



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, July 23, 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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Scott Carlon, NMFS\*  
Bob Rose, YN\*  
Jerry Marco, CCT\*(by phone)  
Curt Dotson, GCPUD  
Eric Lauver, GCPUD (by phone)  
Joe Lucas, GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*  
Bill Tweit, WDFW\*  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD\*  
Russ Langshaw, GCPUD (by phone)  
Ben Lenz, GCPUD (by phone)  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

#### Action Items:

- **Lauver will discuss required picket lead spacing to prevent lamprey passage through the pickets with Nordlund.**
- **Lauver will summarize Grant PUD's fish counting format and send to Tweit.**
- **Carlon will discuss the lack of jack count standards with Richie Graves, NMFS.**
- **Lauver will draft a one page memo regarding his observations of fish counting systems for all Mid-Columbia and Corp facilities.**
- **October Agenda Item – Survival Studies. Priest Rapids Fish By-Pass presentation by Curt Dotson, Duncan Hayes, and Dana Jeske.**
- **Rose requested Grant PUD draft a paper on the Priest Rapids Fish By-Pass. It should include the logic used, the path forward, and explain why Grant PUD isn't looking into other options for the Priest Rapids Fish By-Pass.**
- **Grant PUD will determine the upward velocity and debris cleaning mechanism of the Gatewell Exclusion Screen. Dotson will talk to Jacobs engineering and Duncan Hayes regarding these questions.**
- **Rose requested that a conference call be scheduled before USGS and WDFW start the Predation Study, and that Bob Pfeifer, WDFW be included on the call.**

## Decisions:

- PRCC members approved a 30 day extension 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.

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Additions to the agenda include: Gatewell Exclusion Screens Update, and Tainter Gate Seals Update, PIT-tag detection at Priest Rapids Dam Fish By-Pass
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - June 25, 2008 meeting – Approved
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items.
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** – Lauver explained that the GIG went back into service on July 22, 2008. Repairs are temporary, permanent repairs will be completed during the winter outage.
- VI. **Video Fish Count Update** –
  - Lauver clarified that picket leads have a 1” gap, and that he doesn’t believe adults can fall back and be counted twice because equipment spacing is less than 1”. **Lauver will discuss required picket lead spacing to prevent lamprey passage through the pickets with Nordlund.**
  - A re-count study will be completed for Priest Rapids (PR) and Wanapum dams because of count differences. If species identification is not taken into account, Dotson questioned if counts would be closer. Lauver suggested a standardized count system be developed for use by all Columbia River dams, noting each dam currently uses a different identification criterion. The Corp uses different criteria to identify jacks vs. other Mid-Columbia dams. Tweit explained that jack counts are used for forecasting purposes. **Lauver will summarize Grant PUD’s fish counting format and send to Tweit.** Bonneville is used by WDFW for their jack count index site. PR is the first counting station for the upper Columbia. Members agreed that counting uniformity must be developed. **Carlton will discuss the lack of jack count standards with Richie Graves, NMFS. Lauver will draft a one**

**page memo regarding his observations of fish counting systems for all Mid-Columbia and Corp facilities.** Rose suggests the JFP be tasked with developing a Standardized Count System before the 2009 count season begins.

- Dec 7-10, 2008 - Anadromous Fish Passage Meeting will be held in Portland, OR.

VII. **Grants PUD Document Storage Site Update** – Williams informed the committee that the PRCC website is almost finished and should be up and running within the next two weeks.

VIII. **Report from Iowa Update** –

- Dotson explained that during the PRCC's recent trip to Iowa, modeling was used to show PRCC members how differing Wanapum tailrace levels affect Grant PUD's Fish By-Pass ability to pass water in a skimming flow fashion or if the water starts to plunge ( being a TDG issue), due to operationg outside of its design criteria. Carlon stated it was quite dramatic to see the modeling effects of the PR Fish By-Pass (PRFBP), but his general impression was negative because he anticipated that more modeling would be done while visiting Iowa. Carlon's impression was that Grant PUD is fine tuning their proposed PRFBP, but questions what alternatives they might have, if any, at PR.
- Carlon questioned why NOAA is on the PRFBP design team, stating that if they aren't going to be that involved, they shouldn't be on the list. Dotson explained that a weekly conference call is held to discuss design details, and Grant PUD asked for NOAA's participation. Nordlund stated that he had joined two of the weekly conference calls, but found that a lot of the call was devoted to fine details of construction of facilities – that he had better things to do with his time than what was being covered on the weekly calls. Nordlund stated he wouldn't mind being more involved with the design team. Dotson questioned what changes or recommendations Nordlund would like to see with the design team. Nordlund suggested that study results be presented to the PRCC upon completion, and that consensus is reached as to whether the PRFBP design team is going down the right path. Nordlund has reservations regarding what the PRFBP design team is recommending and questions if the design will allow Grant PUD to achieve their survival standards, or if it should be abandoned. Dotson explained that preliminary

data (final Skalski report expected in October) shows sockeye survival remains a concern, but Grant PUD feels comfortable that steelhead and Chinook survival is being met. Nordlund and Tweit stated they don't have the same comfort level. Tweit stated he wasn't aware that all other options had fallen off of the table regarding survival study options. Carlon noted his appreciation of Grant PUD's timeline, but stated, if numbers show that survival is falling short utilizing the top spill option, why wouldn't Grant PUD go back to spill while working on other options. **Rose requested Grant PUD drafts a paper on the Priest Rapids Fish By-Pass. It should include the logic used, the path forward, and explain why Grant PUD isn't looking into other options for the Priest Rapids Fish By-Pass. October Agenda Item – Survival Studies. Priest Rapids Fish By Pass presentation by Dotson, Duncan Hayes, and Dana Jeske to address the issues that Rose raised.** Dotson explained that Grant PUD is trying to be transparent with the PRCC regarding survival standards. Dotson will meet with Skalski on Aug. 13, 2008.

- IX. **Gatewell Exclusion Screen Update** – Grant PUD must complete a plan to study the effects of installing Gatewell Exclusion Screens on salmon, steelhead, and lamprey within 6 months of license issuance. Consultation packages will be sent to NOAA, WDFW, USFWS, PRCC and members of the PRFF next week. Grant PUD does not want to ask for an extension of time on this article. Dotson explained that Grant PUD would like to keep half of the Gatewell slots open to allow for capture of test fish – leaving the emergency wheelgate slots open and screening all of the bulkhead slots. Survival studies have indicated that fish taken from this location (WAN gatewells) have a better rate of survival than fish taken from other locations (i.e. Rocky Reach fish collection facility and trucked to WAN). The pilot study would include installation of a DIDSON camera and possible velocity meter. Nordlund stated that after discussion, he feels the screen would be a larger benefit than previous thought because it will keep fish from being trapped in this area, and having to leave of their own volition. Dotson explained that Gatewell dipping takes place seven days a week to keep the emergency wheel gate slots clear of fish. Lamprey typically pass through the bottom entrance to the turbine, and aren't seen in the Gatewell area. Screen material would be compliant with NOAA standards (perforation size 1/16" for a slot - 3/32" for a hole). Hydraulic performance criteria wasn't looked at to determine how the screen will be cleaned, stated Dresser. **Grant PUD will determine the upward velocity, impingement of fish, and debris cleaning mechanism of the Gatewell Exclusion Screen. Dotson**

**will talk to Jacobs engineering and Duncan Hayes regarding these questions.**

- X. **Tainter Gate Seal Update** – No discussion took place.
- XI. **PIT-tag Detection at Priest Rapids Dam Fish By-Pass**– Dotson explained that BioMark recommends waiting until further technology is available before a PIT-tag detection system is installed at Priest Rapids. Dotson summarized detection system installation criteria and concerns. Nordlund explained that spillway PIT-tag detectors are being developed at Bonneville Dam; he hopes to have an update at the December meeting. Nordlund wants this thought about now, before a production system is incorporated at PR. The benefit of having another downstream PIT-tag detection system is that would provide data on sub-yearlings (if PIT-tags were used to study them) and potential over-wintering in the reservoirs by subs.
- XII. **Priest Rapids Top-Spill**
  - A. **Action Item: 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI)** – approval requested – **PRCC members approved a 30 day extension 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.**
- XIII. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – approval requested – **PRCC members approved a 30 day extension of the 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski).**
- XIV. **Action Item: Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007** – **PRCC members approved a 30 day extension of the Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007.**
- XV. **Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs** –
  - A. Northern Pikeminnow – To date, 11,000 adults have been removed. 10,000 sub-yearling and juveniles have been removed by beach seining. By catch has been limited.
  - B. Avian Predation Study Plan has been approved by FERC. Dresser explained that the PR avian array infrastructure is currently being installed, and wires will be strung once spill season is complete. Jacobs Engineering is designing an extensive avian array for Wanapum. Wires prove to be more effective on gulls than terns. A tern take permit will be addressed next year. Real Time is working with the Corp regarding an avian predation study. Stomach analysis of the 360 lethally taken gulls has produced the following data: 276

stomachs contained salmonids. 123 CWTs, 6 PIT-tags, and 1 acoustic tag were found.

XVI. **Predation Study Update – No contracts are in place yet with USGS or WDFW.** Grant PUD received a rate schedule from USGS on July 22, 2008. Literature review and task A, and B will take place from 08/01/2008 to 11/30/08. Grant PUD is still waiting for a rate schedule from WDFW; contracting hasn't been received yet. **Rose requested that a conference call be scheduled before USGS and WDFW start the Predation Study, and that Bob Pfeifer, WDFW be included on the call.**

XVII. **Habitat/NNI Funding**

A. **Account Updates** – Spreadsheets were sent to members. No discussion took place. Marco explained that sockeye will be able to by-pass McIntyre Dam in 2010.

XVIII. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Langshaw noted that Douglas, Chelan, and Grant PUDs met with NOAA regarding HSRG recommendations and implementation. Peter Paquet, chair of the HSRG told Rohr that the PRCC would be able to review the Draft HSRG report before it is finalized in December 2008. Because HGMPs will not be completed by the required FERC timeline (April 01, 2008), the PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee (HSC) recommends that Grant PUD ask for an extension. Grant is meeting with the UCSRB regarding consultation of White River acclimation sites, and what the plan is for this area. Langshaw explained that Chelan County only met with the PRCC Hatchery Working Group the first time they convened. Paul Gray, a White River resident has been the only working group participant in the last nine months. The working group was originally developed to open a line of communication with people that felt they weren't being heard, explained Langshaw. Meetings originally scheduled monthly, are now being scheduled as needed to accommodate Paul Grays schedule. His knowledge of the area has been beneficial to Grant PUD on many counts and he has given positive feedback regarding HSC plans for the region. McComas permit applications are under initial internal review. Tweit requested that Dennis Beich be contacted for outreach in the area before McComas property permitting is implemented. The HSC has been looking at acclimation and rearing facilities at WDOTs site at Dryden Dam. The Corp has committed funding to have Grant PUD raise 1.7 million fish at Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH). PRH will be designed to accommodate the Corps mitigation. Grant PUD and the Corp are in contract development at this time. Facility renovation and capital costs have not been discussed. Dresser explained that a second MOE contract would be developed for O & M and capital improvements. Tweit stated his appreciation to Grant PUD for sticking with the Corp program. Spring Chinook – WDFW-Yakama Nation white paper is still under development. They are working through

issues surrounding feasibility of genetic sampling. Rotary screw traps remain in operation. Bull trout that are trapped are being tagged and sampled before release. Seine and sand bag impoundments will be utilized for trial acclimation sites in the White River. Permitting will start in a couple of months. Aquaseed Fish Transfer – There is no definitive cause of a 30% mortality event that affected 14% of the total 2005 broodyear. Histology sampling suggests likely effects were from injections, handling, fish condition, handling protocol, and anesthetic not being buffered. It was also determined that the fish have Polycythemia, as well as gas bubble disease. Debate remains as to if the mortality event will impact egg takes in 2008 and 2009. Support to continue the transfer was given by all members except WDFW. Grant PUD drafted a SOA to keep maturing fish at Aquaseed, and to transfer sub-yearlings as soon as possible. Sub-yearlings have been moved with success from Aquaseed in the past. The HSC is waiting for WDFW to make an internal decision to support the transfer. If WDFW decides not to support the transfer, it could go through the dispute process. Mary Peters, WDFW, made recommendations after evaluating the mortality report. Water quality issues at this facility are in question. 100% of the fish at Aquaseed have severe fin erosion, and vitamin deficiency. Sockeye – ONA gave a presentation at the joint meeting of the HCP and PRCC Hatchery Sub-Committee. After collecting data, they are reaching achieving positive SARs. The HSC was happy with the way the program is being run, and were supportive as of the program meeting Grant PUD's sockeye mitigation during for the duration of the 12 yr study plan.

- XIX. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** – Lenz gave a brief update of all ongoing habitat projects, and proposals. McIntyre Dam - Fisher and Lenz met with ONA. Project construction will start in July 2009. Designs are currently at 50%, 100% design will be complete in January 2009. \$25,000 from the BiOp Fund was approved for the Mission Creek project; an irrigation diversion to create pool habitat. \$150,000 from the Habitat Fund was approved for the purchase of the WDOT site at Dryden Dam. The money will be a match for ROC funds. WDFW is the lead on the project. Dotson questioned how property is exchanged from one state agency to another. Tweit explained that it is based on fair market value, and exchange of properties is handled just like any other two purchasers. Tweit explained that the property is required to be put out for a fair market value or bid. Grant's use of this site for summer Chinook acclimation site was discussed. The LiDAR contract will not be renewed in 2009. All pertinent tasks have been accomplished by USGS.
- XX. **Fall Chinook Work Group** – The Fall Chinook Work Group met for the first time on July 2, 2008. Alaska Department of Fish and Wildlife (ADFW), Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRTFC), and American Rivers will be participating. Representatives are tasked with

developing a report which evaluates the extent to which the Project contributes to the daily flow fluctuations below the Project in the Hanford Reach. Representatives will provide proposed study plans by July 25, 2008. Study plans will be implemented by 2010.

- XXI. **Priest Rapids Fish Forum** – Grant distributed the bull trout, pacific lamprey, and white sturgeon draft management plans for 30 day comment on June 23, 2008. Comments were requested back by July 25, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2008. It will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Natural Resources office in Ephrata, WA. The final deadline for management plans to FERC is April 1, 2008. The final draft will be distributed to the PRFF by Feb. 01, 2008. If they are completed prior to this date, Grant PUD will commit to early implementation. The Native Fish management plan is on the same timeline. Grant PUD will provide \$1.5 million in a reimbursable contract with WDFW to renovate the existing Columbia Basin Hatchery. \$100,000 will be deposited annually on or before February 15th of each year into a Resident Fish Monitoring and Trout Purchase fund. Korth or Easterbrooks will be the WDFW contact for contracting issues, stated Tweit. Resident fish monitoring plan, Grant PUD will draft a Resident Fish Monitoring Plan. Tweit suggests that white sturgeon be discussed during the first meetings.
- XXII. **Hanford Reach Working Group** – No discussion took place.
- XXIII. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 27, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office. Invitations will be sent to all PRCC members for the Priest Rapids Project License Ceremony to be held at Wanapum Dam, August 21, 2008 at 10 a.m.