



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 June 2014
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

PRFF Members

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Carl Merkle, Umatilla Tribe
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Pat McGuire, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Jason McLellan, CCT

Attendees:

Pat McGuire, WDOE
RD Nelle, USFWS
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (Via phone)
Steve Lewis, USFWS (Via phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Bob Rose, YN
Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via phone)
Jim Powell, BC Center for Aquatic Health Sciences (Via phone)
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR (Via phone)
Debbie Williams, GCPUD (Via phone)

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review**
 - A. Action Items from last meeting – All action items were complete.
 - B. Meeting Minute Approval – May 07, 2014 – Approved with minor edits from Rose.
 - C. Additional agenda items – No additions were made to the agenda. PRFF members finalized notes from the February Juvenile Sturgeon Workshop.
- III. **Update on Wanapum Dam and Fish Passage** – Grant PUD provided a PowerPoint presentation on Wanapum Dam. The presentation included justification for an intermediate pool raise to 560-562 feet, modifications to the adult fish ladders, passage success (travel times and conversion rates), and next steps and planned activities. So far, spring Chinook are meeting all passage success criteria. Grant PUD also described their adult lamprey passage plan, which includes volitional passage through the adult fishways and trap-and-transport. They concluded the presentation by discussing juvenile survival evaluations and fish injuries.
- IV. **Update on PLMP**

- A. **NNI Update** – The PRFF discussed the next steps needed to address Pacific lamprey assessments and recovery actions for NNI. Most members agreed with moving forward with the ten objectives proposed by the Yakama Nation during the May meeting. It was noted that the PUDs are not responsible for funding all aspects of the ten objectives, only those which are consistent with Grant PUD's PLMP. The Yakama Nation will try to convene a joint meeting with the PRFF, RRFF, and ASWG to discuss the science and approaches associated with each objective. At a later date, the three groups will meet to align objectives or components of objectives with license agreements and management plans.
- B. **Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning Process** – Local experts will continue to meet to fill out templates for the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning process. The templates should be completed by the end of July.
- C. **Proposed Trap-n-Transport Options** – Grant PUD described their Standard Operating Procedures for trapping, collecting, holding, transporting, and releasing adult Pacific lamprey in response to modifications to Wanapum Dam adult ladders. The PRFF provided feedback on the timing and location of trapping, and the need to season the traps. Comments on the SOP are due to Grant PUD by Friday, 6 June. Comments from the PRFF will be incorporated into the SOP and approved by the PRFF at the July 2 meeting.

Skiles questioned the typical lamprey arrival date of August 1st outlined in the SOP. He explained that he used data from the DART website to create a histogram showing that some lamprey arrive as early as mid-July, and that CRITFC would like to see traps deployed by July 1st. Clement said Skiles recommendation would be taken into consideration. Rose suggested that all trapped lamprey be PIT-tagged with full-duplex tags in order to collect data. Clement noted that internal discussions have taken place regarding PIT-tagging lamprey, but that at this point, Grant PUD is reluctant to absorb tagging costs for a tributary study upstream of Rock Island and well outside the Priest Rapids Project Area. If the PRFF agrees that this will fulfill any mitigation to adult lamprey as a result of Wanapum Drawdown, Grant PUD would consider it. Rose suggested costs could be shared between Grant PUD and the YN. PRFF members volunteered time to tag trapped lamprey. Clement agreed that fish would be released in the Rock Island forebay or further upstream.

- D. **Other Lamprey Items** - None

V. **Update on WSMP**

- A. **Update on Dispute Resolution and Stocking Decision for 2014** – The PRFF Policy Committee is trying to find a meeting date to discuss and resolve the dispute on the total number of juvenile sturgeon to release into the Priest Rapids Project Area. Recall that the PRFF asked the Policy Committee to (1) determine the total number of juvenile white sturgeon to release into the Project Area in 2014, and (2) provide guidance or a SOA that outlines the protocols to be used to determine the appropriate release number after 2014. The Policy Committee has 60 days to decide how many, if any, of the remaining 2,168 juvenile sturgeon on station at Marion Drain should be released into the Project Area.
- B. **Broodstock Collection** – During 12 days of fishing below McNary Dam, a total of nine females and 12 males were captured and transported to Marion Drain. Grant PUD began fishing for broodstock below Rock Island Dam and so far they have collected one male and two females; two 9.5 foot-long females were released.

- C. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Hillman shared an email from Bob Dach, BIA, regarding White sturgeon information sent to the Policy dispute. Consider how to move the program in out years. **Hillman will distribute the email.**
- VI. **Next Meeting** – 2 July 2014 at Grant PUD's Wenatchee office.