

MEETING

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grant PUD HED

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS
Jerry Marco, CCT
Bob Rose, YN
Bill Tweit/Teresa Scott, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS
Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees: (*Denotes PRCC member)

Bryan Nordlund, NMFS*

Jerry Marco, CT*

Jim Craig, USFWS*

Teresa Scott, WDFW*

Curt Dotson, GCPUD*

Tom Dresser, GCPUD* (on phone @ 9:50 to 12:05)

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Action Items:

1. Rohr will follow up regarding an outline of PRCC recommendations for a statistical power analysis relative to the need for additional marking to allow broodstock handling and estimation of hatchery spawners in the Hanford Reach population.
2. Rohr will provide a copy of SOA 2010-03, Priest Rapids Hatchery Rebuild to McManus for distribution to the HSC.
3. Rohr will contact Mickey Fleming regarding Tall Timber Ranch Conservation Easement vote.
4. Williams will send the WRWG agenda to Rohr and McManus for distribution to PRCC and PRCC HSC members.
5. Dotson will add "review period" (September each year) to the Emergency Contingency Exception from Fish Mode SOA.
6. Rohr will send Committee Reports electronically.

Decisions:

1. Rohr requested and received affirmation of the email vote and approval on May 18, 2010, where PRCC members agreed to a 4-8 hour closure of the WFUFB in order to allow divers to inspect the ongoing In-Fill project of Future Unit 12, which is adjacent to the WFUFB built at Future Unit 11.
2. PRCC members approved use of up to \$55,000 from the NNI Fund for the Tall Timber Ranch Conservation Easement; project specifications sheet dated March 2010.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** Rohr welcomed PRCC members.

- II. **Agenda Review:** Priest Rapids Hatchery Mass Marking and affirmation of the 4-8 hour Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass closure was added to the agenda by Rohr.
- III. **Action Item Review:** All action items identified during the April PRCC meeting have been completed except for action item #5 from the March meeting - White River acclimation site assessment by Greg Ferguson of Sea Springs.
- IV. **AFFIRMATION - Wanapum Future Unit Fish Bypass (WFUFB) Closure:** Rohr requested and received affirmation of the email vote and approval on May 18, 2010, where PRCC members agreed to a 4-8 hour closure of the WFUFB in order to allow divers to inspect the ongoing In-Fill project of Future Unit 12, which is adjacent to the WFUFB built at Future Unit 11. Closure will take place later in the season, after July 1st, and will be conducted during mid-day. The closure isn't expected to be longer than 4-8 hours. The WFUFB closure will be taking place when the spring migration is finished.
- V. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Mass Marking Dispute:** Rohr distributed an email from Bill Tweit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), dated April 23, 2010, that he had previously sent to PRCC members regarding the resolution of WDFW's dispute regarding fish marking at Priest Rapids Hatchery. Tweit's email questioned whether the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) would be conducting a statistical power analysis (SPA) relative to the need for additional marking to allow broodstock handling and estimation of hatchery spawners in the Hanford Reach population. Rohr asked if the PRCC should recommend that the HSC conduct the SPA. Dresser explained that the HSC has been focused on hatchery designs and that the SPA hasn't been a priority. Dresser proposed that the PRCC give the HSC a clear assignment, with a due date, to conduct the SPA, while being mindful of the HSC's work load. Marco suggested the HSC create an outline proposing how a SPA will be conducted, what information currently exists, and what information will be collected in the near and long term. Marco asked that the draft plan be reviewed by the PRCC prior to external distribution. Nordlund wants the plan to include a background, executive summary, a well defined objective, what the SPA will lead to, management applications, and why it is being performed in the first place. **Rohr will follow up regarding an outline of PRCC recommendations for a statistical power analysis, relative to the need for additional marking to allow broodstock handling and estimation of hatchery spawners in the Hanford Reach population.** This will be an agenda item for discussion during the next PRCC meeting.
- VI. **Report on trip to Iowa:** PRCC members Bryan Nordlund and Scott Carlon traveled to Iowa the week of May 17th to view the 1:20 sectional Priest Rapids Bypass (PR Bypass) model. Dotson stated that, "Some great strides were made toward final bypass design during the trip."
- Dotson gave a brief review of previous and current operating procedures for tainter gates 20, 21, and 22 at Priest Rapids Dam and also the objectives of construction of the PR Bypass. Topspill is three times more effective at passing fish than bottom spill. Dotson explained that modifications to tainter gates 20, 21, and 22 will include topspill bays designed to pass 10 kcfs at a 488.0 forebay elevation (a single spillbay is limited to 10 kcfs to minimize TDG), to build up the ogee on each gate to create a water slide, not "water fall", and to extend the apron 22' beyond the present end-seal. Wing walls will be installed beyond the apron. Apron elevation will be raised to 400'. At next months PRCC meeting, a video presentation showing before and after modifications (extended apron) to the proposed PR Bypass will be shown. Nordlund suggested cross sections of the model be shown to explain why (skimming surface jet vs. plunging jet) elevations were selected.
- Dotson explained that Grant PUD would like to start construction by September, 2011. In order to start permit level drawings and license amendment proceedings, Dotson will be asking for concurrence from the PRCC regarding the proposed

production design of the PR Bypass at the next PRCC meeting (June 23). Dresser explained that between now and year's end, Grant PUD will develop a schedule to move forward. Because completion of a final PR Bypass is a requirement of Grant PUD's 401 Water Quality Certification, Grant PUD will notify Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) that the PR Bypass will not be constructed in 2010, and supply them with a construction schedule.

Proposed next steps - 2010 Activities: Conduct survival/behavior evaluations (3rd year of steelhead and 2nd year of sockeye survival evaluations); validate fish passage efficiency seen in 2009; select a production model based on three years of data; evaluate potential erosion issues; confirm that the probable maximum flood (PMF) can be met with a production model of the fish bypass; develop a License Amendment for construction of the PR Bypass; start permitting work. 2011 Activities: Prepare and award contract, start PR Bypass construction by 2011.

- VII. SOA 2010-03, Priest Rapids Hatchery Rebuild** – Rohr distributed an SOA drafted between WDFW (Bartlett and Tweit) and Grant PUD (Lukas and Dresser). Dresser explained that over the last 8 yrs, WDFW and Grant PUD staff has been working on PR Hatchery rebuild designs. Because the HSC couldn't come to agreement on the need for increased mechanization for adult broodstock collection, anesthetic capabilities, and/or adult spawning and sampling management, WDFW and Grant PUD worked to develop this SOA.

The SOA agrees to review the performance of the rebuilt facility after a few years of operation, review the need for mechanization and anesthetic capabilities for adult collection and adult spawning upon completion of the third spawning year following completion of the hatchery rebuild. The following parameters will help inform the potential need for mechanization and anesthetic capabilities for adult collection and adult spawning at the PR Hatchery as it relates specifically to Grant PUD's mitigation requirements: (1) Comparison of adult collection to adult spawning survival data pre and post hatchery modifications, (2) Adult collection to adult spawning survival pre and post hatchery modification (relative to other facilities or program needs), (3) Egg to fry survival pre and post hatchery modification (relative to other facilities or programs needs), (4) Steelhead encounters and mortality, (5) Staff safety.

Rohr was asked if the HSC has reviewed the SOA and Rohr stated they have not. Next, Rohr asked that PRCC members consider approval of the SOA.

Craig commented that this is a commitment to review a hatchery rebuild after 3 yrs. It doesn't commit Grant PUD to making modifications, but the hatchery rebuild will include infrastructure to support those modifications. Two areas of largest dispute are: (1) the trap on the lower end. Staff had to lift fish of significant weight in the past. Steelhead are encountered at the trap (fish are handled without being anesthetized). (2) Adult holding - fish will be trucked to spawning/incubation building; a request for full mechanization was made by WDFW. A request to have full anesthetic abilities at the facility was also made. Grant PUD looked at how ponds could be repositioned to accommodate the adult holding area. WDFW has had significant input in the design.

Craig asked about staff injuries in the past as a result of working the spawning season at the present facility. Dresser stated that the safety record shows only 1 incident reported to L&I. There has been smashed fingers, etc. -minor injuries. Craig mentioned a concern that some minor injuries, which could indicate a facility problem, may not be reported. A long as there is some commitment to look at safety concerns, he's comfortable. Designs have been improved greatly over what is currently happening at the hatchery. Nordlund commented that the timeline states that in 3 years there will be a re-evaluation, but stated that the expected construction start date is 2012. Dresser explained that hatchery modifications should be completed by 2015, and that years 2015, 16 and 2017 are the three years considered in the SOA.

Next steps: If the SOA is approved by the PRCC, it will be important for PRCC members to discuss the resolution with their agencies HSC member and inform them

that PRH designs will be moving forward. Rohr explained that WDFW and Grant PUD engineering staff are collaborating closely in an effort to move designs forward to 90% by September 2010. Designs will then be presented to HSC and taken to permit levels. The hope is to "turn ground" by June 2012. Dresser expects difficult contract negotiations that will include penalties and fines if dates are not met. Grant PUD doesn't want to disrupt current mitigation requirements during hatchery modifications.

The PRCC will be the reviewing body, but they can delegate moving it to the HSC. Nordlund wants to speak to Rob Jones, NMFS, prior to approval. This topic will be discussed at next month's meeting. Teresa Scott stated that WDFW would like to move this SOA forward, but they want to make sure everyone has whatever time needed to be comfortable. **Rohr will provide a copy of SOA 2010-03, Priest Rapids Hatchery Rebuild to McManus for distribution to the HSC.**

- VIII. Follow Up Review and Discussion of April 28th Presentation by WDFW/USGS No Net Impact (NNI) Predator Study:** Dotson spoke with Grant PUD staff regarding northern pikeminnow (NPM) data (gonads, lengths, weights) collection from the NPM Removal Program. Collected data will be given to staff conducting the WDFW/USGS Predator Study. The WDFW/USGS crew has supplied Dotson with dates they would like to access the Boat Restricted Zone (BRZ). Dotson has requested a meeting with operators in an effort to coordinate better.
- IX. Follow up Discussion Regarding Tall Timber Ranch (TTR) Conservation Easement Funding Proposal:** Dotson recapped dialog of the April 28th PRCC meeting regarding the TTR conservation easement. Grant PUD staff and Rohr were at TTR April 29 & 30. After looking at the site, it appeared that the only acclimation sites that would be beneficial to Grant PUD were on the outside edge of the easement. The proposed conservation easement by Chelan Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) would not preclude any acclimation Grant PUD wants to do at TTR. Rohr asked if the PRCC wants to spend \$55,000 from NNI Fund for the CDLT easement if habitat would be the only benefit. Craig asked if additional NNI Funds would be requested for acclimation outside the easement. Grant PUD staff will initiate discussions with TTR about long term access to the site. Nordlund asked if NNI Funds would be requested for the TTR site. Dresser doesn't anticipate use of NNI Funds for TTR acclimation, but said if Grant PUD is successful with using the pond to acclimate fish, habitat funds could be requested. Marco asked if PRCC members are concerned that CDLT or Habitat Subcommittee (HSC) members might have some push back with having an acclimation site next door to the easement. Dotson explained that the TTR facility will be a short term "soft" acclimation facility, not brick and mortar. The site is a back channel that can be sand bagged to create a small pond. Dresser explained that Grant PUD might propose modifications to the back channel, i.e. deepening with a track hoe, unless other less invasive methods are found. Dotson explained that when meeting with TTR, CDLT and GPUD, that CDLT wasn't in disagreement with the acclimation site at TTR. Rohr stated that the HSC has also approved funding of \$55,000 for the easement. Other PRCC members stated that they have discussed this issue with their HSC representatives and are comfortable approving the easement. **PRCC members approved use of up to \$55,000 from the NNI Fund for the Tall Timber Ranch Conservation Easement; project specifications sheet dated March 2010. Rohr will contact Mickey Fleming regarding the vote.**
- X. Update Discussion: White River Activities:** Dresser explained that a White River Work Group (WRWG) meeting will be held on June 15th at the Best Western Icicle Inn in Leavenworth, WA. Topics of discussion will be the White River HGMP, the Hatchery Subcommittee approved Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, vessel types, monitoring of natural origin and hatchery fish, and site evaluations conducted by Grant PUD, starting in 2004. **Williams will send the WRWG agenda to Rohr and McManus for distribution to PRCC and PRCC HSC members.**

Members of the WRWG Policy committee are: Paul Ward, Yakama Nation, Dennis Beich, WDFW, Julie Morgan/Derek Van Marter, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and Tom Dresser, Grant PUD. Morgan has spoken with Ray Towey, of the Colville Tribe about joining the group, and with Rob Walton, NMFS, in order to keep him up to date on the group's progress. Her intention is to also speak with members of the Joint Fisheries Party (JFP). Whether to call the committee "Policy" or "Planning" was discussed, but not decided. Dresser suggests that Morgan attend a PRCC meeting to provide an update for the committee. Inclusion of a public stakeholder on the Policy group has been discussed. No meetings are currently scheduled for this committee, but Dresser hopes to meet prior to the June 15th WRWG. Dresser stressed the importance of unified communication within each agency.

Stakeholders appear to be engaged, and Dresser believes that positive momentum is being made. He explained that within the next 5 months, Grant PUD would like to have a clear picture in order to start the design and permitting phase.

- XI. Review of Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams Exclusion Screen Installations:** Dotson explained that this study is in regarding to LA-402. For the study, the bulkhead slot (those slots farthest upstream), have been screened at each dam and a DIDSON camera is being used to monitor potential interaction between fish and the screen. A side study (the Slot Retention Study) is being conducted, based on a question asked by Carlon at the March PRCC meeting; how long does a fish in the gatewells stay in the gatewells if not dipped out? The Slot Retention Study uses acoustic tagged fish placed in the gatewell slots and monitored for retention time in the slot. Dotson explained that when results from the studies are compiled, a presentation will be given to the PRCC.
- XII. Review of Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams Gatewell Retention Study:**
- A. See above comments.
- XIII. Update of Priest Rapids New Turbine Design:** Grant PUD's Turbine Design Team is still working with Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL) regarding pressure models for smolt passage through a turbine and how turbine design can impact those potential passage issues. Results from this work are expected soon.
- XIV. Follow Up Discussion of Subyearling Chinook:** Dotson reported that there was a subyearling workshop (regarding the Snake and lower Columbia Rivers) today and tomorrow in Hood River, OR. Dotson will be attending tomorrow's session. At the March 24th PRCC meeting Dotson was tasked with drafting a white paper explaining how a subyearling survival study could be conducted in the PR Project, based on what technologies are presently available. He will present the white paper at the June PRCC meeting. Marco questioned if work being conducted on the Snake River is comparable to the upper Columbia River area. Dotson thinks upper Columbia subyearlings differ from those of the lower Columbia in behavior and life history strategies. Dotson reported that he's had some dialog with Chelan PUD, but not Douglas PUD. Nordlund reported that Douglas PUD hopes to learn more about subyearling life history via PIT-tag detectors located at the Rocky Reach dam collector. The hope is to learn if subyearlings are reservoir fish or just migrating through the Project?
- XV. Report of 2010 Fish Spill Operations:** Fish Spill started April 22, 2010. Dotson reported that the sockeye smolt runs have been large. Inadvertent spill took place on Thursday of last week.
- XVI. Update on 2010 Sockeye and Steelhead Survival & Behavior Studies:** Studies started on May 6th, about one and a half weeks later than scheduled due to the slow start and low numbers of out-migrating fish and also high winds that precluded gatewell dipping activities. The last scheduled release of tagged fish is now

scheduled for June 3rd. Monitoring will take place until June 25th due to the 22-day tag-battery life.

XVII. Follow Up to Fish Mode Operations Request from K. Nordt, Director of Power Management, GPUD: Dotson distributed a Statement of Agreement (SOA) for the Emergency Contingency exception from Fish Mode. The survival model, using 100% mortality, and 50% mortality, that Dotson ran for the PRCC, showed that impacts to dam passage survival rates were minimal in both study case runs. Dotson added a sentence in the SOA stating the PRCC reserves the right to review and revoke Fish Mode privileges, along with a unit priority list for exiting Fish Mode. He also added that occurrences are limited to 3 times per season. Nordlund asked how effects would be evaluated. Dotson explained that within 72 hours of an incident, Natural Resources staff will be informed of the incident's cause. A written report of each incidence will be drafted and sent to PRCC members within 5 business days of the event. Discussion took place whether a review of survival through the powerhouse for each incident of exiting Fish Mode could be conducted. Dotson indicated that determining if a fish passed during a time of being in Fish Mode or out of Fish Mode would be very difficult, based on the location of the downstream detection arrays. At the September PRCC meeting every year, a report of the use of this SOA option would be presented to the PRCC for review and discussion. **Dotson will add "review period" (September each year) to the Emergency Contingency Exception from Fish Mode SOA.** Nordlund suggests that if overall survival is close enough to the edge (91.3%, instead of 93%) that if a risk is seen, the committee decides if this emergency contingency can happen or not. That year results will be reviewed at the September PRCC meeting.

XVIII. UPDATES:

- A. Record of the PRCC Studies and Reports:** No change.
- B. Committee Reports:** Rohr will continue electronic distribution of Committee Reports. Scott asked that meeting materials be distributed earlier than one week before the meeting. Dotson said he would make the effort to get things distributed sooner. **Rohr will send Committee Reports electronically.**
- C. Discussion Regarding Investigation of Potential Wanapum Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby:** Rohr questioned the direction he should take on this topic. He will review the draft report he distributed previously.

XIX. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. April 28, 2010 minutes** – Will be reviewed at the next meeting.

XX. Next Meeting: June 23, 2010; Grant PUD SeaTac Office