



DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, January 6, 2010
10:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Grant PUD Natural Resources
Conference Room A

Technical Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Bob Heinith, CRITFC
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Ben Lenz, GCPUD

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Marcie Mangold, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD

ATTENDEES:

Mike Clement, GCPUD
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Blaine Parker, CRITFC (by phone)
Bob Rose, Yakama Nation
Joe Miller, Chelan PUD
Brad James, CRITFC (by phone)
Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Stephen Lewis, USFWS (by phone)
Ben Lenz, GCPUD
Alyssa Buck, GCPUD
Debbie Williams, GCPUD (by phone)
Ross Hendrick, GCPUD
Molly Hallock, WDFW

Action Items:

1. Grant will determine if sturgeon hatchery facility is exempt from NPDS permitting.
2. Grant to look into JSAT Tag use and conflicts with other technologies.
3. Grant to look into place to store all tagging data
4. Grant and Yakama's to discuss sturgeon movement when flows are high. Also, the need for tagging a range of fish sizes to determine entrainment.
5. Grant to post information on sturgeon genetics to the PRFF website.
6. Debbie Williams to send out URL and passwords to PRFF website.
7. Grant will move forward with sturgeon hatchery facility design and provide construction schedule at next PRFF meeting.
8. PRFF needs to submit comments on AIS Plan by January 7th.

9. PRFF members need to have comments in on PD Fish Ladder Temperature Monitoring by February 4th.
10. PRFF members need to have comments in on Shallow Water Monitoring by February 4th.
11. Grant to check with Ecology to determine which plans need to be approved by them.
12. Schedule next PRFF meeting as conference call.

Decisions:

1. PRFF attendees agree that the sturgeon hatchery facility proposed by Grant appears technically sound and of high quality; agreed that Grant could move forward with final design of the sturgeon hatchery facility.

Draft Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees introduced themselves around the table and on the conference line.
- II. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **White Sturgeon Hatchery Presentation** – Mike Nichols gave a PowerPoint presentation on Grant's proposed white sturgeon hatchery facility. The facility will be located at Priest Rapids (near the fall Chinook hatchery). Key points of the presentation included, 1) adults can be reared indefinitely (if desired) on the recirculated water, 2) each tank can be operated with separate flow and temperature regimes, 3) can rear more than 20,000 juveniles or larger sized juveniles, 4) Ultraviolet or ozone can be included in the design, 5) troughs can be split, 6) water can be released to Columbia River or to another location, 7) back-up system using ambient water, back-up generators, staff on site, alarms etc., 8) facility has room to perform experiments. **Mike was not sure if a NPDS permit was required for the facility but Grant will find out.**
- IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**- Larry provided a review of the plan. The plan was presented under four headings; Broodstock Capture and Release, Spawning and Incubation Surveys, Mark Recapture and Telemetry Study. Larry noted that set-lines would be operated for 12-hour sampling periods. JSAT tags may be an option for tagging released fish, **however conflicts with other tag technology may be a problem (Grant to investigate the issue and report back to the group)**. The discussion pointed out the need to better coordinate research up and down the river. Members asked if there was any information of the effects flow may have on juvenile distribution after release. Some data available from the Snake River. Members wanted to know if we should investigate releasing a range of juvenile fish sizes to determine entrainment through reservoirs and

dams. **Grant and the Yakama's will discuss this issue during the Marion Drain tour.**

- a. Short-term white sturgeon production: Ben Lentz asked the group to discuss short-term hatchery production needs, source of fish, rearing locations etc. Grant noted they are interested in working with all parties in achieving short-term goals, sharing facilities etc. PRFF agreed that sharing facilities needed more discussion, which was one of the reasons for touring the Yakama sturgeon facility at Marion Drain. Short-term, the selection of either upriver or downriver stocks for rearing not a big effect on population genetics according to experts consulted. **Grant has more detail on this issue and will post this to the PRFF website.** Grant asked if member had concerns about the hatchery facility being proposed by Grant. No technical concerns were brought forward. Kevin Malone asked if the group was comfortable with Grant moving forward with final facility design. **All PRFF members in attendance were comfortable with moving forward to final design of the facility from a technical perspective. Group is of the opinion that it is an excellent facility.** Bob Rose asked if there were any benefits to having multiple facilities to act as a safety net. PRFF members were in agreement that having multiple facilities in the region was a good idea. **Grant will move forward with final design of the hatchery facility and provide a construction schedule at the next PRFF meeting.**

V. **Pacific Lamprey**– Mike Clement provided a presentation on ladder modifications being made at Priest Rapids Dam to improve Pacific Lamprey passage. He noted that the fish counting facility improvements are not yet complete, but he will schedule a tour once they are finished. The annual lamprey comprehensive report is being reviewed internally and will be sent out for PRFF review by January 13, 2010. The report will list all lamprey activities scheduled for 2010. PRFF members will have 30-days for review. He noted that the bull trout plan was sent out earlier and that comments were due on that plan within 30 days of the submittal date.

VI. **Aquatic Invasive Species Plan**- Comments on the plan are due January 7, 2010. Ross asked if anyone had any comments or concerns on the plan; none were expressed by the PRFF. The Wanapum's will have their comments in on the following Monday. **Ecology believes they need to approve the plan...Ross to discuss with Ecology.**

- VII. **Shallow Water Monitoring Plan:** Due to FERC March 31, 2010. No input was received from the PRFF on monitoring locations, so the same sites used in the 1990's will be sampled again. **Also unclear if this plan needs to be approved by Ecology; Ross will check.**
- VIII. **Fish Ladder Temperature Modeling Plan:** Comments due March 31, 2010 to FERC. Grant will send out January 7, 2010 for 30-day review.
- IX. **Metrics for Lamprey Studies:** Mike Clement informed the group that the Columbia River Lamprey Technical Workgroup developed a set of potential passage metrics at a recent meeting. Subgroup defined all metrics in tabular form. Phase 2 will be to determine how to measure each metric so is consistent between dams. Bob Rose and Mike Clement and others will be meeting later this month in Wenatchee (January 19th) to discuss as part of regional forum.
- X. **Next Meeting:** Teleconference on February 3, 2010. Time to be determined.