



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Friday, May 09, 2014
Conference Call

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS
Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui, P. Verhey, WDFW
Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees

Scott Carlon, Bryan Nordlund, NMFS

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS

Tom Skiles, CRITFC

Bob Rose, YN

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Decision Summary:

1. PRCC members agreed that status quo remains in effect: no Trap-n-Transport and all fishways remain operating at normal conditions.

Final Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

II. Update of Wanapum Dam Activities

Dresser reported that based on direct observations on May 7th, 991 spring Chinook were recorded passing over Wanapum Dam. On May 8th, an additional 1,000 spring Chinook passed over Wanapum Dam, with the majority of them using the Wanapum Left Bank Fish Ladder (WLBFL). After the large influx of fish on May 7th, Dresser was notified that 3-4 vanes within the flume system had come loose (1"-1.5" lateral movement) and could possibly impede flume passage. NMFS staff were notified of the issue and made aware of repairs being proposed by Grant PUD Engineers. After direct observations, it was determined that fish passage was not being impacted nor were fish being injured.

Dresser explained that repairs to the WLBFL will take 5 hours and will occur at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 10th. 3 pumps will be shut off and staged contractors will be immediately

dropped in to begin work once the water stops flowing over the weir box. As water recedes, biological staff will inspect the fishway to assure that no fish have become stranded above a weir section or within the turning pools. With one pump in operation, there should be >6" of water continuing down the fishway. At about 2/3 the way down the fishway, fish attraction water will remain on, in order to continue to provide additional flows to the lower fishway.

An angler steel clip/section will be added to the bottom of the chute and back ~8" from the leading edge of the vanes, creating an additional 6' of support. The clip/section will be welded to the top of the weir box and then attached to the wooden vanes. Nordlund recommended that repairs be done to the WRBFL, because as the fish passage season progresses, the WRBFL will be used more.

Data to Date:

EVALUATION FISH = 250 (INCLUDES PIT TAGS & ACOUSTIC/PIT TAGGED FISH) – does not include PIT Fish tagged and released on 5/4 & 5/5

1. Detections at Wanapum = 177
 - a. Conversion rate = 71%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 74 hours
2. Detection at Rock Island = 89
 - a. Conversion Rate = 36%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 142 hours

EVALUATION FISH = 200 (INCLUDES PIT TAGS ONLY) – does not include PIT Fish tagged and released on 5/4 & 5/5

1. Detections at Wanapum = 132
 - a. Conversion rate = 66%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 70 hours
2. Detection at Rock Island = 61
 - a. Conversion Rate = 31%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 129 hours

EVALUATION FISH = 50 (ACOUSTIC TAG FISH ONLY)

1. Detections at Wanapum = 45
 - a. Conversion rate = 90%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 96 hours
2. Detection at Rock Island = 28
 - a. Conversion Rate = 56%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 164 hours

ACOUSTIC TAG FISH ONLY (N=45) – Travel Time Statistic within Wanapum Fishway

1. Mean Travel Time from collection channel to weir pool = 2.7 hours
2. Mean time in weir pool = 25 minutes (max has been 2.5 hours)
3. Mean travel time from collection channel to Wanapum Forebay = 3/1 hours

FALLBACK INFORMATION

1. Spring Chinook - 1 fall back and it was transported from PR OLAFT and released at Rocky Coulee.
2. Steelhead - Was detected at RI and also detected on Wanapum Array – possibly a Kelt.

ALL FISH WITH PIT TAGS INCLUDING EVALUATION FISH = 321

1. Detections at Wanapum = 200
 - a. Conversion rate = 62%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 70 hours
2. Detection at Rock Island = 89
 - a. Conversion Rate = 28%
 - b. Median Travel Time = 142 hours

SUMMARY – Things are going great. 45 of the 50 acoustic tagged fish have moved through Wanapum Dam, for a 90% conversion rate.

- III. **OLAFT MODIFICATIONS** - Dresser reported that the swing gate modifications being made to the OLAFT have been completed.
- IV. **Bar Plate Installation on the Bar Grate** – Nordlund is questioning the need to install bar plate on the bar grating, especially after seeing fish move through the WLBF as they are. He is concerned with the amount of time it will take to install, and having to dewater the fishway for it.
PRCC members agreed that status quo remains in effect: no Trap-n-Transport and all fishways remain operating at normal conditions.
- V. **Next Meeting** – May 28, 2014, SeaTac Radisson Hotel Boardroom