



# Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

## Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 4 November 2015  
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

### PRFF Representatives

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Stephen Lewis, USFWS  
Bob Rose, YN  
Doris Squeoachs, Wanapum  
Jason McLellan, CCT  
Mike Clement, GCPUD  
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Pat McGuire, WDOE  
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR  
Keith Hatch, BIA  
Chris Mott, GCPUD  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

### Attendees

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Patrick Verhey, WDFW  
Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)  
Doris Squeoachs, Wanapum (via phone)  
Jim Powell, BCAHS (via phone)  
Donella Miller, YN (via phone)  
Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

RD Nelle, USFWS  
Stephen Lewis, USFWS  
Chris Mott, Grant PUD  
Mike Clement, Grant PUD  
Bob Rose, YN (via phone)  
Kirk Truscott, Colville (via phone)

### Action Items:

1. Patrick Verhey will follow-up with Chad Jackson on health sampling at Marion Drain and at the WDFW facilities.
2. Tracy Hillman will send a Doodle poll to members to setup at least two more joint PRFF and RRFF Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meetings.
3. Steve Lewis will provide the Forum with a paper describing the position of the USFWS on adult translocation and juvenile artificial propagation.
4. Mike Clement will have Rod O'Connor present results in February or March on adult lamprey PIT-tag studies conducted in 2015.
5. Mike Clement will provide the USFWS with last known adult lamprey locations and tag numbers in the Entiat River.

# Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review** – Bob Rose asked that Juvenile Survival Studies be removed from the agenda. The agenda was approved with the change.
- III. **Meeting Minute approval** – 4 August 2015 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

- A. **Review Action Items from August Meeting.**

- 1. Tracy Hillman will speak with Villy Christensen about estimation of carrying capacity using stage-structured models. **Complete.**
    - 2. Tracy Hillman will prepare an agenda for the White Sturgeon Subgroup regarding sturgeon monitoring. **Complete.**
    - 3. Chris Mott and Mike Clement will check with Grant PUD procurement to determine if Grant PUD can offer invited experts a stipend for travel, meals, and lodging for the White Sturgeon Workshop in October. **Complete.**
    - 4. PRFF voting members will continue to seek responses from their policy representatives on the four policy-level questions from the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup. **Ongoing**

- IV. **Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)**

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Donella Miller reported that the fish at Marion Drain are doing well. She said they were sampled yesterday and average about 27.3 fish/pound or 17 grams/fish. The fish at Marian Drain have not been tested for disease at this time. Patrick Verhey will follow up with Chad Jackson on disease sampling at Marion Drain and at WDFW facilities.
  - B. **Outcomes from the White Sturgeon Workshop** – Tracy Hillman reported that there was a good turnout for the White Sturgeon Workshop. He said that policy and technical representatives heard presentations from invited experts. Tracy said the policy representatives found the workshop very helpful and that they have a much better understanding of the current status of sturgeon within the project areas based on monitoring and evaluation results. There may be changes to the monitoring program depending on policy discussions, which will occur on Friday, 6 November 2015.

Tracy said on Friday the policy representatives will also discuss the need to develop a decision-support framework that will be used by the Forums to identify the number of juvenile sturgeon to release into the project areas. The framework may include elements such as genetics, survival rates and population growth, broodstock collection efforts, ecological interactions and food webs, carrying capacity and density dependence, and harvest opportunities.

Bob Rose said he would like concrete directions from the policy group. Bob also said the Forum needs to give more thought to monitoring potential ecological interactions. Mike Clement recommended developing an interim plan for a temporary stocking number. Mike indicated he would begin drafting an interim SOA. Jason McLellan recommended that the policy representatives discuss the risk of actions taken and also those not taken. Tracy asked the technical representatives to meet with their policy representatives to make sure the policy representatives are well prepared for the policy meeting on Friday.

The Policy Representatives will meet at Chelan PUD from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday, 6 November 2015.

- C. **Update from Sturgeon Subgroup Meeting** – Tracy Hillman reported that on Wednesday, 2 September the White Sturgeon Subgroup met to evaluate the current monitoring program, identify any data gaps, and propose ways to fill gaps. Tracy said that Chris Mott provided a presentation on the subgroups findings during the Sturgeon Workshop in October.

Chris Mott said they recently completed 2015 adult monitoring. He noted that in 2016 they will conduct juvenile index monitoring and conduct a pilot study to test side-scanning sonar to detect adult sturgeon within the project area. Chris said the subgroup recommended conducting annual juvenile index monitoring through 2018 and seasonal sampling of gut contents to better understand the seasonal diets of sturgeon. Jason McLellan added that the increased frequency of juvenile sampling will increase precision. He noted that the mark-recapture models used in the indexing program require a minimum of five sampling occasions, where each year represents a sampling occasion. Bob Rose stated there is a need for more ecosystem or reservoir sampling to better understand ecological interactions.

Chris stated that Grant PUD is still exploring long-term egg collection efforts. Fish from these collections will be used in the stocking program. Chris also noted they will use angling to capture CRITFC sturgeon during different times of the year. These fish will be sacrificed to examine their seasonal diets. Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD is still discussing this work internally. Bob recommended that the Forum wait to hear from the policy representatives on what level of monitoring will be recommended for the future.

- D. **Monitoring Updates** – Chris Mott reported that they have no adult population estimates from the mark-recapture work conducted this year by Golder. Chris said they captured large numbers of fish, many of which were CRITFC sturgeon. They examined the CRITFC fish for gonad maturation. They found that some male CRITFC fish will likely spawn next year. There is a risk these males will spawn with wild fish. Chris said they will try to produce and distribute the monitoring report as soon as possible.

## V. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP)

- A. **NNI (No Net Impact): Update from Joint PRFF and RRF Lamprey Subgroup Meetings** – Tracy Hillman reported that the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup met twice to discuss technical issues associated with proposed actions in Bob Rose's spreadsheet. The Subgroup identified two categories of actions: (1) those that address adult NNI and (2) those that don't address NNI issues. Tracy reviewed the proposed Adult NNI Actions: (1) Translocation of Adults to Tributaries to Supplement Natural Production of Pacific Lamprey; (2) Artificial Propagation and Release of Juvenile Pacific Lamprey to Supplement Natural Production in Tributaries; (3) Juvenile Population and Habitat Monitoring; and (4) Adult Movement and Behavior within Tributaries. He also reviewed the proposed Non-NNI Actions: (1) Adult Pacific Lamprey Movement and Behavior within Reservoirs; (2) Presence of Juvenile Pacific Lamprey within Reservoirs; and (3) Juvenile Pacific Lamprey Pilot Passage Studies. There are still a number of tasks the subgroup needs to complete. Tracy will send a Doodle poll to the subgroup members to setup at least two more joint PRFF and RRF subgroup meetings. Tracy will continue to give updates to the PRFF.

Mike Clement asked Steve Lewis to provide the Forum with the USFWS position on translocation of adult Pacific lamprey into tributaries. Steve said he will provide the Forum with a paper describing the position of the USFWS on adult translocation and juvenile artificial propagation.

Mike asked Bob Rose to describe the purpose of the recent release of 100+ adult lamprey into the upper Methow River basin by the Yakama Nation. Bob indicated that the release was part of the Yakama Nation Lamprey Program with some funding from the Accords. Bob suggested that members look at the Methow recovery site to get more information. Kirk Truscott recommended

that the Yakama Nation coordinate with the Colville Tribes if the Yakama Nation intends to release additional fish in the Methow River basin.

- B. **Update on Priest Rapids and Wanapum Adult Lamprey HDX-PIT Study** – Mike Clement reported that 100 adult lamprey were tagged with sonic tags. A total of 70 were released in the Wanapum Dam forebay and 30 into the Priest Rapids Dam forebay. Of the 70 released at Wanapum, 56 were detected in the Rock Island tailrace. Of the 30 released at Priest Rapids, 19 were detected in the Rock Island tailrace. The minimum travel time was 1.9 days. The longest travel time was 26 days. The average travel time was 4.5 days, which is comparable to lower river travel times.

Mike then identified last detections of these fish. There is one by Goose Island just upstream of Priest Rapids Dam. There are currently six in the Wanapum tailrace, one in the forebay at Wanapum, two by Sunland, and two by Crescent Bar. There are 40 in the Rock Island tailrace or fishway, 35 in the Rocky Reach fishway or tailrace, and three in the Entiat River. A total of 13 are near Ducktail Rock, 17 around the mouth of the Entiat, one at the Wells tailrace, and four in the Wenatchee River. Mike noted that these are very preliminary results at this time.

Mike stated that of the 100 tags released, eight have not been detected. Mike noted they have measured a passage efficiency of about 75% through both of Grant's reservoirs. He said he will have Rod O'Connor present this information as part of Grant's annual summary presentation in February or March. One more survey needs to be completed this year.

- C. **Priest Rapids and Wanapum Adult Lamprey HD-PIT Study** – Mike Clement stated that they PIT-tagged 130 adult lamprey and released them into the lower left-bank fish ladder at Priest Rapids Dam. Of the 130 fish tagged and released in the lower ladder, 112 exited the ladder representing a 95.5% passage efficiency. Of the 112 that exited the ladder, 96 were detected at Wanapum Dam, indicating a 86.5% passage efficiency at Wanapum Dam. Mike indicated that he shared the tag numbers with Steve Hemstrom at Chelan PUD. Thus, the fish can be tracked at upstream dams.

Mike noted that there were 1-2 sturgeon observed downstream from the OLAF, but they disappeared after the sockeye run was complete. He stated that the ladders will be dewatered beginning on 16 November. A protocol was developed to reduce the amount of stranded fish. Mike will provide the USFWS with last known fish locations and tag numbers in the Entiat River.

- D. **USFWS Distribution Sampling** – RD Nelle reported on juvenile lamprey distribution work conducted by the USFWS this fall. They sampled in the upper Methow, upper Twisp, Okanagan, Peshastin Creek, and the Mad River. They did not find any lamprey during the surveys. He said they also sampled within upper Tumwater Canyon and found no lamprey there. However, sampling below Tumwater Dam revealed the presence of juvenile lamprey there.

**VI. Next Meeting** – 2 December 2015 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA.