



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

11:00 – 3:00

Grant PUD SeaTac Office

PRCC Members

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)

Scott Carlon, NMFS*
Jim Craig, USFWS*
Jerry Marco, CCT*
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Bob Rose, YN*
Tom Dresser, GCPUD*
Dana Jeske, GCPUD
Russell Langshaw, GCPUD (by phone)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Action Items:

- Dotson will look at the data from the 1999 and 2000 adult steelhead telemetry study to determine fish passage in relation to the sluiceway.
- Williams will send PRCC Website login and password information to PRCC members.
- Nordlund and Dotson will speak offline regarding comments to the 2007 study reports.
- Grant PUD will draft an SOA that incorporates the NNI Fund recalculation table and outlines what happens if Grant PUD doesn't meet NNI standards.

Decisions:

- PRCC members approve use of the WFUFB for adult fallback.
- PRCC members approved finalization 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 if approved by e-mail from Nordlund.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - August 27 meeting – Approved with Carlon’s edits.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed.
 - A. **Gatewell Exclusion Screen, Tailwater Flow Design (1 yr extension request sent to FERC), Tainter Gate Seal Investigation** – Comments due to Grant PUD by September 29, 2008
 - B. **Fish Operations Plan** – Comments due to Grant PUD by September 29, 2008.
- V. **River Operations Workshop Presentation** – Joe Taylor will present to the PRCC at the October 22, 2008 meeting.
- VI. **Design Team Presentation – PR Fish Bypass** – The Priest Rapids design presentation will take place at the December PRCC meeting.
- VII. **Adult Fallback** – In preparation of next year’s use of the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB), water is currently going through the sluiceway. Because of a gentler transition, the WFUFB could be more effective for safe passage of adult fallbacks noted Dotson. Jeske explained that WFUFB bulk heads would be placed in the bulkhead slots every eight years for maintenance of the WFUFB. Rose questioned where fish naturally travel, in regard to using the sluice or WFUBP for fall-back. Dotson stated that in 1999 and 2000 an adult steelhead telemetry study was conducted that might provide some information, but the WFUBP was not in place during that study. The WFUFB could be a benefit to juvenile out migration, stated Craig. **Dotson will look at the data from the 1999 and 2000 adult steelhead telemetry study to determine fish passage in relation to the sluiceway. PRCC members approve use of the WFUFB for adult fallback.**
- VIII. **Grants PUD Document Storage Site Update** – Williams’s explained that the PRCC website went live on September 23, 2008. Williams gave members their login and password. PRCC members expressed their appreciation for GPUD providing this tool, which will provide a one-stop record of studies that the committee can rely upon for making future decisions. **Williams will send PRCC Website login and password information to PRCC members.**
- IX. **Priest Rapids Top-Spill**

- A. **Action Item: 2007 3-D Priest Rapids Top-Spill Chinook Behavior Study Report (HTI)** – approval requested – Nordlund stated that the intent of many of his comments on this and other passage studies was to use adaptive management to derive PRCC conclusions for passage modifications by interpreting project study results . Dotson is trying to help integrate studies with the PRCC members for future use. Nordlund suggested that the study summary sheet in the front of each report should be used by the PRCC as a basis for discussing next years passage operations. The adaptive management process defined in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement should be used by the PRCC to refine passage to accomplish survival standards, and this should start with a PRCC discussion of findings from the reports. Rose suggested Grant PUD provides a summary that tracks previous studies. Dotson explained that Joe Lukas drafted a bibliography that captures the study history of Grant PUD’s fish studies, up to about 1997. Dotson will work on continuing the bibliography to capture those Grant PUD studies that have taken place since 1997. Nordlund explained that he envisioned the PRCC being more directly involved with utilizing fish passage study results as part of an adaptive management sequence to achieve survival standards, and wants a clear record to explain how the PRCC used adaptive management to make their decisions.. A document called Path Forward will be presented at the December PRCC meeting during the PR Fish Bypass presentation, explained Dotson,. Hopefully, the document will present a lot of the information Nordlund is looking for. Dotson questioned what needs to be done to finalize the 2007 reports. Nordlund was happy with the document provided by Dotson regarding Grant PUD’s response to his comments on the reports. **Nordlund and Dotson will speak offline regarding some of his comments to the 2007 study reports.** If Nordlund is comfortable with the way Grant PUD addresses comments, Nordlund will send an e-mail stating affirmation of the reports. Dotson will include WDFW comments in the comment chart Rose suggested that Chuck Peven could be hired by the PUD’s to draft a document outlining the larger view of projects and studies conducted by each PUD. Dotson explained that Joe Lukas has outlined Grant PUD studies from 1983 to 1997, and agreed that it would be a valuable tool for internal, as well as external staff, and that he would work on updating this work. The document should be a living document that will be updated yearly. **PRCC members approved finalization 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
if approved by e-mail from Nordlund.**

- X. **Action Item: 2007 Fish Source Evaluation (Skalski)** – See discussion above.
- XI. **Action Item: Analysis of Acoustic-Tagged Yearling Chinook Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon through the Priest Rapids Project in 2007** – See discussion above.
- XII. **Predation Study Update** – Dotson reporting that contractual finalization was still ongoing with WDFW.
- XIII. **NNI Fund** – Dresser reviewed Grant PUD’s NNI proposal with members. Rose suggested that if members have a different opinion of what the NNI Fund should look like, they present it prior to the next meeting. Paragraph 7 – members suggested “when technology is available” be used to replace “three years”. Dotson explained that within the next 60 days, Grant PUD will have pilot study data information to help facilitate this discussion. Members will vote at the next meeting if they agree to the structure of Dresser’s proposal. Marco questioned whether the license would have to be amended because of the new NNI Fund proposal, and if it would affect the February NNI contribution. Dresser stated everything will continue the way it has in the past, and that nothing would change for the next 2 to 3 years. If there is a new re-calculation method, the committee would have to decide when funds would be paid out. Marco questioned if the amendment process should be started in March after NNI Funds have been paid out. Dresser stated that would be wise. **Grant PUD will draft an SOA that incorporates the NNI Fund recalculation table and outlines what happens if Grant PUD doesn’t meet NNI standards.**
- XIV. **PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – Dresser noted that NOAA Fisheries abstained from a vote regarding the transport of fish from AquaSeed to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery. The BiOp states that Grant PUD shall consult with the PRCC with approval by NOAA. Dresser questioned if these types of issues should be moved to a higher policy level. Nordlund stated that abstention could include a variety of reasons and does not indicate a change in a Parties position, and if a Party did not approve, they would block consensus, not abstain. WDFW fish health staff directed Per Heggelund, AquaSeed to take BY07 fish that are to be transferred off feed, and he refused. Langshaw stated he will not take fish off feed until he has a signed transport permit. Susan Gutenberger, USFWS will be at AquaSeed the day of the transfer to determine the health of the fish prior to the transfer. The transfer will be on hold until a signed transport permit is issued. Langshaw stated his concern with NOAA’s position change at the last moment. Rohr explained that he is working on putting a policy committee meeting together. Priest Rapids

Hatchery design will stop until a clearly defined HGMP is approved. Dresser explained that designs are well developed. Grant PUD has authorized take of 1.7 million eggs for the Corp program, and take of 3.5 million eggs for the Corp Ringold program. Contract issues weren't able to be resolved between Grant PUD and the Corp. WDFW and the Corp will develop a funding agreement for the Corps egg take. Langshaw explained that the WDFW-Yakama Nation spring Chinook white paper is fairly close. Grant PUD is expecting final permits within the next week for the McComas and short term acclimation sites. Grant PUD is waiting for letters from NOAA and USFWS stating that activities are consistent with existing permits. HGMP development and quantitative objectives developed by Todd Pearsons, Grant PUD were discussed. JFP members agreed to meet the day of, just prior to the PRCC HSC meetings. Marco stated that dispute resolution comes back to the PRCC. Langshaw noted that if the fish transfer doesn't occur, there may be a dispute resolution coming to the PRCC from the Yakama Nation. If WDFW doesn't provide an AquaSeed transfer permit, the Yakama Nation has stated they would transfer the fish. Yakama Nation, WDFW and Grant PUD are listed on the Section 10 co-permit holders.

- XV. **PRCC Habitat SC Report** – McIntyre Dam fifty percent design is complete. Fisher is monitoring the progress of the project. Nordlund stated the design looked like they are moving down the right path. Next meeting is September 30, 2008.
- XVI. **Fall Chinook Work Group** – The next meeting will be October 23, 2008 at Grant PUD's SeaTac office. Comments have been received from CRITFC and USFWS. The list of studies will be sent to the committee by October 17, 2008.
- XVII. **Priest Rapids Fish Forum** – The next meeting is scheduled for October 02, 2008. The Pacific Lamprey, Bull Trout, and White Sturgeon Management Plans have been sent to the committee for review. Comments have been received and are being placed in a comment table to be attached to the study plan. The Native Resident Fish Monitoring Plan will be sent out next week. The committee will be reviewing the M & E for the Columbia Basin Hatchery. The Sturgeon Management Plan M & E hasn't been defined yet. Dresser stated he believes that Grant PUD will meet the target dates for all of the plans.
- XVIII. **Hanford Reach Working Group** – No discussion took place.
- XIX. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 9:00 – 3:00 at Grant PUD SeaTac office. The November and December PRCC meeting will be combined on December 03, 2008.