



Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 7 September 2022
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FINAL MINUTES

PRFF Members

RD Nelle, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN
Nathan and Clayton 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

Meeting Attendees

Ralph Lampman, YN
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
RD Nelle, USFWS
Jason McLellan, CCT
Tim Taylor, Grant PUD
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum/Grant PUD
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- None.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Agenda Review

The PRFF reviewed and approved the September agenda.

III. Approve August Meeting Notes

The PRFF reviewed and approved the 3 August 2022 meeting minutes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- Ralph Lampman will ask Nathan Patterson to provide a summary email on the 2022 White Sturgeon broodstock collection and rearing efforts and send it to Tracy Hillman, who will share it with the PRFF. Complete. See discussion under White Sturgeon.

V. White Sturgeon

2022 White Sturgeon Spawning and Rearing – Ralph Lampman indicated that he received an email from Nathan Patterson indicating all fish on station are doing well. The email notes that they have about 10,000 juvenile sturgeon on station. On 19 August, they ponded 1,000 juveniles per female into 10-foot rearing tanks. Survival from spawning to present is about 40%. All female and male broodstock contributed successfully to spawning and they achieved a 6x6 spawning matrix. The Yakama Nation plans to sample the fish this Friday. Results from sampling will be provided during the next meeting.

Juvenile Index Monitoring – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD will begin their annual juvenile sturgeon indexing surveys on 12 September 2022. The surveys will occur over a three-week period depending on weather. As before, the Golder crew will work in Wanapum reservoir, while the Blue Leaf crew will work in Priest Rapids reservoir. Mike indicated that they have the bait (squid) and will use standardized gear (as approved previously by the PRFF) for indexing. He added that they will take fin-ray sections from unmarked juvenile sturgeon (<100 cm) to determine age.

Laura Heironimus asked who will be conducting genetic analysis. Mike said UC Davis will do the analyses. Jason McLellan noted that BC Hydro and the Spokane Tribes are funding the work.

Other White Sturgeon Items – No other White Sturgeon items were discussed.

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Adult Trapping at Priest Rapids Dam - Mike Clement reported that adult Pacific lamprey trapping began on 18 July at Priest Rapids Dam. They trap four days per week. Mike said captures of adults started slowly and then picked up substantially. So far, they have collected 2,246 adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam. He said they captured 122 adults in one night. All the fish have been provided to Douglas PUD for their program and for translocation efforts upstream from Wells Dam. Mike said they are in the last four-weeks of the trapping effort. So far, 8,474 adult lamprey have passed Priest Rapids Dam, 6,601 passed Wanapum Dam, 5,500 passed Rocky Reach Dam, and 739 were detected at Wells Dam.

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement – Ralph Lampman gave a short presentation on the 2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement (see Attachment 1). Ralph said the Conservation Agreement represents a voluntary cooperative commitment by natural agencies, tribes, and other organizations to leverage available resources to reduce threats to Pacific lamprey, to improve their habitat and population status, and support the traditional tribal use of lamprey. He said the Conservation Agreement was first signed in 2012 and is revisited every five years for revision and commitments. Because changes have been made to the Conservation Agreement, all

signatories and supporting parties need to re-sign the 2022 Conservation Agreement to become or maintain their status as a signatory. Ralph said the final version of the 2022 Conservation Agreement was distributed on 11 July 2022. Signatures are due by 30 September 2022. A ceremonial signing of the Conservation Agreement will occur on 13 December 2022 during the Lamprey Summit V.

Ralph noted that the Conservation Agreement is a “good news story” that allows organizations to be collaborative and proactive, voluntarily demonstrate their commitment, join a collaborative network, showcase good work, and support growth in technical knowledge. Ralph emphasized that the Conservation Agreement is legally non-binding and there are no requirements that signatories provide funding. Ralph also pointed out some of the misconceptions associated with the Conservation Agreement.

Ralph recommended that as many organizations as possible sign on as signatories to the 2022 Conservation Agreement, which represents the strongest commitment to this voluntary agreement. Ralph asked Mike Clement if Grant PUD will consider being a signatory. Mike indicated that Grant PUD will continue to support the effort and will provide a letter of support soon. Mike will share the letter with the PRFF once it is sent to Alicia Marrs (Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative Coordinator).

Ralph reiterated that the Lamprey Summit V will occur on 13 December 2022 at the World Forestry Center in Portland, Oregon. In addition to a signing ceremony, participants will discuss ongoing and completed research and restoration activities, and strategize on collaborative opportunities on behalf of Pacific lamprey conservation for the next five years.

Finally, Ralph noted that the 6th Annual Lamprey Information Exchange will occur on 14 December 2022 at the World Forestry Center in Portland. This will be hosted by the Lamprey Technical Workgroup and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Other Pacific Lamprey Items – No other Pacific lamprey items were discussed.

VII. Adjourn

With no additional business to discuss, Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 5 October 2022.

Attachment #1

2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement Presentation by Ralph Lampman



2022 IS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR

- **PL Assessment** is being updated (once every 5 years)
- **Lamprey Summit V** is occurring at the end of this year (Dec 13)
[occurs every ~5 years]
- **2022 Conservation Agreement** was updated & reflects the current status & progress made in support of lamprey
 - Because Pacific Lamprey are not ESA listed, “**voluntary participation**” & “**cooperative commitment**” is the only means available to help protect them
- **Seeking new signatories!!!** (due **September 30** – **Please STEP Up!**)

TIMELINE FOR REVIEW/SIGNATURE OF 2022 CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

- **February 18, 2022:** Final Draft of 2022 Conservation Agreement is distributed to Conservation Team representatives to begin 90-day internal legal reviews within their respective organizations.
- **May 20, 2022:** Deadline to submit any comments and/or suggested changes to the PLCI Coordinator (Alicia Marrs, alicia@pacificlamprey.org)
- **July 11, 2022:** Distribute final version of 2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement for signature to Conservation Team representatives and other interested organizations. Distribution included signature page template, instructions, and deadline for returning to PLCI coordinator.
- **September 30, 2022:** Signatures due to the PLCI Coordinator.
- **December 13, 2022:** Ceremonial signing of the 2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement by signatories during Lamprey Summit V.

HELPFUL MESSAGES AND TIPS ABOUT THE PL CONSERVATION AGREEMENT:

- **Good optics!** This is a good news story, and an opportunity to emphasize that signing/resigning the Conservation Agreement shows an organization being **collaborative and proactive** in support of lamprey conservation.
 - This is a great way for an organization to **voluntarily demonstrate their commitment** to conserving and restoring Pacific Lamprey.
 - **Join a collaborative network.** No one organization is doing this alone, this is an opportunity to commit to leveraging resources (both human and capital).
 - **Showcase good work** an organization may already be doing (or has planned in the future)!
- Opportunity to participate in, learn, and support **growth in technical knowledge** surrounding lampreys.

HELPFUL MESSAGES AND TIPS ABOUT PL CONSERVATION AGREEMENT:

- It is legally non-binding
- Few obligations. There are **no requirements that the signatories provide funding** (though we certainly don't discourage it). Signatories can decide how involved and active their organization is in PLCI. This leaves room for organizations to be flexible as budgets, staff levels, and priorities may shift in the future.
- Please **visit PLCI's new website (www.pacificlamprey.org)**. Many of the resources attached to the emails are also available on the [Conservation Agreement](#) page, and it is a great way for those not actively involved in PLCI to learn more.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS WE'VE ENCOUNTERED:

- PLCI and the Conservation Agreement **provide a collaborative alternative approach to conservation actions** in the absence of an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing, and are **not intended to provide more benefits to Pacific Lamprey than would otherwise be provided by an ESA listing**.
- Signing the Conservation Agreement **does not prohibit any organization from participating in a future petition to list** any lamprey species.

SIGNATORY VS. SUPPORTER

You can be a signatory or supporter - the choice is yours!

***However, the difference is vague (both are essentially supporters so why not go all the way?)**

A quote by Bob Rose (retired; previously YNF Hydro Coordinator)



A letter of support is "nice" - **but so what?** The Initiative already has a lot of momentum - a Letter is a whiff of a butterfly's wing. Might feel good, but... what does it really achieve???

QUESTIONS?

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Alicia Marrs

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Your organization can make a difference!



OTHER ENTITIES INVITED SO FAR WITHIN THE WA STATE

- Mid Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation
- Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
- Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Sound Salmon Solutions
- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- Columbia Education Foundation
- WA State Dept of Natural Resources & WDFW
- PUDs
- Others???