



Grant County  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

### PRCC Meeting Representatives

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Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN	Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (Alt), CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

### PRCC Meeting Attendees

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Jim Craig, USFWS	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, GCPUD	Scott Carlon, NMFS (phone)
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator	Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Tom Dresser, GCPUD	Kirk Truscott, CCT
Jeff Korth, WDFW	Peter Graf, GCPUD
Todd Pearson, GCPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN

## Final Approved Meeting Minutes

### Decisions made in April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting:

1. The 2017 Steelhead Survival Study Plan, Version 3, was approved, including Truscott's caveat of being unsure if 1800 tags is enough.
2. Regarding the Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association Fishing Derby, two decisions were made:
  - a. Approved revising the Derby dates from May 19-21 to June 23-25.
  - b. Did not approve the request for the Grand Prize to change from boat(s) to ATV(s).
3. Regarding the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, there was agreement to the path forward of a subcommittee to study this subject further. Committee members identified were Dresser (lead), Dotson, Craig, Korth, Pearson, Graf, and A. Murdoch.

- I. **Rohr welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided introductions.**
- II. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions.**

III. **Meeting Minutes Review: (D. Rohr)**

- A. December 13-14, 2016 meetings; January 25, 2017 conference call; January 31, 2017 meeting; February 27, 2017 meeting; March 29, 2017 meeting – Ongoing.

IV. **Action Items Review from March 29, 2017 meeting (D. Rohr)** – Actions items were completed or will be discussed further during today’s meeting.

V. **DECISION ITEM: 2017 Steelhead Survival Study Plans (C. Dotson)**

- A. (Decision Item) Approval of the 2017 Study Plan (V3) – Grant presented V3 of the study plan the week following the March PRCC meeting. Baldwin emailed questions regarding the sample size (N) being used in the study. Dotson responded to those questions – (see attached emails). Additional questions came up regarding the manufacturer of this year’s study tags – Lotek, same company who made last year’s tags. Dotson stated that Tacoma Power, Michigan State University and Carlton University are all using the same model of Lotek JSATS tag, post Grant’s 2016 study. There has been no issues with tag-life for these three (3) studies. Dotson also mentioned that as a public entity, Grant PUD most comply with state bid laws. He commented that Grant looked hard to make sure we wouldn’t get stung again.

To meet the delivery time, Grant put in a request for 1850 tags, and they are working to meet that request.

A question was asked about the “cause” of last year’s tag-life issues. Dotson responded regarding a memo he had received from the company stating that they (Lotek) use a conductive epoxy in construction of their tags, and it was being applied “a little light” last year. The company has corrected the problem.

After PRCC discussion (as described below), Rohr called for a vote regarding approval of V3 of the 2017 Steelhead Survival Study Plan. Rohr explained that V3 of the study includes edits regarding comments received from PRCC members during the March 29<sup>th</sup> PRCC meeting. Rohr also informed the PRCC that an email vote to approve was received from Bob Rose who was not able to attend today’s meeting. The other PRCC members all voted to approve with Truscott’s vote to approve including a caveat of him being unsure if 1800 tags is enough.

- B. (Discussion) C. Baldwin comments (April 6<sup>th</sup>) and C. Dotson Response (April 12<sup>th</sup>) – See attached emails plus discussion above.

VI. **Discussion of Caspian Tern Support Letters (T. Dresser)** – Dresser stated that Grant has submitted an application for the take of up to 100 Caspian terns for the Priest Rapids Project, and USDA would be involved in performing the take. Dresser is looking for support from the PRCC in getting the application approved. A second letter is also being drafted to send to the BOR and USACE the week after next requesting they fully implement actions described in the Inland Avian Predation Management Plan, plus all other avian predation activities they are directed to follow.

VII. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation (T. Dresser)**

Peter Graf and Todd Pearson, GCPUD, attended the meeting to provide a power point presentation to the PRCC describing Grant's coho mitigation requirement as described in the Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Agreement. The presentation focused on mitigation requirements, calculation methods, and schedule. The stated purpose of the presentation was to outline that Grant has a coho mitigation requirement and the agreement ends in 2018, that Grant and Yakama Nation discussions are taking place and they agreed to include PRCC in the process, that the first step is to establish a coho survival surrogacy and the next step is to calculate coho mitigation using the same methodology as other Plan species, plus getting coho on the same mitigation calculation schedule as other Plan species. The presentation included discussion of an overview of hatchery mitigation calculations, methods of recalculation, applying the methods to coho, committee roles and responsibilities, and next steps. Next steps included a review of data needs, NNI methodology including an SOA decision in June by PRCC, NNI distribution including a data presentation in May to the Hatchery Subcommittee, and finalizing a Grant PUD contract in December, 2017.

Graf will be making a data presentation to the Hatchery Subcommittee next month in May, and Dresser and Dotson will work with the PRCC regarding an NNI Methodology SOA for consideration in June.

#### **VIII. Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, WA (J. Korth)**

- A.** Korth was aware that at the PRCC meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the PRCC had voted to not approve the NNI Proposal pertaining to this subject. However, as he was unable to attend several of the recent meetings wherein this subject was discussed, he requested it be added to the agenda for additional discussion and a common understanding.

Korth stated he had a few questions regarding the January 25<sup>th</sup> vote. What Andrew Murdoch (WDFW), who had attended the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and discussed the proposal, took away from the meeting was that he was to come up with something similar to what Blue Leaf Environmental was working on regarding this subject. Korth commented that a piece to the common understanding as to the reasons for the committee not approving seems to be the same reasons for other things not approved, that being a lack of certainty that any management decisions will come out on the bottom line?

Dresser, based on the original proposal, logistics and costs, asked if there are other ways to gather information that may not be specific of the way this proposal is suggesting. He stated that Grant has an ongoing program in place that relates to very specific survival and a pit tag data base as part of the M&E program. He commented that if a study is implemented like this proposal is suggesting, that program might go away. He asked is this work can be done in a phased approach. He commented that Grant is not against collecting data within the Lake.

Dotson asked if the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, a listed funding participant of \$140,000 in the proposal, is having their funding cut by the SRFB process. Korth replied that the funding question is still up in the air, and no one will know anything until the state budget is finalized.

Korth commented on other projects being approved and stated he is looking for consistency, and there is no certainty on any of these things that good data will come out of it.

**B. Next Steps**

Korth is still interested in the proposal being considered after some revisions are made. He questioned if the revised proposal submitted on January 11<sup>th</sup> was the same as the proposal discussed by Murdoch on January 25<sup>th</sup>. It was concluded except for the date change, they were the same. While he would like further consideration, he is still unsure if it will get off the ground this year, but he wants to keep moving it forward. He feels a way to address this proposal is to have Murdoch sit down with Pearson and discuss it. He commented the phased approach may be best, including off ramps in the proposal. If phase one is successful, then move onto the next phases. If phase one is not successful, do not move onto other phases. Rohr commented the original proposal was submitted to the PRCC for consideration in May, 2016 and discussed. Later the proposal was revised and there was additional discussion. Later the proposal was revised again and ultimately voted upon January 25, 2017 wherein the PRCC voted to not approve, but, at Dresser's suggestion, there was agreement to form a subcommittee to study it further and possibly reconsider at a later date. Korth stated he would like to bring the original back for consideration, and Rohr stated he could do that as a stand-alone proposal for consideration.

Korth volunteered to work on a subcommittee to study the proposal further, as did Dresser and Craig. It was also suggested that Murdoch and Pearson join the subcommittee as well. Korth stated he wants to do something on the White River, and he wants to move this proposal forward which he thinks will help. He stated he keeps hearing there are other things that can be done, and he would like to see some of those ideas brought forward for discussion.

The suggestion was made for Dresser, Pearson, and Murdoch to get together to address the logistical questions, then follow up with a group of Dresser, Dotson, Craig, Korth, Pearson, Graf, and Murdoch.

Rohr stated the PRCC next can review and consider whatever the subcommittee concluded. Rohr further commented this subject can be placed on the agenda as a standing agenda item and receive updates regarding subcommittee activities. PRCC agreed to this path forward, and Dresser agreed to take the lead with the subcommittee and related activities.

**IX. DECISION ITEM: Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser) (See Dresser email of Wed, April 19, 2017, 9:36 am)**

- A.** Revised Fishing Derby Dates – June 23-25, 2017 – PRCC approved the requested change of Derby Dates. Rose approved by email to Rohr prior to the meeting. See discussion and comments below.
- B.** Substitution of Grand Prize(s) – ATV(s) for Boats – Dresser learned that Crescent Bar off/on Island construction taking place will not be completed by May 19-21. Accordingly, this will create issues with holding the Fishing Derby on the proposed dates. QVCC has therefore requested a change in the Derby Dates to June 23-25. Additionally, QVCC would also like to be able to substitute the grand prize(s). In the past they have awarded a couple of

boats. This year they would like to substitute the boats with an ATV(s) with no overall increases in the not-to-exceed amount approved by the PRCC of \$25,000. After discussion, PRCC members voted to not approve the requested change. Rose approved by email to Rohr prior to the meeting. In casting his vote, Carlon commented that upper management at NMFS will probably say no to funding this Fishing Derby again next year.

**X. POTPOURRI (D. Rohr)**

- A.** Discussion of May hydro tour activities –Send Rohr what you'd like to see on the Tour. May 24th
- B.** Final 2016 P&I Report filed with FERC; copies distributed – Report was filed and copies sent out to everyone
- C.** NNI Funding Guidance Document, dated 12/28/13, posted – Requested to be posted at last meeting, and McIntyre will post it to SharePoint. Tom Dresser & Bryan Nordlund were the primary authors on this document. Rohr will send a copy to everyone and discuss at next meeting.

**XI. UPDATES**

- A.** Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) - Weekly Reports are being distributed to PRCC members – Everything has been captured at this time
- B.** Spill Report (C. Dotson) - 4/19 spill started at WAN, 4/20 started at PR. Turbines turned over to fish mode. Grant spilling 3-4 weeks early due to high water flow, Fish bypass running. Fish mode until late August.
- C.** Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
  - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – no update information.
  - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Nason Creek made it through on the emergency intake structure; in July when flows are down, an inspection is planned to be completed.
  - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – no update information.
  - 4. Penticton Hatchery – no update information.
- D.** Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – No update
- E.** Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
  - 1. (Final Report Update) -- 2016 Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region” - (C. Dotson) – Close of Comment Period – Nothing to report
  - 2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth) – Danny Didricksen will attend the May meeting
  - 3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser) – Danny Didricksen will attend the May meeting
  - 4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) Rohr will be contacting Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, to provide an update near term.
  - 5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) Rohr will be contacting Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, to provide an update near term.

6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) – C. Dotson: McMichael meetings taking place. Two weeks-ago meeting/conference call narrowing in on areas to look at. Doodle pool come out looking at 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May to have that meeting. Weir on Island to remove, harbor right around that, if you lower the water CR sites, water erosion. BPA data sets. Ongoing and gaining traction in the region. \$10K seed money provided by PRCC.
7. Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser) – See Agenda Item above.
8. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) - Nothing new to report
9. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) Watching bird movement coming into Potholes area, Banks Lake, Lake Lenore.

XII. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr emailed to members

XIII. **Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report** (D. Rohr) Annual Deposit put in recently, should be getting a report fairly soon.

XIV. **Next Meeting** – Wed, May 24, 2017, Wanapum HOB Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr)

**Action Items from April 26, 2017 meeting:**

1. Regarding the estimating of survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook Salmon in Lake Wenatchee, PRCC agreed to a path forward, and Dresser agreed to take the lead with the subcommittee and related activities.

**(See Agenda Item V Above)**

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Casey Baldwin (FNW) [<mailto:Casey.Baldwin@colvilletribes.com>]

> Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 2:00 PM

> To: Denny Rohr <[drohr5@aol.com](mailto:drohr5@aol.com)>; Scott Carlon <[scott.carlon@noaa.gov](mailto:scott.carlon@noaa.gov)>; Kirk Truscott (FNW) <[Kirk.Truscott@colvilletribes.com](mailto:Kirk.Truscott@colvilletribes.com)>; Bob Rose <[rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov](mailto:rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov)>; Jim Craig <[jim\\_l\\_craig@fws.gov](mailto:jim_l_craig@fws.gov)>; Tom Dresser <[TDresse@gcpud.org](mailto:TDresse@gcpud.org)>; Curtis Dotson <[Cdotson@gcpud.org](mailto:Cdotson@gcpud.org)>; Tom Skiles <[skit@critfc.org](mailto:skit@critfc.org)>; [jeff.korth@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:jeff.korth@dfw.wa.gov); [carmen.andonaegui@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:carmen.andonaegui@dfw.wa.gov); Patrick Verhey <[patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov)>; Pat Wyena <[Pwyena@gcpud.org](mailto:Pwyena@gcpud.org)>; Doris Squeochs <[Dsqueoc@gcpud.org](mailto:Dsqueoc@gcpud.org)>; Alyssa Buck <[Abuck1@gcpud.org](mailto:Abuck1@gcpud.org)>; Rex Buck, Jr. <[Rbuck@gcpud.org](mailto:Rbuck@gcpud.org)>; Erin McIntyre <[Emcinty@gcpud.org](mailto:Emcinty@gcpud.org)>

> Subject: RE: 2017 study plans for PRCC

>

> Denny et al.,

>

> Per the discussion at the last PRCC meeting, it seems prudent to include an assessment of the level of tag battery life failure this sample size (1800) can accommodate. Curt mentioned that Skalski told him 1800 was enough to cover it, but it sounded like that is not very many more than what was used in 2016, which yielded a relatively high SE. If we could see a table showing how increased sample size would cover various rates of tag battery failure (up to and exceeding what has been observed in the past), then the Committee would have more confidence that 1800 tags will result in a study that will likely have acceptable SE. Considering discussions this winter regarding the 'validity' of past studies it might be prudent to put out more tags, but it is not possible to determine how many from the information provided in these study plans.

>

> Thanks,

>

> Casey Baldwin  
> Sr. Research Scientist  
> CCT F&W Dept.  
> 509-421-1799 (Cell)  
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> [casey.baldwin@colvilletribes.com](mailto:casey.baldwin@colvilletribes.com)  
> \_\_\_\_\_

-----Original Message-----

From: Curtis Dotson <Cdotson@gcpud.org>  
To: Denny Rohr <drohr5@aol.com>; Tom Skiles <skit@critfc.org>; Tom Dresser <TDresse@gcpud.org>; Jim Craig <jim\_l\_craig@fws.gov>; Scott Carlon <scott.carlon@noaa.gov>; Kirk Truscott <Kirk.Truscott@colvilletribes.com>; Jeff Korth (DFW) <Jeff.Korth@dfw.wa.gov>; Carmen Andonaegui (DFW) <Carmen.Andonaegui@dfw.wa.gov>; Patrick Verhey <patrick.verhey@dfw.wa.gov>; Rex Buck, Jr. <Rbuck@gcpud.org>; Alyssa Buck <Abuck1@gcpud.org>; Erin McIntyre <Emcinty@gcpud.org>; Bob Rose <rosb@yakamafish-nsn.gov>  
Sent: Wed, Apr 12, 2017 1:05 am  
Subject: Re: 2017 study plans for PRCC

> Denny, et al.

>  
> Grant PUD shares the concerns expressed in Casey's email (which I'm sure all of the PRCC shares) and Grant also has a fair amount of "fear" concerning the issue of "what if we have tag issues again".... But the process of determining the number of tags that are needed to conduct a JSATS tag survival study in the Priest Rapids Project, with a CI = 95% and a SE = < 2.5%, are the responsibilities we put onto Skalski's group (for the privilege of writing monthly checks to pay his bill). Factoring in the history of mortality rates within the PR Project, historical tag-failure rates, detection efficiency rates of our tag detection arrays, knowing we need a SE of <0.025 at a CI of 0.95; Skalski gives us the necessary sample size (with a dash of cushion built in) to conduct the study - in this case, 1800 tags.

>  
> Some of the past Grant studies tag numbers, with associated SE are:

>  
> 2014 yearling Chinook study - 1,716 tags released and a SE of 1.45%  
> 2015 steelhead study - 1,672 tags and a resulting SE of 2.03%. The SE went up to 2.74% after the PRCC voted to move the final study (analysis) detection array downstream to Hanford 1 and Hanford 2.  
> 2015 sockeye study - 1,677 tags released and a SE of 1.20%  
> 2016 steelhead study - increased the tag release to 1,800 (1,730 released) due to detection sites moved farther downstream, SE would have been 2.38%, but the tag-failure issue (12.5%) raised the SE to 3.17%

>  
> The tag-failure rates of this same type of Lotek tag in the 2014 studies and the 2015 studies were 0.4% and 0.7%. The problem one faces with putting out enough tags to cover the possibility of a "freak accident" happening (2016 study), is knowing the percentage that the "freak accident" is going to be - 5%, 12%, 17% ??? I believe that the approach to take is the same that Grant (and all the other studies out there) is to take all your known variables (determined thru history) and work them through the equation that establishes your sample size - i.e. "Skalski's job"

>  
> Prior to awarding this year's JSATS tag contract, Grant did look to see who was using the same Lotek tag - (post- 2016 spring tag production). Tacoma Power has the Cushman study presently going on now, Michigan State University has a study and Carleton University (Canada) has a study - all three of these groups are presently using the same Lotek tag we use and all three are reporting a tag failure rate of less than 1% - which is expected in the industry.

>  
> Another item that enters into this year's (2017) study is the timeframe we have until the study starts. The tag (1,850) delivery date is April 21st. and tag manufacturers are scrambling now to meet this date with the tag order of 1,850 - due to the "last minute" order that we placed. If it were decided to add

additional tags to the study, based on the time needed for getting the change order thru the contracting department, and then having the additional tags built, all before the study starts (in 2 weeks), would be very challenging.

>

> As I started this email - Grant PUD shares your concerns (100%) regarding the SE of the 2017 study, but the best we can do, with the time we have, is to follow the established protocols we have in place for conducting a study designed with a SE of < 2.5%, at a CI of 95% and believe that tag issues have been corrected.

>

> Thanks, and hope this helps,

>

> Curt.

>

--END--