



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, October 28, 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*

Jerry Marco, CT*

Bill Tweit, WDFW*

Mark Timko, Blue Leaf Environmental

Brian Nass, LGL (on phone)

Curt Dotson, GCPUD*

George Thompson, GCPUD

Mike Clement, GCPUD (on phone)

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*

Bob Rose, YN*

Teresa Scott, WDFW

Leah Sullivan, Blue Leaf Environmental

Tom Dresser, GCPUD*

Dana Jeske, GCPUD

Behr Turner, GCPUD (on phone)

Ben Lenz, GCPUD (on phone)

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. Dresser will provide a sample of an executive summary to be used for discussion purposes at the next PRCC meeting.
2. Williams will place the 2009 Habitat Subcommittee Activities PowerPoint presentation on the PRCC website.
3. Rohr will distribute the White River Nason View Proposal to PRCC members for discussion at the next meeting.
4. Dotson will distribute the Draft 2010 Priest Rapids Behavior Study Plan configuration options – regarding amount of flow through Tainter Gate-22.
5. Dotson will distribute a written Gatewell Slot Fish Retention Study Plan to PRCC members by the end of next week.
6. Rohr will talk with Tracy Hillman about scheduling a presentation to PRCC members regarding FCWG/HRWG activities.
7. Rohr will distribute an updated Sub-yearling Workshop agenda.
8. Nordlund will supply comments to the September PRCC meeting minutes by the end of the week.

Decisions:

1. PRCC members affirmed their email vote of approval to Request an Extension of Time on License Article LA-403, Priest Rapids Tailrace Pumping Plan from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
2. PRCC members affirmed their email vote of approval for the Douglas PUD and Grant PUD Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (430-1217).

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) and asked PRCC members and visitors to provide self-introductions.
- II. **Agenda Review** – A discussion of the 2010 Steelhead and Sockeye Survival Study Plan and the 2010 PR Behavior Study Plan was added to the agenda.
- III. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed and provided updates to action items identified during the September 23, 2009 PRCC meeting.
- IV. **Update: Annual Report Information** - Dresser provided updates on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) License Article activities. The Downstream Passage Alternatives Action Plan (DPAAP) was approved by FERC on October 23, 2009. The White Sturgeon Management Plan was approved by FERC on October 22, 2009. The following plans were submitted to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) on September 30, 2009: Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans for White River and Nason Creek spring Chinook, Methow and Wenatchee summer Chinook. Artificial Propagation Plans for Steelhead, Okanogan spring Chinook and Okanogan summer Chinook. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the Priest Rapids Project was submitted to NOAA on June 30, 2009. The Hanford Reach Study Plan is awaiting FERC approval. Any changes made to License Article-401 (a)(25): Bull Trout Hydrologic and Water Quality Plan will require an amendment to the license.
 - A. **Executive Summary from the Avian Predation Reports.** In the past a full Avian Predation and Northern Pikeminnow Predation report was submitted to and approved by the PRCC. Dresser proposed that an executive summary be provided in the future in an effort to reduce the amount of reports generated by Grant PUD staff. The executive summary would cover previous year's activities, and activities planned for the following year. Relevant information will be included in a table for quick reference. The executive summaries will also be included in the Progress and Implementation Report filed annually with FERC. **Dresser will provide a sample of an executive summary to be used for discussion purposes at the next PRCC meeting.**

- B. Avian Predation Update** - Behr Turner provided a PowerPoint presentation on *Alleviating Avian Predation in the Priest Rapids Project*. Hazing is defined as anything that engages a bird. If a bird isn't deterred with use of pyrotechnics, lethal take is implemented (if species allowed). Overall occurrence of avian predation at the dams was substantially reduced in 2009. Terns appear to have a minimal impact on sockeye predation; 2% or less of fish tagged at Rock Island Dam. Steelhead make up the majority of a tern's diet. In order to get the ratio of fish being taken by avian predators, all fish (steelhead and sockeye smolts) studied in 2010 will be tagged with an acoustic/PIT combo tag. 6.4% of all PIT and acoustic tagged steelhead used in Grant PUD studies ended up at the tern nesting colony located in the Potholes Reservoir. No tags from the 2009 survival studies were found on the gravel shoals below Wanapum Dam.
- V. Presentation of 2010 Adult Lamprey Evaluation Program** - The Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP) has been approved by the Priest Rapids Fish Forum. Brian Nass, LGL, and Mike Clement, Grant PUD, presented highlights of the PLMP to PRCC members explaining modifications that will be made to fishways at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. Decreased attraction velocities at the fishway entrance will be evaluated by reducing the night time flow through the ladders for one or two weeks. If it is determined fish aren't queuing in on the entrance, it will be discontinued. Concern with nighttime flow reductions was expressed by Rose and Tweit.
- VI. Presentation of 2009 Habitat Subcommittee Projects and Activities** - Lenz updated PRCC members on 2009 Habitat Subcommittee projects and activities with a PowerPoint presentation. The following is a list of 2009 activities: Bonaparte Creek Livestock Exclusion, Entiat River Knapp-Wham Hanan Detwiler Irrigation System Consolidation - Phase 2, Wenatchee River Blackbird Island Large Woody Debris Enhancement, Okanogan River Restoration Initiative, and the Okanogan River McIntyre Dam Passage. Monitoring and evaluation is usually the responsibility of the project sponsor. **Williams will place the 2009 Habitat Subcommittee Activities PowerPoint presentation on the PRCC website.**
- A. ACTION: White River Nason View Proposal** - Lenz explained that the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) proposes to acquire a 117 acre parcel of land to hold in trust for habitat conservation. The project is proposed by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust. Because sockeye would be the primary species to benefit from the purchase, they are requesting \$388,790.00 from the No Net Impact Fund (NNI). This proposal was approved by the HSC in August. The sale is also contingent on receiving funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

(SRFB). The cost share would be SRFB, 15%, HSC, 85%. Tweit requested further information on how habitat and supplementation activities are linked in the White River before considering this purchase. Rose questioned why NNI funds would be used versus other Habitat Funds. Rohr will distribute **the White River Nason View Proposal to PRCC members for discussion at the next meeting.** Members questioned restrictions that might prohibit placing a supplementation pond on the property. The purchase of this property is ranked 1st or 2nd by the Regional Technical Team (RTT). The property has no water rights.

Rohr will continue his discussions with Elizabeth McManus, Hatchery Subcommittee Facilitator, regarding future coordination of Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees on certain proposals.

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

A. Affirmation of Email Vote by Committee Approving Letter to FERC Requesting an Extension of Time (EOT) - Affirmed by PRCC members.

VIII. Action Item: - Douglas PUD and Grant PUD Interlocal Cooperative Agreement (430-1217)

A. Affirmation of Email Vote by Committee Approving Agreement - Affirmed by PRCC members.

IX. Report on Current Iowa Trip and Activities - Dotson and Jeske updated PRCC members on modifications being made to the IIHR physical lab in preparation of building the Priest Rapids Top-Spill 1/20th model. The 1/20 model is being built predominately out of acrylic and should be operational by February, 2010.

X. 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Studies – 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study Plan results were presented to PRCC members by Mark Timko and Leah Sullivan of Blue Leaf Environmental. Detection efficiencies were nearly 100%. The following is a list of environmental conditions found during the 2009 study: Total Dissolved Gas was lower than 2008 and the 10 yr. average. Average river flows were lower than 2008, and more similar to the 10 yr. average. Water temperatures were cooler.

Tags were randomized and pulled through out the entire season in an effort to mix all tag lots throughout release sites and groups. Different from studies conducted in 2006, 2007 and 2008, this year all paired tags for a given release cycle were programmed (i.e. turned on) at once so as to have all tags in that given release cycle using their tag battery equally. The average sockeye tag failure rate was 2%. One sockeye tag lot was red flagged, and removed from the study because of a 14% failure rate. The average tag life was 22 days. Skalski's

report will show that protocols and procedures used this year made a large difference in removing tag bias.

Preliminary Project Survival Statistics by Species:

	Steelhead	Sockeye
Wanapum Dam	94%	97%
Priest Rapids Dam	88%	95%
Total Project Survival	83%	92%

Preliminary Reach Survival Statistics by Species:

	Steelhead	Sockeye
Rock Island Dam to Wanapum Dam	92%	98%
Wanapum Dam to Mattawa	96%	98%
Mattawa to Priest Rapids Dam	96%	95%
Priest Rapids Dam to Vernita Bar	96%	96%

The number of Caspian Tern breeding pairs found at Potholes Reservoir colony increased from 293 in 2008 to 440 in 2009. Based on tags detected at the tern colony, there seems to be a higher predation issue in 2009 than in previous years. Installation of avian arrays at both dams appears to have pushed avian predators further downstream. In 2008 - 4.3% of tags were found in Potholes. In 2009 6.4% of tags were found there.

Median Travel Time to Detection Systems - In 2009, median travel time was 61 hours for steelhead to reach Wanapum Dam from Rock Island. An increase compared to previous years. An increase in the median travel time was also seen from Wanapum Dam to Priest Rapids Dam.

2009 forebay residence times also increased at both dams. No difference was seen in survival of fish that passed day vs. night. But it was noted that more fish per hour were passing at night.

Wanapum Dam: Steelhead increased use of the Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass by 16.7% and sockeye by 27.2%.

Priest Rapids Dam - 51% of steelhead passed through the Top-Spill Operation Configuration, an increase of 17.7% over 2008, with an additional 16.8% of sockeye using it, making the 2009 FPE for sockeye at 39%. The longer fish resided in the forebay; it may have afforded them more time to find the WFUFB and Priest Rapids Top-Spill, as numbers show more fish used these methods to pass.

XI. Agenda Addition: 2010 Study Plans Discussion

A. Draft 2010 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study Plan - The 2010 survival study will be conducted similar to the 2009 study. Sample sizes will be slightly reduced; 50 sockeye and 100 steelhead per release. A sockeye tag with the addition of a PIT-tag will be used for both the steelhead and sockeye survival studies. **Dotson will send the Draft 2010 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study Plan to PRCC members.**

B. Draft 2010 Priest Rapids Behavior Study Plan - Dotson proposes discontinuing use of the sluiceway and changing the configuration of the Priest Rapids Top-Spill Operations Configuration (TSOC) during the 2010 Behavior Study to allow bottom-spill through Tainter Gate-22 (TG-22), as opposed to sluiceway surface-spill, because data indicates that the sluiceway has the highest mortality rate of the four available passage routes associated with the TSOC. PRCC members also discussed different amounts of TG-22 bottom-spill flow to be used with this “new” TSOC configuration. **Dotson will distribute the Draft 2010 Priest Rapids Behavior Study Plan and the configuration options for Tainter Gate 22 operations.** PRCC members agreed that use of the sluiceway be discontinued at Priest Rapids Dam, and that tainter gates be reconfigured for optimal passage. Further discussion will take place at the November PRCC meeting.

XII. Continued Discussion of Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement Survival Studies Check In Dates – Rohr commented this agenda item was first discussed at the September 23, 2009 PRCC meeting, and some committee members requested it be included on the October 28, 2009 agenda for further discussion. Upon discussion, it was concluded by the PRCC that the wording in the SSSA regarding the performance standard “check-ins” is somewhat unclear and “vague” in defined direction. The PRCC agreed upon the concept/reasoning for having the “check-in” studies, but were not clear on the specific date that the check-in study was to be conducted nor what species that specific check-in study would entail. To assist the PRCC and give solid direction to Grant PUD, a “sub-committee” consisting of Tweit, Nordlund, Marco, and Dotson will review the SSSA

section on “preference standards check-ins”, generate a “check-in” study schedule (including species), and present this study schedule to the whole PRCC in a SOA. This SOA will be generated in the next 4 to 6 months. The PRCC did agree that Grant PUD would not be required to conduct a “check-in” study in 2010.

- XIII. Gatewell Exclusion Screening Update** - A study to observe interaction of downstream smolts with the gatewell exclusion screens will be conducted during the spring/summer of 2010. The infrastructure to hold gatewell screens has been installed at Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dam. Screens will be installed in January, 2010. DIDSON cameras will be installed in April, 2010. Data will be collected and analyzed by the fall/winter of 2010. Dotson proposed placing 200 acoustic tagged fish (100 sockeye and steelhead, 50 per dam) in one gatewell slot at each dam to collect behavioral data of fish in the gatewell slot – to see if smolts that enter into a gatewell slot are “trapped” in this slot or if they enter the slot and then swim out of the gatewell slot and continue with their downstream migration. A hydrophone will be used to see how long fish remain in the gatewell. Carlon explained that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has questioned the need of screening gatewells if fish are only entrained for a day or two. NMFS is advocating that tests be conducted to determine the need. **Dotson will distribute a Draft Gatewell Slot Fish Retention Study Plan to PRCC members by the end of next week for discussion at the next PRCC meeting.** Carlon would like to see the analyses of both the bulkhead and emergency wheel gate slots.
- XIV. Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Survival Study and NNI Funding** - Rose asked if the PRCC would consider use of NNI funds to fund studies conducted in the Hanford Reach (HR). He explained that Grant PUD has stated they have limited liability (approx. 30%, not 100%) to flow fluctuations in the HR and questions where the other liability falls. Grant PUD has an obligation to provide funding for HR studies, but not all of the funding. Rose noted that flow fluctuation liability will be a pivotal point in the 2014 Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program re-opener. Dresser stated that in order to think about use of NNI funds in the HR, the origin of the fund and what it’s linked to must be considered. He explained that because the NNI fund doesn’t apply to fall Chinook, Grant PUD would be contributing twice the amount of money required of them. Marco reminded members that summer Chinook studies are supposed to be funded by the NNI, but to date, haven’t. **Committee members asked Rohr to talk with Tracy Hillman about scheduling a presentation to PRCC members updating them on FCWG/HRWG activities.**
- XV. Scheduling Activities and Draft Agenda for Sub-Yearling Workshop** - The draft agenda for the scheduled November 24, 2009 Sub-Yearling Workshop was discussed. Committee members added a

presentation by Grant PUD to the agenda. Dotson will talk about previous studies conducted by Grant PUD (2008 pilot sub-yearling study with an HTI tag, and 2009 sub-yearling pilot study with JSATS). Grant also has some data from a 2001/2003 PIT-tag study conducted by McMichael, PNNL) Nordlund would like Dotson to present the Grant sub-yearling work as a “stand alone” item on the sub-yearling workshop agenda and also for Grant PUD to be a part of the panel discussion. The format of the workshop is still under development at this time. **Rohr will distribute an updated Sub-yearling Workshop agenda.**

XVI. Updates:

- A. Record for the PRCC Studies and Reports** – Distributed and discussed by Rohr.
- B. Priest Rapids Hatchery Fish Marking Dispute Resolution Activities** – A request has been made by WDFW to extend the timeline for resolution of the dispute from November 18, 2009 to March 12, 2010. The PRCC Policy Committee has approved the request.
- C. Sub-Yearling Pilot Study** – Dotson received a draft report from PNNL last week.
- D. Discussion/Review regarding Updates of PRCC Subcommittees and Other Committees** - Rohr discussed with Committee Members their thoughts on the best method to receive activity reports from the PRCC Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees, plus the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF), Fall Chinook Work Group (FCWG), and the Hanford Reach Work Group (HRWG). Rohr asked PRCC members for their thoughts of the adequacy of receiving a one page summary from each of the committees for their review. Grant PUD stated they provide a one page status report for all hatchery programs, and this could also be provided to PRCC members. PRCC members agreed that a quarterly one page summary of FCWG, PRFF, HRWG committees would be adequate. Committee Members also stated they would like to receive a monthly one page summary of Hatchery and Habitat Subcommittee activities. Committee Members decided to continue this discussion at the November PRCC meeting.
- E. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee** – White River acclimation activities are being discussed. Grant PUD has started one on one meetings with interested parties.
- F. PRCC Habitat Subcommittee (HSC)** - See discussion above.

XVII. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **September 23, 2009 - Nordlund will supply comments to the September PRCC meeting minutes by the end of the week.** Approved by other members.

XVIII. Next Meeting: Monday, November 23, 2009, Grant PUD SeaTac office. Specific meeting times will be determined and Rohr will notify Committee Members after development of the November 23rd agenda.