



## Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Grant PUD Natural Resource Building, Ephrata, Conf. Rm. A

### TECHNICAL MEMBERS

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Stephen Lewis, USFWS  
Bob Rose, YN  
Carl Merkle, CRITFC  
Tom Dresser, GCPUD

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

### ATTENDEES: (\*Denotes PRFF member)

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Patrick Verhey, WDFW\*  
Marcie Mangold, WDOE\*  
Kevin Malone, Facilitator (by phone)  
Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Brian Nass, LGL  
Alyssa Buck, Wanapum  
Paul Grutter, Golder (by Phone)  
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Molly Hallock, WDFW (by phone)  
Mike Clement, GCPUD\*  
Bob Rose, YN\*  
Stephen Lewis, USFWS (by phone)  
Nathan James, LGL  
Donella Miller, YN (by phone)  
Jason McClellan, CCT

### Action Items

1. Next meeting will be held at HED/Wanapum Dam on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
2. PRFF members asked Mike Clement to check with Chelan PUD to determine the percent detection efficiency value that was determined for sturgeon PIT tags found above Rock Island Dam.
3. The lamprey presentation provided by Brian Nass will be uploaded by Grant PUD to the PRFF website.
4. Bob Rose and Mike Clement will contact the other fish forum and see if a joint meeting and tour of the Marion Drain facility can be arranged in February or March.

## Final Meeting Minutes

Priest Rapids Fish Forum  
Final Meeting Minutes  
07 December 2011

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Kevin Malone welcomed attendees to the Priest Rapids Fish Forum.
- II. **Agenda Review**
  - Action items from last meeting**- All completed.
  - Additional agenda items**- No additional agenda items were submitted.
- III. **Update and Vote on White Sturgeon SOA 2011-05**
  - The SOA was approved by consensus vote of the members eligible to vote. Carl Merkle supplied a proxy yes vote by E-mail. The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission (CRIFC) has not been in attendance for three meetings, nor did they ask for a vote extension, so their vote was not required according to PRFF meeting protocols.
- IV. **Update of Recent Sturgeon Predation – Upper Wanapum Reservoir**
  - Mike Clement reported that Chelan PUD has recovered 58 sturgeon PIT-Tags on an island above Rock Island Dam, near a known cormorant rookery. All of the tags recovered were from wild by wild half sibling crosses from the sturgeon released by Grant PUD in 2011. None of the PIT-Tags recovered were from the other groups released. Because Chelan PUD assumes that PIT-Tag detection efficiency for the sample is likely very low, the number of actual PIT-Tagged sturgeon consumed by the colony could be considerably higher.
  - Bob Rose would like to see more information on how tag detection efficiency was determined before concluding predation rates by birds were high in 2011. **PRFF members asked Mike Clement to check with Chelan PUD to determine the detection efficiency value.**
  - If the detection efficiency estimate is confirmed, the PRFF may want to discuss sampling the island for tags more often in 2012. This may require a sampling permit from the USFWS.
  - Additionally, the PRFF may want to consider changing fish release sites in 2012 or develop an avian control program. Before proceeding on either approach the PRFF needs to determine what an acceptable level of predation is for released fish.
  - The Yakama Nation (YN) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will meet prior to the next PRFF meeting to develop a recommendation on this predation issue. The decision on how to proceed in 2012 will be the purview of the PRFF, with input gathered from the regional forum.

## **V. Update of White Sturgeon Culture Activities and Upgrades at Marion Drain**

- The Yakama Nation reported that sturgeon the 8,000 fish they have on-station are in good health and show no signs of increased mortality. Fish have been graded by size and placed into separate tanks.
- Grant PUD is planning on releasing fewer fish in 2012; possibly only 2,000 fish. Therefore Marion Drain may have surplus fish available.
- **Bob Rose and Mike Clement will contact the other fish forums and see if a joint meeting and tour of the Marion Drain facility can be arranged in February or March.**

## **VI. Update on White Sturgeon RFP**

- Mike provided an overview of the White Sturgeon studies Request for Proposal (RFP). There is a scoring section that now includes cost and proposed budget which is 30 percent of scoring. The RFP is for a three year period. Mike offered to send the RFP to anyone interested. To date, two proposals have been received.

## **VII. Update on AFEP and LTWG Meeting(s)**

Bob and Mike provided feedback on the Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program (AFEP) and Lamprey Technical Work Group (LTWG) meetings held recently. Items of interest to the PRFF from this meeting include:

- Passage metrics are being developed which will include goals.
- Juvenile supplementation activities are on-going. Tribes are looking at establishing a regional plan for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of lamprey throughout the Columbia River. A draft document should be available by March (tentative).
- The Umatilla tribe and Yakama Nation have 250-300 fish that will be used for telemetry translocation, etc. The Nez Perce tribe plans on conducting similar activities in the Snake and Clearwater Rivers.
- The Yakama Nation and others will be presenting information in the near future on lamprey propagation. They plan on spawning 5-10 fish next year in order to conduct basic research. The off-spring of these fish will be out-planted in multiple places in the Yakima River basin, and possibly other rivers.
- The group revisited the lamprey tagging cap currently in place in the system and the technology used for evaluations. The LTWG was receptive to lifting the 2 percent tagging cap; but mainstem projects need to be wired to maximize results. Radio-tagging

studies are being phased out (reduced) due to impacts to lamprey. Future studies will rely more on HD PIT-Tags.

- Regional lamprey passage technical workgroup members are working to determine a rationale for how high to set the tagging cap. A subgroup is being formed to address this issue.
- The 10-year passage plan by the American Corp of Engineers (ACOE) needs to be updated. The Yakama Nation will be working with the ACOE to do this. They are wondering if the region needs to tag a lot of fish each year to detect small increments in survival. Maybe a better approach is to tag fish every three years after multiple improvements are made to the system.
- Grant PUD has M&E license requirements that may be affected by changing the sampling scheme (i.e. 3-year tagging). These license requirements may be changed by the PRFF or Washington Department of Ecology but would need to be thought through before agreeing to any changes in study plans.
- The Yakama Nation is looking into building a lamprey trapping facility at John Day dam. This facility would be used to trap fish for a fish translocation program.

#### **VIII. Status of Annual Reports and Associated Deadline**

- The lamprey, sturgeon, bull trout, shallow water quality and temperature monitoring annual reports will likely be submitted to the PRFF by the end of January 2012 for review.

#### **IX. Update on Annual Fishway Tour and Off Ladder Adult Fish Trap (OLAFT) Dewatering for Winter Maintenance**

- The PRFF is invited to tour these facilities during the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting.

#### **X. Presentation of 2010 – 2011 Adult Pacific Lamprey HDX-Tag Detection Summaries for Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams**

Brian Nass, LGL, provided a review of the 2010 and 2011 lamprey studies for the Priest Rapids Project. **The presentation will be uploaded to the PRFF website.** Key findings of his report are as follows:

- Fish passage efficiency for Priest Rapids dam was estimated at 70 percent. The value increases to 82 percent if fish captured in the ladder and released above the project are included in the calculation.
- Fish passage efficiency for Wanapum dam was estimated at 82 percent.

- Fall back at Priest Rapids and Wanapum were 8.7 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively.
- Fish required approximately 50 hours (median time) to pass through each ladder at the projects.
- When the ladder at Priest Rapids was dewatered, 25 lamprey were tagged with HD Pit-Tags and released to the tailrace.

Grant staff noted that they can keep fishways watered to test overwintering behavior of lamprey if needed. This would require discussions with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

- XI. Next Meeting: January 4, 2012, at Grant PUD's Hydro Electric Division (HED) headquarters in Beverly, WA. From there a tour of the OLAFT and fishways will take place.**