



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

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\*  
Jerry Marco, CCT\* (via phone)  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD\*  
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*  
Bob Rose, YN\* (via phone)  
Heather Bartlett, WDFW\*  
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum  
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

#### Action Items:

1. Skalski will address tag failure data at the May PRCC meeting.
2. Williams will post Skalski's tag failure data letter to the PRCC website.
3. Rohr will ask the Habitat Subcommittee their opinion on pumping cost coming from the NNI Fund.
4. Review and submit comments on the Habitat Plan by May 21, 2009.
5. Nordlund will contact McManus regarding Hatchery Subcommittee protocols.
6. Dotson will distribute the Sub-yearling Chinook Pilot Study Plan prior to the May meeting.
7. Dresser will talk to Dotson regarding installation of a surface PIT-tag collector at Priest Rapids Dam as part of future sub-yearling studies.
8. Dresser will determine how many fish are needed to do a Sub-yearling Chinook PIT-tag study.
9. Williams will check into Cave B accommodations for PRCC members.

#### Decisions:

1. PRCC members approved the combined Downstream Passage Alternative Action, Wanapum "Interim" Alternative Spill, and the Priest Rapids Alternative Spill Plans.

# Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed attendees.
- II. **Agenda Review:** Additions to the agenda included Dresser addressing the start of spring spill and a proposed sub-yearling study.
- III. **Action Items Review** – Action items were reviewed and discussed. Nordlund, Dotson and Rohr continue to revise a study plan spreadsheet.
- IV. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Fall Chinook Fish Marking Identification Dispute Resolution Process**
  - A. **Policy Meeting Update** – The first Policy Committee meeting was held on April 17, 2009. Prior to the meeting WDFW and the Yakama Nation requested that mass marking be pulled from the agenda in order to give them time to continue discussions on the matter. The mass marking timeline was extended to August 25, 2009. It was noted that this subject will have continued discussion in the US v Oregon forum. Bartlett explained that the technical advisory committee of US v Oregon does modeling. They have been asked to model Priest Rapids fall Chinook runs with and without mass marks to review how much or how little harvest will be affected.

The Policy Committee discussed having an annual meeting that would include a briefing by PRCC and the subcommittees. Additionally, a mid year meeting was also discussed and will be given further consideration. The next Policy meeting is set for August 18, 2009. Rohr will be drafting meeting protocols for the committee.
- V. **Priest Rapids Top-Spill –**
  - PRCC Iowa trip date selection** – The trip has been set for the week of July 13, 2009 – with the PRCC traveling to Iowa on July 14 and meeting at the IIHR lab on Wednesday (July 15).
- VI. **Skalski's tag-failure survival findings** – Dresser distributed a letter from Skalski explaining tag failure data for the 2008 survival study. Grant PUD has asked Skalski to rewrite the report based on the analysis of the data. Nordlund noted that Chelan and Douglas kicked off survival studies yesterday, and they are experiencing tag failure with their HTI 795E acoustic tag. United States Geological Survey (USGS) also use HTI equipment in the region. **Skalski will address PIT-tag/acoustic tag-failure data at the May PRCC meeting. Williams will post Skalski's tag-failure data letter to the PRCC website.** Grant PUD steelhead and sockeye survival studies will start

this week. Grant PUD is currently gatewell dipping to collect study fish. Columbia River DART ([www.cbr.washington.edu/dart.com](http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart.com)) gives past data on out migration counts.

- VII. Downstream Passage Alternative Action Plan, Wanapum “Interim” Alternative Spill Plan, Priest Rapids Alternative Spill Plan** – All three plans were originally sent to members in March 2009. Dresser combined the three plans after FERC approval was given. Grant PUD requested a May 15, 2009 extension of time (EOT) from FERC. Dresser reviewed Nordlund’s comments and explained how Grant PUD addressed them with the committee. Tweit’s verbal comments were also incorporated in the plan. Angling for predators will be conducted in the tailraces will be performed this year. Rose explained that McNary Dam information he distributed has useful information in it, and asked Dresser and Dotson to look at the report for information to incorporate into future plans. **PRCC members approved the combined Downstream Passage Alternative Action, Wanapum “Interim” Alternative Spill, and the Priest Rapids Alternative Spill Plans.**
- VIII. Discussion/Comment on PRCC Habitat Plan** – Rohr for the record affirmed that the PRCC had approved by final email vote on April 13, 2009 Grant PUD’s request to FERC for an extension of time for the Habitat Plan to July 1, 2009. The PRCC Habitat SC also approved the request at their meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. PRCC committee members discussed comments received from Habitat SC members. Rohr answered the question and explained that the Habitat Subcommittee agreed that if non-members want to attend meetings, they must first contact Rohr, who will then petition the committee for approval. The reasoning behind this is to limit participation by stakeholders at meetings where land acquisitions will be discussed. Section 2.3, Habitat/Hatchery coordination was discussed. Clarification is needed as to whether this section requires the Hatchery and Habitat Subcommittee to meet monthly, and if habitat funding would be used for hatchery programs. Use of the NNI Fund should be defined. Nordlund asked if diversion water projects would obligate the NNI Fund to long term funding of such projects. **Rohr will ask the Habitat Subcommittee their opinion on long term pumping costs coming from the NNI Fund. Committee members agreed to review and submit comments on the Habitat Plan by May 21, 2009.**
- IX. Discussion on Extension of Time Requests –**
- A. HGMP – April 13, 2009 Joint PRCC/PRCC Hatchery SC Conference Call** – The HGMP extension of time was approved on the call.
- B. Natural Resources FERC Activities Update** – Dresser distributed and reviewed the FERC Activities Update spreadsheet.

- X. PRCC Hatchery SC Updates/Progress** – Grant PUD submitted 10 Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMP), Artificial Propagation Plans (APP), and implementation schedules at the April Hatchery Subcommittee meeting. Grant PUD is waiting for the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to provide sockeye information to complete the HGMP. Hatchery Subcommittee members were concerned with the dates given on the implementation schedule as to when fish would actually be put in the water at hatchery and acclimation sites. Grant PUD is in the process of scheduling a meeting with FERC, NOAA, and the USFWS to discuss how to move forward with HGMP's and APP's. After the meeting, Grant PUD will advise other entities and tribes as to the outcome.
- A. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee facilitator evaluation criteria**  
Nordlund combined the facilitator evaluation criteria and Hatchery Subcommittee protocols into one document. Nordlund offered to attend the next HSC meeting to discuss the document. **Nordlund will contact McManus regarding Hatchery Subcommittee protocols. Dresser distributed additional language that he believes should be incorporated into the protocols.**
- B. PRCC HSC Protocols** – See discussion directly above.
- XI. PRCC Habitat SC Updates** – No additional discussion took place.
- XII. Sub-yearling Chinook Pilot Study** – Grant PUD is proposing that a sub-yearling Chinook pilot study be conducted in June 2009 to allow for the exploration of using JSAT tags. The study would use approximately 500-600 tags for release into the Wanapum tailrace. The information gathered would help determine how to conduct the 2010 survival study. Life history strategies, tag-life issues, and predator information would also be gathered. The average life of a JSAT tag is 45 days versus 18 days for a HTI tag. **Dotson will distribute the Sub-yearling Chinook Pilot Study Plan prior to the May meeting.** Grant PUD is currently purchasing materials to perform the study. Fish would be released into the tailrace via helicopter. The use of additional acoustic transects could be placed to gain further knowledge of where life history is spent.
- Bartlett explained that a chart she has shows 60% of returning adult fish have a reservoir reared pattern. Natural fish went from a reservoir reared pattern to a sub-yearling pattern. She noted that life histories show a distinct growth between yearlings and sub-yearlings.
- Nordlund questioned if a PIT-tag surface collector could be installed at Priest Rapids Dam? Dresser thought Bio Mark had said it wasn't feasible. **Dresser will talk to Dotson regarding installation of a surface PIT-tag collector at Priest Rapids Dam as part of future sub-yearling studies.** Nordlund noted that acoustic tags are better at

assessing behavior, but he believes PIT-tags provide more reliable information. Dresser explained that the amount of fish needed to use PIT-tags, and a source to get them has been an issue in previous studies. **Dresser will determine how many fish are needed to do a Sub-yearling Chinook PIT-tag study.**

**XIII. Spring Spill** – Spring spill started at Wanapum Dam on April 24, 2009, and at Priest Rapids Dam on April 27, 2009.

**XIV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- **March 25, 2009 meeting** – Approved
- **April 13, 2009 Conference Call** - Approved

**XV. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00, Grant PUD Hydro Engineering Department, Trailer T, 15655 Wanapum Village Lane S.W., Beverly, WA 99321. **Williams will check into Cave B accommodations for PRCC members.**