

SOA 2009-09

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee Statement of Agreement on Assessing the Feasibility of Modification of Chelan PUD's Dryden Pond to Provide Overwinter Acclimation Facilities and/or Expanded Capacity for Grant's Fish.

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: August 8, 2009

Approved by PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: September 17, 2009

Approved by PRCC: The PRCC was consulted and determined that they do not need to approve this SOA

Statement

The HSC agrees that Grant PUD should work with Chelan PUD to determine if it is possible to modify and/or expand Chelan PUD's Dryden Pond (Dryden Pond) to meet two objectives:

1. Modify Dryden Pond to provide over-winter rearing and acclimation capabilities for up to 1,142,000 Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon;
2. Expand Dryden Pond to provided capacity for up to 1,142,000 Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon (Chelan's current program of 864,000 fish and Grant PUD's 278,000 fish obligation).

In determining if it is feasible to modify and/or expand Dryden Pond, the HSC will consider the following.

1. Whether the site setting can support the modification and/or expansion.
2. Whether modification and/or expansion causes unacceptable impacts to existing Chelan PUD operations at the Dryden Weir and associated facilities including trapping operations and passage, irrigation headworks and operations, and water rights.
3. Ability of Grant and Chelan PUD to reach agreement on facility ownership and operations and maintenance.
4. Whether moving forward to modify and/or expand Dryden Pond is implementable compared to other alternatives, including consideration of cost effectiveness, timing to completion of construction, and predictability/ease of the permitting process.
5. Durability, in particular the ability of the modification and/or expansion to support Grant PUD in meeting its facility obligation for summer Chinook salmon in the Wenatchee River Basin for the duration of its FERC license.

If it is determined to be feasible to modify and/or expand Dryden Pond to meet both objectives listed above, Grant PUD will move forward with the modification and expansion with the intent that such modification and expansion would provide capacity for the Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon mitigation requirements of both PUDs until at least 2023. If it is determined that it is feasible to meet one objective but not the other (for example, to provide for overwinter

acclimation but not to expand capacity) or to only partially meet one or more objectives, Grant PUD will consult with the HSC to determine a path forward.

Background

Grant PUD is obligated by the 2006 Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement to develop, in consultation with the PRCC HSC, the facilities necessary to produce 833,000 (plus an additional 10% capacity allowance to provide flexibility) yearling summer Chinook smolts as part of the mitigation for affects of the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. The summer Chinook mitigation is split equally into the Wenatchee, Methow, and Okanogan rivers. This SOA refers only to the portion of the summer Chinook mitigation in the Wenatchee River.

The Joint Fishery Parties (JFP) believe that providing overwinter acclimation for Grant PUD's Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon at the Dryden Pond would likely allow Grant PUD's mitigation to begin in a more timely and financially efficient and biologically appropriate manner compared to Grant PUD developing a new facility in the Wenatchee basin for summer Chinook salmon. Both the Chelan PUD Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and the Grant PUD Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement call for the review and potential adjustment of salmon mitigation levels at 10-year intervals beginning in 2013. In order to provide certainty to the PUDs for a substantial length of time, in exchange for the facility improvements, the JFP agrees to forego any upward adjustment of the PUDs' mitigation Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon level through 2023. If warranted, downward adjustment may occur. In 2023, if a review of the mitigation level suggests that the production level for Wenatchee summer Chinook salmon should be increased above 1,142,000 smolts, the JFP will consider options to improve program performance before requiring Grant PUD to construct additional facilities.

Prior implementation of any modifications and/or expansion at the Dryden Pond, Chelan PUD's Rock Island HCP Hatchery Committee must also approve the modifications and/or expansion in the form of an SOA. If modification and/or expansion of the Dryden Pond goes forward, Grant PUD will fund all appropriate aspects of the facility modifications and expansion.