

**SOA 2009-10**

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee  
Statement of Agreement on Mesh Size for White River Acclimation Site Nets**

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: September 9, 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 the mesh size of net used in temporary semi-natural acclimation side-channel at the rivermile 11.5 site for Wenatchee spring Chinook in the White River should be 1/4 inch.

**Background**

Grant PUD is obligated by its FERC license to develop and carry out artificial propagation and supplementation measures to prevent the extinction of, conserve and aid in recovery of naturally spawning Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon population in the White River as part of mitigation for losses associated with operation of the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project. As part of the White River spring Chinook program, Grant PUD is evaluating acclimating fish in natural sites on the White River. A number of sites have been identified for acclimation including a natural side channel at Tall Timbers Ranch and a natural back-eddy at the McComas Site.

Nets will be used to prevent acclimating fish from escaping. The choice of net mesh size requires a balance between the feasibility of cleaning (larger mesh sizes are easier to clean and stay clean longer) and confidence in effectively keeping small fish out of the acclimation area (smaller mesh sizes present a smaller risk of fish getting into the acclimation area).