

**BY ELECTRONIC FILING**

April 14, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20426

**RE: Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project No. 2114-182 License Compliance Filing  
Article 414 - 2017 Bald Eagle Perch/Roosting Protection Plan annual report, and request for  
amendment to the Plan**

Dear Secretary Bose,

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (Grant PUD) respectfully submits to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) its 2017 Bald Eagle Perch/Roosting Protection Plan (Plan) Annual Report. In addition, Grant PUD is also requesting approval for an amendment to the Plan related to the number of annual eagle surveys that are conducted as part of the Plan, as well as minor adjustments to nest management (see additional detail below).

On April 10, 2009, Grant PUD filed its Bald Eagle Perch/Roosting Protection Plan (Plan) with FERC. FERC issued an Order on January 19, 2010 approving the Plan pursuant to Article 414 of the Priest Rapids Project<sup>1</sup>. Per FERC's approval of the Plan, Grant PUD is required to provide annual reports to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Wanapum and FERC by April 30 of each year.

Grant PUD is reporting its progress on the implementation activities related to this plan for the period from March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2017. The 2017 annual report presents results from daytime eagle-use surveys, communal roost site surveys, nest occupancy and productivity surveys, perch/roost tree protection efforts, and provides an update on riparian planting efforts.

As part of this report, Grant PUD is also requesting an amendment to the Plan related to the number of annual eagle surveys conducted. Over the past seven seasons Grant PUD has documented an annual average population of 347 eagles within the Project boundaries. Eagle observations have come from 11 perch and roosting tree surveys (3 summer/8 winter). Grant PUD proposes to stop conducting the 3 summer surveys and reduce the 8 winter surveys to 4 for the following reasons:

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<sup>1</sup> 130 FERC ¶ 62,054 (2010).

- Summer surveys only identify resident eagles (often fledglings) and rarely find more than a few eagles within the Project.
- Reducing winter surveys to 4 would allow for the monitoring of eagle usage over the peak occupancy period of December through March.
- The data from these surveys would still be compatible with previous years.
- Reducing the number of required surveys would allow for a safer work environment because optimal days would be selected rather than whatever the conditions (e.g. high winds, extreme cold, etc.) may be when Grant PUD crews are available.
- Reducing the number of surveys would allow for the allocation of staff and resources to go to future vegetation plantings, exclusion wire efforts, and nest occupancy and success surveys.

In addition to the proposed amendments to the number of eagle surveys, Grant PUD is also proposing that all eagle nests within the Project be managed in accordance with the USFWS national bald eagle management guidelines, and that no further individual nest management plans be created or renewed. With the likelihood that there will be more nests within the Project in the years to come as the population of eagles statewide has increased significantly, managing nests in accordance with a single management guideline will allow for consistent management of any existing or future eagle nests.

Grant PUD consulted with the USFWS and WDFW regarding these changes, and they both concurred with the proposed amendments to the Plan. Documentation related to this consultation is provided in Appendix B of the report.

Consistent with the License and modifying and approving Order, the enclosed document has been provided to the USFWS, WDFW and the Wanapum.

Respectfully,



Ross Hendrick  
Manager - License & Environmental Compliance

Cc: Jessica Gonzales – USFWS  
Steve Lewis – USFWS  
Patrick Verhey – WDFW  
Alyssa Buck - Wanapum

**Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project No. 2114  
2017 Annual Report for the Bald Eagle Perch/Roost Protection Plan  
Pursuant FERC Article 414**

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington  
P.O. Box 878  
Ephrata, WA 98823

**April 2017**

## Executive Summary

On January 19, 2010, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Perch/Roost Protection Plan pursuant to Article 414 of the license for the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project No. 2114 (Project). Within this 2017 annual report, the Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, WA (Grant PUD) is reporting its progress on the implementation activities related to this plan for the period from March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2017. The 2017 annual report presents results from daytime eagle-use surveys, communal roost site surveys, nest occupancy and productivity surveys, perch/roost tree protection efforts, and provides an update on riparian planting efforts.

A total of 221 eagle observations were made during the project-wide surveys, distributed throughout the Project (Table 1; Figure 1). The surveys on January 25, 2017 yielded the single greatest Project-wide survey count of 124 total eagles.

Three existing bald eagle nests were monitored during the 2017 reporting year. All three nests were successful in producing a fledgling. The Cove nest produced a fledgling on June 27, 2016, the Goose Island nest produced a fledgling on July 6, 2016 and the A-6 nest produced a fledgling on June 30, 2016.

A total of four communal roost sites were documented during the 2017 reporting period surveys. The communal roost site with the greatest eagle use was at Scammon Landing, where 11 eagles were documented. The other three communal roost areas were located at Frenchman Coulee within the Wanapum Reservoir and Goose Island and the “S” curves within the Priest Rapids Reservoir (Table 3).

Grant PUD installed and/or maintained perch tree plantings at nine sites throughout the Project: Apricot Orchard, Columbia Cliffs, Rattlesnake Cove, Frenchman Coulee, Rocky Coulee, Vantage, Sand Hollow, Buckshot and Priest Rapids Recreation Area. Grant PUD is continuing to monitor and maintain these plantings throughout the 2018 reporting period as well as pursue additional locations.

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## 1.0 Introduction

On January 19, 2010, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Perch/Roost Protection Plan pursuant to License Article 414 for the Priest Rapids Project No. 2114 (Project)<sup>1</sup>. FERC's approval of Article 414 requires the Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (Grant PUD) to file an annual progress report to FERC, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and that the annual report shall cover the dates of March 16 through March 15 of the following year.

Activities related to the Bald Eagle Perch/Roost Protection Plan were implemented in coordination with other plans required by the license for the Project during the 2017 reporting period (March 16, 2016–March 15, 2017). This includes the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (Article 409); Wildlife Habitat Monitoring and Information and Education Plan (Article 410); Transmission Line Avian Collision Protection Plan (Article 411); Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plant Monitoring Plan (Article 413); Programmatic Agreement (Article 416); the Memorandum of Agreement between Grant PUD and the Wanapum (Article 417); Priest Rapids Recreation Resource Management Plan (Article 418); the Shoreline Management Plan (Article 419); and the provisions of the Historic Properties Management Plan.

## 2.0 Materials and Methods

The following sections depict the materials and methods used during the 2017 reporting year for eagle-use surveys.

### 2.1 Eagle Surveys

Over the past seven seasons Grant PUD has documented an annual average population of 347 eagles within the Project boundaries. Eagle observations have come from 11 perch and roosting tree surveys (3 summer/8 winter). In summer of 2016, Grant PUD, USFWS, and WDFW agreed to reduce the number of day-use surveys within the Project from eleven to four (stop conducting the 3 summer surveys and reduce the 8 winter surveys to 4) for the following reasons:

- Summer surveys only identify resident eagles (often fledglings) and rarely find more than a few eagles Project wide.
- Reducing winter surveys to 4 would allow for the monitoring of eagle usage over the peak occupancy period of December through March.
- The data from these surveys would still be compatible with previous years.
- Reducing the number of required surveys would allow for a safer work environment because optimal days would be selected rather than whatever the conditions may be when Grant PUD crews are available.
- Reducing the number of surveys would allow for the allocation of staff and resources to go to future vegetation plantings, exclusion wire efforts, and nest occupancy and success surveys.

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<sup>1</sup> 130 FERC ¶ 62,054 (2010)

Appendix B provides the consultation record related to this change. Grant PUD conducted daytime eagle-use surveys, communal roost tree surveys, and nest surveys from March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2017.

### **2.1.1 Day-Use Surveys**

A total of four daytime eagle-use surveys were conducted within the Project to document areas of eagle use (Table 1). These surveys were boat-based and each survey was composed of a single and complete pass of Wanapum and Priest Rapids reservoirs. All four day-use surveys were conducted during the winter migration period (November 15 - March 15). Eagle-use surveys recorded the date, weather conditions, surveyors, specific reservoir (i.e. Wanapum or Priest Rapids), survey start time, and survey end time. Additionally, each eagle observation had the following data recorded:

- 1). observation time;
- 2). number observed;
- 3). species (i.e., bald, golden, unknown);
- 4). maturity (i.e., mature, juvenile, unknown);
- 5). Geographic Positioning System (GPS) point (NAD 84, Decimal Degrees);
- 6). location description;
- 7). perch structure/soaring (i.e., on ground, perch pole, tree, rock, cliff, soaring,); and
- 8). observation notes.

Eagle species were identified as bald, golden, or unknown. Eagle maturity status was identified as either: mature, juvenile, or unknown. Bald eagles exhibiting a white head and tail were classified as mature. Juvenile bald eagles were classified by variable amounts of white on their belly, back, and wings. Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) exhibiting a solid brown body, black tail, and golden feathering on their nape and upperwing coverts were classified as mature. Juvenile golden eagles were classified by a dark body with white bases on their outer secondary feathers and inner primary feathers with a tail that might be white with a thick or black terminal band (Alsop 2001).

### **2.1.2 Communal Roost Site Survey**

Grant PUD conducted four eagle communal roost surveys during the 2017 reporting period. Communal roost site eagle surveys were initiated 30 minutes before sunset and continued till twilight. Communal roost sites are defined as trees with three or more eagles perched in them. Trees that were classified as communal roost sites had the following data recorded: date, survey start time, time of sunset, time of civil twilight, observation time, count of eagles, species, GPS point, location description, and a date/time stamped photograph when possible.

### **2.1.3 Nest Surveys**

Eagle nest surveys of known nests were performed to monitor nest occupancy, activity, and productivity in a manner consistent with WDFW protocols. In general, the methodologies for eagle nest surveys are as follows:

- 1). Nest occupancy surveys were conducted during the last week of February through the first week of March in good weather;
- 2). A minimum of three hours were spent at each known nest site in the morning hours unless eagle occupancy was established at arrival.

- 3). If eagle occupancy was established at arrival, the information was recorded, and the surveyor vacated the area to avoid disturbing the nesting pair of eagles.
- 4). If nest occupancy was not determined on the first survey, a second nest occupancy survey was conducted.

In addition, any evidence of new nesting activity will be documented and monitored as per the occupancy protocols above.

## **2.2 Eagle, Perch Tree, Roost Time, and Nest Protection Efforts**

Grant PUD implemented measures to protect eagle perch, roost, and nesting trees through wire exclusion and site management plans. Eagle roost and nest trees are wrapped with exclusion wire to protect the trees from beaver damage. The installation of exclusion wire on eagle day-use perch trees is prioritized according to nearby beaver activity, nearby nesting eagles, the tree species, or the trees that are identified as communal roost trees. As part of managing and supporting eagles that nest within or adjacent to the Project, Grant PUD maintains 17 perch, roost, and nesting structures located throughout the Project. Grant PUD also contracts with a licensed nuisance wildlife control officer (NWC) to assist with the removal of problem beavers throughout the Project that pose a threat to perch, roost and nesting trees.

## **2.3 Riparian Plantings**

Throughout the 2017 reporting period Grant PUD planted and/or maintained a number of black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*) and ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) in an effort to establish additional eagle perch trees throughout the Project. Ponderosa pine was planted as an established potted plant, while black cottonwood was planted in both potted and stake varieties. Grant PUD continues to explore additional planting locations that will be compatible with Memorandum of Agreement between Grant PUD and the Wanapum (Article 417) and the provisions of the Historic Properties Management Plan.

## **3.0 Results and Discussion**

The following sections detail the results from the 2017 reporting year.

### **3.1 Eagle Surveys**

Grant PUD conducted daytime eagle-use surveys, communal roost tree surveys, and nest surveys from March 16, 2016 to March 15, 2017 (Table 1).

#### **3.1.1 Day-Use Surveys**

Grant PUD performed four Project-wide, day-use eagle surveys between November 15, 2016 and March 15, 2017. A total of 221 eagles were observed during the four surveys (Table 1). A map showing Project-wide distribution of the eagle observations is presented in Figure 1. A total of 205 eagles were identified as bald eagles, while the remaining 16 were documented as golden eagles. The surveys on January 25, 2017 yielded the greatest Project-wide survey count of 124 eagles. The lowest single-day, project-wide survey counts recorded were on March 14, 2017 when 21 eagles were observed. The survey conducted on January 25 yielded the greatest single day count of eagles in the eight years of monitoring. Table 2 provides a year-to-year comparison of day-use survey results across the annual monitoring periods following licensing in 2008.



**Table 1 The Priest Rapids Project eagle survey counts conducted for November 15, 2016 – March 15, 2017.**

Reservoir	Date	Bald Eagles		Golden Eagles		Reservoir Sum	Survey Sum
		Mature	Juvenile	Mature	Juvenile		
Priest Rapids	12/7/2016	8	4	2	0	14	24
Wanapum		9	0	1	0	10	
Priest Rapids	1/25/2017	16	34	2	0	52	124
Wanapum		35	32	5	0	72	
Priest Rapids	2/28/2017	2	7	0	0	9	52
Wanapum		23	15	2	3	43	
Priest Rapids	3/14/2017	4	4	0	0	8	21
Wanapum		5	7	1	0	13	
Column Totals		102	103	13	3	221 *	221
Notes:							
*Wanapum Reservoir had 138 documented observations; Priest Rapids Pool had 83 documented observations.							

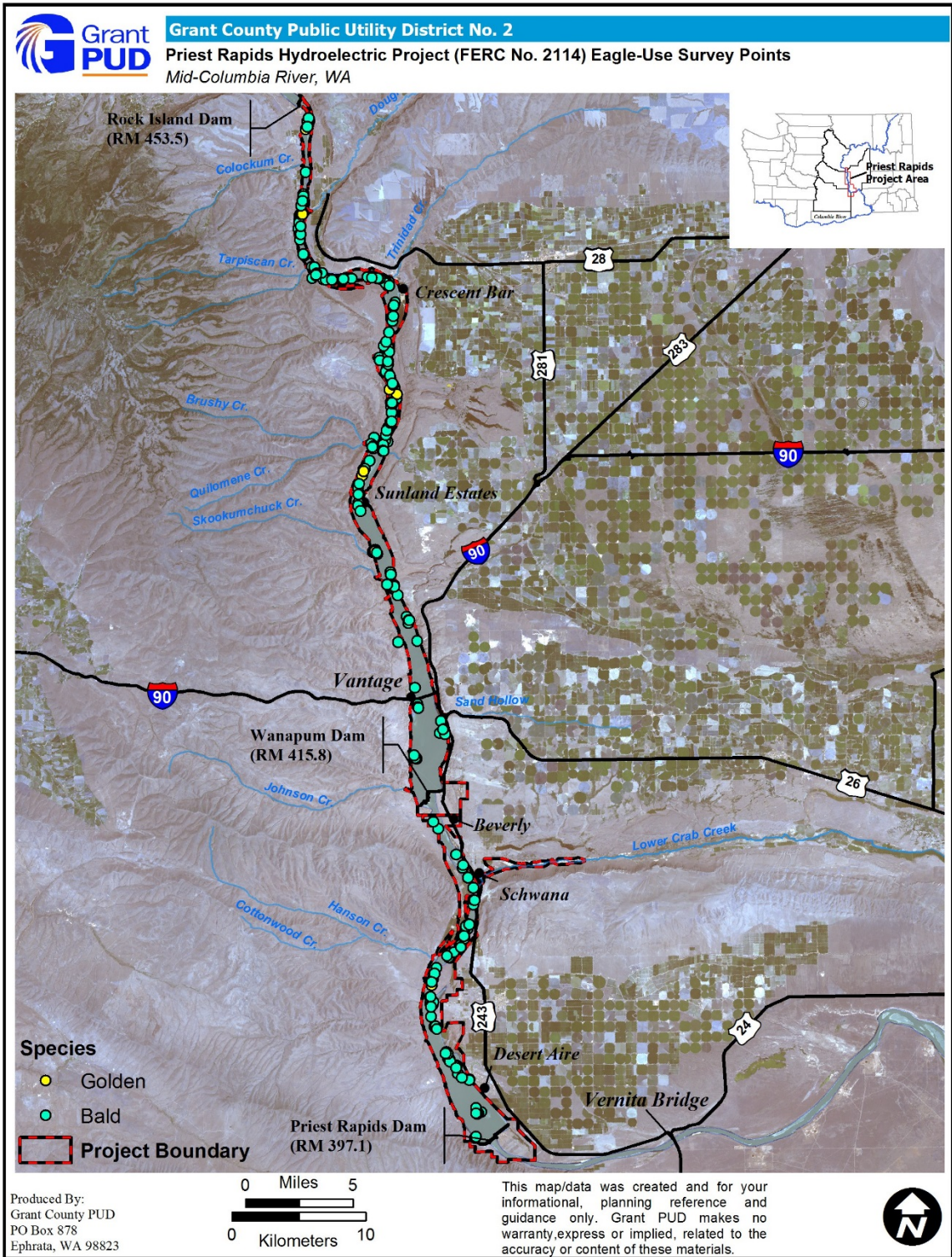
**Table 2 The Priest Rapids Project annual eagle survey results from 2009 – 2017.**

Reservoir	Date	Bald Eagles		Golden Eagles			Unknown	Reservoir Sum	Survey Sum
		Mature	Juvenile	Mature	Juvenile	Unknown			
Priest Rapids	2009-2010 <sup>1</sup>	15	8	4	3	0	3	33	81
Wanapum		19	24	2	2	1	0	48	
Priest Rapids	2010-2011	44	51	16	3	0	0	116	361
Wanapum		118	95	29	3	0	0	245	
Priest Rapids	2011-2012	54	77	2	1	0	0	134	374
Wanapum		102	118	13	5	0	2	240	
Priest Rapids	2012-2013	29	70	1	0	0	0	100	318
Wanapum		82	133	2	1	0	0	218	
Priest Rapids	2013-2014	60	45	3	2	0	0	110	292
Wanapum		84	74	19	5	0	0	182	
Priest Rapids	2014-2015	63	90	0	0	0	0	153	365
Wanapum		96	95	20	1	0	0	212	
Priest Rapids	2015-2016	63	53	3	0	0	0	119	374
Wanapum		129	106	19	1	0	0	255	
Priest Rapids	2016-2017 <sup>2</sup>	30	49	4	0	0	0	83	221
Wanapum		72	54	9	3	0	0	138	
Annual Averages	PRD	52	64	4	1	0	0	122	347
	WAN	102	104	17	3	0	1	225	

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Eagle Surveys reported in 2010 were based on surveys made two days (February 25, 2010 and March 4, 2010), and are not included in averages. Survey protocols modified following 2009-2010 period to 11 surveys.

<sup>2</sup>Eagle surveys reported in the 2017 season were based on four surveys and are not included in the average. Survey protocols modified following the 2016 period to 4 surveys.



**Figure 1** 2016 – 2017 eagle use observations within the Priest Rapids Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

### 3.1.2 Communal Roost Surveys

A total of four communal roost surveys were conducted for the 2017 report period during the peak of eagle use (Table 3). No new communal roost sites were documented during these surveys.

**Table 3 2017 Communal Roost Survey Results**

Date	Priest Rapids/ Wanapum Pool	GPS Northing	GPS Westing	Eagle (n)	Golden/Bald	Notes
1/19/2017	Wanapum	47.04	120.0218	11	Bald	Scammon's Landing
1/25/2017	Priest Rapids	46.0065	119.9293	9	Bald	Goose Island
2/2/2017	Wanapum	47.001	119.9931	5	Bald	Frenchman Coulee
2/2/2017	Wanapum	47.04	120.0218	8	Bald	Scammon's Landing
2/7/2017	Priest Rapids	46.786	119.9285	4	Bald	Left bank below "S" Curves
2/7/2017	Priest Rapids	46.0065	119.9293	6	Bald	Goose Island

### 3.1.3 Nest Survey Results

Three previously documented bald eagle nests, identified as WDFW Bald Eagle Nest Territory 1703 (Wanapum Pool Right Bank/Johnson Creek/Getty's Cove (The Cove)) and Bald Eagle Nest Territory 1820 (Priest Rapids Pool/Goose Island) and the A-6 nest (Wanapum Pool, opposite Apricot Orchard Boat Launch) were monitored during the 2017 reporting period. The nest within Territory 1703 has produced a juvenile bald eagle in five of the last six years (2010-2016). On June 27, 2016 the nest located at The Cove produced a successful fledgling. The nest was checked again in early March of 2017, and the nest is again occupied with incubation behavior observed. Monitoring results for the 2017 nesting season will be presented in the 2018 annual report.

The nests within WDFW Bald Eagle Nest Territory 1820 were Nest 1 (1820-1) for 2010, Nest 2 (1820-2) for 2011, and Nest 3 (1820-3) for 2012. Nest 1820-1 was unsuccessful in 2010, and the top of the nest tree broke off in January 2011 which ultimately destroyed Nest 1820-1. Nest 1820-2 was first documented on March 3, 2011, and the nest was not successful in 2011. In 2012, the eagles built Nest 1820-3; however, the eagles continued to nest in Nest 1820-2. The productivity of the Nest 1820-2 was unknown in 2012. Adults were seen incubating in March 2013 and 2014 on Nest 1820-3, but nest success was unknown due to nest location and tree foliage limiting observations. A July 6, 2016 survey documented Nest 1820-3 successful with a fledgling soaring over Goose Island on July 6, 2016.

Another nest site was located just north and east of Crescent Bar in a ponderosa pine tree above a basalt cliff face on the right bank of the Columbia River. The basalt cliff is referred to locally as the A-6 wall, so Grant PUD staff is referring to the nest at this location as the A-6 nest. The A-6 nest was successful in 2015. It was once again successful in 2016 producing a juvenile bald eagle that fledged on June 30, 2016.

## 3.2 Eagle Perch Tree, Roost Tree, and Nest Protection Efforts

During the 2017 reporting period, Grant PUD did not wrap any trees for beaver protection. Grant PUD proactively and aggressively wrapped trees during the 2010-2012 reporting periods and did not discover a need for tree wrapping during the 2017 reporting period, however, additional

surveys will be conducted during the summer of 2017 to assess the need for repairs to existing wraps and/or wrap new trees. Grant PUD contracted with a certified NWCO to remove problem beavers at select locations within the Project during the 2017 reporting period and has plans to continue throughout the 2018 reporting period.

### **3.3 Riparian Plantings**

Grant PUD planted and/or maintained a number of ponderosa pine and black cottonwood throughout the Project. Perch tree plantings are located at nine select locations throughout the Project: Apricot Orchard, Columbia Cliffs, Rattlesnake Cove, Frenchman Coulee, Rocky Coulee, Vantage, Sand Hollow, Buckshot and Priest Rapids Recreation Area. Grant PUD will continue to monitor these plantings throughout 2017 and explore additional areas within the Project for future plantings.

### **4.0 Summary**

The numbers of bald eagles using the Project have increased over the last decade. The greatest documented use during the year has occurred in the later part of January to February. Golden eagles continue to be present in the Project, but not in large numbers.

The 2017 reporting period documented success at all three nests within the Project. The Cove nest produced a fledgling on June 27, 2016, the Goose Island nest produced a fledgling on July 6, 2016 and the A-6 nest produced a fledgling on June 30, 2016. Grant PUD plans to continue monitoring all nesting sites within the Project through 2017. In addition, Grant PUD will follow federal guidelines as they pertain to managing grounds around nesting sites until juveniles have fledged.

Grant PUD installed a number of perch tree plantings at nine sites throughout the project. These plantings will be closely monitored and maintained throughout 2017. Grant PUD will also pursue additional locations that will support perch tree plantings through the remainder of 2017 and report on any progress in the 2018 report. Future tree protection efforts are planned to be directed in response to beaver activity at known areas of eagle use. Grant PUD will continue to collaborate with the Wanapum and Cultural Resources Department in the selection of future planting areas and methodologies.

## List of Literature

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- Western Forestry and Conservation Association (WFCA). 2010. Restoration of Disturbed Sites with Native Plants: An Integrated Approach. June 14–17, 2010. Wenatchee, WA.

**Appendix A**  
**Bald Eagle Nest Locations**

**Bald Eagle Territory #1703**  
**Wanapum Pool Right Bank**



Nest #	Zapped	Nest Description
1703-2	No	Bald Eagle Nest at The Cove LAT 46.8803LONG -119.9927 Legal Description: T16-ON R23-OE S18



**Bald Eagle Territory #1820**  
**Priest Rapids Pool – Goose Island**

0-2



Nest #	Zapped	Nest Description
1820-2	No	Bald Eagle Nests on Priest Pool – Goose Island LAT 46.6622LONG -119.9912 Legal Description: T14-ON R23-OE S34
1820-3	No	

**Bald Eagle Nest A-6**  
**Wanapum Pool**



Nest #	Nest Description
A-6	Lat 47.2250 Long -120.0829

**Appendix B**  
**Email Confirmation of Management Plan Changes**

**From:** [Lewis, Stephen](#)  
**To:** [Patrick Verhey](#)  
**Cc:** [Joseph LeMoine](#); [John Monahan](#); [Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel](#)  
**Subject:** [possible spam] Re: Proposed changes to eagle management  
**Date:** Friday, August 12, 2016 4:17:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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USFWS approves as well. S-

On Wed, Aug 10, 2016 at 3:05 PM, Verhey, Patrick M (DFW)

<[Patrick.Verhey@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Patrick.Verhey@dfw.wa.gov)> wrote: Joe,

WDFW approves.



**Patrick Verhey**

Renewable Energy Biologist WDFW

Habitat Program Renewable Energy

Section 1550 Alder St N.W.

Ephrata, WA 98823

(509) 754-4624 ex. 213

[Patrick.Verhey@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Patrick.Verhey@dfw.wa.gov)

Work schedule is M-Th

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**From:** Joseph LeMoine [mailto:[Jlemoire@gcpud.org](mailto:Jlemoire@gcpud.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 10, 2016 11:29 AM  
**To:** Verhey, Patrick M (DFW); Steve Lewis ([Stephen.Lewis@fws.gov](mailto:Stephen.Lewis@fws.gov))  
**Cc:** John Monahan; Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel  
**Subject:** Proposed changes to eagle management

Hello Patrick and Steve,

I apologize for getting a synopsis of our proposed changes to the Bald Eagle Perch/Roosting Protection Plan to you a little tardy, but my son did not keep his due date and decided to come early. I know we discussed a number of ideas and wanted to give you a clean copy to go over to see if we are still in agreement.

Over the past seven seasons Grant PUD has documented an annual average population of 347 eagles within the Project boundaries. Eagle observations have come from 11 perch and roosting tree surveys (3 summer/8 winter). Grant PUD proposes to stop conducting the 3 summer surveys and reduce the 8 winter surveys to 4.

1. Summer surveys only identify resident eagles (often fledglings) and rarely find more than a few eagles Project wide.
2. Reducing winter surveys to 4 would allow for the monitoring of eagle usage over the peak occupancy period of December through March.
  - The data from these surveys would still be compatible with previous years. We would be able to compare everything as before with the only difference being a 4 survey total rather than an 8 survey total.
  - This would allow for a much safer work environment because optimal days would be selected rather than whatever the conditions may be when you have crew availability.
  - Reducing the number of surveys would allow for the allocation of staff and resources to go to future vegetation plantings (scheduled this fall), exclusion wire efforts, and nest occupancy and success surveys.

There are now 3 active nests within the Project that we monitor with the addition of the A6 nest. There is also a likelihood that there will be more nests within the Project in the years to come as the population of eagles statewide has increased significantly. With this in mind, Grant PUD proposes that all nests Project wide be managed in accordance with the USFWS national bald eagle management guidelines and that no further individual nest management plans be created or renewed.

Grant PUD is not looking to decrease the amount of effort that goes into managing eagles, rather we are looking to shift staff and resources to into something that makes sense for eagles and everyone involved. I feel that that the last seven years of surveying under the current methods has provided us with enough data that we can now make some adjustments. If we are able to focus our surveying efforts on the peak usage portion of the year and enforce a standard nest management approach, it will not only continue to provide protection and adequate data that is compatible with previous years, but also allow for

increased plantings, predator control, nest occupancy and nest success surveys to be conducted.

With your approval via email, we will proceed with implementing these changes immediately and document program modifications in an updated Bald Eagle Management Plan to be completed before the end of this year and in the Annual Report that will be submitted to FERC. I look forward to continue to collaborate on management decisions as we move forward and am more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Joe LeMoine FWWQ

Biologist

509-764-0500 Ext: 2690

--

\*\*\*\*\* Stephen T. Lewis

Hydropower and Energy Coordinator US FISH  
AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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*"If a road has no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead to anywhere." S. Lewis*