



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

9:00 – 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*
Bob Rose, YN* (by phone)
Bill Tweit, WDFW*
Gerry O'Keefe, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Steve Parker, YN (by phone)
Tom Dresser, GCPUD*
Curt Dotson, GCPUD (by phone)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. Members of the PR Design Team will present findings of the Design Team's February trip to Iowa at the March PRCC meeting.
2. Rohr will discuss Iowa travel dates with Marco.
3. Dresser will check into travel reimbursement for PRCC members.
4. Dotson will draft a white paper on PIT-tag issues related to the 2008 Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Wanapum-Priest Rapids Project.
5. Williams will send Tweit a copy of the 2008 Survival of Acoustic Steelhead through Wanapum.
6. Carlon will discuss the need of a letter from NMFS approving Grant HGMP extensions with Kris Petersen.
7. Williams will upload the 2009 Acoustic Tag Behavior Study Plan and the 2008 Behavioral Study Plan to the website upon receipt from Dotson. Williams will notify members via email when items have been uploaded.
8. Grant PUD said they would have the 2009 Behavioral Study Plan for members to review by Monday, March 02, 2009.
9. Rose will distribute the Performance Assessment of Suture Type in Juvenile Chinook Salmon Surgically Implanted with Acoustic Transmitters report to PRCC members.
10. Grant PUD will contact Chelan and Douglas PUDs regarding a sub-yearling coordination meeting.

11. Rohr will talk with Mike Schiewe, Anchor Environmental regarding sub-yearling meeting coordination.
12. Grant PUD will develop a draft prioritized list of projects that use monies from the NNI Fund for incorporation in the Habitat Management Plan by Friday, March 06, 2009. After development, Grant PUD will send to the PRCC for review.
13. PRCC members will discuss the internal workings of the HSC with their HSC representative.

Decisions:

1. PRCC members agree they will travel to Iowa the week of April 19-22 for training wall configuration modeling and physical modeling of hydro jets.
2. PRCC members agreed to proceed with the 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Survival Study Plan.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Rohr explained that the originally agreed upon week of May 4-8 wouldn't work for PRCC members to travel to Iowa and suggested the week of April 6, April 13, April 20, May 18, and June 01. **PRCC members agree they will travel to Iowa the week of April 19-22 for training wall configuration modeling and physical modeling of hydro jets.** Nordlund requested preliminary modeling results prior to the Iowa trip. Dotson explained that nine configurations will be looked at originally, and that five of those will be shown to PRCC members. Tweit would like to see the configurations that were ruled out and why. **Members of the PR Design Team will present findings of the Design Team's February trip to Iowa at the March PRCC meeting. Rohr will discuss Iowa travel dates with Marco. Dresser will check into travel reimbursement for PRCC members.**
- III. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed and discussed. The 2008 Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Wanapum-Priest Rapids Project was distributed for a 30 day comment period on February 18, 2009. Comments are due March 18, 2009. The draft report is preliminary because of PIT-tag detection issues, noted Dotson. He hopes to have the PIT-tag issues ironed out by the next PRCC meeting. **Dotson will draft a white paper on PIT-tag issues related to the 2008 Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Wanapum-Priest Rapids Project.** The draft should include: Skalski's take on the findings, all PIT-tag data for McNary Dam, not just for the mortalities detected, and the study group the PIT-tags came from. **Williams will send Tweit a copy of the 2008 Survival of Acoustic Steelhead through Wanapum.**

Carlton will discuss the need of a letter from NMFS approving Grant HGMP extensions with Kris Petersen.

- IV. WDFW Grant Mass Marking Dispute Resolution Update** – WDFW and Grant PUD discussed mass marking at the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) meeting on February 19, 2009. It was decided during that meeting that WDFW would draft an SOA regarding whether Priest Rapids Hatchery fish should be mass marked or not. And a second SOA would be drafted regarding what kind of mass mark should be used. The SOAs will be distributed 10 days prior to the next HSC meeting on March 19, 2009. SOAs will be distributed to the PRCC and HSC simultaneously. The PRCC will either decide on the mass marking dispute, or elevate it to the Policy Committee.

Parker questioned if WDFW has considered how mass marking will affect U.S. vs. Oregon. Parker's concern is with broodstock management, and harvest management relating to the marking of all PR Hatchery production. Tweit explained that if the HSC agrees that otolith mark is the right mark, WDFW will accept that. But, if adipose clipping is the chosen mark, WDFW will need to work that out with the U.S. vs. Oregon parties. If it can't be worked out, then it will go back to the HSC. WDFW would be willing to look at an alternative approach if the Yakama Nation would like to propose one, noted Tweit. Parker recommended an assessment of the harvest implications to the tribes be completed. He suggested that Larry Lavoe and Stuart Ellis do some of that work. Implications to the sport fishery in the Hanford Reach also need to be looked at. Tweit explained that selective fisheries will be determined by the status of the lower Columbia fall Chinook.

- V. Priest Rapids Top-Spill –**

A. 2009 Acoustic Tag Behavior Study Plan – The PRCC approved this plan last month. **Williams will upload the 2009 Acoustic Tag Behavior Study Plan and the 2008 Behavioral Study Report to the website upon receipt from Dotson. Williams will notify members via email when items have been uploaded.**

- VI. 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Survival Study Plan** – Grant PUD received and responded to plan comments from NOAA and YN. **Grant PUD said that they would have the Draft 2009 Behavioral Study Plan reports for members to review by Monday, March 02, 2009. PRCC members approved of the 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Survival Study Plan.**

Members discussed the benefits and use of Monocryl sutures in future studies. **Rose will distribute the Performance Assessment of Suture Type in Juvenile Chinook Salmon Surgically Implanted with Acoustic Transmitters report to PRCC members.**

VII. Sub-yearling Survival Studies – Dotson and Nordlund are currently drafting a sub-yearling SOA, and hope to have a draft available for review in the next couple of weeks. After last months meeting, Grant PUD thought it was agreed that the 2009 sub-yearlings studies would be deferred because of lack of technology to conduct the study. Nordlund encouraged all three utilities (Chelan, Douglas, Grant) to coordinate a methodology to complete successful sub-yearlings studies for 2010. Nordlund explained that Chelan hopes to have sub-yearlings study criteria defined by June. They intend on holding a fall workshop in September to discuss the topic further. Tweit noted that scale data WDFW has will help explain over-wintering and out migration of sub-yearlings. **Grant PUD will contact Chelan and Douglas PUDs regarding a sub-yearling coordination meeting.** The NOAA Science Center will send someone to discuss sub-yearling issues on the Snake River with Chelan, Douglas, and Grant PUD staff. **Rohr will talk with Mike Schiewe, Anchor Environmental regarding sub-yearling meeting coordination.** Dotson left the meeting (via phone) at this time.

VIII. FERC License Articles Update – Dresser distributed the Priest Rapids Project Aquatic Resources Requirements spreadsheet that details the status of FERC submitted license requirements and plans that Grant PUD anticipates will require extensions of time. The following is a list of anticipated plans that will require an extension of time:

Hanford Reach – Evaluation of flow Fluctuations to WDOE
Final Hanford Reach Study Plan to FERC

DO, pH and Temperature in Shallow Water Habitats Plan

Fish Ladder Water Supply Monitoring Study Plan

Aquatic Invasive Species Plan

Hatchery Genetic Management Plan/Monitoring and Evaluation
(HGMP/M&E)

HGMP/M&E Plan for UCR spring Chinook program – White River

HGMP/M&E Plan for UCR spring Chinook program – Nason Creek

HGMP/M&E Plan for UCR spring Chinook program – Methow River

HGMP/M&E Plan for UCR steelhead program

HGMP/M&E Plan for fall Chinook

Habitat Plan

White Sturgeon Management Plan

Wildlife Habitat Management Plan

Wildlife Habitat Monitoring and Information & Education program

Also distributed was Table 1, outlining the task schedule for plan submittal of the Downstream Passage Alternatives Action Plan LA-401 (a) (1), Table 2, outlining the task schedule for plan submittal of the Priest Rapids Alternative Spill Measures Evaluation Plan LA-401 (a) (8), and Table 3, outlining the task schedule for plan submittal of the

Wanapum Dam Interim Spill Regime Evaluation Plan LA-401 (a) (9) to FERC. Grant PUD asked that members review these plans by the next PRCC meeting, in hopes of submitting them to FERC by April 14, 2009.

Dresser explained that the HSC and Grant PUD are trying to determine the amount of time needed for HGMP extensions. Grant PUD will be working with agencies and tribes to discuss HGMPs prior to submittal to NOAA. Hatchery programs and projects will continue to move forward during the HGMP process, noted Dresser. Artificial Propagation Plans (APP) will be submitted in place of HGMPs by Grant PUD for programs that the HGMP is being developed by others. M&E will be included in HGMPs and APPs. Grant PUD staff is developing HGMPs with the help of Greg Ferguson.

Grant PUD will develop a draft prioritized list of projects that use monies from the NNI Fund for incorporation in the Habitat Management Plan by Friday, March 06, 2009. After development, Grant PUD will send to the PRCC for review.

Progress on the Priest Rapids Hatchery (PRH) rebuild is listed under the fall Chinook HGMP. Engineers are moving forward with designs for the PRH. Mass marking infrastructure is being incorporated into the PRH design. Tweit requested more frequent updates regarding PRH designs, and suggested that Mike Lewis, WDFW be more involved with integral design of the hatchery. Dresser suggested that Lewis contact Grant PUD staff whenever he has questions, or would like updates. The Siphon Intact is currently under review.

- IX. PRCC Hatchery SC Report** – HSC dysfunction, staffing decisions and how to assist the committee with the large amount of difficult work they have in front of them was discussed. **PRCC members will discuss the internal workings of the HSC with their HSC representative.**
- X. PRCC Habitat SC Report** – Rohr and Dresser updated members with fund deposits and totals.
- XI. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - December 12, 2009 Predator Study CC – No discussion
 - January 20, 2009 Predator Study CC – No discussion
 - January 28, 2009 meeting – No discussion
- XII. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00, Grant SeaTac office.