



## MEETING

### Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grant PUD HED

#### 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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Bryan Nordlund, NMFS\*

Jim Craig, USFWS\*

Tom Dresser, GCPUD\*

Eric Lauver, GCPUD

Dana Jeske, GCPUD

Skyler Street, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Jerry Marco, CCT\*

Bill Tweit, WDFW\*

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Pat Burdick, GCPUD

George Thompson, GCPUD

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

#### Action Items:

1. Dresser will discuss an external website for Hanford Reach data with Grant PUD IT staff.
2. Dotson will arrange for Tim Counihan, USGS to attend the August 26, 2009 PRCC meeting to discuss the Predator Study.

## Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee and asked members and attendees to provide self introductions.
- II. **Agenda Review** – A presentation on the Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan was added to the agenda.
- III. **Action Items Review** – All action items were discussed and reviewed. Action Item #2 - Tim Counihan, USGS will provide a response to

PRCC Predator Study questions prior to the next PRCC meeting, Tim Counihan was not available to address the PRCC in person, but did respond to questions via e-mail. Action Item #4 - Potholes Reservoir can't be accessed to collect tags implanted in survival study fish until August 1<sup>st</sup>, due to the nesting season of the Tern colony.

Twit asked that communication between WDFW and Grant PUD staff be increased during seasonal activities in the Hanford Reach. He questioned the possibility of Grant PUD providing an electronic posting of in season, real time data to an externally accessible website.

**Dresser will discuss an external website for Hanford Reach data with Grant PUD IT staff.**

- IV. Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan LA-403 Presentation** – Grant PUD staff, George Thompson, Skyler Street and Eric Lauver distributed the Tailrace Pumping System Plan for Priest Rapids Dam. A 30 day review period was provided with comments due on August 21, 2009. It will then be discussed and voted on at the August 26, 2009 PRCC meeting. The concept of this plan was proposed in the final license application in order to provide more efficient water use and to possibly lower temperatures in the fish ladders. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved of the idea and included it in the new license granted on April 17, 2008. Grant PUD asked for and received a six month extension that concludes on October 19, 2009.

Lauver explained that in 2010, lamprey will be tagged to determine how they access the ladder and bifurcation pool. In 2011, a structure will be installed to close the collection channel from the bifurcation channel. Lamprey plating will be installed prior to the initial radio telemetry study proposed to close the collection channel. By 2012, data collected will hopefully provide enough information to determine if the collection channel should be permanently closed. Salmonid passage is of concern with the proposed lamprey modifications. Nordlund was apprehensive that one end of the collection channel would be lost for salmonid passage and suggested that attraction flows be carefully considered. Slotted entrances were installed in 1998 with slotted gates being closed in 2001. Modeling work will be performed to determine the size of the pump house and pumps that will be required. It is estimated that the plan would be implemented in 2015. Depending on flow conditions, use of the Gravity Intake Gate (GIG) would be minimized.

- V. Review of “Week of July 13<sup>th</sup> Committee Members Trip to Iowa”** – All PRCC members that traveled to Iowa to observe Priest Rapids Topspill Bypass (PRTB) modeling noted the benefit of observing first hand, the different scenarios proposed by the Design Team.

One of the scenarios modeled during the Iowa trip (and presented to the PRCC following the 2008 fish studies) was a proposed training wall to guide fish towards the Priest Rapids Topspill Bypass. Dotson and Jeske had previously met with the U.S. Corp to discuss the efficiency

of similar training walls used at some of the Corp. projects. Based on draft fish passage efficiency (FPE) numbers seen during the 2009 season at the Priest Rapids Topspill Operations Configuration (PR TSOC) (see below), Grant PUD does not believe a training wall in the Priest Rapids forebay will be required to direct fish to the Priest Rapids Topspill Bypass at this time.

Dotson provided 2009 Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) data showing a large increase in the number of juvenile fish using the WFUFB for outmigration passage this year over last year – similar to what is being seen at the PRD fish bypass. One factor that may be having an influence is the fact that inadvertent spill took place during 87% of the study season in 2008 and only about 2% of the study season in 2009.

Draft 2009 Priest Rapids TSOC Fish Passage Efficiency

	2008	2009
Steelhead	33.1%	49.9%
Sockeye	22.4%	38.9%
Yearling Chinook	23.4%	n/a

The question remains why survival rates are lower for the Priest Rapids vs. Wanapum Reservoir in both 2008 and 2009. One possible factor prohibiting adequate survival in the Priest Rapids Reservoir could be shallow water habitat at Buckshot Creek (Mattawa), which allows for greater opportunity for predation to take place. Bird predation has been an issue in previous years, but doesn't appear to be this year.

- VI. Discussion: Draft Report of the Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts Through the Priest Rapids Project in 2008 –** Dotson requested a 30 day extension in order to provide the final draft of the 2008 Survival of Acoustic Tagged Steelhead Smolts Through the Priest Rapids Project. An electronic copy will be emailed on August 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be discussed at the August PRCC meeting, with approval being asked for at the September 23, 2009 PRCC meeting.
- VII. Discussion of Reports and Timing for “Review, Comment, and Deadlines” –** Dotson noted that Grant PUD is working with contractors to get data and draft reports out for PRCC review quicker than in prior years.
- VIII. Discussion of Studies and Reports Tracking Documentation –** No discussion took place.

**IX. Updates:**

- A. Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Studies** – See discussion above under Item V.
- B. Sub-Yearling Pilot Study** – 550 JSAT tags were used to conduct the 2009 Sub-Yearling Pilot Study. HTI tags were used in 2008. Of the 500 tagged fish, 400 were released in the Wanapum tailrace and 100 in the Priest Rapids tailrace. 50 tags were used in a tag-life test. The first tag down load last week showed positive detections of 499 tags (within the system) The tags will be active until the first of August.
- C. PIT-tag Sample Size Review** – No discussion took place.
- D. Predator Study** – Members discussed shutting down spill at Wanapum Dam to accommodate electroshocking for the ongoing Predator Study. Dotson will talk to Tim Counihan, USGS regarding the timing of proposed Wanapum spill closures. **Dotson will arrange for Tim Counihan, USGS to attend the August 26, 2009 PRCC meeting to discuss the Predator Study.**
- E. Summer Spill** – Dotson explained it's possible that summer spill will continue until September because of a slower than normal out migration of sub-yearlings. He distributed print-outs from the DART website of Sub-Yearling Chinook at Rock Island Dam, which shows the run is "behind schedule" compared to the last 23 years. 20 kcfs is currently passing through the WFUFB.

**X. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- **June 24, 2009** - Approved

**XI. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, August 26, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00, Grant PUD SeaTac Office.