



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Conference Call

Wednesday, 2 February 2022
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

FINAL MINUTES

PRFF Members

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN
Johnny Buck, Wanapum
Jason McLellan, Bret Nine, CCT
Mike Clement, Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Marchelle Foster, BIA
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Meeting Attendees

Jason McLellan, CCT
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Nathan Patterson, YN
Steve Lewis, USFWS
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Bao Le, HEC
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Ralph Lampman, YN
Johnny Buck, Wanapum
Laura Heironimus, WDFW
RD Nelle, USFWS
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- PRFF members will review the 2021 White Sturgeon Draft Annual Report and send their comments/edits to Mike Clement by 11 March 2022.
- Mike Clement will ask Golder to present white sturgeon results and analyses during the March meeting.
- Laura Heironimus will contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and see if they have any concerns with Grant PUD collecting broodstock downstream from McNary Dam this year.
- PRFF members will review the 2021 Pacific Lamprey Draft Annual Report and send comments/edits to Mike Clement by 19 February 2022.

- Doris Squeochs will provide Boa Le with Nez Perce Tribe contacts who are engaged in implementing Pacific lamprey actions.
- Ralph Lampman will check to see if anyone intends to tag adult Pacific lamprey in the Lower Columbia this year.
- PRFF members will ask their policy representatives if they are willing to meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year).
- PRFF members will identify their policy representatives and share those with Tracy Hillman.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and identified all attendees.

II. Agenda Review

The PRFF reviewed and approved the February agenda.

III. Approve November Meeting Notes

The PRFF reviewed and approved the 1 December 2021 meeting minutes.

IV. Review Action Items

The PRFF reviewed the following action items from the December meeting:

- Jason McLellan will provide the PRFF with a technical report on assessing age and movement of white sturgeon in Lake Roosevelt. **Completed.**
- Members will have 30 days to review the draft bull trout annual report once it is available. **Completed.**
- Mike Clement will check with Bao Le to see if he can provide a presentation on 2021 Pacific lamprey activities and results during the January or February meeting. **Completed.**

V. White Sturgeon

Update on Juvenile Rearing – Nate Patterson reported that they sampled juvenile sturgeon at the hatchery on 31 January 2022. He indicated that fish are at an average of 5 fish per pound. He added that there are roughly 750 juvenile sturgeon per female (recall six females were spawned). One female was not a full spawn; therefore, there are about 400 juveniles from that female. Nate said survival rates are high and there are no issues at this time.

2021 White Sturgeon Annual Report – Mike Clement noted that the draft report will be available soon for a 30-day review. The report is similar to past reports and addresses comments that came in late on last year's report. Mike added that the precision of survival estimates increased because of increased captures of tagged juveniles. Mike indicated that Golder will provide a presentation on results during the March meeting. *[Note: the draft report was sent to the PRFF on 9 February and comments are due to Mike by 11 March 2022.]*

2022 White Sturgeon Activities: Broodstock Collection and Spawning – Mike Clement reported that broodstock collection this year will depend on COVID-19 restrictions and mandates. At this time, they plan to collect broodstock as before, but may be required to socially distance and wear masks. Laura Heironimus will contact Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and see if they have any concerns with Grant PUD collecting broodstock downstream from McNary Dam this year. Laura added that she is not aware of ODFW doing any additional acoustic tagging of sturgeon this year. She did say that WDFW will conduct sturgeon stock assessment work this year.

Other Sturgeon Items – No other sturgeon items were discussed.

VI. Pacific Lamprey

2021 Annual Pacific Lamprey Report and Presentation – Mike Clement reported that the draft Pacific lamprey annual report was sent to the PRFF for review on 19 January 2022. Comments are due to Mike by 19 February 2022.

Bao Le gave a presentation titled, Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP) 2021 Comprehensive Annual Report (see Attachment 1). After providing a brief outline for the presentation, Bao talked about the origins of the report, requirements of the report, and the organization of the report. He pointed out a major change in the report from past reports was moving the Columbia River Basin Background/Existing Information section to an Appendix. Section 2.0 now only identifies new information in table format. This change was in response to PRFF comments on the previous annual report. Bao then described report content development and showed that tables describing lamprey activities in the basin are organized by topics (e.g., general lamprey biology/ecology, migration in rivers, adult passage, juvenile passage, artificial propagation, etc.). Importantly, the tables indicate whether actions taken at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams are similar to actions taken at other projects, whether actions taken at other projects would be appropriate at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams, and whether the actions would be cost effective.

Boa summarized some of the results and identified the number of Pacific lamprey activities implemented basin wide. He said the number of projects implemented in 2021 was similar to the number implemented in 2020. In general, implementation of activities in the project area is on schedule and consistent with the PLMP. In addition, where appropriate, PLMP activities are consistent in scope and scale to basin-wide activities. Bao then identified the primary entities implementing actions within the basin and pointed out trends in activities associated with general biology and ecology, juvenile passage, and artificial propagation and translocation. He also briefly discussed general division of activities and coordination among implementers. Bao concluded the presentation by noting the following Grant PUD 2022 activities:

- Continue Project-wide passage efficiency monitoring and calculations at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams (HDX-PIT).
- Complete and maintain HDX readers at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams.
- Continue HDX-PIT contributions to lower river programs to increase regional database and regional understanding.
- Continue Trap and Transportation to support regional activities (Grant PUD and Douglas DPUD) per the SOA.
- Continue regional participation in pertinent lamprey workgroups.
- Continue collaborating with regional researchers in support of the PLMP annual report and for other purposes.

Ralph Lampman asked about what activities are planned to develop measures to protect spawning habitat (identified on slide 10). Boa indicated that he does not know what Douglas and Chelan PUDs intend to do, but this is not an activity required in the Grant PUD's PLMP. Ralph asked why Idaho entities are not identified on slide 12. Bao indicated he will do some outreach and identify Idaho entities implementing lamprey actions. Doris Squeochs noted that the Nez Perce Tribe has and continues to implement lamprey actions. Doris will provide Bao with Nez Perce Tribe contacts. Regarding slide 13, Ralph pointed out that juvenile passage studies will be starting at Lower Granite Dam and the studies will move progressively downstream over the next few years. Ralph would like the PRFF to begin discussing juvenile survival studies at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams. Ralph also noted that the tribes are involved in the hydro and mainstem issues, which is not reflected on slide 14. Lastly, Ralph asked whether the annual report provides a summary of lamprey trapping at Priest Rapids Dam. Mike Clement responded that it does in the Appendix. Ralph asked that the report include a description of methods and calculations of trap efficiency.

Members thanked Bao for the presentation.

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative – Ralph Lampman reminded the PRFF about the Fifth Annual Lamprey Information Exchange Monthly Webinar Series that is coordinated by the Lamprey Technical Workgroup. The

workshops are held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm PT. The next workshop will be held on 8 February and will focus on Lamprey and Climate Change. The March workshop will be on Lamprey Passage; the April workshop will be on Restoration, Entrainment, and Salvage of Lamprey; and the May workshop will be on Supplementation and Disease. Tracy Hillman will share the Monthly Webinar Series Announcement with the PRFF.

Other Pacific Lamprey Items – Ralph Lampman reported that this year the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement (cooperative effort among natural resource agencies, tribes, and other parties) will be updated and renewed. This occurs every five years. Along with the Agreement, a lamprey assessment will be completed. Each regional management unit will hold meetings to discuss updates to the assessment. The Upper Columbia Regional Management Unit will hold their meeting on 11 March 2022 from 9:00 to 12:00 pm PT. Ralph encouraged entities to review and sign the Agreement once it is updated.

Mike Clement asked whether anyone will be tagging adult lamprey in the Lower Columbia this year. Ralph responded that he has not heard of any plans for tagging adult lamprey this year; however, he will check and report back to Mike.

VII. Bull Trout

USFWS Regional Meetings – RD Nelle reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will complete the Bull Trout Species Status Assessment and five-year status review later this year. The Service has been hosting working group meetings across all core areas to review demographic information and update the threats assessments. The working group meeting for the Upper Mid-Columbia core areas (Entiat, Methow, Wenatchee, and Lake Chelan) occurred on 27 January. The Walla Walla, Umatilla, and Lower Snake River meetings occurred earlier in December and January. Meetings to discuss the Northeast Washington Research Needs Area (upstream from Chief Joseph Dam) and the Yakima Core Area will be on 1 February and 4 February, respectively. The current schedule is to complete working group meetings in Washington by early February. The draft species status assessment will be out for review in late spring with final publication in late summer. The five-year status review and listing recommendations are expected shortly thereafter.

VIII. Administration

In-Person Meetings – Based on conversations with Tom Dresser (Grant PUD), Tracy Hillman said there is a desire to begin meeting in-person as soon as possible. Tracy asked members whether they would be interested in or able to meet in-person soon. Most members indicated they would like to meet in person; however, given the increasing infection rates with the Omicron variant of COVID-19, it is unlikely the group can meet in person anytime soon. Even with all the safeguards, most agencies will not allow their employees to meet in person at this time. Members hope they can meet in person this summer or early fall.

PRFF Policy Committee Meetings – Tracy Hillman shared that he was asked by Tom Dresser whether the PRFF Policy Committee should meet more frequently. They have not met since the white sturgeon dispute in 2014-2015. Tracy asked the group to check with their policy leads to see if they are willing to meet more regularly (e.g., annually or every other year). Tracy also asked members to identify their policy representatives so he and Grant PUD can update the list of representatives.

IX. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 pm.

X. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 2 March 2022.

Attachment 1

Presentation by Bao Le on the 2021 Pacific Lamprey Annual Report

Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP) 2021 Comprehensive Annual Report



**Presentation to the
Priest Rapids Fish
Forum**

February 2, 2022

***Bao Le
HEC LLC
Portland, OR***

Presentation Outline

PLMP Comprehensive Annual Report

- Origins and Requirements of the Report
- Report Organization and Content Development
- 2021 Reporting Observations and Trends
- 2021 Project-specific Activities

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Origins of the Reporting Requirement

- WA State 401 Water Quality Certification (401)
(4/3/07; amended 3/6/08)
 - Appendix C – Pacific Lamprey
 - Implementation Measure #1 - Reporting
- PLMP (filed 2/19/09)
 - Identifies Biological Objectives and defines implementation actions
 - Comprehensive Annual Report (a component of Objective 1)
- FERC Order Approving PLMP (5/1/09)

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Requirements of the Report

- “... provide an annual report summarizing activities undertaken to identify and address impacts of the Priest Rapids Project (PRP) on Pacific Lamprey ...” (401, Appendix C)
- To include:
 - Columbia River Basin lamprey passage, behavioral, and survival investigations;
 - PRP PLMP activities and results of activities for past year;
 - Evaluation of whether PRP investigations/measures are:
 - Consistent with similar measures taken at other projects;
 - Appropriate to implement at the PRP; and
 - Cost effective to implement at the PRP

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Report Organization

- **Section 1.0:** Introduction
- **Section 2.0:** Updated Information (i.e., Table 2)
- **Section 3.0:** Status of PRP lamprey activities
- **Section 4.0:** An evaluation of whether recent Columbia River Basin activities should be considered for the PRP.
- **Section 5.0:** Summary and Upcoming Actions
- **Appendix A:** Columbia River Basin Activities

- A significant change from past years per input from PRFF Members: Columbia River Basin Background/Existing Information (in past reports was Section 2.1) has now been relocated to end of document as an Appendix A.
- Section 2.0 now focuses on just new information in table format
- 2021 Report addressed YN comments from last year’s report (received past filing deadline for 2020 Report)

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Report Content Development Current Knowledge Base (§2.0)

- Updated information (§2.0)
 - Table format, organized by topics (i.e., general biology/ecology, migration in rivers, adult passage, juvenile passage, artificial propagation, etc.)
 - Activity level reporting

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Report Content Development 2021 Pacific lamprey activities in the Basin (§2.0, Table 2)

Activity	Hydroelectric Project	River	Results / Description of Activity	Lead Entity(ies)	Source
General Biology, Ecology and Population Status					
Spawning habitat and timing, rearing habitat, and over-wintering habitat	No associated hydro project		In 2009, habitat use and timing through radio telemetry was conducted. Information was used for development of a habitat model. Preliminary results not yet available.	Warm Springs Tribe	Personal communication with Jennifer Graham, Warm Springs Tribe (10/27/09)
Lamprey Migration in Rivers					
Adult Passage at Hydroelectric Facilities					
<i>Structural and Operational Fishway Modifications</i>					
<i>Project Passage Effectiveness</i>					
<i>Lamprey Counts at Dams</i>					
<i>Predation</i>					
Juvenile Passage at Hydroelectric Facilities					
<i>Structural and Operational Fishway Modifications</i>					
<i>Project Passage Effectiveness</i>					
<i>Predation</i>					
Policy/Recovery Activities					

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Report Content Development

Schedule/status of PRP lamprey activities (§3.0, Table 3)

Implementation Measure	Evaluation Timeframe	Relevant to Current Reporting Period	Action Taken in 2021	Variation from Schedule (if applicable)
Objective 1: Identify, address, and fully mitigate Project effects to the extent reasonable and feasible to achieve NNI				
Provide an annual report summarizing activities undertaken to identify and address Project impacts. [PLMP, Section 4.1]	Annually (by March 31), starting 2010	Yes	Yes, report will be filed on or before March 31, 2022.	No
Objective 2: Provide safe, effective, and timely volitional passage for adult upstream and downstream migration				
Maintain adult fishways. [PLMP, Section 4.2.1]	Annually for the period 2009-2015	Yes	Grant PUD continues to maintain fishways at the Priest Rapids Project in accordance with the NOAA Fisheries Fishway Operations and Criteria Guidelines for salmon (NOAA Fisheries 2008). The plan includes operational criteria for dewatering and the recovery of all fish.	No
Objective 3: Provide safe, effective and timely volitional passage for juvenile migration				
Objective 4: Avoid and mitigate Project impacts on rearing habitat				

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Report Content Development

Evaluating application of Basin activities to PRP (§4.0)

- Table format
- Definition of evaluation elements:
 - “Consistent with similar measures taken at other projects”
 - “Yes” = activity that has been implemented by a hydroelectric facility operator in a hydroelectric project area other than the PRP.
 - “Appropriate to implement at the PRP”
 - “Yes” = activity that is a requirement of the PLMP or is an activity subsequently agreed to by Grant PUD as a result of implementation of the PLMP.
 - “Cost-effective to implement at the PRP”
 - “Yes” = If a measure is considered “appropriate to implement”; the specific action being taken by Grant PUD is described. In addition, pertains to an activity where resource benefits are commensurate with the level of effort and cost to implement, and in a manner not inconsistent with anadromous fish passage criteria and habitat requirements.
 - “N/A” = if a measure is considered not “appropriate to implement”.

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Report Content Development

Evaluating application of Basin activities to PRP (§4.0, Table 4)

Activity in Basin (Proposed, Planned or Implemented)	Project where Implemented = I Planned = P ¹ or Proposed = PR ²	River(s)	Table 3 Cross- Reference	Consistent with Measures Taken at Other Projects	Appropriate to Implement at Priest Rapids Project	Cost Effective for Priest Rapids Project
General Biology, Ecology and Population Status						
Develop measures to protect spawning habitat	Wells (P) Rocky Reach (P)		N/A ³ N/A ⁴	No.	No. This activity is not required by Grant PUD's PLMP.	N/A
Assess impacts of irrigation water withdrawal structures with the items for adult and juvenile passage/habitat	PR	N/A	N/A	No.	No. This activity is not required by the PLMP. Assessing the impacts of irrigation water withdrawal are not objectives, goals, or measures outlined in the PLMP.	N/A
Lamprey Migration in Rivers						
Adult Passage at Hydroelectric Facilities						
<i>Structural and Operational Fishway Modifications</i>						
Install/evaluate slotted "keyhole" fishway entrances	Bonneville (I) Priest Rapids (I) Wanapum (I) (P) McNary (P)		#20 #21 #21 N/A ⁶ N/A ⁷	Yes.	Yes. Keyhole entrances are currently utilized at both Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams.	Yes. See adjacent response.
<i>Project Passage Effectiveness</i>						
<i>Lamprey Counts at Dams</i>						
<i>Predation</i>						
Juvenile Passage at Hydroelectric Facilities						
<i>Structural and Operational Fishway Modifications</i>						
<i>Project Passage Effectiveness</i>						
<i>Predation</i>						
Policy and Recovery Activities						

2021 Reporting Observations

- Basin-Wide Activities (Table 2):
 - Total of 92 line items (94 in 2020)
 - Adult Passage (35 [36]), General Bio (31 [27]), Juvenile Passage (12 [13]), Policy/Recovery (9 [10]), Migration in Rivers (5 [8])
 - Note scope of the reporting is Columbia River basin and is not necessarily reflective of overall trends of species management/research as a whole.
- Implementation at the PRP is generally on-schedule and consistent with the PLMP
- Where appropriate, PRP PLMP activities are consistent in scope/scale to basin activities

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Observations and Trends

- Participating entities continue to be diverse but generally the same “players”:
 - Feds – ACOE, NOAA, FWS, USGS, USFS
 - Academia – U of Idaho, OSU
 - Private – PNNL, Blue Leaf, HDR
 - Utilities – Mid-C’s, PGE, EWEB
 - Tribes/Tribal Organizations – YN, CTUIR, CTWSR, CCT, CRITFC
 - State – ODFW, WDFW
 - NGO – MSRF

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Observations and Trends

- Adult Passage – less research/innovation; more O&M, maintaining existing operations/procedures, counts and predation control with some passage improvement projects.
- Juvenile Passage – while not reported; increased discussion/activity re: assessments, technology & protocol development, and planning appear to be a shift in the near-term.
- Artificial propagation and translocation activities: driven by Tribes in partnership with Federal/utility partners

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Observations and Trends

- General Division of Activity:
 - Operators: focused on passage, operations, counts (adults/juveniles) and structure-specific activities.
 - Federal, State and Academic entities: research-oriented projects (marine environment, physiology, laboratory, behavioral, thermal tolerance, etc.).
 - Tribes: tributary, non-hydropower focused, population/ecology monitoring, escapement and outmigration, distribution/abundance (eDNA), outreach and traditional ecological knowledge, artificial propagation and translocation.
- Conservation, recovery, and research coordination continues: PLCI, LTWG, and Master Planning on Supplementation, Aquaculture, Restoration and Research

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Grant PUD 2022 Activities

- Continue Project-wide passage efficiency monitoring and calculations at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams (HDX-PIT)
- Complete and maintain HDX readers at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams
- Continue HDX-PIT contributions to lower river programs to increase regional database and regional understanding
- Continue Trap and Transportation to support regional activities (GPUD/DPUD), NNI Agreement
- Continue regional participation in LTWG, PLCI, ACOE, and other pertinent lamprey workgroups.
- Continue collaborating with regional researchers in support of the PLMP annual report and for other purposes.

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Discussion / Questions



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