



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

9:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

#### PRCC Members

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Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS  
Jerry Marco, CCT  
Bob Rose, YN  
Bill Tweit, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD  
Carl Merkle, CTUIR

#### Attendees: (\*Denotes PRCC member)

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Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*  
Bob Rose, YN\*  
Curt Dotson, GCPUD  
Dana Jeske, GCPUD  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS\*  
Jerry Marco, CCT\*(by phone)  
Russ Langshaw, GCPUD (by phone)  
George Thompson, GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### Action Items:

- Dotson will arrange a PRCC class on Mid-Columbia River Operations and Flows.
- Dotson will speak to Lauver and Nicholls to determine what spacing is on picket leads and also the concept of an upstream picket leads for ladder fallback thru the picket lead.
- Williams will determine if key word search criteria and hyperlinks can be utilized on the PRCC website.
- Dresser will send an updated NNI Fund recalculation proposal re-draft to PRCC members.
- Jeske will send the TDG Study Plan to PRCC members prior to the Iowa trip.
- Dotson will present operational procedures relating to tailwater heights and flows to the PRCC in Iowa.
- Grant PUD will determine if PIT-tag detectors are feasible at Priest Rapids Dam.

#### Decisions:

- PRCC members approved of Grant PUD's design concept and installation of the Wanapum Avian Array.
- PRCC approved that all draft documents be password protected until finalized.

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees. George Thompson was introduced to the committee.
- II. **Agenda Review** – A list of questions developed by Nordlund was distributed to the committee. Rose suggested that PRCC members take a Grant PUD offered class on Mid-Columbia River Operations and Flow. **Dotson will arrange a PRCC class on Mid-Columbia River Operations and Flows.**
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - May 28, 2008 meeting – Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** – GIG repairs are ongoing. Attraction Water System (AWS) is operating within criteria. Lifting lugs have been repaired. Fish Ladder inspections will be next week and they will look at the GIG. Nordlund noted count discrepancies remain between Priest Rapids, Rock Island, and Wanapum dams. Priest Rapids and Rock Island are consistent, but Wanapum counts are noticeably higher than the other two. He questions if there is fall-backs through the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass, turbines, or the count station. At Priest Rapids, fish fall back in the ladder would be seen at the count window and recorded as a negative count. At Wanapum, smaller fish could travel through the downstream picket leads after being initially counted and then swim up past the count window and be counted a second time. Nordlund asked what the spacing was on the present picket lead. He mentioned that the Douglas PUD went from a 1 ½ inch spacing to a 1 inch spacing on their picketed leads at the new Twisp trap site due to small adult steelhead being able to squeeze part way thru the lead. Nordlund also suggested an upstream picket lead be installed so that if they fall back through the count station, they will pass through the count window recorded as a negative count. **Dotson will speak to Lauver and Nicholls to determine what spacing is on picket leads and also the concept of an upstream picket leads for ladder fallback thru the picket lead.**
- VI. **Grants PUD Document Storage Site** – Williams demonstrated how the new Grant PUD website and PRCC link work to access committee reports and studies. All draft documents will be password protected until finalized. **Williams will determine if key word search criteria and hyperlinks can be utilized on the PRCC website.** Nordlund suggested a hyperlink be included in meeting minutes for simple access to electronic documents distributed at a PRCC meeting. Rose suggested Chelan PUD's HCP website is referred to for layout

suggestions. **PRCC approved that all draft documents be password protected until finalized.**

- VII. **Wanapum Pool Raise Concept Update** – Members discussed Dresser’s e-mail update.
- 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-days for GPUD to complete edits to 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.** Dotson explained the editing of this study is almost complete. Dotson will release the final reports to Nordlund for review of changes or responses to comments that he submitted. Approval will be asked for at the next PRCC meeting.
- IX. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – approval requested – See discussion above. All comments have been incorporated or responded to. 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. **12-yr. Study Plan** – See discussion under Hatchery SC Report.
- XII. **Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs** – 8,500 pikeminnow have been caught to date. 3,000 of those were caught by beach seining. Methods of removal are: setlines, angler, and beach seining. USDA continues efforts to remove avian threats in the Wanapum and Priest Rapids tailraces. Priest Rapids Avian Array will be installed after spill season, 2008. Grant handed out a conceptual drawing of the future Wanapum avian “gull wire” array. Grant PUD has taken an aggressive approach to the Wanapum Avian Array, providing full coverage of the tailrace and would like to have the array installed before the 2009 smolt out-migration season. Potential cultural sites along the shorelines and the structural aspects of the array are being looked at for permitting and construction purposes. The smaller arrays are deterrents for gulls and terns. Mergansers are deterred by edge wires that have Mylar attached to it. PIT-tags found in nesting areas will be looked at after August 01, 2008, when fledglings have left their nests. All study fish have been PIT-tagged; Grant hopes to have numbers out this fall. **PRCC members approved of Grant PUD’s design concept and installation of the Wanapum Avian Array.**

- XIII. **Predation Study Update** – Grant PUD is waiting to get rate quotes from USGS (30W) and WDFW. Field work will most likely start in 2009. PRCC members will meet with USGS and WDFW to discuss required tasks within the next 90 days. Rose requested that key ideas of this study be used to give WDFW management tools to make informed management decisions to impact fish species populations. Matt Mesa, USGS wants to meet with PRCC prior to and after specific tasks have been completed. The PRCC Predation Technical Subcommittee will meet in conjunction with the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee and USGS and WDFW prior to them meeting with the PRCC.
- XIV. **Habitat/NNI Funding**
- A. **Account Updates** – Members reviewed spreadsheets.
- B. **NNI Recalculation Proposal – Dresser will send an updated NNI Fund recalculation proposal re-draft to PRCC members.** Nordlund distributed an updated NNI Fund table showing changes agreed to at the last PRCC meeting.
- XV. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Anti-degradation water quality issues were discussed. Concern regarding nutrient enhancement and how new regulations will affect any new facilities were discussed. Effluent can not impact pH, Dissolved Oxygen or temperature. QUAL2K model will be utilized to conduct TMDL analysis for each new facility. Priest Rapids Hatchery design update - raceways will be moved closer to spawning channels to facilitate a water to water transfer. Foundation will be installed for the avian netting system, but the net will not be installed until needed. The U.S. Corp. is working on funding to have their mitigation fish (i.e. “John Day fish”) raised at PR Hatchery. Water and funding are limiting issues of taking Ringold eggs at PR Hatchery. The Fall Chinook Work Group will convene on July 1, 2008; they are tasked on creating a study plan on spawning fall Chinook on the Hanford Reach. Representatives have been appointed from all agencies. The second draft of the summer Chinook HGMP has been sent to PRCC Hatchery members. Marco voiced concern with broodstock collection at Wells, explaining that fish taken out of Wells without knowing their genetic ID is an issue for the Colville’s. Spring Chinook – Genetic ID and stock assignment are issues that need to be resolved before the WDFW-Yakama white paper will be finalized. White River –The rotary trap wasn’t able to be used in May because of high water. Bull trout above 70 mm need to be PIT-tagged. Short-term acclimation – Site evaluation will take place this fall. 20,000 fish will be acclimated in a back eddy at Grant PUD’s McComas Property, and at RM 11.5, Tall Timbers. Sand bags will create small impoundments that are approximately 4 meters wide by 3 ft deep x ¼ mile long. A series of impoundments would be used. 120,000 spring Chinook will be acclimated in net pens on Lake Wenatchee. Joint

dialog between the PRCC Hatchery and Habitat committee's regarding short or long term acclimation sites should take place. The PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee has an oxbow that would be appropriate for habitat reform. Transfer of White River fish from Aquaseed to LWSNFH was delayed because the transfer permit was withdrawn. Koenings, WDFW will sign the new transfer permit today. First transfer will occur next Monday. Sockeye - Grant PUD is looking for mitigation commitment for the duration of the study plan. The PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee approved that the 12 year Sockeye Study Plan meets Grant PUD's sockeye mitigation. The program will be evaluated from the prospective of adult returns; the M & E will cover this. The Yakama Nation wants to re-visit tagging smolts to evaluate SARs. Technical issues remain with tagging of smolt sockeye. This topic will be covered at the ONA meeting, July 16, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., at Grant PUD's SeaTac office. License conditions require a HGMP be written for all programs including sockeye. A large adult sockeye return is expected this year. 60,000 are forecast to travel to the Okanogan, and 13,000 to the Wenatchee River. Bonneville's sockeye count, as of yesterday was 137,000. Marco noted that Skaha Lake sockeye contributions were expected to return in 2008.

- XVI. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** – McIntyre Dam - Rohr will arrange a meeting with Fisher, Lenz, and Carrie Long, ONA to discuss progress on McIntyre Dam.
- XVII. **Survival Studies** – Dotson explained that survival studies have been completed. The last release of the pilot sub-yearling study was on June 24, 2008. Compilation of data by HTI should be complete by September.
- XVIII. **Iowa** – Flooding evaluations are being completed at the University of Iowa. The PRCC trip should not be impacted due to flooding.
- XIX. **TDG Reduction Results** - Grant PUD is required by the 401 Certification to complete a TDG Study for the WFUFB (Wanapum Fish Unit Fish Bypass). This study plan will be addressed during the Iowa trip, allowing for access to the 1:24 model for further explanation. **Jeske will send the TDG Study Plan to PRCC members prior to the Iowa trip.**
- XX. **Operational plans of WFUFB** – Dotson explained that some dead smolts were detected downstream of the WFUFB the first week of operation. He explained that the tailwater at Wanapum was outside of design criteria. Discussions were held regarding operations of WFUFB with WDFW, NOAA. The plunging to skimming flow based on tailrace elevations was looked at. **Dotson will present operational procedures relating to tailwater heights and flows to the PRCC in Iowa**, again to take advantage of the 1:24 model that will be present. Operators need to have a one page or less operations procedure that includes: operations of gate, river flow, Wanapum tailrace elevation,

and Priest Rapids forebay elevation. Emphasis should be placed on trying to maintain stable Priest Rapids pool elevation. Wanapum tailwater should not be dropped below 488.

- XXI. **Percent flow data information** – While developing the Priest Rapids top-spill by-pass, Nordlund wants to make sure that efficient use of the water allows for increased survival rates and that better passage is being reached. Dotson diagramed how Fish Passage Efficiency (FPE) is determined at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams.
- XXII. **Need for including a PIT Detector at Priest Rapids** – Large flow PIT-tag detectors are installed at Bonneville Dam. Efforts may be needed to do a sub-yearling study with PIT-tags, due to tag size issues with the present acoustic tags. A detector at the forebay entrance of Priest Rapids top-spill bulk head should require a smaller sample size needed, for PIT tags, and if McNary was the only close detection site. for the study. Bureau of Reclamation is looking for a site to install a PIT-tag detector in the Mid-Columbia, with the possibility of co-funding with Grant PUD and other PUD's in the mid Columbia. Bio-Mark is developing a new PIT-tag detection system. Sample size of fish could be smaller, because fish could be detected at Priest Rapids, in addition to McNary. Nordlund questioned if it is feasible from an engineering standpoint, and if the technology is available for flat plate detectors. **Grant PUD will determine if PIT-tag detectors are feasible at Priest Rapids Dam.**
- XXIII. **License Requirements Relative to Fish** – Nordlund requested feedback from Grant PUDs meeting with FERC regarding the Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSA) funding, Gatewell Exclusion Screens, Attraction Water Supply, and Spillway Seal modifications. Dotson and Jeske will meet internally to discuss gatewell screens. The new license requires plans, of these three tasks, be completed within 6 months of license issuance. Dotson and Jeske would like to meet in Iowa with Nordlund regarding Spillway Seal modifications. All three of these items are being discussed with FERC in Washington, D.C. today by Grant PUD. The PRCC will be consulted regarding SSA Funds, Gatewell Exclusion Screens, Attraction Water Supply, and Spillway Seal Modifications.
- XXIV. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 23, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.