



Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, September 01, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Conference Call & Web Ex

Technical Members

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

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

ATTENDEES: (*Denotes PRFF member)

Bob Rose, Yakama Nation*
 Chad Jackson, WDFW
 Bob Heinith, CRITFC
 Mike Clement, GCPUD*
 Debbie Williams, GCPUD
 Kevin Malone, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, WDFW*
 Molly Hallock, WDFW
 Keith Hatch, BIA

Action Items:

1. Molly Hallock will email papers published on Air Lift Sampling.
2. Clement will review the 401 regarding meeting requirements.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Attendees provided self introductions.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Discussion took place for the following action items:
 - A. **Action Items:** Action items identified during the August meeting were completed.
- III. **Update on the Pacific Lamprey Study:**
 - A. **Update on HD PIT-tag Detections** – Eleven infrared video camera's are being used from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. to collect

lamprey behavioral data related to modifications made (plating and count stations) to the Priest Rapids (PR) right bank ladder. In an effort to locate lamprey more easily fish counters time stamp videos when lamprey are seen. Clement reported that it's assumed to be the peak of the run because 15 to 30 lamprey have been counted passing PR each day, which represents the highest per/day this return year. As of August 27th, approximately 20,000 lampreys had passed Bonneville Dam, including night, and LAPS system counts. It is unknown what the delayed migration will mean to upstream migration. The question remains, will lamprey continue to migrate up stream when water temperatures drop? Counts of migrating lamprey have exceeded the total number of lamprey seen last year, but remain significantly lower this year at Priest Rapids and dams upstream.

The USACOE continued tagging up to ~2% of the adult lamprey run throughout the summer. Grant PUD has maintained HD PIT-tag detection at Wanapum and Priest Rapids. As of last Friday, Grant PUD HD PIT-tag detectors have collected data on 14 unique tag codes. Clement didn't know which dam the data was collected at. Following the adult run, Grant PUD and contract staff will begin data analysis of the tags detected and underwater video. Because Chelan, Douglas and Grant PUD's have similar requirements regarding lamprey, Clement expressed the importance of regional coordination of tagging efforts, studies and forums. After HD detectors are turned off, discussions will take place between the US Corp, University of Idaho, and Grant PUD regarding the need for a centralized place for tagging information that will allow detection through out the system, and PIT-tag data to be used more regionally which is one of the proposals the CRITFC tribes have been working toward.

- B. Update on Underwater Video** – Attendees viewed video of lamprey freely swimming through the video count station. Velocity in the count station is typically between 1.6 to 2.2 feet per second. This is an average flow condition. The video shows that plating installed in the ladders are being utilized by migrating lamprey. Plating is facilitating passage in the lower section of the ladder where velocities are higher.

After review of the video approaching the count stations, Verhey inquired about moving the ramp going into the count station, horizontal. Clement responded that we can't draw any conclusions at this time and he's not sure if there was any recognizable benefit to the ramp approaching the count station

as early video shows that most of the fish freely approach the count station from either side and then freely move through the counting orifice after they find it. Clement added that Grant PUD was able to go to ¾" gap size. If adding more solid area's down stream, it will add velocities.

Infrared light is used to view orifice openings, but white light is used in the count stations. NOAA fisheries wanted lights in the count stations left on in order to count salmonids that might pass at night. The white light used in count stations, doesn't seem to deter lamprey movement.

Clement explained that lamprey moving through the ladder typically enter near the floor, find the crowder, shoot across to the orifice opening, and go through. As of two weeks ago lamprey counts became erroneous when it was reported that a significant build up of macrophytes on the upstream side of crowdors had created the need for operators to clean that area. During that process fish on the right bank were being forced to go through crowder gates because operators had left the swing gates open. This changed the differential in the fish ladder, causing water to spill out of the count station. Engineering staff is working on putting screens on the upstream side of count stations to help alleviate this problem. To correct the issue a short real time outage mid to late September to install screens will be asked for. It's hasn't been determined if modifications need to happen at all four count stations.

Rose inquired as to the proportion of adults choosing which ladder in earlier years. 60% of the run has chosen the left bank to ascend the ladder in past years. Clement questioned if power house operations could be what's attracting them to the left bank during low water years and following spill. Typically, during lamprey passage, Grant PUD runs P1, first on, last off if enough water is available. P9 and P10 (units closest to left bank fish ladder) are not used because NOAA wanted fish to be able to key in on surface flow on the left bank ladder. Typicality, P10 wouldn't be used for juvenile salmonids passage because it's far away from the bypass and Grant PUD doesn't typically have enough water to run all ten units and maintain its spill requirements, so the units further away from the preferred salmonid passage route are operated with less frequency.

IV. Status on Crescent Bar Dredging Project and Juvenile Lamprey Sampling Protocol – Clement explained that Air Lift Sampling vacuums within 4-6 inches of the substrate surface (depending on size), and deposits materials into a sieve on the side of the boat. It's not limited by depth. Attendees reviewed Air Lift Sampling protocols

developed by Golder Associates. Golder Associates used the equipment on the Slave and Fraser Rivers to collect white fish eggs in an area know to have an abundance of ammocoetes.

Air Lift sampling will take place mid September. PRFF members will be notified when a date is set. Papers related to this sampling method have been published. **Molly Hallock will email papers published on Air Lift Sampling.**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Yakama Nation (YN), and Grant PUD staff used backpack shockers in shallow water areas of Crescent Bar that will be dredged. No ammocoetes were observed during sampling.

Conservation methods to be utilized during dredging will outlined in a white paper to be written by Larry Hildebrand, Golder Associates. The paper will be used as an appendix to the Biological Assessment for the in-water work at Crescent Bar. Rose approved of this approach.

- V. Status of YN White Sturgeon Activities** – Rose reported that Donella Miller would not be participating in today's meeting because she is attending a sturgeon conference in Montana. The YN has applied for permits to drill a shallow well. Rose wasn't sure of the capacity, or depth of the new well. The shallow well would be used as Marion Drain's main source of water. They hope to drill in October or November, and be hooked before winter. Rose explained that the MD facility does have a back up water system, (recirculation, and oxygen) that has enough water for both (Grant PUD & YKFP [summer Chinook]) program needs. The use of an infiltration gallery to collect surface water is being looked at at Marion Drain. The new well will provide the ability to manipulate water temperatures. Rose mentioned that when they get to that point, the YN will want to talk to the PUD's about funding of the project. Clement noted that could address the ability to collect and hold wild broodstock for extended periods.

Rose explained that Miller is working on methods to cover tanks, and that she is also having a few more trenches dug. Miller would like to dig one, possibly two, ponds large enough to house 2000 2 foot sturgeon. Rose invited PRFF members to visit the Marion Drain facility at any time.

A fish health certificate certifying the pathology of fish at MD fish was granted by John Kerwin, WDFW. It states that all fish are clean. Around September 7th everything will be finalized so that Chelan PUD can take their portion of fish to Chelan Falls to be raised. A small number of fish will be transferred around the end of September. The Chelan Falls facility has a 3,000 to 4,000 total capacity. The transfer should open some capacity at MD. Jackson will speak with the YN

(Miller) and Chelan PUD to confirm whether capacity would be opened at MD or not after fish are moved to Chelan Falls.

- VI. Status of White Sturgeon Stocking Options** – Clement explained that Grant PUD plans on arranging an independent scientific review to help guide appropriate stocking options for the Priest Rapids Project, based purely on science. It hasn't been determined who will conduct the review, possibly AFS or ISRP. Clement said the information from the review would be used to clearly define options that provide the most defensible scientific fish stocking source, both short and long term. It will answer the question, "What effects will reduced genetics have on this program?" stated Clement. Clement didn't know how long it will take to put the scientific review together, but that Grant PUD wants to have it done soon. Clement invited members to be involved.

Other Items – Rose expressed an interest in combining lamprey discussions between all three PUDs in one regional meeting. He stated it would be a more efficient use of time, and acknowledged the need to maintain the unique considerations of each PUD's license. He would like to open this discussion over the winter, and change the structure next spring. He suggested that the PRFF meet on a quarterly basis when all aspects of the forum could then be discussed, and then on the next two off months, hold a 2 hr. discussion for lamprey, and then sturgeon. This would meet obligations of the 401 Certification (401), and make things more expedient, Rose stated. Clement reminded Rose that the 401 specifies monthly meetings. **Clement will review the 401 regarding meeting requirements.**

- VII. Next Meeting** – October 6, 2010. After the agenda is developed, it will be determined if the meeting will be in Ephrata, or via conference call.