



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Webinar Conference

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
1:30 pm
Audio Only: 1-800-977-8002 Bridge: 45582544

Webinar Instructions

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Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey, (Alt), WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Meeting Minutes Approval:
 - A. Approval of October 29, 2014 meeting minutes
 - B. Approval of November 19, 2014 meeting minutes
- III. Agenda Review
- IV. Action Items Review – from November 19, 2014 Meeting
- V. Update of Wanapum Dam Activities (T. Dresser)
 - A. Wanapum fishways
 - B. ESA Emergency Consultation Process
- VI. Review/Discussion of 2014 Survival/Behavioral Studies Draft Reports (Close of Comments Friday, December 19, 2014) – (C. Dotson)
- VII. NNI Funding Proposal – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region” (C. Dotson)
- VIII. Updates
 - A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)

- B. Priest Rapids Bypass Operation (C. Dotson)
- C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
 - a. Carlton Acclimation Facility
 - b. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
 - c. PR Hatchery Modifications
 - d. Penticton Hatchery
- D. Hatchery Permits (T. Dresser)
 - a. Section 10 for Summer Chinook – Wenatchee Basin
 - b. Section 10 for Spring Chinook – Methow Basin
 - c. Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout – Wenatchee Basin
- E. NNI Funded Projects
 - a. Real Time Research Avian Study (C. Dotson)
 - ** Including "Comprehensive Assessment of Total Smolt Mortality in Relation to Avian Predation on the Mid- and Lower Columbia River: Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Reservoir-Specific Smolt Losses"
 - b. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson)
 - c. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I with Contract Extension (J. Korth)
 - d. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II (J. Korth)
 - e. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (J. Korth)
 - f. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (T. Dresser)
 - g. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser)
- F. Committee Reports (D. Rohr)
- G. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr)
- H. Other
- IX. Review of Next Month's Agenda Topics (D. Rohr)
- X. Next Meeting – January 28, 2015, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (D. Rohr)

Action Items from November 19th Meeting:

1. Williams to distribute October 29, 2014 meeting minutes for comment.
2. Dotson will send the Avian Studies Report PowerPoint to Rohr for distribution.
3. Committee Members to review 2015 Avian Foraging proposal prior to the December 16th PRCC meeting. Dotson will have OSU separate costs of Crescent Island and Goose Island, as it relates to satellite tagging of terns.
4. Carlon will talk to Gary Fredricks, NMFS, regarding how much money the action agencies are willing to fund for avian studies and management.
5. Dotson will send 2014 Survival/Behavioral Studies Draft Report CD's to Truscott, Rose and Skiles. A 30 day comment period was agreed upon with comments due on December 19th.
6. Rohr will discuss changing the December PRCC meeting to the afternoon of December 16, 2014, via conference call, with Mike Schiewe, HCP Coordinating Committee Chair.



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Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

1:30 pm

Webinar conference

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt), WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

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Tom Skiles, CTUIR

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Attendees

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Tom Dresser, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Distributed Items:

1. December 16, 2014 Agenda
2. Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region
3. NNI and Habitat Funds Report
4. PRFF and FCWG committee reports

Decision Summary:

1. PRCC members approved NNI Funding Proposal for "Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region", including a funding amount of up to \$1,244,000.

Action Items:

1. Rohr will follow up with email affirmation from Skiles and Truscott regarding SOA 2014-04.
2. Carlon and Dresser will do follow up work and prepare an SOA for May or June 2015 discussion of how to address the 5 year check in language in the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.
3. Rohr will research and develop information regarding avian predation funding that has taken place in the Columbia Basin, plus the funding amounts for those involved.

4. Dresser will check with the Grant Lands Department staff regarding information and follow up of 6 inactive points of diversion related to water withdrawals from the PR reservoir.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Rohr welcomed all meeting participants.
- II. **Meeting Minutes Affirmation and Approval (D. Rohr):**
 - A. October 29, 2014 – Approved
 - B. November 19, 2014 – Approved subject to additional review by Craig; Craig will provide email decision to Rohr within the week.
- III. **SOA 2014-04, Change Sockeye Study from Year 2016 to 2015 (D. Rohr)** – Rohr commented that during the November 19th PRCC meeting, except for Skiles and Truscott who were not in attendance at that meeting, members affirmed their approval of SOA 2014-04, dated October 29, 2014. During today's meeting, Skiles and Truscott requested additional time to review and affirm their approval of this SOA. Accordingly, Rohr will follow up with their affirmation of approval through email prior to the next PRCC meeting in January, 2015.
- IV. **Agenda Review (D. Rohr)** – No additions were made to the meeting agenda.
- V. **Action Items Review – from November 19, 2014 Meeting (D. Rohr)** – Rohr informed the members that the action items were either completed or to be addressed further during today's meeting.
- VI. **Update of Wanapum Dam Activities (T. Dresser)**
 - A. Wanapum Fishways - Dresser stated that the infrastructure that had been installed at the left bank ladder has been removed, with the exception of the mounting brackets external to the fishway being left intact in the extreme case they are needed again in the future. The left bank is down for annual maintenance and will remain down until December 31st. After the left bank maintenance is completed, and it is put back into service, the right bank will next be taken down for annual maintenance as well.
 - B. ESA Emergency Consultation Process - Grant has been in conversations with FERC, NOAA, and USFWS regarding when to exit the Interim Fish Passage Operations Plan and ESA Emergency Consultation Process and return to normal operations. Accordingly, Grant expects to file a letter with FERC around January 30th, which incorporates a schedule of when FERC can expect a draft Biological Assessment (BA) that evaluates the effects of the interim operations. The expectation is that FERC would review the draft BA, and after approval which is expected to occur around mid-May, they would issue an Order of Approval ending the ESA Emergency Consultation Process. Additionally, FERC would send the BA to NOAA and USFWS to be used in preparation for an associated Biological Opinion.
- VII. **Review/Discussion of 2014 Survival/Behavioral Studies Draft Reports (Close of Comments Friday, December 19, 2014) – (C. Dotson)** – Rohr reminded committee members of the close of comment time frame for this report. Additionally, Carlon raised a question regarding the 5 year check in language contained within the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. Basically, the question was related to the handling of a borderline case wherein

the check in numbers were very near, but below, the standards being desired, but perhaps the committee members were satisfied with the resultant numbers being acceptable. How is that situation to be addressed? Additionally, Truscott raised a question of survival standards being met at one project but not the other for a particular species. Dotson commented the standard to be met was that being achieved through the PR Project in total, which included both the Wanapum and Priest Rapids projects. Dotson reminded everyone that the PR Project license includes both Wanapum and Priest Rapids. Accordingly, it was noted that survival could be less than the standard desired at one project, while above the desired standard at the other project, and the average would meet the desired overall standard for the PR Project on the whole, that being 86.49 %. Moreover, regarding the check in question mentioned above, further discussion resulted in Carlon and Dresser agreeing to work together to produce a draft SOA for committee review that would address the question being raised. All agreed this was not of an urgent nature, and therefore the draft SOA would be presented to the committee members sometime in the May or June 2015 time frame for further discussion and consideration.

- VIII. NNI Funding Proposal – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region” (C. Dotson)** – Rohr distributed the proposal to committee members on November 18th, and the proposal was briefly discussed during the November 19th PRCC meeting. The intent and agreement of the members was to review the proposal and consider making a decision at the December 16th meeting.

Dotson reviewed the proposal with members. A power point presentation was used to explain some of the ongoing avian activities and related information, including avian predation management activities, activities and characteristics of certain avian populations, data that has been and is being collected, and expectations of what studies and management plans are likely to occur in 2015. Dotson explained that he had attended a recent USACE sponsored avian predation workshop held in Walla Walla, plus the Anadromous Fish Evaluation Program (AFEP) 2014 Annual Review Symposium held December 10th and 11th in Portland, wherein there was a lot of focus and discussion of avian predation. At the AFEP Symposium, study reports and information for 2014 was presented, plus an outline of some of the expectations regarding avian work to be performed in 2015. The avian studies being funded by the PRCC through use of NNI funds also received a lot of discussion. Accordingly, several committee members commented that avian predation in the Columbia Basin, plus additional areas of interest, is receiving an increased amount of attention regarding impacts on juvenile fish migration and related survival.

Committee members agreed that the PRCC funded avian studies have provided very useful information regarding avian activities and their resultant impacts upon juvenile fish survival throughout the PR Project (PRP). Further, it was noted that the information not only provides data within the PR Project (PRP), but it also provides the same data outside the PRP as these same fish travel to the Columbia River estuary. Accordingly, committee members noted that the data concludes that avian predation impacts to the nearly 8,000 tagged juvenile fish released at Rock Island Dam in 2014 for the PRCC funded studies is approximately 36 %. Further, it was also recognized that similar impacts are happening to the other juvenile fish migrants traveling throughout the Columbia Basin to the estuary. Committee members concluded that the PRCC funded avian studies are of value, and the hope and expectation is

that the federal Action Agencies will do their part in funding additional related studies in other areas of the Columbia Basin as well.

Dotson also commented that the funds budgeted for the Calendar Year 2014 avian studies for use by Real Time Research and Oregon State University have not been fully expended. Therefore, he anticipates that some funding would remain at the conclusion of the 2014 studies which could be applied to the 2015 study proposal under consideration.

Committee members continued their review and discussion of the proposal. There was agreement that the data being obtained was very useful and needed in assessing and gaining a clear understanding of the avian predation impacts on juvenile fish survival within the PRP, and also beyond the PRP. Furthermore, committee members reiterated their hope that the federal Action Agencies will do their part in funding similar studies in the Columbia Basin.

Accordingly, PRCC members approved funding the proposal from the NNI Fund for up to \$1,244,000 as presented for calendar year 2015, with the understanding that any funds remaining from the 2014 study will be applied to this 2015 study proposal. Dotson and Rohr will notify the project sponsors of the PRCC decision. Additionally, Truscott requested that Rohr research and develop information regarding avian predation funding that has taken place in the Columbia Basin, plus the funding amounts for those involved.

The PRCC again expressed much frustration that NNI funds continue to be solicited to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the avian predator populations beyond the scope of the Priest Rapids Project. The PRCC feels this information is critical to understanding the full extent of the actions thus far taken on the Columbia Basin as a whole and has agreed to this funding; however, the PRCC strongly feels that the action agencies should fund investigations outside the GCPUD project area in order to evaluate the impacts of actions taken within the project area.

IX. Updates

- A. **Inland Avian Predation Activities (Goose Island / NW Rocks Follow Up)** (C. Dotson) – Nothing additional to discussion above regarding avian predation activities.
- B. **Priest Rapids Bypass Operation** (C. Dotson) – Nothing to update.
- C. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser)
 - 1. **Carlton Acclimation Facility** – At the last meeting, Tom informed the committee members of some mortalities occurring in a particular tank at the site. The WDFW pathologists have identified the problem as Bacterial Gill Disease. This problem is treatable and treatment has been prescribed.
 - 2. **Nason Creek Acclimation Facility** – At the last meeting, Tom reported on water intake screen issues at the facility. Grant is working with WDFW on the problem. What happened was a rain event caused Nason Creek flows to increase from 100 cfs to over 3100 cfs. The debris load associated with this event, plus depth of the water over the structure installed in the river bed caused the cleaning brushes to slow down/stop, which resulted in no flow to the facility. No fish were lost and a backup solution alternative is being developed.
 - 3. **White River** – Nothing to update.

4. **PR Hatchery Modifications** – Grant and WDFW are continuing to have discussions regarding 2015 modifications.
 5. **Penticton Hatchery** – Nothing to update.
- D. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout** – Things are moving forward with the next meeting regarding Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout in the Wenatchee Basin scheduled for January 28th.
- E. NNI Funded Projects**
1. **Real Time Research Avian Study** (C. Dotson) – Nothing to update.
 2. **Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir** (C. Dotson) – Nothing to update.
 3. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension** (J. Korth) – Nothing to update.
 4. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II** – (J. Korth) – Nothing to update.

Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – Trout Unlimited -Washington Water Project (TU-WWP) has continued planning and due diligence for the Jones-Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) irrigation efficiency and instream flow enhancement project. TU-WWP conducted an in-depth historical analysis of the Jones-Shotwell Ditch Company (JSDC) through the Chelan County Assessor's Office, Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington State Archives. Documents were compiled detailing JSDC appropriation, development, and water allocation to properties throughout the Monitor flats. Additionally, a land use change assessment was performed using aerial photography and LANDSAT satellite imagery to determine changes to irrigated land from 1948 through 2013. TU-WWP is currently working with the Washington Conservation Commission and Washington Department of Ecology to secure funding and move the project from planning to implementation.
 5. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment** – (T. Dresser, J. Korth) – Tom has received email from Danny Didricksen, WDFW, informing him that he will be out with the divers in the PR reservoir on December 22nd. There were some problems with the diver's boat, so this was rescheduled to this date. Korth also received information from Didricksen that only 3 of the 9 points of diversion appear to be active, with one being the PR Hatchery intake. Didricksen has investigated all of the points of diversion using the GPS data he received from Grant. Accordingly, the older information that the PUD has does appear to still be a true assessment. Korth asked the question if Grant wants the diver's to inspect the PR Hatchery intake or is enough information already known. Dresser stated it was not necessary as there was work done recently at the location, plus also it is scheduled for repair, upgrading, and maintenance in 2017. However, the diver's will inspect the other 2 active points of diversion because they are private. Upon Didricksen's inspection at the other 6 inactive locations, there was no indication of

active withdrawal taking place. However, Dresser will do some follow work with the Grant Land Department staff to check these 6 locations further. Dresser will report back with his findings.

6. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project** (T. Dresser) – PRCC approved \$1.4 million for this project and they have expended about \$95,000 to get the project moving. A lot of this money has been for purchase of pipeline and maintenance easements. They are doing a little work on the ground which requires some landowner agreements for repair and reseed of any land that has been disturbed. There have been some other title and escrow charges plus some fees associated with the purchase of pipeline and maintenance easements.
 - F. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed via email.
 - G. **NNI and Habitat Funds Report** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed via email.
- X. **Review of Next Month's Agenda Topics** (D. Rohr) – TBD.
- XI. **Next Meeting** – January 28, 2015, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (D. Rohr)



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Memorandum

To: Denny Rohr
From: Tracy Hillman
Date: 10 December 2014
Re: FCWG Meeting Progress Report

The Fall Chinook Working Group (FCWG) met at Grant PUD in Ephrata, WA, on Tuesday, 2 December from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

Wanapum Dam Issues

- Grant PUD gave an update on the refilling of Wanapum pool. The Board of Consultants and FERC approved the interim proposal to raise the pool elevation to 558-562 feet. Refilling started on 25 November and by 1 December the pool was at 561.82 feet. Surveillance monitoring is occurring to make sure there are no issues at the dam. The reservoir shoreline continues to remain closed.

Final Report and Implementation Feasibility Study/Implementation Feasibility Plan

- The FCWG received the draft Final Report on 12 November. They have 90 days to review the report. Comments are due on Friday, 13 February 2015. At this time, no members have comments on the draft Final Report.

CRITFC Presentation on Tagging Juvenile Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Salmon

- During the period 29 May to 9 June, CRITFC was able to tag 192,739 juvenile fall Chinook with CWTs. This fell short of the goal to tag 200,000 juvenile Chinook. About 60% of the juvenile Chinook captured were large enough to tag (48-80 mm). Survival of juvenile Chinook before, during, and within 24 hours after tagging was higher in 2014 than in 2013.
- CRITFC described the PIT tagging of juvenile fall Chinook larger than 60 mm. A total of 10,088 juvenile Chinook were PIT tagged; however, 1.5% died before release. Thus, 9,941 PIT-tagged Chinook were released. These fish were also ad-clipped and tagged with CWTs.
- In general, survival from the release site to McNary Dam was between 31% and 40% and it took the fish about 24 to 30 days to travel to McNary Dam. Larger fish had higher survival rates and faster travel times than did smaller fish.

Battelle Presentation on Survival of Wild Hanford Reach and Priest Rapids Hatchery Fall Chinook Salmon Juveniles in the Columbia River

- Battelle tagged 200 hatchery Chinook (80-100 mm) on 28 May and 200 wild Chinook (80-100 mm) on 5 June with JASTS transmitters. Hatchery fish were also tagged with PIT tags. Tagged fish were then detected at 18 autonomous receiver arrays, three cabled receiver arrays, and PIT arrays.

- The cumulative survival of wild Chinook from the release site to McNary Dam and Bonneville pool was 50% and 28%, respectively. Likewise, the cumulative survival of hatchery Chinook from the release site to McNary Dam and Bonneville pool was 50% and 28%, respectively. Relative losses were greatest immediately upstream of McNary Dam. Survival of both groups was directly correlated with fish size. Both groups showed highly variable travel times. Although there were biases in the study, those biases are unlikely to change the conclusions from the study.
- Both fish and birds prey upon juvenile fall Chinook salmon; however, populations of fish predators (smallmouth bass, walleye, and channel catfish) are likely causing significant mortality in juvenile fall Chinook. The high mortality rates near dams are probably associated with migration delays, disorientation, and increased predator densities. Although several management actions have been implemented to reduce predation, additional actions could be implemented.

Hanford Reach Working Group Updates

- The last spawning survey on the Reach was conducted on 23 November. About 525 redds were counted on the Vernita Bar transect. Several redds were counted at higher elevations, but most were below the 70 kcfs elevation. The estimated escapement of fall Chinook to the Reach was about 150,000 Chinook, made up of mostly age-4 and 5 fish. Based on 2014 fall Chinook spawning ground surveys, the 2014-2015 critical flow elevation is set at the 70 kcfs elevation. All temperature and flow data are displayed in the Fixed Site Monitoring – Monthly Summary files on the Grant PUD Water Quality Website
- The FCWG/HRWG reviewed the 2013-2014 Hanford Reach Protection Program Draft Report and provided comments to Grant PUD. Grant PUD is finalizing the report.

Next Steps

The FCWG decided it would be most appropriate to next meet following the 90-day review period on the draft Final Report. Therefore, the FCWG will next meet on Tuesday morning, 17 February 2015 at Grant PUD in Ephrata, WA.



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Memorandum

To: Denny Rohr
From: Tracy Hillman
Date: 10 December 2014
Re: PRFF Meeting Progress Report

The Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) met at Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA, on Wednesday, 3 December 2014, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Wanapum Dam Issues

- Grant PUD gave an update on the refilling of Wanapum pool. The Board of Consultants and FERC approved the interim proposal to raise the pool elevation to 558-562 feet. Refilling started on 25 November and by 1 December the pool was at 561.82 feet. Surveillance monitoring is occurring to make sure there are no issues at the dam. The adult fishways are fully operational. The spiral chute and supporting infrastructure for the spiral chute were removed in mid-November. The remaining structures will be removed in December. The reservoir shoreline continues to remain closed.

White Sturgeon Updates

- Juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain and at WDFW facilities from the 2014 brood year are doing well. There has been a slight increase in juvenile mortality at the Wells and Chelan hatcheries.
- Grant PUD and others are evaluating the feasibility and application of using the Ecopath with Ecosim model as a way to estimate sturgeon carrying capacity within the project area. This information may be used to determine how many juvenile sturgeon will be released into the project area annually.
- WDFW is preparing an SOA for the release of juvenile white sturgeon in the Priest Rapids Project Area in 2016. The SOA will be similar to the 2015 SOA.

Pacific Lamprey Updates

- The PRFF received a revised draft NNI Concept Paper prepared by the Yakama Nation, Umatillas, WDFW, Colville Tribes, and WDFW. The purpose of the Concept Paper is to develop a five-year action plan for Pacific lamprey. To that end, the Concept Paper provides context and meaning of NNI, and clarity in its application. Grant PUD will provide their understanding of NNI and identify tasks and associated elements that are consistent with Grant PUD's Pacific Lamprey Management Plan and/or adaptive management requirements.
- The Pacific Lamprey Small Group will meet on Monday, 5 January 2015 at the USFWS office in Wenatchee to discuss lamprey NNI and resolve differences in definitions and tasks.
- This winter, Grant PUD will install PIT arrays upstream and downstream from the OLAFT in the left-bank ladder at Priest Rapids Dam. These arrays will help identify possible lamprey passage issues near the OLAFT.

- A total of 139 unique PIT-tagged adult lamprey have been detected at Priest Rapids Dam in 2014. These fish were tagged downstream in the Columbia River. About 91% of the tagged fish passed Priest Rapids Dam. A total of 118 unique tags were detected at Wanapum Dam. About 61% of these passed the dam. There are currently about 14 tagged lamprey in the Left Bank Ladder at Wanapum Dam. A comprehensive passage efficiency report and presentation will occur following all fish ladder outages (February or March 2015).
- The PRFF will tour the adult fish ladders in January or February.

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Grant PUD reported that they will provide the PRFF with a draft report later this month or early next month on their assessment of benthic organisms stranded in Wanapum Reservoir due to water level reductions.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on Wednesday, 7 January 2015 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, WA.