



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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/Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC member)

Scott Carlon, NMFS*
Jim Craig, USFWS*
Bill Tweit, WDFW* (on phone)
Curt Dotson, GCPUD*
Debbie Williams, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Jerry Marco, CT* (on phone)
Bob Rose, YN*
Dana Jeske, GCPUD
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum (on phone)

Action Items:

1. PRCC members will review the Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan Extension of Time letter and provide comments by September 30, 2009. Rohr will send a reminder email to PRCC members on Monday, September 28th.
2. Rohr will discuss changes to the PRCC HSC Protocols by the PRCC with Elizabeth McManus.
3. Dotson will discuss excess capacity questions of the Douglas - Grant PUD Interlocal Agreement with Dave Duvall and Tom Kahler. After the question is answered, Rohr will conduct an email vote of approval.
4. Rohr will email the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee report from McManus.
5. Rohr will discuss sub-yearling summit workshop dates with Schiewe.

Decisions:

1. PRCC members approved the Report of Survival of Acoustic-Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Wanapum - Priest Rapids Projects in 2008.

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) members.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The following items were added to the agenda: Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) survival study check in dates, Priest Rapids Bypass Update, Douglas PUD Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (430-1217) for excess capacity at the Methow and Wells fish hatcheries, and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Statements of Approval (SOA).
- III. **Action Items Review** – All action items were discussed and reviewed. A request by the Predator Study Team to launch boats from the right bank launch below the Wanapum Indian Village was denied. They will continue to launch at Vernita Bar. In order to gather predator data in the Powerhouse Zone during next year's Predator Study, permission can be granted to turn turbines on and off as needed, based on scheduling.
- IV. **Follow Up Discussion: August 26th USGS Predator Study Presentation** - Dotson distributed graphs showing peak salmonid migration through the Priest Rapids Project (Project) as determined by acoustic tag time stamp from the 2009 acoustic tag data. Craig noted that the HCP found similar passage patterns during their study.
- V. **Action Item - Draft Report of Survival of Acoustic-Tagged Steelhead Smolts Through the Wanapum - Priest Rapids Projects in 2008** - Dotson distributed the final report on September 14, 2009. Rose didn't question the statistical analysis of the study, but did question why twice as many tags are put in the river as used in the study (after 'bad tag' lots were removed from the data set). Rose was wondering if the study's sample sizes were too large. Dotson explained that in order to insure that they get the confidence interval of 95% and a standard error of +/- 2 ½ % and counter the possibility of poor tag detection efficiency at any particular detection array, sample sizes are cushioned. Because better detection rates have been seen in the last two years, Dotson feels comfortable using the excess tags.

Rose also questioned the 3% difference between the two different approaches used (acoustic tag vs. PIT tags) to reach project survival estimates – but that the total Project survival estimates were both the same. He also asked what the acceptable standard error for the total Project area is. Carlon explained that 2.5% is the standard error, but that 3% can be allowed with PRCC consensus. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) had a statistician review the estimates and agreed with Skalski's conclusions. **PRCC members approved the Report of Survival of Acoustic-Tagged Steelhead Smolts through the Wanapum - Priest Rapids Projects in 2008.**
- VI. **Studies and Reports Forms** - Rohr distributed a tracking spreadsheet to be used for PRCC studies and reports. Rohr will update the

“Record for the PRCC Studies and Reports” as needed and distribute to the committee members.

VII. Action Item: Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan (PRTPP) LA-403

At the August PRCC meeting, Grant PUD was asked to rewrite the PRTPP because members didn't agree with the plan as it was written.

Grant PUD is required to submit the PRTPP to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by October 17, 2009. Dotson explained that Grant PUD staff has requested additional time to adequately formulate a plan and would like to request a one year Extension of Time (EOT) from FERC for the PRTPP. He distributed a draft EOT letter for review. Erich Gaedeke, FERC, suggested Grant PUD seek a one year EOT (October 17, 2010) in order to allow for the development of a plan that has PRCC consensus prior to being submitted to FERC. **PRCC members will review the Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan Extension of Time letter and provide comments by September 30, 2009. Rohr will send a reminder email to PRCC members on Monday, September 28th.**

VIII. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) Protocols - Hatchery

Subcommittee Protocols were approved by the PRCC HSC on August 20, 2009. As requested, Rohr distributed copies of the protocols to the PRCC for their review and discussion. Dotson asked that the flow chart on the last page of the protocols document be modified to include the same verbiage under Hatchery Subcommittee as it does the Habitat Subcommittee. Marco noted that protocol language speaks more about Grant PUD's FERC License than it does the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA), and explained he would like to see consistency amongst all protocol documents. PRCC members agreed with Dotson's proposed change to the PRCC HSC protocols. **Rohr will discuss changes to the PRCC HSC Protocols by the PRCC with Elizabeth McManus.**

IX. Check in Dates: - Dotson questioned the inconsistency of check-in dates in the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) regarding performance standards and asked the PRCC their interpretation of the SSSA language regarding this topic., Nordlund explained that the intent of the SSSA document is to ensure that five years after Grant PUD has completed steps to meet performance and survival standards, a check in study be performed to assure a “single species”, as determined by the PRCC, be studied to affirm they are still meeting survival standards. The PRCC has the authority to deviate from the SSSA, and are in agreement that adaptive management continues to be used. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Chelan and Douglas PUD's calls for the committee to use one species for interval tests, or whatever the committee deems necessary. “It would only be one study, not a series of three”, stated Carlon, and it would probably follow the same sequence as the survival studies.

Nordlund explained that if studies are completed in 2009, 2010 and 2011 with survival standards being reached for all species, the five year check-in clock would start in 2011, making a “check-in” study required in 2016.

Tweit agreed with Nordlund’s characterization of the SSSA intent and suggests that a Statement of Agreement (SOA) be written to clearly define check-in dates. PRCC members will determine if a Chinook Survival Study is needed in 2010, and if studies need to be conducted prior to, or after 2013. Steelhead and Sockeye Survival Studies will be conducted in 2010. The SOA will be drafted by a PRCC subcommittee comprised of Nordlund, Tweit, Marco and Dotson. The SOA will include contingencies to deal with bad study years, and the consequences if standards aren’t met. Rohr will follow up with the subcommittee for scheduling and drafting of the SOA.

The question was asked if the 3-year performance standard for steelhead will be met (based on the results of the 2008 and 2009 steelhead survival studies). Dotson explained that it’s feasible that Grant PUD will meet the 3 year analysis for steelhead survival.

- X. Douglas - Grant PUD Interlocal Agreement (ILA)** - The ILA is to provide excess rearing capacity at the Wells and Methow fish hatcheries owned by Douglas PUD to rear Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead, UCR spring Chinook, summer Chinook, and survival study fish. The ILA, which is the same as in years past, was approved by the PRCC HSC and HCP at their September meetings.

Nordlund explained that the HCP approved Douglas PUD’s request for additional broodstock collection for a 2011 study, and questioned if there would be any resulting impact on the capacity needed for rearing of Grant PUD fish. **Dotson will discuss excess capacity concerns of the Douglas - Grant PUD Interlocal Agreement with Dave Duvall and Tom Kahler. After the question is answered, Rohr will conduct an email vote of approval.**

XI. Updates:

- A. Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Studies** – Dotson hopes to have a draft report ready for PRCC review by the October PRCC meeting.
- B. Fish Marking Dispute** - Will be discussed in the US v. Oregon forum on September 29-30, 2009.
- 2009 Sub-Yearling Pilot Study** – Dotson hopes to have a draft report ready for PRCC review by the October PRCC meeting.
- C. Sub-Yearling PIT-tag Sample Size Review** – Members discussed the upcoming sub-yearling workshop being arranged by Mike Schiewe, Anchor Environmental, and Denny Rohr, that will be held later this year. Committee discussion included possible speakers (Battelle, and US Army Corp), tools to

conduct a study, life strategies and survival differences of upper and lower Columbia River sub-yearlings, scale sample data and what it tells us about sub-yearlings life history, migration, over-wintering, the path forward, and, are the tools available to answer questions regarding sub-yearlings?

D. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee – Rohr will email a report of the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee meeting.

E. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) - The HSC will be traveling to Canada to visit the McIntyre Dam and Okanogan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) projects on October 7-8, 2009. Ben Lenz will provide a presentation to the PRCC highlighting the accomplishments of the HSC in October. Members discussed expenditure of No Net Impact (NNI) Funds, and reiterated that the PRCC is the primary committee to determine how those funds are spent. The HSC can submit a proposal for NNI Funds if additional funding sources can't be found for proposed projects, but they should expend funds from the Habitat and BiOp Funds first. Rohr explained that the HSC understands the relationship of the PRCC and NNI Fund expenditures.

Rose explained that future sub-yearling studies in the Hanford Reach probably won't be completed by Grant PUD unless additional funding sources are found, and that NNI Funds could possibly be used as that funding source. Rose suggests the NNI Fund be built up in order to support this important study.

F. Joe Carroll Presentation - The Total Dissolved Gas (TDG) at the Wanapum Unit Future Fish Bypass (WFUFB) Study draft report is due to Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) by mid October. A 30 day review will be provided to PRCC members when the report is sent to. The final report is due to WDOE by December 31, 2009.

G. Priest Rapids Topspill Design - Model designs are currently being finalized 1:20 scale model of the Priest Rapids Topspill in Iowa. It will include tainter gates 22, 21, 20, and 19. Dotson expects to present the concepts of the model to the PRCC in January. He would like the PRCC to travel to Iowa to observe the model in the spring of 2010. Dotson explained that Battelle started a sensor fish study yesterday to look at the churning issue seen at the bottom of Priest Rapids Dam during the PRCC's visit to the model in July. Shear, pressure, acceleration, and deceleration will be looked at.

Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) studies must be designed for 1.4 million kcfs in the physical model.

- H. **Sub-yearling Summit - Rohr will discuss sub-yearling summit workshop dates with Schiewe. (See information above)**
- I. **Use micro-tags for all of their tags** - Dotson explained that during the 2009 survival studies, steelhead didn't do as well as sockeye with the use of the micro-tag, and he questions if tag to body ratio makes a difference. Dotson has asked HTI to add a PIT-tag to a micro tag. He hasn't received the samples yet. The idea is to use a "sockeye" acoustic tag in the 2010 steelhead study. Nordlund mentioned that at the HCP committee meeting the day before, they approved Chelan PUD's request to exclusively go to the "sockeye" tag for all of the fish studies using acoustic tags – for the same reasoning.
- J. **Statements of Approval (SOAs)** - Rohr questioned if all SOAs approved by the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee need to be approved by the PRCC. PRCC members agreed that all SOAs approving items being distributed to FERC need to be approved by the PRCC. They would also like to review all other SOAs from the Hatchery Subcommittee, Priest Rapids Fish Forum, and Fall Chinook Work Group. Rohr will follow up on a process to further address this subject.

XII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **August 26, 2009** - Approved

XIII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 9:00 – 3:00, Grant PUD SeaTac Office.