



MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

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)

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*
Bill Tweit, WDFW*
Jim Craig, USFWS*
Marcie Mangold, WDOE (on phone @ 10:00)
Carson Keeler, GCPUD (on phone @ 10:00)
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Jerry Marco, CT* (on phone)
Bob Rose, YN*
Teresa Scott, WDFW*
Curt Dotson, GCPUD*
Debbie Williams, GCPUD (on phone)

Action Items:

1. Rohr and Dotson will discuss a northern pikeminnow fishing derby with Chelan PUD and the Wenatchee Rotary Club.
2. Dotson will talk with Chelan and Douglas PUD staff regarding a subyearling draft white paper.
3. Rohr will contact Tracy Hillman, FCWG facilitator, regarding attending the next PRCC meeting to discuss potential FCWG studies.
4. Mangold will discuss Fish Ladder Water Temperature monitoring plan with WDFW.
5. Dotson will discuss Fish Ladder Water Temperature concerns with Ross Hendrick.
6. Mangold will provide the correct interpretation of the 401 requirement defining whether a monitoring plan or a study plan is required for Fish Ladder Water Temperature, and if Wanapum Dam should be included in the plan.

7. PRCC members will send Fish Ladder Water Temperature comments and concerns to Rohr by February 04, 2010. Grant PUD will address issues and send answers back via email.
8. Dotson will draft a task authorization to conduct a FLIR flight by the contractor conducting the Predator Index Study.
9. Nordlund will send October 28, 2009 meeting minutes comments to Williams.
10. Marco will send November 23, 2009 meeting minutes comments to Williams.
11. Williams will add Nordlund to the PRFF distribution list.

Decisions:

1. PRCC members approved the 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study (Skalski) Report.
2. PRCC members approved the 2009 Behavior and Survival Analysis of Steelhead and Sockeye through the Priest Rapids Project (Blue Leaf) Report.
3. The email vote approving the Draft 2010 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study Plan was affirmed by PRCC members.
4. Grant PUD will develop a list of annual reports that will be replaced by Executive Summary.
5. PRCC members approved the Executive Summary of the Avian Predation Annual Report.
6. PRCC members agreed to accept executive summaries in place of full annual reports for a trial period of two years. Presentations will be provided for each topic covered by executive summary.

Final 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** – Rose requested that Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby be added to the agenda for discussion.
 - A. **Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby** - PRCC members discussed using \$10,000 to \$15,000 from the No Net Impact (NNI) Fund to hire a contractor to hold a northern pikeminnow fishing derby in the Wanapum Reservoir. The Wenatchee Rotary Club has conducted Chelan PUD's annual derby for the past eleven years. Concerns discussed include: public safety, permitting, and impacts to the predator index study currently being conducted. Positives included recreation and the removal of predators. **Rohr and Dotson will discuss the parameters**

of a northern pikeminnow fishing derby with Chelan PUD and the Wenatchee Rotary Club and report back to the committee.

- III. **Action Items Review** – Rohr reviewed and provided updates to action items identified during the November 23, 2009 PRCC meeting.
- IV. **Update: Fish Mode Operations** - This subject was presented at the November 27, 2009 PRCC meeting. Accordingly, Nordlund asked that before a Statement of Agreement (SOA) is drafted by Grant PUD requesting the ability to utilize the generating capacity in excess of the maximum operating limit established by “Fish Mode” for each turbine-generator, as Emergency Contingency Reserve capability, that additional biological aspects are looked at. Specifically, Nordlund stated that until survival standards are achieved, he would be reluctant to approve any revised operations that had the potential to reduce survival of plan species, per the SSSA. Identification of the information to be reviewed needs additional discussion. This subject will be discussed further at the next PRCC meeting.
- V. **Action Item for Approval: Draft 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study (Skalski) Report** – Dotson will incorporate PRCC members’ comments into the report. **PRCC members approved the 2009 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study (Skalski) Report.**
- VI. **Action Item for Approval: 2009 Behavior and Survival Analysis of Steelhead and Sockeye through the Priest Rapids Project (Blue Leaf) Report** - PRCC members appreciated the new format in which the report was provided and said this report represents “excellence in reporting”. Members discussed potential causes (i.e. environmental river conditions, water temperature, and river flow) of salmonid behavioral differences as summarized in the report. **Nordlund and Rose will send comments to Dotson. PRCC members approved the 2009 Behavior and Survival Analysis of Steelhead and Sockeye through the Priest Rapids Project (Blue Leaf) Report.**
- VII. **Action Item: Draft 2010 Steelhead and Sockeye Acoustic Tag Survival Study Plan** – Committee members approved this Plan on November 23, 2009 subject to final comments and approval by Rose. Rose had no further comments and notified Rohr of his approval by email of December 3, 2009. Rohr requested affirmation of final approval of this Study Plan. Committee members approved.
- VIII. **Action Item for Approval: Draft 2010 Priest Rapids Steelhead and Sockeye Behavior Study Plan** - Dotson explained that the 1:20 model in Iowa will be completed the week of February 08, 2010. Dye will be used to test proposed operational options of Tainter Gate 22 (TG22). Dotson will present video taped findings at the next PRCC meeting and TG 22 operations will be discussed at that time. Nordlund asked that flow amounts be modeled to determine if flow through TG 22 would

eliminate the dead spot identified in the tailrace adjacent to the powerhouse, which could be related to predation issues. He suggested that a minimum velocity of 4 ft/s below TG 22 (downstream direction) would eliminate this area as predator habitat. He also asked if the flow from the adjacent turbine would be modeled. Grant PUD will be looking at methods to evaluate flow during the 2010 behavior study. PRCC members approved the 2010 Priest Rapids Steelhead and Sockeye Behavior Study Plan with the understanding that TG-21 & 22 flows is still being discussed.

A. Options - Tainter Gate 22 - See discussion above, VIII.

- IX. **ACTION ITEM: Follow up Discussion of White River Nason View Property Proposal** - PRCC members discussed the PRCC Habitat Subcommittee's (HSC) request for funding from the No Net Impact (NNI) Fund for this property acquisition. Rohr informed the PRCC committee members that the HSC had met on January 14, 2010 and discussed this subject further, subsequent to the PRCC decision on November 23, 2009 to not use NNI funds for this proposal. Accordingly, the HSC modified their request for NNI funding to one half of the previously requested \$388,790, and the remaining one half would be from the Habitat Supplemental Fund. Rohr explained to PRCC committee members that because this property contains habitat for sockeye spawning, HSC members felt use of NNI funding was appropriate.

Additional PRCC committee member discussion focused on long term habitat planning and coordination of hatchery and habitat actions. The committee members requested that Rohr have further discussion with HSC members regarding habitat planning and coordination of hatchery and habitat actions and report back to the PRCC at the next meeting. Rohr suggested that a combined meeting of the PRCC and the HSC may be in order. Rohr will discuss the PRCC comments with the HSC members at their next meeting on February 12, 2010.

- X. **ACTION ITEM: Executive Summary of Avian Predation Annual Report** - Because the annual Progress and Implementation Report required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) only requires executive summaries (ES), not annual reports, Grant PUD asked the PRCC to accept ES in place of other annual reports. PRCC members agreed to receive ES for a two year trial period. A final determination as to if the ES is meeting their needs will then be made. Because Nordlund isn't comfortable losing the rest of the information found in an annual report, he requested that presentations be given on each topic covered by ES. This year, Avian and Pikeminnow annual reports have been replaced by ES. **Grant PUD will develop a list of annual reports that will be replaced by Executive Summary.**

Executive summaries will include the following:

- Reference of original reports if reader wants study details.

- Methods used we be referenced as “the same in previous years”. Exceptions from previous study methods will be presented in ES.
- List referencing things that haven’t changed.
- List referencing where all information related to the study plan can be found.
- Link all reports together.

PRCC members approved the Executive Summary of the Avian Predation Annual Report. PRCC members agreed to accept executive summaries in place of full annual reports for a trial period of two years. Presentations will be provided for each topic covered by executive summary.

- XI. **Review of Sub-Yearling Workshop** - All participants thought the workshop was beneficial, but it appears technology to conduct a sub-yearling survival study involving “reservoir survival” isn’t available for a 2010 sub-y survival study. The PRCC (and HCP) committee has not come to any formal conclusions as a result of attending the workshop. They were waiting to review the write-up from the workshop. Comments to workshop meeting minutes are being incorporated by the presenters, and will be circulated to the HCP and PRCC committees upon completion by Schiewe (HCP facilitator). Dotson explained that it was his understanding that this workshop would be taking the place of the ‘white paper’ that was going to be drafted by Chelan, Douglas, and Grant PUD’s, presenting the different aspects of tagging technologies presently available for conducting a sub-yearling survival study.

In an effort to coordinate what was learned at the workshop, following the workshop write-up review, **Dotson will discuss with Chelan and Douglas PUD staff that participated in the workshop the issue of further follow-up to the workshop with a draft white paper outlining future collaborative efforts to conduct a sub-yearling study. The white paper will discuss regulatory issues, known facts, a conclusion, and next steps.**

XII. **Fall Chinook**

- A. **NNI Funding for Fall Chinook** - Rose questioned the committee’s comfort level with using No Net Impact (NNI) Funds to pay for fall Chinook studies in the Hanford Reach (HR) that won’t be funded by Grant PUD. He explained that Grant PUD accepts 20% responsibility for mortalities caused by inundated flows in the HR and have agreed to fund 20% of studies approved by the Fall Chinook Work Group (FCWG). The studies will help identify what is happening with flow fluctuations and what improvements need to be made. Regarding the amount of responsibility and funding (by Grant PUD), Dotson stated that he was not familiar enough with the details

surrounding the HR and would need to speak with those in the Grant staff that are presenting working on that project and are the FCGW representative.

Tweit explained that HR fall Chinook spawning escapements have dropped to low levels in the past couple of years and have stayed there; “they aren’t doing so well”. He reiterated the importance of investigating how habitat, harvest, hydro, and ocean productivity cycling is related to their decline. Tweit agreed Grant PUD isn’t solely responsible for HR flow fluctuations, and appreciates the arbitrary number chosen to reflect Grant PUD’s funding responsibility because it identifies the amount of additional funding that will be required to complete the studies. Additional funding sources were discussed.

Members discussed Bonneville Power Administrations (BPA) contribution to flow fluctuations in the HR and questioned how to illustrate their responsibility.

Because funding of HR studies would compete with other projects for NNI funds, members were asked to create a list of potential projects that might be funded with NNI funds.

XIII. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES: WebEx Presentations and Comment Deadlines

- A. A Study Plan to Evaluate Fish Ladder Water Temperature at PR Dam – LA 401 (a)(21)** - Carson Keeler presented a PowerPoint presentation via WebEx on this plan. Marcie Mangold, Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) participated to answer questions. Comments were received by United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. PRCC members questioned Grant PUD’s interruption of the 401 Certification 6.6.2 requirements.

PRCC members questioned why Wanapum Dam fish ladder monitoring was not included in the study plan. Dotson explained that baseline fish ladder temperature data was collected from 2002-2004 at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. Because no significant increases from upstream to downstream temperatures were found in the ladders during those three years of baseline data collection studies and no modifications have been made to the Wanapum Fish Ladders, and no modifications are planned for the future, Grant PUD felt there was no need to include it in the study plan.

Grant PUD’s interpretation of the requirement was to verify that changes (i.e. modifications) which are scheduled to take place

to the fish ladders at Priest Rapids Dam don't have a negative impact on water temperatures in the ladders as compared to the baseline data. Grant PUD's plan included no additional monitoring after the initial testing, unless additional modifications to the ladder were conducted.

PRCC members interpretation of the 401 Certification (Section 6.6.2) is that temperature monitoring should take place above, below and in the middle of the fish ladders at both dams. They also believe monitoring should occur on a periodic basis.

Mangold will discuss Fish Ladder Water Temperature monitoring with WDFW after further internal discussion.

Nordlund noted issues with data in Appendix A and suggests some further QA/QC take place before using it for comparison purposes. **Dotson will discuss Fish Ladder Water**

Temperature concerns with Ross Hendrick. Nordlund and Scott anticipated a monitoring plan, not a study plan. **Mangold will provide the "correct" interpretation of the 401 requirement defining whether a monitoring plan or a study plan is required for Fish Ladder Water Temperature, and if Wanapum Dam should be included in the plan.** Nordlund suggests a temperature probe be placed in the ladder to continually monitor water. Mangold needs additional time to comment on the plan. **PRCC members will send Fish Ladder Water Temperature Study Plan comments and concerns to Rohr by February 04, 2010. Grant PUD will address those comments.**

Because the 401 Certification mandates that Grant PUD consult with both the PRCC and the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF), PRCC members requested that future plans have more review time allotted them. How future coordination takes place needs to be addressed. It was suggested that meeting minutes be shared between the two committees on issues that overlap. Rose advocates that in this case, the PRFF defers to the PRCC, as they don't have the technical ability to make decisions regarding fish ladders. Scott commented that communication between committee is key to making communication work.

- B. Shallow Water Habitat Water Quality Monitoring Plan (SWMP) – LA401 (a)(20)** - Carson Keeler presented a PowerPoint presentation via WebEx on this plan. Marcie Mangold, WDOE participated to answer questions.

Comments submitted by USFWS were addressed in the final draft. Monitoring locations were addressed. Mangold explained that a general representation of shallow habitat, not micro-habitat was the intent of the plan. The water standards don't call for shallow habitat monitoring at all and we have to be careful not to run into those areas because it goes against water

quality standards, stated Mangold. Rose believes that water quality standards are also a component of the biological value or nexus, and thinks that in some of the micro climate shallow water, the warmer water could be attractive to pikeminnow and salmonids. He suggests that FLIR flights be flown to help determine where predators are setting up. If it's found that predators are setting up in a certain area, those areas could be addressed during the predator control study. Dotson explained that Grant PUD already conducts beach seining to get rid of northern pikeminnow juveniles from such areas and didn't agree to the value of using FLIR flights. If the objective is northern pikeminnow removal, Grant PUD is already doing it. Comments are due by February 04, 2010. **After discussion, Dotson agreed to draft a task authorization to conduct a FLIR flight by the contractor conducting the Predator Index Study, thus removing the request of FLIR flights from the SWMP. The draft TA will be discussed at the February PRCC meeting.** PRCC members wanted to be made aware of any parts of the SWMP that the PRFF had concerns about, if any. If they have no issues, the PRCC will also approve it. Rohr will notify PRCC members of the PRFF's vote. If they vote "no", the reasons why will be discussed.

C. Aquatic Invasive Species Plan LA401(a)(22) – Informational Report - Sent to PRCC at Tweit's request.

XIV. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES: Presentations and Comment Deadlines - The following reports were distributed for a 30 day comment period on January 08, 2010. They asked that those reports that are 'annual reports' (i.e. DPAAP, FOP, etc.) have a table added outlining changes made that year to the previous year's report.

- A. Downstream Passage Alternatives Action Plan for 2010, LA401 (a)(1, 8, 9)** - Comments due February 08, 2010.
- B. Fishery Operations Plan for 2010, LA 404** - Comments due February 08, 2010.
- C. Progress and Implementation Report for 2009-10** - Comments due February 08, 2010.

XV. UPDATES

- A. Record of the PRCC Studies and Reports**
- B. Committee Reports** - Not discussed.
- C. PR Left Bank Fish Ladder Maintenance** - Ladders maintenance and modifications for lamprey passage is going well and all ladders should be watered up and in compliance and operating by the first of April.

- D. The Iowa Model will be completed the week of February 08, 2010.

XVI. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- **October 28, 2009 - Nordlund will send comments to Williams.** Approved with changes by Nordlund.
- **November 23, 2009 - Marco will send comments to Williams.** Approved with comments by Marco.

XVII. **Next Meeting:** February 24, 2010, Grant PUD SeaTac Office