



Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 1 June 2022
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FINAL MINUTES

PRFF Members

RD Nelle, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN
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
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Meeting Attendees

Ralph Lampman, YN
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
RD Nelle, USFWS

Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- PRFF members will identify their policy representatives and share those with Tracy Hillman.
- Tracy Hillman will ask Kirk Truscott and Matt Young if they or someone else from the CTCR would be willing to talk with the PRFF about the CTCR Pacific lamprey reintroduction program in the Okanogan subbasin.

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Agenda Review

The PRFF reviewed and approved the June agenda.

III. Approve May Meeting Notes

The PRFF reviewed and approved the 4 May 2022 meeting minutes.

IV. Review Action Items

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

- PRFF members will ask their policy representatives if they are willing to meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year). **Ongoing**
- PRFF members will identify their policy representatives and share those with Tracy Hillman. **Ongoing**
- Tracy Hillman will ask Kirk Truscott if he would be willing to talk with the PRFF about the CTCR Pacific lamprey reintroduction program in the Okanogan subbasin. **Complete. However, no representative of the CTCR joined the meeting. Tracy will again reach out to Kirk to see whether a representative from the CTCR can join the July meeting to discuss lamprey reintroduction work in the Okanogan subbasin.**

V. White Sturgeon

2022 White Sturgeon Broodstock Collection – Mike Clement reported that they collected broodstock over the last two weeks downstream from McNary Dam. They used two boats with guides. They collected and transported six females and six males to the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. He said flows during the collection period ranged from 250-275 kcfs. He added that they collected and sampled several fish that had not been captured previously. These fish were large (7-9 feet long). Mike noted that they also capture two females that had been collected and spawned in 2017 or 2018. These fish were released back to the river. Ralph Lampman asked how long a female waits between spawning events. Mike and Laura Heironimus indicated four to six years.

Lastly, Mike reported that the spawning date for the fish at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery is yet to be determined. He will let members know when spawning occurs. Members are welcome to attend and help with stirring eggs.

Other Sturgeon Items – No other sturgeon items were discussed.

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Translocation Efforts in the Okanogan River Basin – Unfortunately, a representative from CTCR was unable to join the meeting and discuss the Pacific lamprey reintroduction program in the Okanogan River Basin. Ralph Lampman reported that CTCR has been releasing adult lamprey into the Similkameen River and into three other tributaries. They release about 20-30 adults within each area. Mike Clement asked if there are observations of adult lamprey migrating into the Okanogan River. Ralph responded, yes, there have been detections of adults migrating into the Okanogan River. He added that adult lamprey could enter the Okanogan in spring when water temperatures are cooler. RD Nelle noted that juvenile lamprey are collected in the Okanogan Basin.

Other Pacific Lamprey Items – Mike Clement reported that last week they documented the first adult lamprey passing through the project area. He said they (Grant PUD) are tentatively planning to start trapping at Priest Rapids Dam during the week of 18 July. Ralph Lampman indicated the peak run at Priest Rapids Dam is about one month after the peak at Bonneville Dam. He added that the Yakama Nation will begin collecting adults at Bonneville Dam next week.

Mike noted that as part of Wells Dam passage studies, Douglas PUD will place active tags in about 160 adult lamprey. Ralph added that Douglas PUD hopes to tag about 400 adult lamprey with a combination of active and PIT tags. Mike said all fish collected as part of the Grant PUD SOA will be given to CTCR for relocation into the Okanogan River Basin. The exchange of adult lamprey from Grant PUD to CTCR will occur at Kirby-Billingsley Hydro Park.

Mike asked whether there are any run forecasts for adult Pacific lamprey this year. Members indicated that they are not aware of any run forecasts at this time.

VII. Administration

PRFF Policy Committee Representatives and Meetings – Tracy Hillman reminded members that they need to identify their policy representatives on the RRFF. There is interest by Grant PUD to have the PRFF Policy Committee meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year).

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 6 July 2022.