



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, August 27, 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\*  
Jim Craig, USFWS\*  
Bill Tweit, WDFW\*  
Curt Dotson, GCPUD  
Eric Lauver, GCPUD  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*  
Bob Rose, YN\*(by phone)  
Jerry Marco, CCT\*(by phone)  
Dana Jeske, GCPUD  
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD (by phone)  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### Action Items:

- Rohr will speak with Tweit, U. S. Corp and Lauver regarding Jack counts.
- Dotson will send the Gatewell Exclusion Screen PowerPoint presentation to PRCC members electronically.
- Lowry will send the Fisheries Operations Plan directly to Bill Frymire, WDFW.
- Dotson will arrange a conference call within the next couple of weeks, after contracts are signed, but before USGS and WDFW are ready to start. Rohr will contact Rose regarding the Predation Study.
- Williams will schedule a meeting between the PR M & E group, and the PR Hatchery Coordination group (Lewis, Pearson, Benjamin, Nicholls, Grant PUD) regarding water issues of the PR Hatchery.
- Comments are due to Grant PUD by September 29, 2008 on the Gatewell Exclusion Screen, Tailwater Flow Design, and Tainter Gate Seal Investigation Consultation packages.

#### 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.
- PRCC members approved a 30 day extension of the 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski).
  - 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.
  - PRCC members agreed that Grant PUD can close the sluice way, starting September 8, 2008 for installation of the Priest Rapids avian array wires.

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Additions to the agenda include: End of Spill, Fishery Operations Plan, and Tainter Gate Seals Update. Rohr explained that Joe Taylor, Mid Columbia Coordinator, will be available to give the PRCC a presentation at the October PRCC meeting. The Wanapum Pool Raise will be discussed at the September 24, 2008 PRCC meeting.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - July 23, 2008 meeting – Approved.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed action items. Carlon spoke to Richie regarding Jack count standards. Counting standards for the Columbia River will be added to the December agenda for the annual Fish Passage Review meeting. **Rohr will speak with Tweit, U. S. Corp and Lauver regarding Jack counts.**
- V. **Ladder Maintenance Update** – GIG is good for the rest of the season. Full repairs will be completed during winter outage. Instantaneous tempered glass fracturing is thought to be why the video count station window broke. The replacement window was damaged upon arrival; another has been ordered and will be replaced when it arrives. Grant PUD will update the committee with replacement timelines.
- VI. **Video Fish Count Update** – Members discussed Lauver's observations of Columbia River Adult Fish Counting Length Criteria and Fish Counts Analysis for the Priest Rapids Project white paper. Dotson questioned if the counting issue is as serious as previously thought after looking at Lauver's white paper. Lauver believes the largest error is sockeye counts between the two dams. Dotson questioned if there is a greater efficiency in counting at Wanapum vs. Priest Rapids. Lauver believes Wanapum has more efficient counting stations. It was suggested that the video count stations at Priest Rapids (PR) be replaced in the future with similar counting stations at Wanapum. Counting started at Wanapum on April 15, 2008, several

hundred steelhead were counted at Wanapum before counting started later at PR. This answers count discrepancies listed in the white paper. Rock Island counts coordinate with PR counts more than the Wanapum counts regarding steelhead, stated Marco. It could be because of fall back counts at Rock Island, or similar count start dates, stated Lauver. Nordlund questioned if early season counts (last season fish) and new counts (this years fish) should be separated. Should the emphasis of steelhead counts focus on mid-season counts to get a more accurate count, questioned Dotson. Tweit has noticed that both PR and Wanapum are fitting more consistently with other dams on the mid-Columbia. Nordlund and Tweit aren't worried with spring/summer Chinook counts. Tweit explained that the Fish Pack Advisory Committee (FPAC) is working on consistent Columbia counts. FPAC will use Table 1 of Lauver's white paper. Lauver noted that precocial males are counted as jacks. WDFW would like FPAC to use 12"-22" to develop jack classification criteria and then to determine if the jack to adult ratio is consistent at all dams.

- VII. **Tailwater Flow Design** – Grant PUD has submitted a one year extension with FERC because Tailwater Flow Design criteria needs to be investigated Lauver explained. If an extension is granted, design would be complete in one year. Tailwater flow pumps would limit use of the GIG. This is a positive, stated Nordlund, because 7/8" trash racks on pumps should limit fish entrainment. Review and comments are requested by September 29, 2008.
- VIII. **Gatewell Exclusion Screen** – Consultation packages will be provided electronically and via U.S. mail to PRCC members. Review and comments are requested by September 29, 2008. Gatewell exclusion screens and the study plan to evaluate the screens were discussed by members. **Dotson will send the Gatewell Exclusion Screen PowerPoint presentation to PRCC members electronically.**
- IX. **Tainter Gate Seal Investigation** - Consultation packages will be provided electronically and via U.S. mail to PRCC members. Review and comments are requested by September 29, 2008. License Article 406 states that Grant PUD will evaluate the feasibility of evaluating the feasibility of tainter gate seal replacement. Because spillways at Wanapum have the lowest survival rate, it was questioned if tainter gate seals could be a reason. In the new design, bolts would not protrude 2", they would be recessed into the seal, explained Dotson. Tweit questioned why Grant PUD would evaluate this instead of just replacing them. Dotson stated the draft plan will explain why tainter gate seal bolt replacement isn't a feasible option for this particular scenario. As part of the regularly scheduled tainter gate painting maintenance, bolt replacement would occur over the course of two to three years, stated Jeske.

- X. **Fisheries Operations Plan** – Consultation packages will be provided electronically and via U.S. mail to PRCC members. Review and comments are requested by September 29, 2008. FERC Article 404. The plan summarizes dam operations that affect fish passage. The plan is adaptive and will adjust when new data is available. Carlon suggests that fisheries operations be discussed annually with the PRCC before the start of each fish passage season. Tweit stated that this is the operating document for Grant PUD operators. This document has language that allows flexibility to adapt to management styles, stated Dotson. Bill Frymire, WDFW, billf@atg.wa.gov will be tasked with reviewing the document for WDFW, stated Tweit. Tweit stated WDFW could have used another month to review this particular plan. Tweit will contact Frymire and Marci Mangold, WDOE regarding this issue. **Lowry send the Fisheries Operations Plan directly to Bill Frymire, WDFW.** Carlon stated that FERC doesn't usually require amendments to the license regarding operations. Tweit suggests Grant PUD's plan describe the standards their trying to achieve, adaptive management, and general operations guidelines. Dotson asked that if issues arise, a conference call be scheduled to talk about them. The Settlement Agreement provides a road map to cover operations, stated Tweit. Tweit suggests that other parts of the license be cut and pasted to create the plan.
- XI. **End of Spill** – Dotson explained that spill ended at Wanapum on August 17, 2008 and at PR on August 18, 2008. Rock Island smolt numbers were used to determine end of spill. Marco informed Dotson that Chelan PUD shut spill down on August 16, 2008. Index numbers at Rock Island have continued to fall. Summer spill started at 2.5%. 97.5% of out migration must be met before spill is cut off. Grant PUD started spring spill the same day as Rock Island. Summer spill started at 0%.
- XII. **Adult Fallback** - Wanapum adult fall back continues until November 15<sup>th</sup>. Dotson questioned if PRCC members would prefer adult fallback should through the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) at 2.5 kcfs or through the sluiceway. Tweit likes that the WFUFB is right next to the powerhouse. But since the WFUFB gets shallow (1') at the end of it, he questions if it is the better alternative for juveniles vs. adults. WDFW and NOAA would like to speak internally before committing to either option. Tweit questioned the vertical draw at the upper end of the WFUFB. The WFUFB is slightly shallower (8') at the top end than the sluice way (12'), stated Dotson. Discussion will continue at the September meeting.
- XIII. **Douglas Inter-local Cooperative Agreement** – Dotson notified PRCC members that Grant PUD has requested excess rearing capacity for steelhead and spring Chinook at Wells Hatchery.

- XIV. **Grants PUD Document Storage Site Update** – Williams’s emailed PRCC members a link to the new PRCC website and asked them to preview it. Once the format is approved by members, all documents will be downloaded to the site.
- XV. **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.
- XVI. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – approval requested – PRCC members approved a 30 day extension of the 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski).
- XVII. **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.
- XVIII. **Northern Pikeminnow and Avian Predation Programs –**
- A. Northern Pikeminnow – Set lines have removed approx. 14, 000 fish (3-5 year olds). Beach seining, predominately in the Wanapum Pool has removed approximately 40,000 juveniles (1”-4”). By catch is being picked through to remove other species. If salmonids are collected, the entire net is returned to the river.
- B. Avian Predation – Hazing has finished for the season. Grant PUD, WDFW and Real Time have collected 203 acoustic tags at the Goose Island caspian tern colony at Potholes Reservoir, 23 miles away from the PR Project. 136 CWTs were collected. 3500 PIT-tags were collected, but 20,000 detections were noted. Grant PUD is taking an aggressive approach with avian arrays. Falcons have been discussed to dissuade caspian tern predation issues. Of the 1,000 Chinook tagged for Grant PUD studies this spring, 1% were found at the tern colony. 5% of steelhead tags were found. 7,500 steelhead were PIT-tagged at Rock Island, Real Time is looking for their tags on PITAGUS. The PR arrays are being installed next week.
- Sluice closure – Sluice ways are currently open for adult fallback at PR. USDA would like to close the sluice way starting September 08, 2008 while avian array wires are being installed during real time work hours. Outages will

be minimized. **PRCC members agreed that Grant PUD can close the sluice way, starting September 8, 2008 for installation of the Priest Rapids avian array wires.**

- XIX. **Predation Study Update** – Dotson stated the Predation Study contract is being reviewed by Teresa Walker, WDFW. Literature review will be the first task. Dotson expects that by the September PRCC meeting contract review should be complete. **Dotson will arrange a conference call within the next couple of weeks, after contracts are signed, but before USGS and WDFW are ready to start. Rohr will contact Rose regarding the Predation Study.** Tweit stated that Bob Pfeifer, WDFW doesn't need to be included on the conference call.
- XX. **Habitat/NNI Funding**
- A. **Account Updates** – Spreadsheets were e-mailed to members. No discussion took place.
- XXI. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Langshaw updated members on hatchery activities. Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) was supportive of alternative acclimation sites. Chelan County will help with local outreach. WDFW proposed moving the PR Hatchery to the volunteer trap location. Grant PUD is speaking internally regarding spawning channel studies and moving the facility to the volunteer trap site. After the decision is made, hatchery designs should take approximately six months for completion. Tweit appreciates Grant PUD considering the hatchery move. HGMPs – quantitative objectives and M & E plans need to be determined by the JFP. Grant PUD has sent a letter to the JFP asking them to outline objectives. Contract issues are being worked through with the U.S. Corp regarding the mitigation of their 1.7 million fish. Tweit explained that Mike Lewis, WDFW wants to talk about water issues as they will relate to hatchery design. Langshaw stated water discussions can be addressed before the design is complete because they have implications on piping if the location is to be moved. **Williams will schedule a meeting between the PR M & E group, and the PR Hatchery Coordination group (Lewis, Pearson, Benjamin, Nicholls, Grant PUD) regarding water issues of the PR Hatchery.** WDFW recommends that the OLAFT be used to collect PR Hatchery broodstock. The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee want to wait until the JFP meets on September 03, 2008 to determine if the OLAFT will be used for broodstock collection. Tweit stated that WDFW want to run the PR Hatchery based on the best available science, but the question is how you avoid fish that aren't part of the Hanford Reach. Wanapum Pool bright population is the question. Seining, or getting volunteers at the trap can be utilized, but until all fish are marked, this is one step in a fairly long discussion, stated Tweit. Langshaw questioned if PNI is being embraced as a managing tool for PR

Hatchery fall Chinook. Thermally marked jacks will be returning in 2009. 2010 will be the first year that the majority of thermally marked fish will return. 100% of the Corp fish were adipose clipped in 2005 and 2006, they will be returning this year, stated Langshaw. WDFW-Yakama Nation white paper, genetics can be determined by the time fish reach Tumwater. White paper is still on hold. WDFW met on August 25, 2008 regarding this issue. NMFS letter regarding re-consultation of federal programs was discussed. NMFS has requested that HGMPs be received by November 01, 2008. New information that would merit re-consultation of existing programs needs to be determined by NMFS. White River –discussion focused on concerns regarding efficiency data because so few fish are being collected at the rotary screw traps. Langshaw will send a draft to USFWS and NMFS asking that acclimation be consistent with the Section 10 permit. WDFW does support the continued transfer of fish from Aquaseed to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery (LWSNFH). WDFW will draft a protocol for the transfer to continue. A SOA was drafted by Grant PUD stating the Skaha Lake reintroduction program meets Grant PUD's mitigation. It is out for a 30-day review by the PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee.

- XXII. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** – Rohr updated PRCC members on habitat activities. The LiDAR contract was terminated by the PRCC Habitat Sub-committee. Chris Fisher and Ben Lenz visited with ONA regarding McIntyre Dam in July. Work will start in 2009. The next meeting is September 30, 2008.
- XXIII. **Fall Chinook Work Group** – A list of potential studies and objectives for the studies were sent to members. The next meeting will be August 28, 2008 at Grant PUD's Natural Resources office in Ephrata. Langshaw will draft a description of interactions between the FCWG, PRCC and HRWG. A draft study plan needs to be sent to WDOE and the FCWG by October 01, 2008. They will have a 60 day comment period. A proposal will then be drafted by Grant PUD for submittal to FERC by April 01, 2009, for implementation in 2011.
- XXIV. **Priest Rapids Fish Forum** – The next meeting is scheduled for September 3, 2008. It will be at 9:00 a.m. in Wenatchee, WA at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office. The meeting will focus on the Lamprey Management Plan. The final deadline for having management plans to FERC is April 1, 2009. Molly Hallock will be WDFW's primary contact at the meeting. **Tweit requested that White Sturgeon be discussed at the November PRFF meeting so he can participate in the discussion.**
- XXV. **Hanford Reach Working Group** – No discussion took place.
- XXVI. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office.