new video count system is working out great. Fish are being easily identified, by fish counters, there is not much movement back and forth, and fish are

not piling up in front of the counter. Lauver would like to implement this system as PR in the future, because of the ease of counting. Comparisons between Priest Rapids, Wanapum and Rock Island show Rock Island are 1200 fish behind Priest Rapids and Wanapum. Much tighter counts are being seen than in the past, stated Lauver. The new system is more conducive to seeing fish, velocity flows are lower, lighting is better, the tunnel is narrower, and there is a consistent distance from the glass. Lauver explained no modifications to the crowder were made in order to get the new video count window installed. Rose noted that the four lower Columbia River dams have good Lamprey passage systems in place. WDFW fish counting coordinator Steve Richards, suggests Lamprey spacing be 1 to 1.5 inches. Lauver explained that Grant PUD currently utilizes that spacing, but questioned how narrow the spacing should be for lamprey passage. Mary Mosier's recommendation is for ¾ inch grates. Nordlund suggested using smaller bars for grating.

- VI. **Grants PUD Document Storage Site** – Dresser explained that Grant PUD will provide a password protected website for committee use that will hold past, present and future documentation. Williams will notify members when the site is ready.
- VII. **Wanapum Pool Raise Concept Update** – Grant PUD continues to work internally regarding issues at Crescent Bar while GPS surveying is being conducted. Engineering staff are gathering information on, embankment stability, the WFUFB as related to the pool raise, and necessary tainter gate modifications. Determination will be made by Grant PUD no later than Oct. 01, 2008 if the Wanapum Pool Raise will happen. Nordlund asked if the list of PRCC questions given to the Pool Raise Concept committee have been addressed yet. Dresser explained that they haven't yet. **Dresser will find out if Wanapum Pool Raise modeling has been conducted, and how it will relate to the Grand Coulee drawdown.** Marco noted WDOE has provided a draft EIS to WDFW and the Colville's. They have been asked to comment on how Grand Coulee water should be used for fish. Marco would like to know how the Wanapum Pool Raise model considers water for fish use. Marco explained that water taken from Grand Coulee could be used for ESA listed species that are at the highest risk.
- VIII. **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.**

- IX. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – approval requested – See discussion above.
- X. **Action Item: Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007** – See discussion above.
- XI. **Sockeye –**
- A. **Skaha Lake Sockeye Reintroduction** – A ceremonial sockeye fry release was held in Penticton, B.C. on May 27, 2008. 800,000 fry will be released at Shingle Creek which flows into the upper part of Skaha Lake on May 30, 2008. Channel flows will be increased to help the out migration. Discussion at the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting on May 22, 2008 focused on Scribner's concerns regarding long term commitment by Grant PUD to build hatcheries that don't utilize SARs for the criteria to determine the success of the program and the lack of success by the Yakamas with artificial sockeye propagation programs. Rose explained the Yakamas would like to have several years of additional monitoring to see if SAR can be determined by juveniles. Once the SAR data is gathered, the Yakamas will decide if money should be spent on the program. Marco noted that with the Skaha Lake Re-Introduction Management Program, they aren't ways of determining success, and questioned how SAR can be measured. Rose explained that otolith marking on the fry will give a sub-sample of the broodstock. Dresser made clear that the budget includes capital cost, M & E, and O & M. Marco suggests using an M & E plan to monitor SARs. Dresser explained ONA has worked hard to get this program up and running. Dresser noted his concern that Grant PUD has a long term contract in place with ONA but has no documentation that this program meets Grant PUD's mitigation. Rose stated the Yakamas are not supportive of the program right now. Marco suggests waiting until ONA gives their annual presentation to the HCP in July. At that time, ONA can explain what they think the SAR will be in the future, based on their data. Marco suggests ONA provide information on their broodstock otolith data gathered in the past. He explained that those fish were fry when they were released with no external marks on them, and the otolith would provide SAR information. A joint hatchery meeting between the HCP and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee will be held in August, 2008. Marco stated a hatchery feasibility study was agreed to by the PRCC Hatchery committee. Marco stated he supports the ONA program. Rose stated Grant PUD continues to have survival issues and needs to come up with effective strategies to be

successful; adaptive management needs to be done. Rose stated the issue at hand is deciding how to craft an agreement to monitor a successful program. The Yakamas want the program to be measured by the success of adult returns, stated Rose. The Settlement Agreement states that developing the M & E plan can be used to satisfy the Yakamas, stated Marco. Hatchery development will allow the sockeye plan to move forward, stated Marco. Rose suggested these agreements be developed into a SOA. These types of standards should be set for the Wenatchee program also, stated Marco, because it looks like that program won't be successful. Nordlund requests the language of the Settlement Agreement, Section 13.1.4 be re-read by members to clarify what happens if success can't be met, noting smolt to conversion rates are discussed. Nordlund questions if the M & E program is being worked on, or if it's complete. Dresser explained that ONA has an M & E related to fry. Rohr noted it is incumbent for the committees to make sure M & E's are in place. Carlon suggests Grant PUD write and SOA addressing SAR to give Scribner confidence, and questioned if that would be enough for the rest of the program to move forward. Marco notes that adaptive management is the crux of the Settlement Agreement, and that the M & E plan requires the program be looked at every 5 yrs. Marco suggests that in order to determine the level of success, Grant PUD compare SAR to other programs and species in the basin, and put them into context as to what is going on. Dresser stated other co-managers support implementation of the fry program. Marco stated the program should be allowed to run its course, but if it is determined not to be successful, then habitat should be looked at instead of a hatchery program. Dresser noted that M & E plans are in various stages of development and are not currently in place. Dresser noted that a letter sent to NOAA determining if the 12-year sockeye study plan can be used as a propagation plan. If NMFS determines an ESA permit is required, Grant PUD questions whether the 12-year study plan would provide sufficient information for consultation and substitute for an HGMP. The final step would be for Grant PUD to work with the PRCC HSC to develop an M & E plan. Dresser questioned if the 12-year study plan would be an adequate M & E plan. Rohr distributed NOAA sockeye letters to committee.

PRCC approves that the 12-year Sockeye Study Plan be sent back to the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee for discussion.

B. Short term ONA building contract –

XII. Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs –
Approximately 6,000 to 7,000 sub-adult northern pikeminnow (average

size 250 mm) have been removed from Priest Rapids and Wanapum Reservoirs. Efforts have been concentrated between Sunland Estates and Crescent Bar. Beach seining has not started yet. Seining locations are based on samples taken in 1999. Sampling was focused at the mouths of tributaries where large amounts of northern pikeminnow and other native species have been caught. Grant PUD has applied for a lethal take permit authorizing the take of 50 terns. It is currently being reviewed by the Audubon Society. Large amounts of terns have been seen in the project. Grant PUD staff is working evenings and weekends at the WFUFB to deter avian predation. Wanapum Avian Array conceptual drawings should be complete in July, with installation in spring 2009. After the last permit from WDOE is received, the Priest Rapids Avian Array will be installed the fall of 2008, after spill is complete.

- XIII. **Predation Study Update** – Contracts are currently undergoing Grant PUD legal and audit review.
- XIV. **Habitat/NNI Funding**
 - A. **Account Updates –Williams will send NNI Fund updates to PRCC members.**
 - B. **NNI Recalculation Proposal** – PRCC members discussed NNI recalculations proposed by Grant PUD. (See attached NNI Fund Recalculation Proposal for spreadsheet details) Results from the 2006 juvenile steelhead evaluation were invalid and will not be used in NNI Fund recalculations. The 2007 steelhead study was designed only to compare collection, handling, and tagger effects and results from the 2007 comparison evaluation will not be used in NNI Fund recalculations. Juvenile steelhead survival evaluations will be conducted during 2008, 2009, and 2010. The NNI Fund will be updated on February 15, 2011 and will be based on an arithmetic 3-year average of the annual estimates (2008, 2009, and 2010) for steelhead and would carry into out years (>2011). A five year check in for steelhead will occur in 2015 per the Salmon and Steelhead Agreement. A five year check in for Yearling Chinook will occur in 2010 per the Salmon and Steelhead Agreement. Originally, it was believed spring Chinook and steelhead survived at the same rate; as a result all survival estimates were based on spring Chinook. That has since been proven not to be true. Therefore sockeye and subyearling Chinook will be de-coupled from steelhead and will be linked to yearling Chinook for years 2008, 2009, and 2010. Sockeye and subyearling Chinook will be re-coupled to steelhead in 2011, 2012, and 2013. However, (depending on results of a pilot study in 2008) sockeye and subyearling Chinook survival evaluations would be conducted in 2009, 2010, and 2011. The NNI Fund would be updated on February, 15,

2012 and would be based on an arithmetic 3-year average of the annual estimates (2009, 2010, and 2011). The NNI fund would be back-filled for years 2009 and 2010, based on the arithmetic 3-year average of the annual estimates (2008, 2009, and 2010) for steelhead. The year 2009 was the first year, based on the original schedule, that a “new” steelhead survival estimate would be used for NNI re-calculation purposed. For example, if steelhead survival was <86.59%, the difference in percentage would be used to adjust the NNI Fund for only years (2009 and 2010). Grant PUD has assumed that it relates only to steelhead, since steelhead has been de-coupled from sockeye and subyearlings. Rose questioned if de-coupling in 2008 would take money out of the NNI Fund in 2008 and 2009. Dresser questioned why they would be re-coupled in 2011. Marco replied, “In case sockeye and sub-yearling Chinook studies can’t be conducted for whatever reason.” Rose questioned what effect the installation of the Priest Rapid top-spill might have on survival calculations. Dresser responded that just like the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass, he didn’t think it would make much difference. Rose noted his concern that Grant PUD might want to invalidate a year because of the new Priest Rapids top spill installation. The 5 yr. check in would also help to verify what general survival is. If something is deemed to be wrong with survival standards at that point, a study could be designed to fix it suggested Nordlund. **Dresser will send NNI Fund recalculation proposal re-draft to PRCC members.** Dresser explained that FERC approval is required for this fund, and asked that adjustments not be made to it for 2 years. June 24, 2008, Grant PUD will be meeting with FERC regarding the new license. Carlon asked if NOAA is invited to the meeting, noting he won’t be available, but will confirm who could attend.

- XV. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Dresser provided a brief update on PRCC HSC business. The White River, Nason Creek, and summer Chinook HGMPs are still in development. The Coho 10 yr. funding agreement with the Yakama Nation was approved by the commission on April 28, 2008. Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) designs are being discussed between Grant PUD and WDFW. Because WDFW is comfortable with the current design of the fish release channels, the proposed new design will not be used. Grant PUD has concluded that because significant changes are not being made to the hatchery, the VE study will not be conducted. Mike Nichols and Chris Carlson will meet with Jacobs Engineering next week to review hatchery designs developed to meet the mitigation needs of Grant PUD only. Meetings held between WDFW and the Yakama Nation regarding development of a spring Chinook management strategy plan for the Wenatchee

Basin have been successful. Bob Pfeifer, WDFW hopes that resolution with the Yakamas will be reached after a meeting with Steve Parker next week. WDFW has provided a draft 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.

- XVI. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** – No update was given, as no meeting was held in May.
- XVII. **Start of Fish Spill** – PRCC members reviewed passage data and graphs distributed by Grant PUD.
- XVIII. **Fall Chinook Working Group** – Under the 401 Certification, Grant PUD is required to convene the Fall Chinook Working Group. The group will be comprised of non-signatory parties to the Hanford Reach Working Group. A letter requesting the name of representatives from each agency and tribe was sent out last week by Grant PUD.
- XIX. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.