



Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, August 05, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call

Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Keith Hatch, BIA
Marcie Mangold, WDOE

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Joe Peone, CCT
Mike Clement, GCPUD

Attendees

Patrick Verhey, WDFW (in person)
Brad James, WDFW
Bryan Nass, LGL (in person)
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Bob Heinith, CRITFC
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. **Malone will re-distribute edited protocols for review. An e-mail vote will be asked for 10 days after they are distributed to members.**
2. **Clement and Nass will include in the lamprey study plan, a list of study plan priorities and objectives for distribution at the September meeting.**
3. **Mangold will contact Pat Earl, WDOE representative on the Rocky Reach Fish Forum regarding coordination with the PRFF on lamprey issues.**
4. **Mangold will find further information regarding clove oil vs. MS22.**
5. **Peery and Nass will provide PRFF members a list of identified problem areas of the 2001-2002 study.**
6. **Williams will set up the meeting as a WebEx conference.**

Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Kevin Malone welcomed the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) and asked attendees to provide self introductions.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additional items were added to the agenda.

III. Action Item Review

- A. All action items were reviewed and discussed during the lamprey discussion in Section VII.

IV. PRFF Protocol Discussion

- A. **Consensus Vote on Protocols** – Keith Hatch asked that a vote not be taken during today’s meeting because he will not be in attendance.

Members discussed protocol edits provided by Patrick Verhey. **Malone will re-distribute edited protocols for review. An e-mail vote will be asked for 10 days after they are distributed to members.**

- V. **Aquatic Invasive Species Plan** – Ross Hendrick, Grant PUD Limnologist gave a brief update on the plan. Once the plan is complete, it will be sent to Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for a pre cursory look. Hendrick anticipates that the plan will be distributed for a 60 day consultation period in September. Zebra mussel sampling will take place in the Wanapum Reservoir on August 6, 2009. WDOE and WDFW will be involved to critique Grant PUD’s sampling protocol, and to look at other sites for potential sub-straight monitoring. Jesse Schultz, WDFW will be participating.

- VI. **Shallow Water Temperature Plan** – Ross Hendrick will present a PowerPoint presentation on potential shallow water temperature monitoring locations during the September PRFF meeting. The draft plan will be distributed to the PRFF in November. The final draft of the plan will be sent to FERC prior to the March 31, 2010 deadline.

The 401 Certification is unclear as to what the definition of shallow water is. Mangold explained that water quality standards state “Shallow water should not be monitored” because proper mixing doesn’t occur in shallow water. Mangold has been discussing Grant PUD’s requirement to monitor shallow water with the WDOE Environmental Program so they aren’t dinged each time they submit temperatures that are out of range. She is also looking into the procedure that WDOE will require Grant PUD to follow for their shallow water monitoring system.

Eight transects throughout the Priest Rapids Project were looked at as possible data collection sites. Grant PUD staff has discussed using the eight original sites to continue baseline data collection, or to use a combination of sites that are shallow, but still have water running through them. Other sites that have water depths of 2’ to 10’ have been looked at by the Geographic Information System (GIS) to determine if they would work as monitoring sites.

VII. **Fish Ladder Temperature Study Plan** – The plan will be developed after it is determined what will happen with the Priest Rapids tailrace and fish ladder. Hendrick expects the plan to be distributed in December 2009.

VIII. **White Sturgeon Update** – The White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP) was submitted to FERC on April 13, 2009. Grant PUD continues to wait for approval of the plan. Lenz suggested PRFF members send letters to FERC supporting the White Sturgeon Plan. Gerry O’Keefe, Grant PUD Natural Resources Director, is currently in Washington D.C. meeting with FERC to discuss the status of this and other submitted plans.

Lenz explained that if approval of the plan is granted soon, there is still the potential to do field work this fall. Activities could include juvenile and adult tag purchases and the installation of a buoy array tag detection system. The window of opportunity has been missed this year to collect data regarding the abundance, maturity, and spawning characteristics of sturgeon in the Priest Rapids Project. In the spring, determining the location of fish could start right away. Because FERC hasn’t approved the plan, the timeline for implementation of work will have to be adjusted, explained Lenz.

The Grant PUD sturgeon facility will be similar to the Canadian hatchery located in Cranbrook, B.C. Two distinct differences are the use of a water recirculation and effluent treatment system at the Grant PUD facility. Mike Nicholls, Grant PUD Engineer will discuss hatchery design with PRFF members in the future.

Verhey explained that WDFW is interested in developing a Statement of Work (SOW) for Section C of the WSMP. The Yakama Nation (YN) and Wanapum’s have also expressed the same interest to Lenz. Golder Associates Ltd. is currently on contract to oversee Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) work. Lenz explained that Grant PUD would like to have Golder manage the program until there is a comfort level that other parties could participate because of their expertise in the field. WDFW, YN and the Wanapum’s could, in the future, decide where they will all fit into the program.

Grant PUD would like to be involved in any regional coordination efforts regarding sturgeon issues. Verhey explained that WDFW would like to be involved in M&E. At this time WDFW hasn’t developed anything more than a general overview, stated James. Bill Tweit and Jeff Korth, WDFW believe WDFW should be involved in managing the populations and setting harvest levels of sturgeon on the Columbia River.

The model to be used as a management based tool will be reviewed by the PRFF.

- **Cranbrook Field Trip** – Ben Lenz, Mike Clement, Mike Nicholls and Kevin Malone recently visited the Cranbrook White Sturgeon hatchery to participate and train during sturgeon spawning. Lenz stated, “An invaluable amount of information was gained by participation in the spawning process. All participants felt the trip was extremely educational. Grant PUD staff plan to participate in spawning next year at the hatchery, and will once again extend the invitation to all PRFF members.

IX. Bull Trout Hydrologic and Water Quality Plan

- **ACTION ITEM:** Vote to approve Bull Trout Hydrologic and Water Quality Study Plan – The PRFF approved this plan by email vote on July 20, 2009. It was subsequently sent to WDOE on July 31, 2009.

X. Pacific Lamprey Study Plan

A. Group Discussion of any items related to the 2010 Adult Lamprey Evaluation prior to drafting of the Final Study Plan

Yesterday, Brian Nass, LGL, Chris Peery, Cramer Fish Sciences, Mike Clement and Grant PUD Engineering staff toured the fish ladders to find out if acoustic tags can be detected in that location. If so, it would be the first time acoustic tags have been used in lamprey work on the upper Columbia River. Also discussed were logistics of issues brought to light by the PRFF during last months meeting.

Clement noted his discomfort with using external antenna radio tags in lamprey. Blue Leaf Environmental will be exploring if acoustics will perform the job, and at how fine a scale they can be detected outside the collection channel and bifurcation pool. Clement stated that if testing works, acoustic tags will be used, and if not, radio tags will be used.

Nass has received comments on the draft Lamprey Study Plan that was distributed at last months PRFF meeting from WDFW and USFWS. All comments are being addressed.

During the ladder inspection yesterday, Nass noted that specific details of conducting the study were fleshed out. Key points are listed below:

Pit-tag arrays as described in the draft study plan look feasible and should be able to gather passage efficiency data.

An area on the PR left bank ladder near the counting station within a 5 pool stretch has been selected to place the underwater video camera for optimum viewing. The site identified is used by most lamprey passing through the ladder. It will capture modifications to the counting station, plating

through an orifice, and plating on the diffusion grating. It hasn't been defined how many camera's will be used. The area selected is accessible and will allow fiber to be installed for remote monitoring. PRFF members will have the ability to monitor the site away from the dam.

Members recommended that 3D hydro-acoustics be used in the entrance and collection channel area to determine entrance efficiency and to define behavior of lamprey as they approach the entrance. Clement explained that the objective (as outlined in the PLMP) is to determine passage efficiency which is defined as the number of fish that enter a fish entrance divided by the number that exit. The acoustic data would determine presence, absence, and behavioral information outside of the project entrance and how the fish reacted to the collection channel and bifurcation channel. The acoustic component will be on a sub range of fish, not on all fish. Acoustics' are a different method that needs to be done to figure out how it works.

Lamprey will be tagged and released in proportion of the trap efficiency of the left and right bank. Fish will be released on the bank that they were caught. Historically, 70% use the left bank ladder. As long as sample sizes can be achieved, there should be enough fish for the study.

Lamprey escapement hasn't been good this year. 400 lamprey have been counted at PR so far. Bonneville counts are less than 10,000, and only a quarter of those are showing up at The Dalles. Because the numbers have been so low, University of Idaho staff has stopped tagging fish at Bonneville. Why 60 to 70% of lamprey are lost between Bonneville and The Dalles remains a question. The US Corps of Engineers (Corps) Walla Walla District hoped to complete their McNary Dam evaluation this year, but hasn't had enough lamprey return to do so. The Corps are changing the structural entrance at McNary Dam and hoped to have enough lamprey passing through to gather baseline data this year. Willamette River numbers are also down this year. There are a quarter fewer lamprey returning from the ocean this than last year.

Clement and Nass will include in the study plan final draft a list of study plan priorities and objectives for distribution at the September meeting.

Grant PUD has had discussions with Chelan and Douglas regarding coordination of efforts. Lamprey studies related to CPUD and DPUD are addressed in their respective forums.

Mangold will contact Pat Earl, WDOE representative on the Rocky Reach Fish Forum regarding coordination with the

PRFF on lamprey issues. RRFF has had their second meeting. Mangold will have Pat Earl, WDOE contact Bob Heinith with RRFF meeting information. If Grants going to the effort of tagging considerable numbers of fish, it makes sense that other PUD's coordinate the tracking of them.

PRFF members discussed the use of clove oil vs. MS22.
Mangold will find further information regarding clove oil vs. MS22.

Peery and Nass will provide PRFF members a list of identified problem areas of the 2001-2002 study.

Williams will set up the meeting as a WebEx conference.

- XI. Next Meeting: September 02, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grant PUD SeaTac Office, Seattle, WA.