

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Meeting

**In Person at Confluence Technology Center
and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, March 25, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Representatives, Alternates, and Facilitation

Tom Dresser, Rod O'Connor (Alt),	Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN
Tim Taylor (Alt), GPUD	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh (Alt), CTUIR
Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Clayton Buck, Wanapum
Bill Gale, USFWS	Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator
Chad Jackson, Andrew Murdoch (Alt), WDFW	Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (Alt), CTCR	

Meeting Attendees

Tom Dresser, GPUD	Kirk Truscott, CTCR
Rod O'Connor, GPUD	Holly McLellan, CTCR
Tim Taylor, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Pete McHugh, CRITFC (CTUIR)
Bill Gale, USFWS	Nathan Buck, Wanapum
Chad Jackson, WDFW	Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator
Andrew Murdoch, WDFW	Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support

Action Items

- Anchor QEA will add Emi Melton (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) to the PRCC secondary email list and will confirm PRCC Sharepoint access. *(Note: E. Melton was added to the email list on March 26 and Sharepoint access was confirmed on April 2.)*
- L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC Policy Committee meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation, tentatively in the July to August 2025 time frame. *(This item is ongoing.)*

Review Items

- The draft report *Calendar Year 2024 Activities Under Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project License (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] No. 2114)* was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on February 27 and is available for a 30-day review with edits and comments due to T. Dresser by March 28.
- Real Time Research's (RTR's) draft 2024 Avian Predation Annual Report and Appendix C were distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on March 7 and are available for a 30-day review with edit and comments due to T. Dresser no later than April 7. *(Note: Comments were received from the Yakama Nation and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission [CRITFC], as distributed on April 7, and RTR responses to PRCC comments and the final 2024 Avian Predation Annual Report were distributed on April 10.)*

Decisions and Approvals

- The PRCC agreed that the primary email list (PRCC Representatives and Alternates) will receive draft and final documents, and the secondary email list (non-representatives and non-alternates) will receive final documents only.
- The PRCC approved the No Net Impact (NNI) funding (H601) request of \$449,881 from the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) for the project titled "Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in the Upper Columbia River Above Chief Joseph Dam."

I. Welcome, Announcements, Agenda Review, and Meeting Minutes Approval

L. Rohrbach welcomed the PRCC to the first in-person meeting of the year. She thanked committee representatives for their continued commitment and progress on the work this forum is involved in toward protecting and benefiting natural resources.

L. Rohrbach reviewed the agenda. S. Carlon added PRCC email lists and Sharepoint access. No other additions or changes were requested by PRCC members, and the agenda was approved by all parties in attendance.

The draft February 25 PRCC conference call minutes were distributed by K. Geris on March 11. No edits were received. The only revisions were updates to action items and review items. The revised minutes for approval were distributed on March 19. The minutes were approved by members who attended that meeting.

II. PRCC Email Lists and Sharepoint Access

S. Carlon asked about the approval process to add Emi Melton (NMFS) to the PRCC secondary email list and enable Sharepoint access, because she will replace him on the PRCC when he retires in December 2026. L. Rohrbach said there is no required approval process for this like the HCPs have. Anchor QEA will add E. Melton to the

PRCC secondary email list and will confirm PRCC Sharepoint access. (*Note: E. Melton was added to the email list on March 26 and Sharepoint access is forthcoming.*)

B. Gale asked what the protocol is for primary and secondary email lists. T. Dresser said that historically, this has varied. More recently, everyone receives all files (draft and final). L. Rohrbach sees value in providing the representatives and alternates the opportunity to work on draft documents before distributing files to a wider distribution list. This is consistent with the subcommittees. The PRCC agreed that the primary email list (PRCC Representatives and Alternates) will receive draft and final documents, and the secondary email list (non-representatives and non-alternates) will receive final documents only.

III. Actions Items Review

Action items from the PRCC February 25 conference call and follow-up discussions were as follows (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the February 25 conference call.*):

- *T. Lorz will provide an updated CRITFC PRCC Representation Designation Letter.*

A letter designating T. Lorz as the CRITFC PRCC Representative and P. McHugh as the PRCC Alternate was distributed on March 17.

- *L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC Policy Committee meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation, tentatively in the July to August 2025 time frame.*

This item is ongoing.

- *Grant PUD will revise Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Association's (Quincy's) 2025 Northern Pikeminnow Derby proposal, as discussed in the meeting.*

T. Dresser said he will send this after today's meeting. (*Note: The final proposal was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on March 26.*)

- *Grant PUD will share with RTR the PRCC-reviewed draft language for a new objective to develop a statistically and scientifically sound approach for better understanding population- and origin-specific avian predation rates and will invite RTR for a discussion at the PRCC March 25 meeting.*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *K. Truscott will reach out to H. McLellan (CTCR) about providing a draft PRCC No Net Impact Funds Specification Sheet (NNI Funds Spec Sheet) for post-2025 Northern Pike Removal efforts, and any supporting materials, no later than March 15 for a decision at the PRCC March 25 meeting.*

A draft NNI Funds Spec Sheet was distributed on March 17. This will be discussed during today's meeting.

IV. **DECISION: Northern Pike Removal Program (2026 to 2029)**

The CTCR's draft NNI Funds Spec Sheet for "Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in the Upper Columbia River Above Chief Joseph Dam" was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on March 17.

H. McLellan shared on Microsoft Teams a slide titled "Colville Tribes Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Annual Work Plan" (Attachment A), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris following the meeting on March 26. H. McLellan said this proposal is for 2026 to 2029 and requests about \$112,000 per year, equaling about \$449,000 total. The chart includes all Upper Columbia Northern Pike suppression activities. The PRCC NNI funding request will cover extra gillnetting during the spring season, the reward program, and environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring. For the reward program, more money is now awarded per fish because there are less Northern Pike in the system and fewer people submitting fish. The CTCR want to continue the program in case numbers increase and it is beneficial to keep the community involved. Assistance with the eDNA monitoring program is new this year. This involves sampling 50 sites, twice per year, including more frequent and additional sites downstream of Grand Coulee Dam and in Lake Rufus Woods. The NNI Funds Spec Sheet includes additional information on each of these activities.

L. Rohrbach said the NNI Funds Spec Sheet also includes a budget breakdown and estimated timeline. *(Note: A revised spec sheet [Attachment B] was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on March 26, which includes an updated budget amount on page 1.)*

P. McHugh asked whether the other activities in the chart in Attachment A are funded by other entities. H. McLellan said yes, the PRCC NNI funding request will cover the green boxes. The bold green activities represent new requests, and the non-bold green activities have been included in past requests. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Douglas PUD also conduct eDNA sampling in these areas, and all monitoring uses the same methods, so the data can be combined. The CTCR are trying to fill the data gaps.

T. Dresser asked about how sampling below Grand Coulee Dam is conducted.

H. McLellan said most monitoring will take place at boat launches, near bridges, and in other shallow areas where Northern Pike are typically found. There are also sample locations around Chief Joseph Dam and the mouth of the Okanogan River. T. Dresser asked about electrofishing or active monitoring. H. McLellan is unsure about efforts that are specific to Northern Pike except for eDNA sampling. She believes there have been gillnetting and other efforts in Rufus Woods, and now there will be eDNA monitoring.

T. Dresser asked whether the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is involved.

H. McLellan said the CTCR have been coordinating with USACE for 3 years now trying

to get this going. USACE has expressed interest in funding efforts by the CTCR and other Upper Columbia agencies, but the proposed work requires NMFS approval, which has been a slow process and even slower now with current events. USACE staff at Chief Joseph Dam want to become more involved in this effort. She noted that last year, about 500 Northern Pike were captured near Northport, Washington, and in the lower Sanpoil River. The CTCR will target these areas for further monitoring.

L. Rohrbach asked whether there were any further questions for H. McLellan. None were expressed. H. McLellan thanked the PRCC and left the meeting.

B. Gale asked what the process is for receiving NNI funding requests. His concern is the possibility of a higher priority request being received and requiring more funds than what is available. He asked whether the PRCC needs to think about creating more structure so requests are received at the same time and can be ranked in order of importance. T. Dresser said in the past, there was resistance to this because the PRCC wanted to be fluid and flexible, versus the Habitat Subcommittee, which preferred a more structured process. Regarding budget, there is about \$5 million in NNI funds, so he is not concerned about running out of budget based on the requests made in 2025. Eventually, he hopes NNI funds do not exist because this means Grant PUD has achieved standards. That said, Grant PUD is open to discussing a more structured process if the PRCC is interested in this. K. Murdoch likes the current process because instead of comparing projects to each other, a project is judged based on its own merit. She understands B. Gale's concern and when funds are more limited, she agreed this needs to be revisited. B. Gale suggested adding to the NNI Funds Spec Sheet template information about what impact a proposed project would have on the current NNI funds. T. Dresser prefers not to include this because it would require another layer of coordination with the finance department for every proposal. He suggested instead referring to the quarterly updates that are routinely distributed to the PRCC. These include the latest status of NNI funds. L. Rohrbach agreed this is a good approach, and the latest update can be provided each time the PRCC considers a new proposal.¹

L. Rohrbach said that in the past few years, it seems NNI funding requests have been somewhat routine, and she asked whether it is typical to receive new or unexpected funding requests. K. Truscott said historically, there have been fairly consistent expenditures out of the NNI funds. K. Murdoch agreed, but said there have been some unique projects and some proposals that were entertained but ultimately were not funded. C. Jackson said there currently is no competition for the NNI funds, but this could change. K. Truscott likes the idea of not having to wait half a year to approve a proposal when a project may be able to provide benefits sooner. B. Gale asked whether

¹ The Q4 2024 Report of Unencumbered Fund Balances was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on March 26.

NNI funds were used for the Wanapum incident. T. Dresser said there were studies to evaluate impacts to species due to the Wanapum incident. NNI funds may have been used for those, but not a large amount. Historically, the largest expenditure of NNI funds was about \$1.7 million for McIntyre Dam. In the future, the only large project in the region he can think of that could come to the PRCC is Enloe Dam. That effort is working on a 30% design for dam removal and a sediment analysis. T. Dresser asked if further discussion is wanted on the process for NNI funding requests, and B. Gale said no.

The PRCC approved the NNI funding (H601) request of \$449,881 from the CTCR for the project titled “Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in the Upper Columbia River Above Chief Joseph Dam.”

V. RTR 2025 Avian Predation Work

L. Rohrbach recalled discussing last month adding Subobjective 4.1 to RTR’s 2025 proposal. The request is to develop a statistically and scientifically sound approach for better understanding population- and origin-specific avian predation rates. The PRCC agreed to keep this language open ended, with the assumption that RTR will fill in the detailed interpretation of an approach. Grant PUD shared the meeting minutes with RTR, so the request is clear. T. Dresser said based on the minutes and previous discussions, RTR seems to have a clear understanding of the request and plans to provide an updated scope of work and budget prior to the meeting on April 22, where RTR plans to attend virtually. L. Rohrbach asked, if the additional work does not fit within the original budget, will this be an additional NNI expenditure? T. Dresser thinks so, which will require another vote to approve and a change order to the existing contract.

VI. 2025 to 2027 Smolt Survival Study Updates

T. Dresser said Grant PUD has a meeting with another potential helicopter bidder this Thursday, March 27. He hopes to review the bid package and identify anything that can be clarified or improved and post a final bid package by early May so Grant PUD has plenty of time to discuss Plan B before implementation in 2026, if needed. Plan B would be truck and boat releases. Currently, crews are on the river looking at array sites and assembling equipment.

K. Truscott asked about the timeline. T. Dresser plans to conduct outreach to potential bidders before a mandatory job walk in June. He suspects there will be 2 to 3 weeks of discussion with potential bidders before bids are due, about mid-June. Once a bid is accepted, Grant PUD will start the contracting process, which takes 8 to 10 weeks depending on the cost of the contract, so this will be about August or September. If there are a lot of questions, this can push back the dates to provide adequate time for review. K. Truscott asked whether there is a risk of bids coming in too high. T. Dresser

said based on last time, bids were almost \$1 million, and there was no pushback from Grant PUD leadership. Upper management knows these studies are necessary, and Grant PUD wants to do the best possible job. Management understands that helicopter releases are the best option. K. Truscott asked whether Grant PUD is working on Plan B simultaneously. T. Dresser said the logistics are mapped out, but purchasing and hiring will not happen until later. Again, a lot was learned during this last process. There have been many changes since 2017, which he knows now, and he has already completed a lot of internal hurdles. He is confident about receiving qualified bidders.

L. Rohrbach asked about an updated study plan. R. O'Connor said LGL Limited will complete a field assessment this spring, which will inform the final study plan. He guessed a finalized version may be available by about April.

VII. PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee Update – White River Hatchery Program

L. Rohrbach said the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (HSC) is still working on the Expert Panel Reading List (bibliography) for the Expert Panel package. The final Expert Panel package will likely be ready for PRCC review next month. Last month, the PRCC discussed possibly updating the policy statement of agreement (SOA) to allow more time for this process to roll out; however, the SOA stipulates an expert panel recommendation by 2026, so an SOA revision does not seem warranted quite yet. R. O'Connor said there are still a lot of details to work through, and he is hesitant to put a timeline on it. B. Gale asked whether the PRCC HSC workload will decrease on this topic soon, because he is growing concerned about U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff availability. K. Murdoch said there are a couple of unfinished documents and there is ongoing discussion about different interpretations of some past reports, but then she thinks the workload will decrease on this topic. However, the PRCC HSC is discussing possibly continuing the second day of meetings to work through the Habitat Genetic Management Plans and Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plans, so overall the workload may continue.

T. Dresser noted that there is still the public outreach side of the White River topic. He has already received a couple of calls. This will involve another layer of work. He is unsure about when or what this will look like, but it is coming. L. Rohrbach asked whether it might be time to start crafting consistent messaging for all parties to be able to respond to questions on the status of the process. B. Gale suggested doing this when the PRCC receives the Expert Panel package for review. He asked whether Grant PUD has reached out to the commissioners. T. Dresser said this is on his to-do list. L. Rohrbach will continue coordinating with the PRCC HSC and will keep the PRCC updated.

VIII. 2025 Fish Passage Operations Report

A. Fish Ladder Inspections

T. Dresser asked whether the PRCC still wants internal hydro operators to document daily opening and closing of the crowders at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams for routine maintenance. These events are typically no longer than 5 minutes. The reason for starting this documentation was because fish counts were inaccurate, but now the accuracy of the fish counts have greatly improved. The concern was that fish were missed while the crowders were open. Ultimately, the error was due to inexperienced fish counters. Since moving to an outside contractor (Four Peaks), the error rates have been less than 5%. Four Peaks is on contract for 2 more years. K. Murdoch recalled a concern that if operators are short-staffed, the crowders might be opened and left open because there are no staff available to close it. Does collecting data create more awareness so this does not happen? T. Dresser said this is not an issue with the daily maintenance. However, for example, last year, high winds caused aquatic vegetation to build up on the fish crowder screens, and even with additional support staff, at some point, staff could not keep up. During these types of events, the crowders are left open and will be documented. This will not change. B. Gale said collection of routine log data is a pain, until there is a problem and then it is useful. T. Dresser said this is a good point if the data were showing a lot of fish passing during these daily times, but this is not the case. L. Rohrbach asked whether anyone is opposed to discontinuing documenting daily opening and closing of the crowders for routine maintenance. No objections were expressed. Documentation of longer events will continue.

B. Fish Spill Updates

T. Dresser said Grant PUD's hydro operators indicated everything is on schedule to have all four fish ladders up and running no later than April 1. Operators are monitoring juvenile fish numbers to determine when to initiate juvenile fish spill and fish mode, which is currently forecasted to start the week of April 7. T. Dresser will notify the PRCC when this begins. K. Truscott noted that there will be an early fish release at Chief Joseph Hatchery, as distributed to the PRCC HSC on March 24. T. Dresser said he is aware and has communicated this internally so hydro operators are prepared. L. Rohrbach asked what proportion of these fish will have passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. K. Truscott guessed about 5,000 from each of the Omak and Similkameen groups have PIT tags. *(Note: The Omak and Similkameen fish were released on March 26.)*

C. Adult Fish Counts for 2024 (April 15 to November 15)

Adult salmon and steelhead passage is complete for 2024.

Project	Spring Chinook Salmon (Adult + Jack)^a	Summer Chinook Salmon (Adult + Jack)^b	Fall Chinook Salmon^c	Sockeye Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead
Priest Rapids	15,720	40,766	31,032	699,785	38,653	9,746
Wanapum	16,810	37,622	16,279	697,922	28,281	9,197
Rock Island	15,676	44,621	10,974	728,872	26,395	8,827

Notes:

a: Chinook counted from April 15 to June 13 are considered spring Chinook Salmon.

b: Chinook counted from June 14 to August 13 are considered summer Chinook Salmon.

c: Chinook counted after August 14 are considered fall Chinook Salmon.

UPDATES

IX. Review of Outstanding NNI-Funded Projects

- **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II**
No updates were shared.
- **Northern Pike Removal**
Covered above.
- **WDFW PIT-Tag Detection Barge**
A. Murdoch said the barge is fishing. During fall into winter, there was no freshet. There was a small migration of fall migrants in late October into November. When the Lower Wenatchee River started to freeze, the barge was moved downstream, and when it thawed, the barge was moved back. The alternate location worked successfully. WDFW is evaluating detection probabilities using flow. There is a new flow-dependent protocol in place that dictates moving the barge left or right to increase detection probability. This will be evaluated at the end of the season. In the last few days, there have been a few detections of spring Chinook Salmon. He has no updates on analyses or methods out of the winter season because there were minimal fish. He shared a presentation during the last PRCC HSC meeting about estimating survival from release to the barge, which showed relatively good estimates of detection probability. He is also working on another model analyzing wild fish survival. L. Rohrbach suggested another update after the summer season or whenever WDFW has more data to share.
- **2025 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby**
Next update after June 2025.
- **2025 RTR Avian Predation Study**
Covered above.

X. Subcommittee Updates

K. Geris will continue to forward subcommittee notes and materials to PRCC members and alternates.

- Priest Rapids Fish Forum – met March 5, next meeting April 2.
- Habitat Subcommittee – met March 13, next meeting April 10.
- Fall Chinook Work Group – met October 8, next meeting May 6.
- Hatchery Subcommittee – met March 19 to 20, next meeting April 16 to 17.

K. Truscott asked about Grant PUD's ability to manage water requirements in the Hanford Reach with the low flows this year. T. Dresser said the critical elevation is 65 thousand cubic feet per second (kcfs), and they have met their criteria. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has done a good job at providing flow that is necessary for the lower end. The coordination required among dams between Grand Coulee and the Priest Rapids project makes it difficult. Sometimes flow does not make it down as it should. The language in the Hanford Reach Agreement is a little vague. K. Murdoch asked what could improve this coordination. T. Dresser believes Grant PUD has tried everything to improve upon the language to make this clear. Ideally, it would be helpful to have better communication and more flexibility on the upper end of the flow range. Ten years ago, there was more flexibility, about 3 to 5 kcfs. This is a big deal when entities are trying to manage 65 kcfs downstream. Now, everyone is trying to manage down to 1 kcfs on an instantaneous basis. Agencies are using water to meet load, and sometimes water is held when it should be let go.

K. Murdoch recalled there used to be a Mid-Columbia Hourly Coordination Agreement and asked whether something like this might be beneficial. T. Dresser said, while this no longer exists, there still is coordination among the PUDs and BPA on a daily to weekly basis to meet water needs in the Hanford Reach. Ultimately, the requirements are being met; it can be a struggle though. There is a lot of burden to redirect flow to meet demands in the lower end, especially because Grant PUD has such limited storage. R. O'Connor, who represents Grant PUD on Hanford Reach topics, said that Peter Graf (Grant PUD) has been providing technical updates during the Fall Chinook Work Group meetings and will again in early May. This will be the tail end of the season for the Hanford Reach Agreement flows, and he will have the latest data.

XI. Reminder of Review Items

T. Dresser reminded the PRCC that comments are due on the annual progress and implementation report (or P&I Report)² by March 28. The final report is due to FERC by April 15. L. Rohrbach also reminded the PRCC that comments are due on RTR's draft 2024 Avian Predation Annual Report and Appendix C by April 7.

² Titled *Calendar Year 2024 Activities Under Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project License (FERC No. 2114)*

XII. SOAs Discussed in 2025

SOA number	Key Words	Last Discussed	Status
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XIII. Next Meetings

The next PRCC meeting will be on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., to be held in-person at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee, Washington. There will be a virtual option. A joint session with the Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee (HCP-CC) for a Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop Recap (Joint Session 5) will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (schedule TBD).

XIV. Subyearling Workshop Recap (Joint Session 4 with HCP-CC)

The PRCC and HCP-CC convened Joint Session 4 to discuss the 2024 Subyearling Chinook Salmon Workshop (see separate joint session minutes).

XV. Attachments

Attachment A – Colville Tribes Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Annual Work Plan

Attachment B – PRCC NNI Funds Spec Sheet for the CTCR's Northern Pike Removal Program (2026 to 2029)

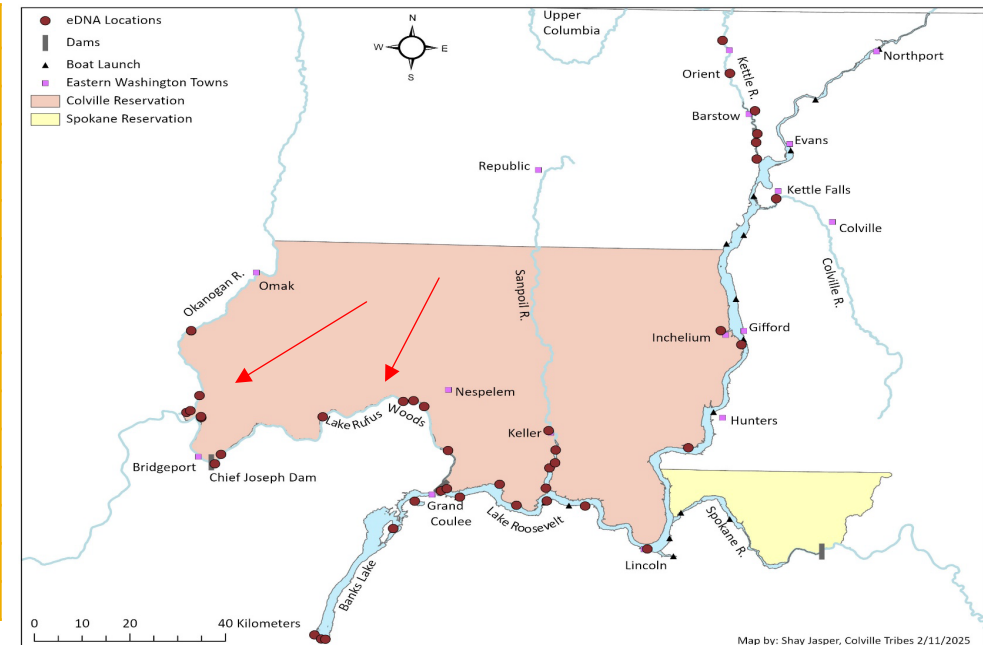
Colville Tribes

Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Annual Work Plan

2026-2029 PRCC NNI fund request

- \$112,470 per year (\$449,881 total) – PRCC NNI funds green highlights
- Task 1: Operate second boat during the spring season (six week survey)
- Task 2: Assist with funding the \$10 Reward Program (around \$1,000/yr)
- Task 3: eDNA monitoring
 - 50 sites June and October
 - ADD monthly sampling at 13 sites below Grand Coulee Dam July, Aug and Oct

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Suppression												
Gillnetting (All)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Electrofishing (CTCR/STI)							X	X	X	X		
Fyke/Seine Netting (CTCR/STI)						X	X					
Reward Program \$10/Pike (CTCR)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Setlines (CTCR)								X	X			
All Hands On Deck (All)					X							
Research/ Monitoring												
Monitoring survey (WDFW)										X	X	
Microchemistry (CTCR)									X	X	X	X
eDNA and DNA Studies (CTCR)						X	X	X	X	X		
Reservoir Op./Stranding (CTCR/WDFW)			X	X								
Acoustic Tracking Study (CTCR)			X	X	X				X	X	X	
Harvest via Creel (STI)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Public Outreach (All)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X





Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee No-Net-Impact Project Specifications Sheet

Date submitted: 3/25/25

Project Sponsor: (include name, title, mailing address, phone number and email).

Holly McLellan, Project Manager, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.
3904 E. Trent Ave., Spokane, WA 99202 (509-263-1081 cell; holly.mclellan@colvilletribes.com)

Project Liaison: (Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) representative as an additional point of contact).

Kirk Truscott, CTCR, PRCC member

Project Title: (Sponsor to provide a project title. Grant PUD will add a special title for contract management purposes only).

Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in the upper Columbia River above Chief Joseph Dam.

Project Type: (The Project Liaison is encouraged to review the No-Net-Impact Funding Guidance Document approved by the PRCC on August 28, 2013, to ensure consistency with that document.

Non-native invasive fish removal

Location: (Give a description of the project location within the Upper Columbia including the lat. and long.).

From Chief Joseph Dam (47.995230,-119.637571) upstream to the Canadian border (49.003944,-117.629263), including Rufus Woods Reservoir and Lake Roosevelt.

Requested funding amount from PRCC:

\$449,881 (\$112,470 per year for 4 years (2026, 2027 2028, and 2029).

Short description: (Two to three sentences should suffice).

Support Northern Pike suppression (gillnet surveys), Angler Reward Program (\$10/head), and eDNA monitoring to detect new invasions.

Project Description/Justification/Full Study Plan: (Should attached and provided for review by the PRCC).

See attached Exhibit A (2026-2029 Scope of Work)

Project cost: (Provide an itemized budget for the funding requested from the PRCC and describe the reimbursement process and/or type of contract to be drafted. For example, do you prefer an actual cost reimbursement, fixed cost, monthly invoicing, etc.?).

Annual Fixed Cost preferred; similar to previous years.

PROPOSED BUDGET

BUDGET ITEM	PRCC REQUEST	OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL COST
Labor (salaries, benefits)	\$245,485		
Supplies (nets, anchors, PPE, etc)	\$90,160		
Vehicle lease and fuel	\$8,040		
Overhead	\$52,196		
Other: eDNA subcontract	\$54,000		
(Total for 4 years)			
TOTAL	\$449,881	\$507,796 per year	\$2,481,065 (total 4 yrs)

*See attached SOW for additional budget details and a summary of funds from other agencies currently implementing Northern Pike Suppression.

Estimated Timeline: (Populate the table so that the committee can foresee the projected timeline).

Item	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Acquire Permits	X											
Select Contractor												
Construct Project												
Project completion												X
Monitoring			X	X	X					X	X	
Stewardship												

*Note: The suppression efforts will begin in April, weather permitting. Sampling may extend into June if the boat launches are not accessible due to the drawdown. The Reward Program continues all year long.

Final comments and instructions:

Sponsors need to be aware that Grant PUD Contracting and Risk require certain amounts of insurance coverage for implementing restoration projects. Every project is unique and not all insurance coverage will be required if not found applicable (e.g., pollution, watercraft, aircraft,



etc.). Also, depending on the nature of the project, there may be times when the maximum amounts listed below may not be sufficient. To avoid delays in contracting, sponsors should include cost estimates for these requirements in their proposed budget. These requirements include:

- General Liability Umbrella Insurance (minimum \$1M limit, maximum of \$10M)
- Pollution Insurance (minimum limit of \$1M, maximum of \$5M)
- Watercraft Insurance (minimum limit of \$1M, maximum of \$5M)
- Workers' Compensation and Stop Gap Employers Liability Insurance (minimum limit of \$1M for each accident, each employee, and policy limit, maximum of \$5M)
- Automobility Liability Insurance (minimum limit of \$1M per accident, maximum of \$10M)
- Professional Liability Insurance (minimum limit of \$1M per claim, maximum of \$5M)
- Aircraft Insurance (minimum limit \$10M)

If applicable, the sponsor needs to provide contact information for the following: contracting, financial, legal, project manager, and the contract signatory (if different than the project sponsor).

Please include an electronic copy of this specification sheet in Word format to the PRCC Facilitator and PRCC Liaison Representative when submitting your proposal.

For appraisals associated with fee simple land acquisition, please provide the following:

Property Information

Owner Name:

Address:

General Directions:

Parcel Number:

Inspection Contact & Phone:

Other Considerations:

Appraisal Type:

Intended Users:

Reminder: When discussing potential appraisals, be sure to communicate with the Project Liaison in advance.

Disclaimer: Any habitat proposals presented to the PRCC for review should meet the terms and conditions outlined in the 2008 NMFS Biological Opinion, the Priest Rapids Salmon and Settlement Agreement, and the FERC-ordered Habitat Plan issued on 5 March 2010. For more information, please contact a member of the PRCC.

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

NNI Funding Guidance Document

Submitted to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: August 28, 2013

Approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: August 28, 2013

Objective: Clarify process and coordination of projects funded with No Net Impact (NNI) and Habitat Funds.

Background and Authority: The basic settlement agreement principle for all of the Upper Columbia FERC licensed hydropower projects is no net impact in regard to project effects on the species the agreement covers. In context of the Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams and reservoirs (Project), NNI refers to the condition whereby operation of the Project does not produce unmitigated Project related mortality of the following Covered Species: spring, summer and fall Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), steelhead (*O. mykiss*) and coho salmon (*O. kisutch*). For purposes of the FERC license agreements for Douglas, Chelan and Grant County PUDs, NNI is achieved when there is a minimum of 91% combined adult and juvenile survival rate for each Covered Species past each dam and through each reservoir (survival standard), and when the PUD implements 2% mitigation in the form of funding habitat restoration and conservation work in mid-Columbia tributary streams, and 7% mitigation in the form of hatchery supplementation.

Funding requirements for habitat restoration and conservation work and for hatchery supplementation are virtually identical for the three PUDs in the Upper Columbia River (UCR). For each PUD, funding for these activities is proportional to the number of fish impacted by passage through each development. All five dams in the UCR have identical passage standards which are measured by calculating an average of three years of mark and recapture survival studies for each Covered Species, or by potentially using a surrogate species as agreed to in settlement agreements, or by statement of agreement by the appropriate Coordinating Committee. Survival studies are designed and results evaluated by the Coordinating Committees for each agreement.

On a percentage basis, all is equal in the PUD settlements for purposes of habitat and hatchery mitigation and for passage survival for the five dams and reservoirs in the UCR Basin.

Unique to the Project's Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (Agreement) is a NNI Fund. Because prototype juvenile downstream passage designs for either dam in the Priest Rapids Project had not been proven successful at the time license settlement were in discussion, agency and tribal representatives desired provision of an impetus and guaranteed funding for Grant PUD to develop a successful juvenile bypass system and maintain a form of NNI in the interim. Prior to and during settlement discussions with Grant PUD, passage success at the Project came in the form of maximizing spill up to the TDG limits, a passage concept that some settlement parties felt was not durable in the long term for a variety of reasons. In contrast, at the upstream mainstem dams, Chelan and Douglas PUDs had measured passage performance for a prototype or a permanent juvenile bypass facility and achievement of passage survival standards seemed viable in the near term. The NNI Fund was the last issue resolved between the Priest Rapids Settlement Parties.

The Parties recognized that the performance standards specified may not be achieved for certain stocks. Therefore the purpose of the NNI Fund is to provide the Parties with additional financial capacity to undertake measures to improve survivals of Covered Species prior to the time when the Project attains applicable juvenile Project survival standards. The NNI Fund is intended to provide near-term compensation for annual survivals that are less than the survival objectives in the performance standards for the Project for spring Chinook, steelhead, summer Chinook and sockeye.

If Project survival is measured below the standard, the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) can investigate means and methods to increase survival by use of NNI Funds, depending on the nature of the study. If Priest Rapids Project survival remains below the standard for a Covered Species, Grant PUD is required to develop a plan with the PRCC to investigate mortality and improve survival of that species (example: Steelhead Action Plan).

Per the Agreement, the NNI Fund is not a habitat restoration or conservation fund per se, although through consensus vote of the PRCC it can be used as such within some constraints. Compensation for 2% of Project mortality is provided by Habitat Funds. Any benefit derived from a habitat project provides a faster path to recovery, but failure of a habitat project to demonstrate any benefit does not mean that Grant PUD is in conflict with the terms of their FERC license. Identifying

incremental Project survival improvements from NNI Funds is more critical, because anything below the survival standards is unauthorized take in terms of the BiOp (at least after 2013), and the terms of the BiOp are embedded as requirements in the FERC license. As such, remedying Project mortality impacts is the priority for NNI Funds, assuming that those remedies exist and are agreed to by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC). The PRCC and its Habitat Subcommittee (HS) will meet annually, as needed or as able, to discuss potential NNI fund projects for the upcoming year.

Function of the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Per the Agreement, there is a fundamental difference between the role of the PRCC and the HS in the selection of projects. The role of the HS, as defined in the Agreement and in the BiOp, is to assess and fund habitat projects. The role of the PRCC, as defined in the Agreement and in the BiOp, is to assess Project survival and employ means to achieve Project survival for each Covered Species.

In summary, the PRCC coordinates implementation of the Agreement by:

- Investigation and documentation of fish survival through the Project (from Rock Island tailrace through Priest Rapids tailrace), including hydro operations that may affect fish survival.
- Oversight of the PRCC Habitat and Hatchery subcommittees.
- Review and approval of filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that pertain to implementing the Agreement.

Per the Agreement and BiOp:

Appendix A, Action 39: Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: *Grant PUD shall establish and convene a Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) comprised of NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and Grant PUD. The PRCC shall oversee the implementation of the anadromous fish activities associated with the Priest Rapids Project, including the requirements of this opinion. Among other things, it shall approve or modify annual Progress & Implementation Plans; approve or modify*

the Performance Evaluation Program; review Performance Evaluation Reports; advocate decisions of the Committee in all relevant regulatory forums; establish such subcommittees as it deems useful (in addition to the Habitat and Hatchery Subcommittees required above); resolve disputes elevated from subcommittees; and conduct other business as may be appropriate for the efficient and effective implementation of these measures.

5.5.1 Coordination and Oversight. *The PRCC shall serve as a forum to coordinate the implementation of this Agreement and to consider issues that arise. This oversight and cooperation function shall not diminish the specific commitments and implementation responsibilities of individual Parties under this Agreement.*

Function of the Habitat Subcommittee

In summary, the HS implements habitat improvement measures of the Agreement by:

- participating in directing and coordinating habitat restoration or conservation programs;
- considering habitat restoration or conservation projects;
- consensus approval (agencies and tribes) of projects through habitat restoration or conservation outside the Project area and in the UCR basin;
- consensus approval (entire HS) for habitat restoration or conservation projects specified in annual Habitat Plans or in the Project area, and in the UCR basin;
- referral of non-habitat projects to the PRCC by any HS member.

Per the Agreement and BiOp:

Agreement Appendix A, BiOp Action 32: *Within 6 months of the date of this opinion, Grant PUD shall convene a Habitat Subcommittee of the PRCC to undertake and oversee the planning and implementation of the necessary program elements to support habitat protection and restoration programs.*

The Habitat Subcommittee shall be the primary forum for implementing and directing habitat protection and restoration measures for the Project's anadromous fish program. This subcommittee is comprised of NMFS, USFWS, WDFW, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation and Grant PUD.

Since January 2005, the Habitat Subcommittee has met monthly to undertake and oversee the planning and implementation of the necessary program elements to support habitat protection and restoration programs. The committee (PRCC) operates on consensus regarding decisions directly linked to Project management. Unresolved disputes may be elevated to the PRCC, which shall use the February 10, 2006, Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement process for dispute resolution if necessary. Decisions regarding management of anadromous fishery resources in the UCR basin not directly linked to the Project are the purview of the agencies and Tribes.

Purpose and use of NNI Fund

In summary, the NNI Fund:

- requires consultation and approval by the PRCC for fund expenditures;
- is established to fund measures or activities to improve near term Project survival;
- can fund habitat projects that are included in the annual Habitat Plan.

From Agreement Section 7.8: *“No Net Impact Fund” refers to the fund established by Part XV of this Agreement for the purpose of providing an increment of mitigation during the early years of the license term, specifically to address the gap between measured or estimated Project survival and the survival standards outlined in Sections 9.3, 10.3 and 11.3, so long as steady progress is made toward achieving the survival standards in accordance with the terms and schedule provided for in this Agreement.*

From Agreement Section 15.3, Function of (NNI) Fund: *The Parties recognize that the performance standards specified herein may not be achieved for certain stocks through current (2003) Project operations. The purpose of the Fund is to provide the Parties with additional financial capacity to undertake measures to improve survivals of Covered Species prior to the time when the Project attains applicable juvenile Project survival standards. The NNI Fund is intended to provide near-term compensation for annual survivals that are less than the survival objectives in the performance standards for the Project for spring Chinook, steelhead, summer Chinook and sockeye. Grant PUD will reduce its annual NNI Fund contributions as progress toward meeting these performance standards is achieved. When the Parties determine that the performance*

standards have been achieved on a species-by-species basis, the NNI Fund annual contributions for that species will be terminated.

Grant PUD shall develop annual plans for the expenditure of funds from the NNI Fund in consultation with the PRCC and with the approval of the Parties. These annual plans may be developed as a part of the annual Habitat Plans required by Appendix A or they may also include other measures or activities designed to improve survivals for Covered Species and contribute to the achievement of applicable performance standards for the Project. Grant PUD shall report annually on the activities associated with the NNI Fund in its Annual Progress and Implementation Plans required by Action 36 of Appendix A.

Funding Habitat Projects with NNI Funds

The Agreement is not entirely clear on flexibility of using NNI Funds for a habitat project. To clarify this, the PRCC will use the following process.

Each year, on April 15th, Grant PUD is required to submit documentation to FERC regarding the implementation of the Agreement (Annual FERC Activities Report). Prior to this date, upon request by the HS, a coordination meeting between the PRCC and HS will be conducted to discuss potential habitat projects to be funded with NNI Funds in the future, or to reserve NNI Funds for specific habitat projects in the conceptual stage that involves negotiations, uncertain permitting, assembling co-sponsors or other obstacles that prevent immediate decision making on a particular habitat project. For example, the Okanagon River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) project re-connected flood plain habitat and is expected to provide habitat improvement for sockeye, but will not improve survival at the Grant PUD hydroprojects. Due to high initial cost and protracted implementation schedule, the ORRI project could have been a candidate for reserved NNI funding.

A habitat project is defined as any measure designed to restore riparian habitat, conserve riparian habitat, evaluate or monitor species response to habitat improvements, improve Upper Columbia River tributary fish passage, improve water quality, improve water quantity to improve riverine conditions necessary for the completion of the life cycle of Covered Species, or otherwise contribute to the recovery or maintenance of Covered Species.

A NNI reserve fund project must include an expiration date and a specific dollar amount estimate. No more than 40% of the NNI Fund unencumbered balance should be encumbered by reserve fund projects. The PRCC has the authority to adjust the reserve fund amount when better cost estimates are available, and can otherwise modify reserve fund projects per coordination meetings with the HS. For habitat projects to be funded from NNI Funds, the project liaison from the HS is responsible for assembling and distributing pertinent information (project specification sheet) for a habitat project to the coordination meeting participants at least thirty days prior to the meeting. Similarly, a project liaison is the HS or PRCC member that compiles information on a project proposed for NNI funding and provides this to the PRCC.

Upon request of the PRCC the party implementing the proposed NNI project will also participate in the presentation of project.

NNI Funded Project - Selection Process

So long as a NNI proposed habitat project identifies a connection to improving the survival or status of a Covered Specie(s), the PRCC will accept the opinion of the HS as to the merit of the project per the project specifications sheet, and will consider NNI Funding based on the response of the HS to the following;

- NNI Fund projects must have clear rationale as to how the project will increase Project survival, investigate a potential means to reduce Project mortality, or contribute to overall survival or status of Covered Species. Project survival is defined as the number of tagged fish that survive Project passage (reservoir and dam) as measured in a Project survival study for Covered Species. Reducing Project mortality is defined as eliminating or investigating a source of Project mortality for Covered Species, either in the reservoir or through dam passage. Contributing to overall survival/status of Covered Species is defined as providing a habitat project with rationale demonstrating how habitat conditions (eg. increased instream flow, improved passage, habitat preservation, riparian and instream habitat modifications, improving water quality, and others) will be improved by implementing the habitat project. Contributing to overall survival or status of Covered Species is independent of measured Project survival.

- If a non-habitat project is proposed for NNI Funds and not every member of the PRCC agrees that the project will help achieve Priest Rapids Project survival or investigate sources of mortality, subsequent discussion within the PRCC may reject the project.
- The HS provides reasonable rationale as to why NNI Funds are being requested for a habitat project. The PRCC has no intent to second guess a habitat project's merit, so long as it is clearly a habitat project and well described in the project specification sheet, and the HS provides clear rationale as to why NNI Funds are being requested for a habitat project in lieu of utilizing habitat funds.

The project liaison (PRCC or HS member bringing the project for committee decision making) is responsible for providing the preceding information on the project specification sheet, and for setting up a presentations requested by the PRCC or HS.

For all habitat projects, the intent of the proposal may have policy considerations beyond the technical merit of the project. All PRCC or HS members are responsible for understanding and conveying policy considerations when voting for a project.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC members) represent a variety of federal, state, and tribal governments, and the Grant County Public Utility District. In the normal course of business, PRCC members review and vote on research or other monitoring and evaluation activities to be funded with NNI funds. The PRCC members may also be requested to review and vote on habitat restoration proposals, for potential NNI funding, submitted by the HS. These study and/or habitat restoration proposals may have been prepared by PRCC or HS members, their agency, professional colleagues, persons with whom they may share a personal relationship, or where there may be a financial interest.

Because the PRCC recognizes that such relationships may influence or appear to influence a member's judgment or views regarding the merits of a proposal or study plan, or the capability of an organization or individual to undertake a study, the PRCC has established the following policy for managing conflicts of interest.

PRCC members have a responsibility to alert the PRCC of any possible conflict of interest that may influence or appear to influence their position on a proposed study or program. In such situations the policy shall be that the PRCC member with the potential conflict of interest will simply recuse themselves from the voting process. The PRCC member may however continue to participate in all discussions of a proposal or study plan.

Dispute Resolution

If disputes among the Parties occurs within a subcommittee established by the PRCC (e.g. a Hatchery or a Habitat subcommittee), the following procedures per the Agreement shall be followed;

- Seek Resolution (Section 6.3.1). *Within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of a dispute under Section 6.2 (see Agreement), the subcommittee shall seek to agree upon a resolution of the dispute. Participants shall endeavor in good faith to reach a resolution of the dispute using the best available information.*
- Report to the PRCC (Section 6.3.2). *At the end of the sixty (60) day period, the appropriate subcommittee shall provide a report to the Chair of the PRCC describing the outcome of its efforts under Section 6.3.1. The Chair shall promptly distribute the report to the members of the PRCC. The report shall describe any proposed resolution, the basis for the proposed resolution, and such additional information as may be necessary to support the proposed resolution. In the alternative, the report shall describe the remaining issues in dispute, the efforts to resolve them, and any additional information that may be suitable to assist in resolving the outstanding issues in a timely manner.*
- PRCC Final Action (Section 6.3.3). *Upon receipt of a report under Section 6.3.2, above, the Parties shall, within thirty (30) days (or as otherwise agreed to) approve or disapprove the proposed resolution. In the event that it approves the proposal, the Parties will implement the resolution as accepted. In the event that the resolution requires the regulatory approval of FERC or another regulatory entity, Grant PUD, with the support of the Parties, shall seek prompt resolution by FERC or the relevant regulatory authority and shall proceed with its implementation upon receipt of the required approval.*
- PRCC Original Action (Section 6.4). *In the event that the Chair refers a disputed issue to the full PRCC, or a subcommittee is unable to resolve a dispute referred to it, the Parties shall have (90) days to seek agreement on the disputed matter. The Parties may elect to extend the time period for resolving the matter as it may judge appropriate prior*

to the referral of an issue to the Policy Representatives of the Parties, as described below.

- *Convening the Policy Representatives (section 6.5). In the event that the Parties fail to agree to a resolution of a disputed issue, the Chair shall within five (5) days notify the Policy Representative of each Party of the existence of the continuing dispute and to request that they convene to resolve the dispute. The Policy Representatives shall have sixty (60) days from the receipt of such notice to resolve the dispute. This period may be extended by consensus of the Policy Representatives.*
- *Final Action (Section 6.6). If, by the end of the sixty (60) day period (or the period otherwise agreed to), the Policy Representatives have not resolved the dispute, any Party may withdraw and/or petition FERC or other appropriate regulatory authorities with responsibility over the matter to resolve the issue as may be appropriate under existing law.*

Exhibit A
Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC)
No Net Impact Funds (NNI Funds)
Colville Tribes Northern Pike Suppression
Proposed Scope of Work (2026-2029)

Date submitted: March 25, 2025

Objective: Conduct Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in Lake Roosevelt and Rufus Woods Reservoir to prevent Pike from entraining below Chief Joseph Dam.

Northern Pike *Esox lucius*, an aquatic invasive species, was first detected in Lake Roosevelt in 2007. In 2013, their population exploded in the upper section of Lake Roosevelt, primarily near the Kettle River watershed. Left unchecked, the population began to rapidly expand and Northern Pike were soon found in the entire 240 km area of the upper Columbia River. Their rapid expansion was alarming to managers due to the potential impact to native species found in Lake Roosevelt such as Redband Trout, kokanee salmon, Burbot and White Sturgeon as well as the hatchery trout mitigation fishery in Lake Roosevelt.

Grand Coulee Dam is 199 km upstream of from Rocky Reach Dam. The expansion of Northern Pike downstream of Chief Joseph Dam poses a significant threat to the anadromous fish resources and recovery efforts in the middle Columbia River. A successful suppression program in Lake Roosevelt will reduce the likelihood of Northern Pike expanding into these sensitive water bodies.

The co-managers of Lake Roosevelt, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR), Spokane Tribe of Indians (STI), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) began to divert funds in 2015 to begin aggressive mechanical removal. Since that time, the Colville Tribes have collaborated with regional stake holders including PRCC, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bonneville Power Administration to help fund and implement the CTCR Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Program (McLellan et al. 2021).

The CTCR program includes monthly suppression from February through November, an eDNA monitoring program, growth and diet studies, microchemistry studies, acoustic tracking studies and an angler Reward Program. Through these efforts the CTCR have removed 9,598 Northern Pike bringing the combined co-manager total to **21,430** Northern Pike removed from Lake Roosevelt as of August 19, 2021.

As of 2024, Northern Pike have been primarily contained to the upper reaches of Lake Roosevelt (Figure 1) and no Northern Pike have been documented below Grand Coulee Dam (McLellan et al. 2018a, 2018b, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024).

In addition, the PRCC funding has been instrumental in funding the Northern Pike Reward Program. This program has been highly successful and is a key element of the public outreach portion of the program, with the goal of continuing to provide the public with an opportunity to help reduce Northern Pike densities. Since the Reward Program began (2017), 17% of the

Northern Pike removed from Lake Roosevelt were from anglers participating in this program (Figure 1).

The aggressive actions taken have kept densities of Northern Pike in the lower portion of Lake Roosevelt to a minimum, reduced densities in key areas such as the Kettle River, prevented the rapid expansion into downstream waters such as Banks Lake, Rufus Woods and Wells Pool. The number of Pike captured per net has decreased from 3.08 to 0.09 since 2017 (Figure 2).

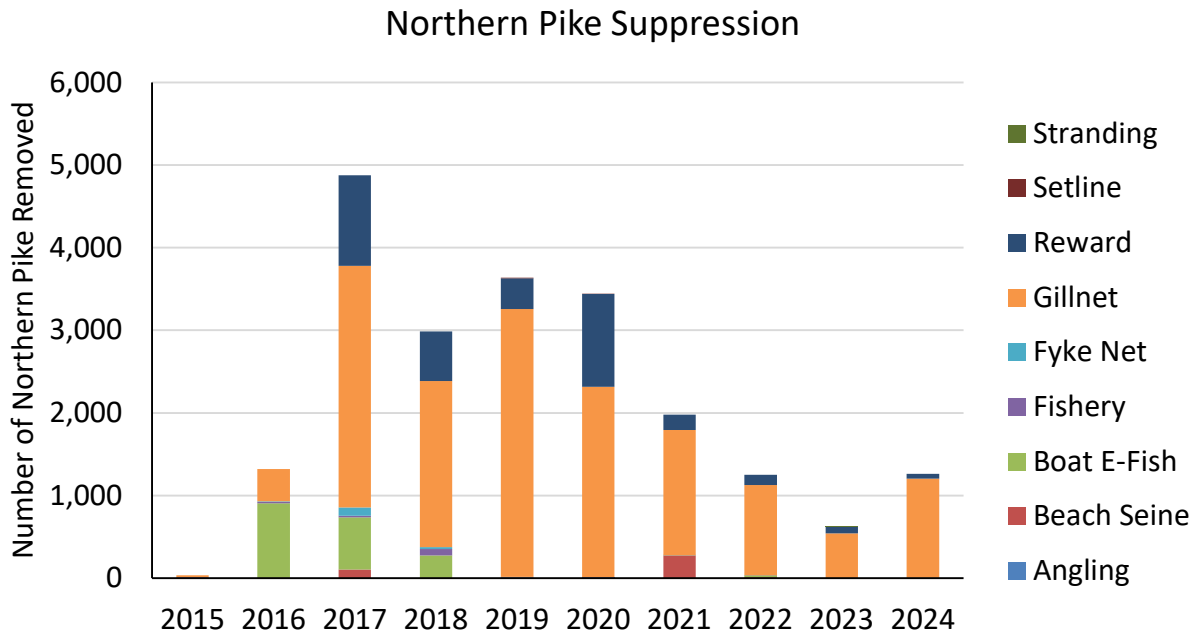


Figure 1. Number of Northern Pike removed from Lake Roosevelt per gear type.

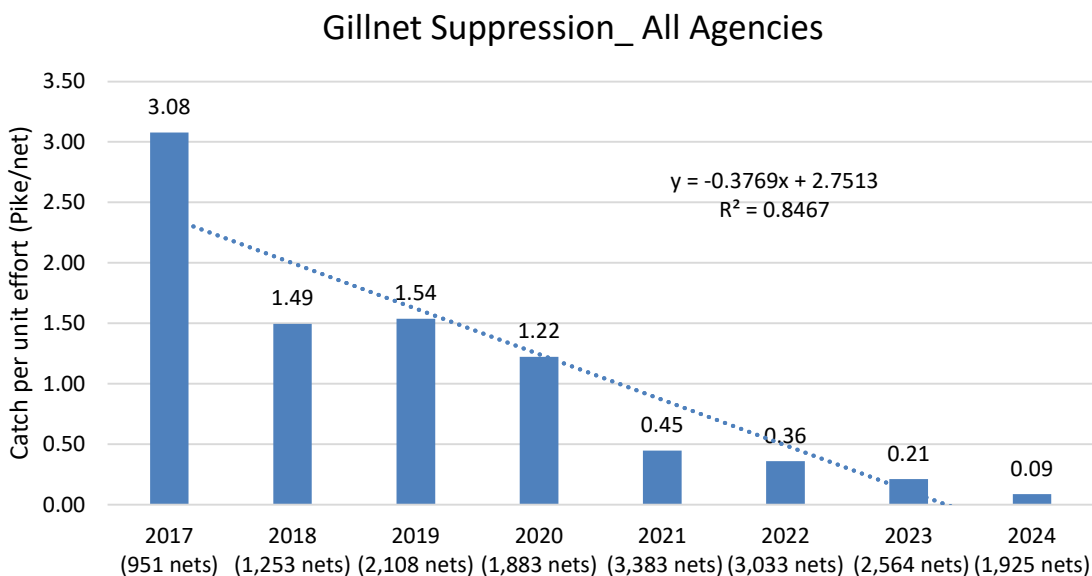


Figure 2. Catch per unit effort (Pike/net) in Lake Roosevelt between 2017 and 2024.

The Colville Tribes would like to continue to collaborate with Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (NNI funds) to support a portion of the Colville Tribes Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Program through 2029.

The Colville Tribes is seeking funding from the PRCC to continue operating the second boat and crew for six weeks (24 trips) during the peak Northern Pike spawning period (2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029), as well as funds to help support the Reward Program that offers \$10 to anglers for every Northern Pike killed.

In addition, we are seeking funding to assist with the eDNA monitoring of Northern Pike. We would like to sample the standard 50 sites in June and September (current study; Figure 3). Then sample the 13 sites below Grand Coulee Dam (6 in Rufus Woods and 7 below Chief Joseph Dam) monthly (July, August and October). We would like to survey these areas more frequently to increase the probability of detecting Northern Pike presence in new areas.

Data will be added to the master database that includes all other Northern Pike suppression information. A summary of the total catch by location, length distribution, sex, maturity, and any other information collected during the survey will be provided to the PRCC at the end of each year. The information collected in this survey will be incorporated into the full Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike annual report that will include results from all funding sources used to suppress Northern Pike

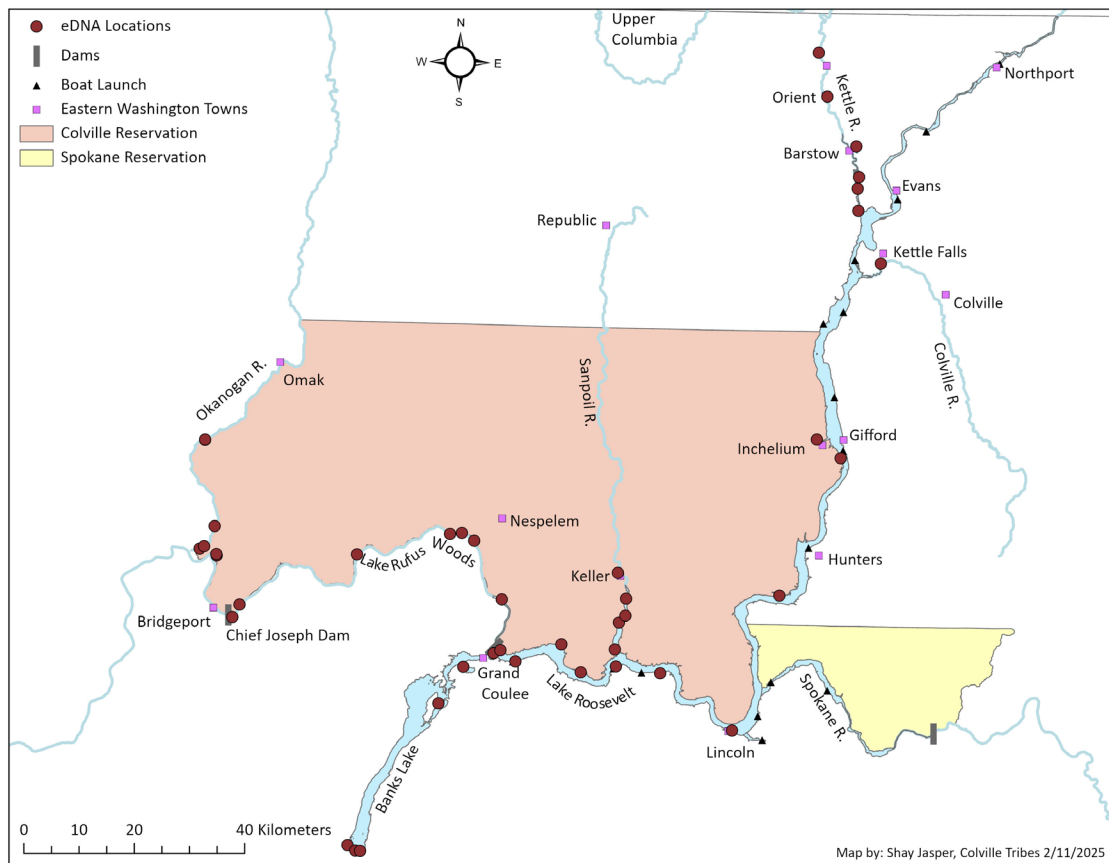


Figure 3. Northern Pike eDNA survey locations in the upper Columbia River.

Proposed PRCC NNI Funds Request: \$449,881 (\$112,470 per year for 4 years (2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029)).

Hrs						Unit Cost	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
PERSONNEL							\$61,371	\$61,371	\$61,371	\$61,371	\$245,485
Project Manager	173	@	\$61.28	/hr		\$10,601	\$10,601	\$10,601	\$10,601		
Principal Biologist	173	@	\$46.57	/hr		\$8,057	\$8,057	\$8,057	\$8,057		
Natural Resource Technician Senior	520	@	\$30.00	/hr		\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$15,600		
Natural Resource Technician II/Senior	520	@	\$28.00	/hr		\$14,560	\$14,560	\$14,560	\$14,560		
Subtotal Annual Salaries							\$48,818	\$48,818	\$48,818	\$48,818	
Benefits											
Project Manager						\$2,512	\$2,512	\$2,512	\$2,512		
Principal Biologist						\$2,151	\$2,151	\$2,151	\$2,151		
Natural Resource Technician Senior						\$3,976	\$3,976	\$3,976	\$3,976		
Natural Resource Technician II/Senior						\$3,914	\$3,914	\$3,914	\$3,914		
Subtotal Annual Benefits							\$12,553	\$12,553	\$12,553	\$12,553	
VEHICLES							\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$2,010	\$8,040
Mileage field work and meetings	6000	miles	@	\$0.210	mile	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$1,260		
Vehicle RM&E	6	weeks	@	\$125.00	ea	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750		
SUPPLIES/EQUIPMENT							\$22,540	\$22,540	\$22,540	\$22,540	\$90,160
Office Supplies	1	charge	@	\$1,000.00	each	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Field supplies	1	charge	@	\$1,000.00	each	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000		
Reward Program	1	charge	@	\$5,000.00	each	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000		
Smithroot eDNA self preserving eDNA kits	100	charge	@	\$20.00	each	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		
Gillnet equipment - buoys, rope, clips etc	1	charge	@	\$2,500.00	each	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500		
Gillnets	20	nets	@	\$300.00	each	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000		
CTCR Boat rental charge	24	trips	@	\$150.00	per trip	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600		
Boat gas (24 trips)	24	trips	@	\$60.00	per trip	\$1,440	\$1,440	\$1,440	\$1,440		
OVERHEAD / INDIRECT							\$13,049	\$13,049	\$13,049	\$13,049	\$52,196
26.73% of salaries	26.73%	percent of	salaries			\$13,049	\$13,049	\$13,049	\$13,049		
SUBCONTRACT							\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$54,000
eDNA Lab Processing (\$150/sample*100 samples)							\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$13,500	
Total Budget							\$112,470	\$112,470	\$112,470	\$112,470	\$449,881

Additional Colville Tribes Northern Pike Program funding sources.

CCT BPA Accord	\$300,000	per year	
CCT Funds	\$50,000	per year	
CCT BIA Grant	\$157,796	in 2025	Will re-apply each year
	\$507,796		
4 Year total (NNI plus other funds)	\$2,481,065		

In addition, the Spokane Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have received funding from various State and Federal agencies to implement Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring in Lake Roosevelt. The total program fluctuates between \$1.0 and 1.5 million annually.

Estimated Timeline: Colville Tribes annual work plan.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Acquire Permits	X											
Monitoring				X	X	X						
Reward Program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Report Summary												X
Stewardship												

**Note: The suppression efforts will begin in April weather permitting. Sampling may extend into June if the boat launches are not accessible due to the drawdown.*

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