

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Meeting

**In Person at Confluence Technology Center
and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, June 23, 2026
9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.**

Meeting Minutes

PRCC Representatives, Alternates, and Facilitation

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

Meeting Attendees

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator	Tim Taylor, GPUD*
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support	Scott Carlon, NMFS
Kirk Truscott, CTCR*	Emi Melton, NMFS
Dennis Moore, CTCR*	Chad Jackson, WDFW
Tom Dresser, GPUD	Nathan Buck, Wanapum*
Rod O'Connor, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN

*Joined virtually.

Action Items

- Anchor QEA will add Dennis Moore (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation [CTCR] PRCC Acting Representative) to the PRCC monthly meeting invites and PRCC primary email list. *(Note: This was completed.)*
- L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC Policy Committee meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation. *(This item is ongoing.)*

- Grant PUD will review and respond to the Joint Fisheries Parties' (JFP's) revisions to the draft statement of agreement (SOA) *Survival Evaluations - Path Forward*. (This item is ongoing.)
- Grant PUD will provide a summary of LGL Limited's (LGL's) findings on route-specific survival data as they relate to avian predation from Grant PUD's past survival studies.
- Grant PUD will provide a synthesis report for the *Summary of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival Studies*, as presented during the PRCC June 23, 2026, meeting.
- Grant PUD will inquire internally about the ability to shift spill from right bank to left bank, concurrent with shifting turbine load, as an alternative to total spill outages during the Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Stability Improvement Project.

Review Items

- A draft *White River Spring Chinook Program Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Guide* was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on September 22, 2025.
- The revised draft SOA *Survival Evaluations - Path Forward* was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on April 27, 2026.
- The PRCC HSC's memorandum, *White River Mitigation Recommendations*, was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 21, 2026.

Decisions and Approvals

- None.

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

L. Rohrbach welcomed the PRCC and reviewed the agenda. T. Dresser added "Priest Rapids Fish Bypass Outages" and "Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance." The agenda was approved by all members in attendance.

Meeting Minutes Approval

L. Rohrbach recalled that the final Subyearling Joint Session 16 (April 28) meeting minutes were approved via email and were distributed on June 2.

The draft April 28 PRCC meeting minutes were distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on May 12. No edits were received from PRCC members. K. Geris added administrative edits. The April 28 minutes were approved by members who attended that meeting. B. Gale approved the minutes via email on June 22, and P. McHugh approved the minutes via email before the PRCC meeting on June 23, 2026.

CTCR PRCC Representation

K. Truscott said D. Moore will be the CTCR's Acting Anadromous Division Manager until the permanent replacement is onboarded, which K. Truscott believes is scheduled for some time in mid-July. From this point forward, D. Moore will be the point of contact for the PRCC and Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinating Committees (HCP-CCs). K. Truscott will be on leave for the next few weeks but will still be checking emails periodically. Anchor QEA will add D. Moore to the PRCC monthly meeting invites and PRCC primary email list. *(Note: This was completed.)*

PRCC Policy Representatives

L. Rohrbach said she has been verifying the current list of PRCC Policy Representatives toward her action item to propose dates for a PRCC Policy Committee meeting. She reviewed her list to date:

PRCC Policy Representatives, Alternates, and Facilitation

Larissa Rohrbach, Anchor QEA, Facilitator	Jennie Franks (Acting Rep/Alt), NMFS
Kristi Geris, Anchor QEA, Technical Support	Clayton Buck, Wanapum
Brent Hall, CTUIR	Brock Hoenes, WDFW
Rebecca Hunt, Dennis Moore (Alt), CTCR	Bill Gale, USFWS
Tom Dresser, Grant PUD	David Blodgett III, Shannon Adams (Alt), YN

II. Actions Items Review

Action items from the PRCC April 28 meeting and follow-up discussions were as follows *(Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the April 28 meeting.):*

- *L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC Policy Committee meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation.*
L. Rohrbach said she is aiming to convene a meeting no later than September 2026. This item is ongoing.
- *Grant PUD will do the following after completion of this year's smolt survival study:*
 - 1) *Verify whether dead fish releases were used in the studies presented in the ongoing review of past survival studies;*
 - 2) *Consider looking into route-specific survival data as they relate to avian predation presented in the ongoing review of past survival studies; and*
 - 3) *Continue discussing the "Past Survival Studies Review" agenda topic.*
 - 1) R. O'Connor said the answer to this is no. However, dead fish releases were used in behavioral studies conducted in 2006 to 2007, prior to construction of the Wanapum Dam bypass. Dead fish were released at both projects directly into the tailraces, and no dead fish were detected at the next downstream arrays.
 - 2) R. O'Connor said Grant PUD worked with Kyle Hatch (LGL) to look into this one. There were some data, but not enough to say much about avian predation and route assignments. Steelhead were the only species with enough tags recovered to explore relationships between passage routes and avian predation.

There was a lot of covariation among environmental factors. Route selection and avian trends are both driven by environmental factors like flow levels, so trying to tease out the role of avian predation as a result of a specific route choice by fish was difficult. R. O'Connor recommended waiting to see the results from this year's study before discussing this topic further. S. Carlon asked, regarding route selection driven by environmental factors, in a high-flow year, do fish typically use a specific passage route? R. O'Connor said typically more flow is correlated with faster passage through the project and more passage through the bypasses. K. Murdoch said there are a lot of data showing higher flow results in faster travel and higher survival, but she would think passage through the bypasses would be lower. R. O'Connor said at Grant PUD projects, fish typically pass quickly through the forebay, pick up on attraction flow from the bypass, and choose this passage route. T. Dresser said during high river flow, the turbines are likely in fish mode and generation is more limited. For instance, in 2017, which was a really high-flow year, he suspects there was some tainter gate spill drawing fish closer to the bypass as well. R. O'Connor said Grant PUD projects are operated to favor flow to the bypasses, especially during high-flow conditions. K. Murdoch understands K. Hatch's analysis was limited by sample size, but she asked whether these data can be shared with the PRCC. R. O'Connor said he can provide a summary of LGL's findings. 3) R. O'Connor said he will continue this "Past Survival Studies Review" today with sharing a presentation on yearling Chinook Salmon.

- *Grant PUD will update the draft White River Spring Chinook Program Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement Guide with suggested responses to the talking points.*

T. Dresser suggested closing this action item for now, pending guidance from the PRCC Policy Committee.

- *Anchor QEA will locate the PRCC meeting protocols working document, and the PRCC will consider updating the meeting minutes approval protocols as necessary.*

This working document was located, and the voting criteria are consistent with the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA). This item is complete.

- *Grant PUD will review and respond to the JFP's revisions to the SOA Survival Evaluations - Path Forward.*

This item is ongoing.

- *Anchor QEA will confirm with Tracy Hillman (PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee [HSC] Chair) the PRCC's role in the White River Spring Chinook Salmon Program decision process and coordination for the PRCC Policy Committee.*

L. Rohrbach said, per the SSSA, the PRCC's role is coordination and oversight of the PRCC subcommittees. She recalled the Expert Panel's general position

was that an adult-based supplementation program in the White River would likely not increase the probability of the Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon population meeting viable salmonid population criteria. The PRCC HSC is now tasked with providing alternative recommendations for Grant PUD's mitigation. This will take a couple of months, but then the PRCC will have an opportunity to review these concepts and make sure these are in an appropriate format and include appropriate information for the PRCC Policy Committee to make a final determination.

- *Grant PUD will share outcomes of the 2026 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby with the PRCC.*

This will be discussed during today's meeting.

- *Grant PUD will provide Grant PUD's and Chelan PUD's final Study Proposal: Tag Effects for Subyearling Summer Chinook Salmon for distribution to the PRCC and HCP-CCs.*

The final study plan was distributed to the PRCC and HCP-CCs by K. Geris on May 5, 2026. This item is complete.

III. Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Funding

K. Geris shared on Microsoft Teams a draft No Net Impact (NNI) Cost Match Letter (Attachment A), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on June 15. T. Dresser said Holly McLellan (CTCR) reached out about an opportunity for the CTCR to seek matching grants through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Water Resources Development Act 2017 program. T. Dresser thought it would be appropriate to notify the PRCC that Grant PUD plans to submit this letter (Attachment A) to the COE so that PRCC NNI Funds can be considered for a matching grant or cost share under this program. Since 2022, the PRCC has been contributing funds to the CTCR's Northern Pike suppression and monitoring effort in Lake Roosevelt. The current contract (PRCC NNI Funding Agreement 430-HFA 601-37H) is through December 2029. This is a great opportunity for additional funding for this effort. Nothing is guaranteed, H. McLellan still needs to apply for the grant, and she is uncertain about how long this process will take. H. McLellan is also working with the Bonneville Power Administration for this same matching grant opportunity, and she plans to reach out to all partners contributing to this Northern Pike suppression effort in Lake Roosevelt.

L. Rohrbach asked for questions or concerns. C. Jackson said Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) agrees this letter of support is great. K. Truscott said the CTCR appreciate Grant PUD's ongoing participation in this effort and this letter of support. E. Melton asked, if the CTCR's application is approved for this matching grant, then does the COE provide money, and then an NNI Fund match goes out? T. Dresser clarified that the CTCR already have these NNI Funds, and the COE would match this

amount. Grant PUD and the PRCC are not contributing additional NNI Funds.

L. Rohrbach recalled that last spring was the last time H. McLellan requested NNI Funds for this effort and the PRCC approved funding for the next 3 years.¹ T. Dresser added that H. McLellan also provided a summary of the last 3 years' work.² No other questions were expressed. T. Dresser will follow up with H. McLellan about the outcome of this opportunity.

(Note: Grant PUD submitted a final NNI Cost Match Letter to COE on July 8, 2026.)

IV. 2026 Smolt Survival Study Update

R. O'Connor said the last fish releases occurred over Memorial Day Weekend (the first fish releases occurred on April 28). Crews are now monitoring tags and have started retrieving some gear, working from upstream down. The arrays at Crescent Bar and Sunland Estates have been retrieved (the array at Mattawa is still deployed), and the primary database is starting to be compiled. Grant PUD expects to have all equipment and data to inform the study out of the river by mid-July. Per the contract, all data need to be provided to Rebecca Buchanan (Buchanan Statistical Consulting), including a quality check dataset, by the second week of August. Crews will then work on cleaning up and stowing the gear. Based on the timeline of previous studies, Grant PUD will likely be ready to give a presentation on the 2026 effort during the PRCC October 27 meeting.

S. Carlon asked whether LGL is processing the data. R. O'Connor said LGL, in coordination with Grant PUD, set up, deployed, and will retrieve all equipment. Once all equipment is retrieved and there is access to all data, LGL will develop a master database to provide to R. Buchanan. LGL will author the primary report, and R. Buchanan will author the statistical analysis.

R. O'Connor said in October, he will present everything except the statistical analysis. In November, the draft report and statistical analysis will be provided to the PRCC for a 30-day review. He suggested at this time inviting R. Buchanan to a PRCC meeting to address any questions on the statistics. A final report can be expected by early 2027.

E. Melton asked whether R. Buchanan is using a new method for calculating survival. R. O'Connor said a variation of Dr. John Skalski's previously developed method will be used (as described in Appendix A of the study plan, which cites previous statistical plans by Skalski et al. that were implemented from 2008 to 2010 and 2014 to 2017,

¹ Approved on March 25, 2025.

² Distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on January 6, 2026.

based on statistical principles established by Skalski et al.³). He further explained that federal projects have different requirements, so this model has been adjusted to be appropriate for Grant PUD's projects. There is also a uniqueness to the PRD Project in that the terminal arrays are located farther downstream than most survival studies, which was a modification recommended by J. Skalski. S. Carlon added that Steve Smith (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]) and J. Skalski were involved in developing this methodology. L. Rohrbach said the final study plan was approved in 2023,⁴ and attached to this plan is R. Buchanan's statistical plan.⁵ R. O'Connor also recalled follow-up questions from A. Murdoch about how dead fish detections will be handled in the 2026 study, and R. Buchanan provided a written response.⁶

V. Past Survival Studies Review

R. O'Connor shared on Microsoft Teams the presentation, *Summary of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival Studies* (Attachment B), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris after today's meeting on June 23. R. O'Connor reviewed each slide, and further discussions were as follows.

Slide 1 to 2

R. O'Connor recalled there were a lot of years of data for steelhead, but this is not the case for yearling Chinook Salmon. For yearling Chinook Salmon, the 3-year compliance studies were conducted from 2003 to 2005 and used passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags. The check-in study was conducted in 2014 and used acoustic tags.

Slide 3

This is the Skalski model.⁷ This single release-recapture model used releases a Rock Island, Wanapum, and Priest Rapids dams. A third release location was used instead of doing a paired release-recapture model. The downstream detection locations and replicates for each 3-year compliance study were also reviewed.

L. Rohrbach asked what the deciding factor was for doing a single versus paired release. R. O'Connor said he would need to defer to R. Buchanan to answer this.

Slide 4

³ Skalski, J.R., S.G. Smith, R.N. Iwamoto, J.G. Williams, A. and Hoffman, 1998. "Use of Passive Integrated Transponder Tags to Estimate Survival of Migrant Juvenile Salmonids in the Snake and Columbia Rivers." *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 55:1484–1493.

⁴ PRCC SOA 2023-02 (Approval of the Study Plan for the Estimation of Juvenile Yearling Chinook, Sockeye, and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2025-2027) was approved by the PRCC on November 28, 2023.

⁵ The final study plan, *Juvenile Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Survival through the Priest Rapids Project in 2026*, and appended statistical plan, was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 21, 2025.

⁶ In a memorandum titled, "Use of Dead Fish Detections in Analysis of 2026 Project Survival Study," dated August 19, 2025. Distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on August 21, 2025.

⁷ Skalski et al. 1983

R. O'Connor said a study needs solid detection probabilities at downstream detection points, and he reviewed the annual detection probabilities for McNary, John Day, and Bonneville dams. He said these made working with PIT tags viable in these years.

Slide 5

For Wanapum and Priest Rapids, the horizontal purple bar is the 93% survival standard requirement for each development. For the Project, the purple bar marks the 86.5% requirement. The early studies were low in Wanapum, but above in Priest Rapids, then the final Project estimate achieved 86.6%. In 2014, survival estimates were above in both developments.

K. Truscott noted, in 2014, the Wanapum Reservoir was drafted due to the fracture. R. O'Connor said this is correct, but this was not the case for the Priest Rapids Reservoir. K. Truscott recalled that due to the fracture and non-conforming project operations, the PRCC did not accept this survival study as valid. R. O'Connor said this is correct for steelhead; however, for yearling Chinook Salmon the survival estimate was accepted. T. Dresser explained for Wanapum, because a survival study was already planned and understanding that conditions were drastically different than normal, the PRCC decided to move forward with the study and also used the study results to inform NMFS that there were no major impacts on spring Chinook Salmon during the drawdown. Steelhead met the survival performance standards in the Priest Rapids Development but narrowly missed the mark in the Wanapum Development. Yearling Chinook Salmon met all survival performance standards in the Project. So, the 2014 survival study was half valid, half not valid. K. Truscott asked whether this was memorialized in an SOA. T. Dresser recollected that it was.^{8,9} K. Truscott said if the 2014 results are included in any averages, this needs to be footnoted appropriately.

Slide 6

R. O'Connor said conditions for the 3-year studies and check-in study were drastically different, notably the 2014 Wanapum drawdown, as just discussed.

K. Murdoch said, regarding fish travel times or water transit times between years, she suspects with the drawdown, fish moved faster, which probably affected survival.

S. Carlon said turbine passage was not normal either at Wanapum and probably not very efficient. T. Dresser recalled this was in the lower ranges.

Other Comments

⁸ PRCC SOA 2014-02 (To be implemented in 2014 as part of existing requirements or as a result of the Wanapum Spillway Fracture and Wanapum Reservoir Drawdown) was approved by the PRCC on April 11, 2014.

⁹ "Behavior and Survival Analysis of Juvenile Steelhead and Yearling Chinook Salmon through the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project in 2014" (Hatch et al. 2015) is an attachment to the PRCC February 25, 2015 meeting minutes.

R. O'Connor said Grant PUD will provide a synthesis report for this *Summary of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival Studies* as presented during today's meeting.

S. Carlon said NMFS appreciates these presentations, notably considering that PRCC members are retiring and new members are hearing this for the first time. T. Dresser said one question he has received from new PRCC members in the past is why it seems there have not been as many studies on yearling Chinook Salmon. He explained that before Grant PUD entered into the SSSA, before the 2004 Biological Opinion was issued, the PRCC was meeting survival standards for yearling Chinook Salmon. In 2005, Grant PUD started studying steelhead and then focused on steelhead until around 2011/2012. He recalled in some years survival was extremely low, and some studies looked at handling and some looked at different sources, among other things. Conversely for Sockeye Salmon, which the PRCC thought would be difficult, Grant PUD conducted 2 years of studies, and survival was well above 90%, so the PRCC deferred the Year 3 study to focus on steelhead. This is the reasoning behind 2 to 5 studies versus 9 to 10 steelhead studies.

R. O'Connor said he wanted to present on steelhead and yearling Chinook Salmon before this year's survival study, and he plans to present on Sockeye Salmon at a future meeting.

VI. 2026 Fish Passage Operations Report

Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance

K. Geris shared on Microsoft Teams the memorandum *Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance - June 9, 2026* (Attachment D), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on June 18.

T. Dresser said on June 9, there was an exceedance in 8 of 10 units for a duration of about 6 minutes. He explained the reasoning as described in Attachment D. He emphasized there was no equipment failure, all alarms worked, and this was essentially due to human error. The incident was documented and will be used as another training tool. To note, this was a relatively new operator.

L. Rohrbach recalled that Grant PUD has committed to reporting Fish Mode issues throughout the year and then will provide an end-of-year summary. These activities are coordinated with the designated PRCC Spill Representatives (S. Carlon and B. Gale).

T. Dresser said every week, he receives a report on the past week. Once he received this report, he reached out to S. Carlon and B. Gale and drafted this memorandum. T. Dresser said each year, he also meets with all Grant PUD dam operators and discusses these types of safety topics.

Priest Rapids Fish Bypass Outages

K. Geris shared on Microsoft Teams the presentation *Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Stability Improvement Project* (Attachment C), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris after today's meeting on June 23. T. Dresser reviewed each slide, and further discussions were as follows.

Slide 1

T. Dresser said prior to 2014, Grant PUD was discussing potential seismic events with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Dam Safety. In 2014, the Wanapum fracture occurred, not due to a seismic event, but due to a detached joint as a result of the time of year and a miscalculation. At that time, FERC started asking Grant PUD to take a close look at Priest Rapids Dam and whether this is possible to happen there. The answer is yes. Since Wanapum was repaired, Grant PUD has put a lot of effort into Priest Rapids, including installing monitoring equipment and drilling holes to relieve pressure.

Slide 2

T. Dresser reviewed why this work is needed (FERC Dam Safety requirements) and the remedial action (installing anchors and tendons). He noted that the fish bypasses do not require anchors.

Slides 3 to 4

The red dots on the ogee spillway are where the post-tensioned anchors and tendons will be installed in spillway gates 1 to 19. This requires drilling 4- to 5-foot diameter holes, inserting the anchors and tendons, grouting in, and tightening. The fish bypasses (gates 20 to 22) do not need anchors.

Slide 5

A lot of work has gone into figuring out where to stage this work. The orange line is the Boat Restriction Zone, and the red hatched and dotted area are the proposed work zones to do in-water work safely with the fish bypasses open. The yellow area is an additional hazard barrier where crews can work with no boat access.

Slide 6

The initial work and outage will occur on June 29, to install the floating barrier around gate 11 from the spillway into the forebay. This requires having divers in the water with a fish bypass outage for 8 to 10 hours (Turbine Units 1 to 4 offline). A contingency day is reserved on June 30 in case there is bad weather on June 29.

Slide 7

On the left bank, Barge 2 is the Grant PUD and contractor staging area. Equipment boats will move in and out from there with no bypass outages required. On the right bank, all work from Barge 1 and the Tug can also be done without bypass outages.

Slide 8

Installation of A-333 (a major anchoring site) will require a bypass outage from July 21 to July 24 and July 27 to July 29, for 8 to 10 hours per day.

Slide 9

T. Dresser said this is a summary of the bypass outage schedule, which is a total of 80 hours from June 29 to July 29. He asked the contractor to try to reduce these outage windows as much as possible. The contractor will try, but there is a lot of dive work to get done. He has been asked why not do the work outside of the fish passage season. The reason is because the contractor wants to get all staged, then from November to January, work needs to be completed on gates 16 to 19, which are the gates closest to the bypass, then demobilize from that area before the next fish passage season.

L. Rohrbach asked about the total duration for all work. T. Dresser said everything will be completed before the 2028 fish passage season, so this protection will be in place for 1.5 years. There are several constraints to work around, including fish passage, completing work during the winter to demobilize before the next fish passage season, and there still needs to be access and passage across the dam. He has been asked whether the work can be done from the deck of the dam; and the answer is no, most work must be from the barges. As milestones are met, he will report back to the PRCC. He suspects these timeframes may shift.

E. Melton asked if the spillways will remain open during this work. T. Dresser said on June 29, Turbine Units 1 to 4 will be offline, and those spillways will be on seal (no spill). Turbine Units 1 to 10 are on river right. Load will be moved to the other side.

K. Truscott asked when a bypass is out of operation and load is shifted from the right bank to the left bank, during that timeframe, can that reduced volume spill from the right bank be compensated for by spilling more on the left bank? T. Dresser said on June 29, no, because there needs to be full spillway clearance and turbine outage. He can inquire internally about the other dates. Although, even on the other dates, the spillway clearance is for installing A-333 *and* there are boats and tugs on the other side of the 360-foot barrier doing multiple activities in multiple locations. K. Truscott asked if there is a different level of safety between generation and spill when shifting load from the right bank to the left bank. T. Dresser said yes, moving to the left bank away from the spillway and bypass is getting as much distance between work crews and divers from spillway and turbine operations. K. Truscott asked when this occurs, is load shifted closer to the bypass? T. Dresser said load is shifted away from the bypass. K. Truscott asked if it is possible, with safety, to provide some spill to compensate for the loss of volume of spill in the bypass. T. Dresser said possibly by opening spillway gates 1 to 2 on the far right. He can ask, but he suspects the pushback he will get is the uncertainty about what other work activities will be occurring at the same time in areas of the

bypass and on the other side of the 360-foot barrier. K. Truscott said his question is, if generation can be shifted, can the same be done with spill?

A. Fish Ladder Inspections

K. Murdoch said she met with Mike Clement (Grant PUD) in April for the first in-person inspection of year. The May inspection was completed remotely. Tomorrow, she is meeting with Cody Tisdale (Grant PUD) for the June inspection, because M. Clement retired. T. Dresser said C. Tisdale has been with Grant PUD for 2 months now. K. Murdoch added that C. Tisdale also attended the April inspection.

E. Melton asked for a high-level overview of what these fish ladder inspections entail. K. Murdoch said these are part of the Fish Passage Center's fishway inspection program. Tom Skiles (former PRCC representative for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation representative) used to perform these inspections. The inspections involve checking gages in different areas of the dam to verify everything is operating in compliance and monitoring that everything appears to be operating as it should be.

B. Fish Spill Updates

No updates were shared.

C. Adult Fish Counts for 2026 (April 15 to November 15)

L. Rohrbach reviewed the adult fish counts through June 11, as shown below:

Project	Spring Chinook Salmon ^a		Summer Chinook Salmon ^b		Fall Chinook Salmon ^c		Sockeye Salmon	Coho Salmon	Steelhead
	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks			
PRD	9,430	196	0	0	0	0	44	0	30
WAN	9,416	261	0	0	0	0	12	0	35
RIS	8,043	540	0	0	0	0	6	0	49

Notes:

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

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

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

PRD = Priest Rapids; WAN = Wanapum; RIS = Rock Island

C. Jackson reviewed more current Sockeye Salmon data and said WDFW's modelers are predicting a low run year. R. O'Connor said currently, about 27,000 have been counted at Bonneville Dam. C. Jackson said the 10-year average at this time of year is almost 83,000 over Bonneville. R. O'Connor said 80,000 at Bonneville triggers collection at the Off-Ladder Adult Fish Trap (OLAFT). C. Jackson said historically on this date, 27% of the run should be over Bonneville and then approximately 50% soon after. L. Rohrbach asked when steelhead collection begins at the OLAFT. R. O'Connor said around July 4.

UPDATES

VIII. Review of Outstanding NNI-Funded Projects

- **Northern Pike Removal**
Covered above.
- **WDFW PIT-Tag Detection Barge**
No updates were shared.
- **2026 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby**
T. Dresser said a total of 1,009 fish were collected, for a total weight of 1,100 pounds. No adult steelhead were collected. More information to come.
- **2026 RTR Avian Predation Study**
See RTR weekly reports via email. K. Murdoch recalled a weekly report from May that noted a gull colony on Miller Rocks was gone and appeared to move to Preachers Islands located downstream from John Day Dam. She said the Yakama Nation (YN) has been working on bird hazing at Miller Rocks for several years. This year, the YN is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which increased lethal take at Miller Rocks. Both actions have led to this gull colony abandoning the site. The YN is bird hazing at Preachers Islands, as well, but currently there is no lethal take. The YN is working with USFWS for this next year. She views this as a success. The YN is also working on White Pelicans diet studies.
- **Tag Effects Evaluation for Summer Subyearling Chinook Salmon**
L. Rohrbach recalled in 2024, the last subyearling workshop was held to discuss the state of the science and whether it is possible to implement a subyearling survival study, which has not been done to date. The PRCC and HCP-CCs concluded there are still outstanding questions to answer and have been convening joint sessions since. Now study plans are approved, and it is time for the PUDs to implement these laboratory studies. She will keep in contact with T. Hillman (HCP-CCs Chair) regarding when to reconvene the joint sessions. R. O'Connor said for the Grant PUD/Chelan PUD study, fish were transferred from Eastbank Hatchery to Abernathy Fish Technology Center (Abernathy) in May. Fish are acclimating well. The next phase is to start splitting up the main group, so there are enough fish for each target size class. Another update from Spheros Environmental and Abernathy is expected this week. Everything is on track in terms of the facility, staff, equipment, to start the study next week.

IX. Subcommittee Updates

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

- Priest Rapids Fish Forum – met June 3, next meeting July 1.

- Habitat Subcommittee – met June 11, next meeting July 9.
- Fall Chinook Work Group – met April 30, next meeting October 5.
- Hatchery Subcommittee – met June 17 to 18, next meeting July 15 to 16.

X. SOAs Discussed in 2026

SOA number	Key Words	Last Discussed	Status
2026-01	Decoupling Summer Subyearling Survival	February 24, 2026	Approved (March 20, 2026)
2026-XX	Survival Evaluations - Path Forward	April 28, 2026	In Review

XI. Next Meetings

The next PRCC meeting will be on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., to be held in person at the Wanapum Hydro Office Building in Beverly, Washington. The next Subyearling Joint Session (Session 17) with the HCP-CC is to be determined.

XII. Attachments

Attachment A – Draft NNI Cost Match Letter

Attachment B – Presentation, *Summary of Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival Studies*

Attachment C – Presentation, *Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Stability Improvement Project*

Attachment D – Memorandum, *Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance - June 9, 2026*

June 15, 2026

Kathryn Wenger
AIS Cost Share Program Manager/Planner
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
720 E Park Blvd #245
Boise, Idaho 83712

Dear Ms. Wenger:

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (Grant PUD) owns and operates two hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River, Wanapum and Priest Rapids, known altogether as the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (PRP), and is operated under the terms and conditions of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Hydroelectric License No. P-2114 issued by FERC on April 17, 2008.

Grant PUD has several operational agreements with fishery agencies, tribal representatives, and other operators to provide protection and improvements for a range of fisheries and other resources within upstream and downstream of the PRP. These agreements include the Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Protection Program Agreement (Grant PUD 2004) and the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA, Grant PUD 2006). The Project is also subject to the requirements of its FERC license and related laws and regulations, as well as to the requirements (incorporated by reference in the license) of the Biological Opinion (BiOp) for the PRP issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for its effects on anadromous salmonids, the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certificate (WQC) issued by the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE), and the BiOp for the PRP issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the effect of the PRP on Bull Trout.

Under the SSSA, Grant PUD coordinates with the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) and SSSA signatories¹ to manage and oversee a No-Net-Impact (NNI) fund. The PRCC has used the NNI fund to support a variety of projects, including avian predation research and monitoring in the Upper Columbia Basin Plateau, adult Sockeye Salmon passage improvements in the Okanogan River Basin, and irrigation screening projects throughout the Upper Columbia River Basin.

In 2022, Grant PUD, on behalf of the PRCC, entered into an NNI funding agreement (430-HFA 601-37H) with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for Northern Pike (*Esox Lucius*) suppression and monitoring in Lake Roosevelt and eDNA monitoring below Grand Coulee Dam (including Rufus Woods and Chief Joseph Dam). The agreement runs through December 31, 2029, with a total contract award of \$849,881.00.

Grant PUD understands that the Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Water Resources Development Act 2017 program requires non-federal matching funds. Grant PUD can assure the COE that NNI Funds allocated via our NNI funding agreements can be used for such matching purposes. This is an excellent opportunity to

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington.

use these funds to ensure that Northern Pike do not expand further downstream into the Columbia River system where they would pose a significant ecological risk to native resident fishes, and ESA-listed and non-listed salmonids.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (509) 797-5182, Tdresse@gcpud.org

Sincerely,

Tom Dresser
Senior Manager of Fish, Wildlife and Water Quality
Public Utility District No. of Grant County, Washington
30 C Street SW
Ephrata, Washington, 98823

Cc. Larissa Rohrbach – Facilitator – Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Holly McLellan – Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Summary of juvenile Chinook Salmon survival studies

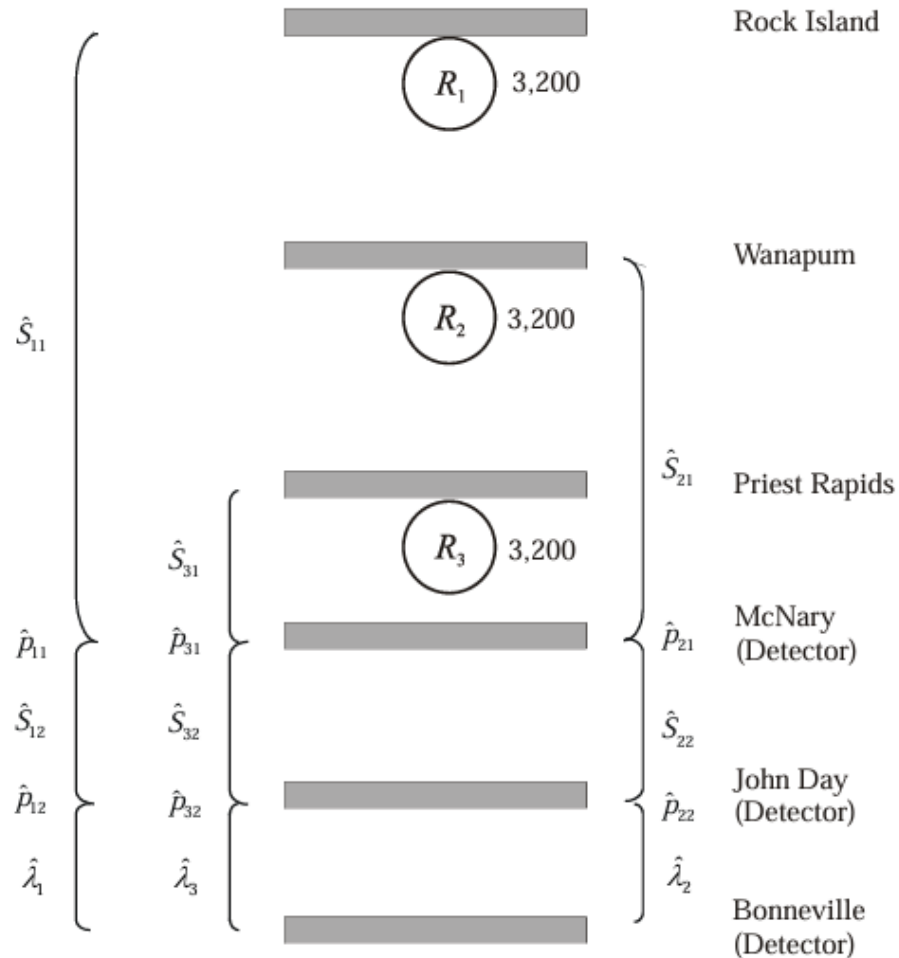
Grant PUD studies 2003-2014

Study periods: 2003-2005; 2014

- High level review – will provide report with additional details
- PIT tag studies for compliance estimate 2003-2005
- Acoustic tag study for re-evaluation 2014

4.2 PIT-Tag Smolt Survival Estimates

The single release-recapture model (Skalski et al. 1998) provided estimates of reach-specific survival and capture probabilities for all but the last recovery site at Bonneville Dam using the PIT-tag releases at Rock Island, Wanapum, and Priest Rapids tailraces (Figure 1-1).



2003: 3,200/rep x 12 x 3 locations = 115,200
 2004: 3,750/rep x 10 x 3 locations = 112,500
 2005: 3,675/rep x 12 x 2 locations = 88,200

Figure 7. Schematic of PIT-tag release scenario for estimating smolt survival.

2003-2005 Yearling Chinook PIT survival studies				
Annual Detection Probabilities at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville juvenile facilities				
<i>Unweighted avg across all replicates and release sites</i>				
	<u>Lowest</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>Highest</u>	<u>SE</u>
McNary	0.1635	0.0275	0.2458	0.0109
John Day	0.1303	0.0139	0.211	0.0471
Bonneville	0.0685	0.0211	0.0976	0.023

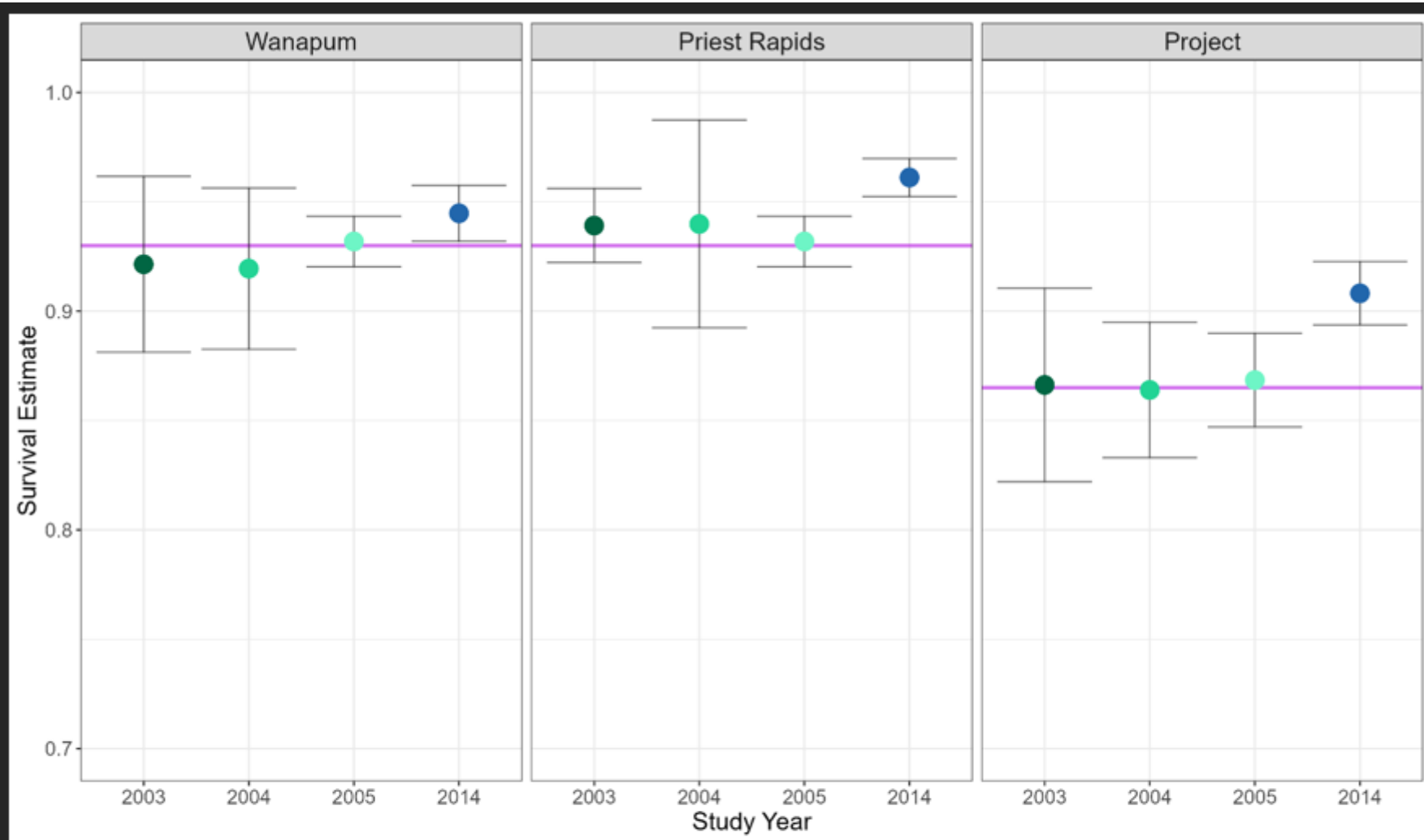


Figure 21. Chinook survival estimates and associated standard errors for each development (Wanapum and Priest Rapids) and for the entire Priest Rapids Project by study year. The purple horizontal line represents the Development and Project survival standards (0.93 and 0.865, respectively). The study in 2005 did not include survival calculations for each development, as such single development estimates are a square root of the Project survival for comparative purposes.

Summary: Yearling Chinook evaluations 2003–2005 PIT tag and 2014 acoustic tag

Study	Dam operations	Fish origin & collection	Fish released	Project Survival estimate	Notable conditions
2003–2005 GPUD PIT tag study	Pre-bypass construction Pre fish-mode operations	100% hatchery-origin yearling Chinook; reared at Wells Hatchery, transferred to Priest Rapids Hatchery; PIT-tagged in December before spring studies	88,200–115,200 annually	86.6% 3-year average	Baseline, normal operations
2014 GPUD acoustic tag study	Bypasses operating at both dams (first year at Priest Rapids) Fish-mode operations in use; normal operations at Priest Rapids	Run-of-river fish collected at the gatewells of Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams	1,716	90.8% SE 1.5%	Wanapum spillway fracture caused 28' pool drawdown; reduced Wanapum bypass flow (4 vs 20 Kcfs); reduced route selection (<10% of fish)

Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Stability Improvement Project



Priest Rapids Dam

Spillway Stability Improvement Project

Why Needed (Required)

FERC Dam Safety – Necessary to address the potential future degradation and improve the structural capacity at locations of the dis-bonded lift joint (elevation 405'). Provides modern seismic loading capacity of the Priest Rapids spillway.

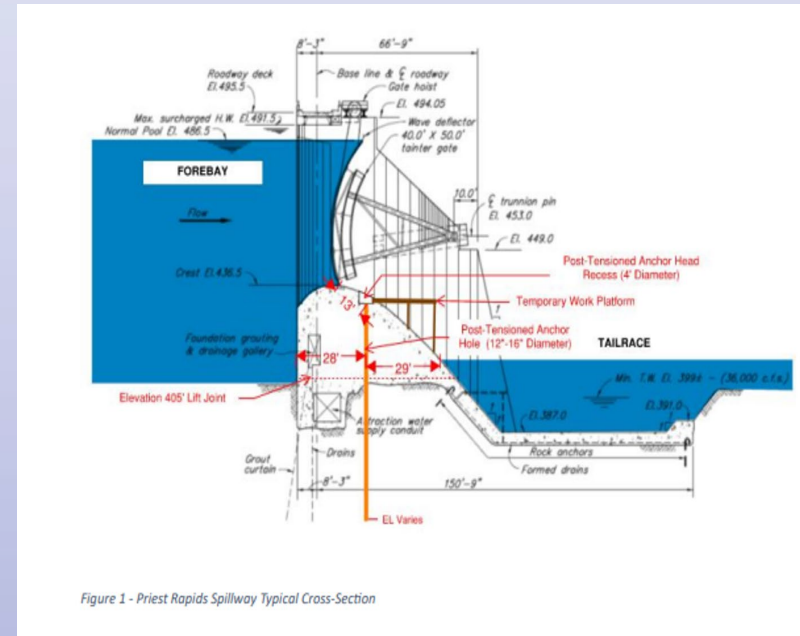
Remedial Action

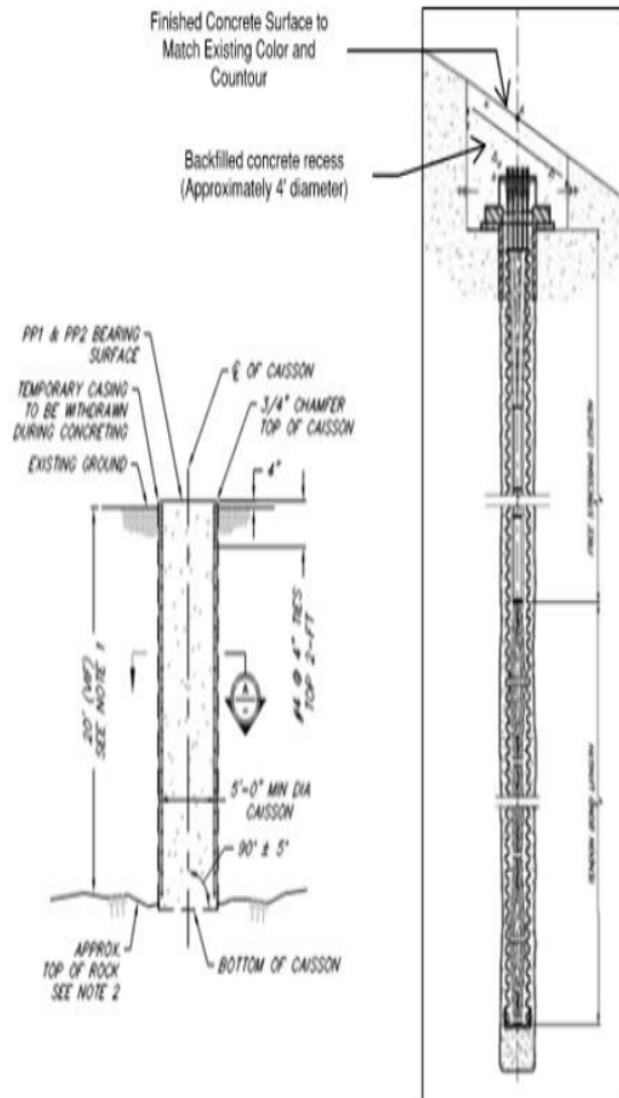
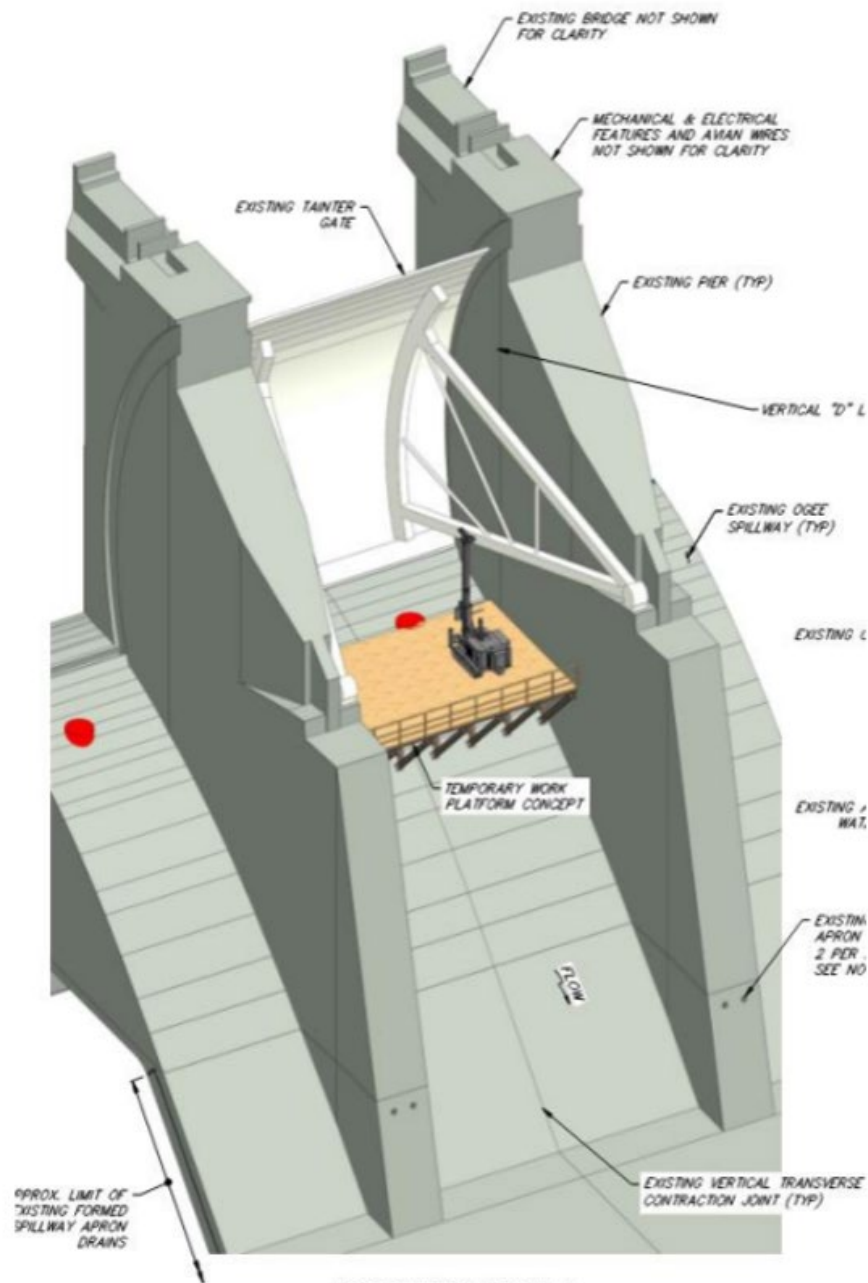
Installation of 38 post-tensioned anchors through the spillway concrete ogee into the underlying foundation/bedrock.

Two tendons need to be installed downstream of each spillway gates (1-19).

PR Fish Bypasses

Does not require anchors.





Typical Post-Tensioned Anchor

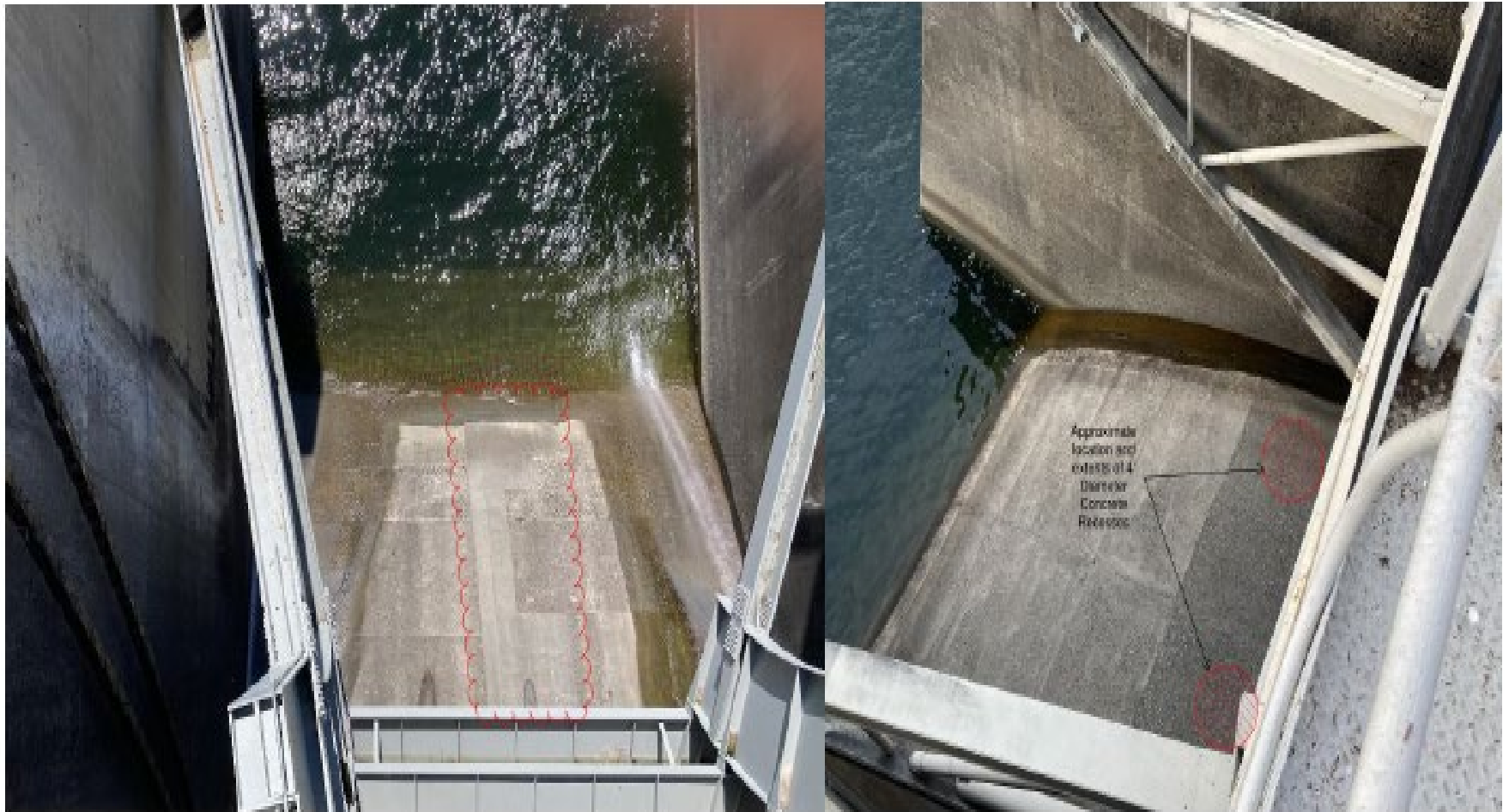
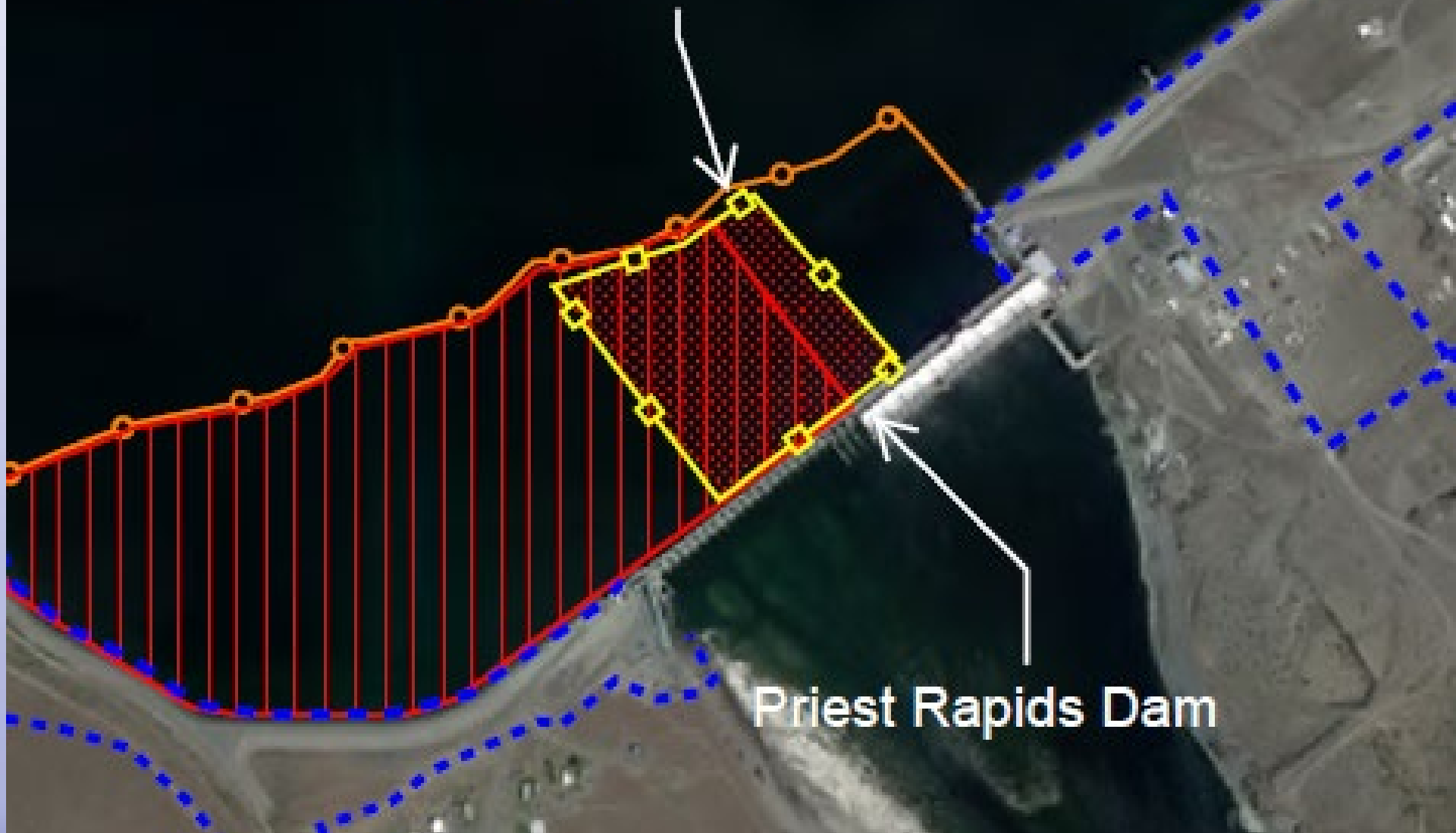
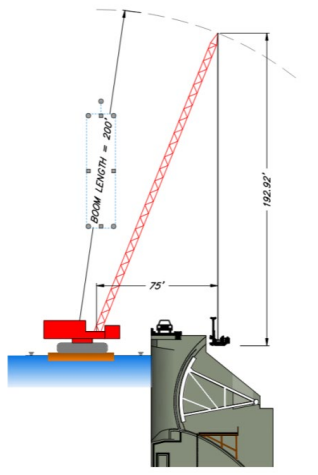


Figure 4 – Left - Wanapum Dam Spillway Concrete Repairs (clouded) adjacent to existing concrete, Right – Location of Concrete Recesses and Post-Tensioned Anchors Proposed at Priest Rapids Dam Spillway Typical Spillway Gates 1-19.

Existing Hazard
Barrier

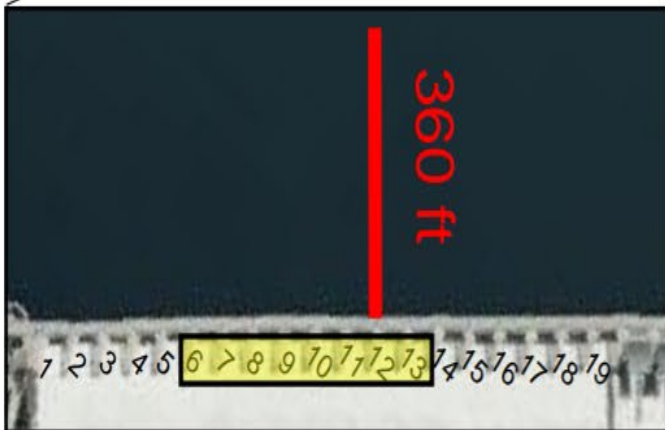


Priest Rapids Dam

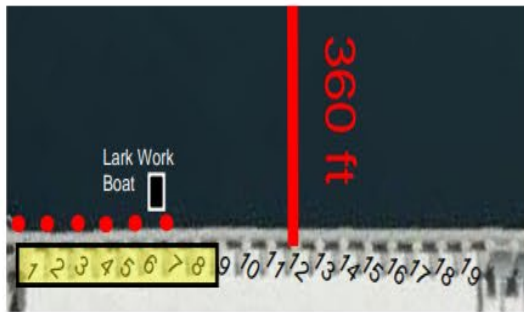
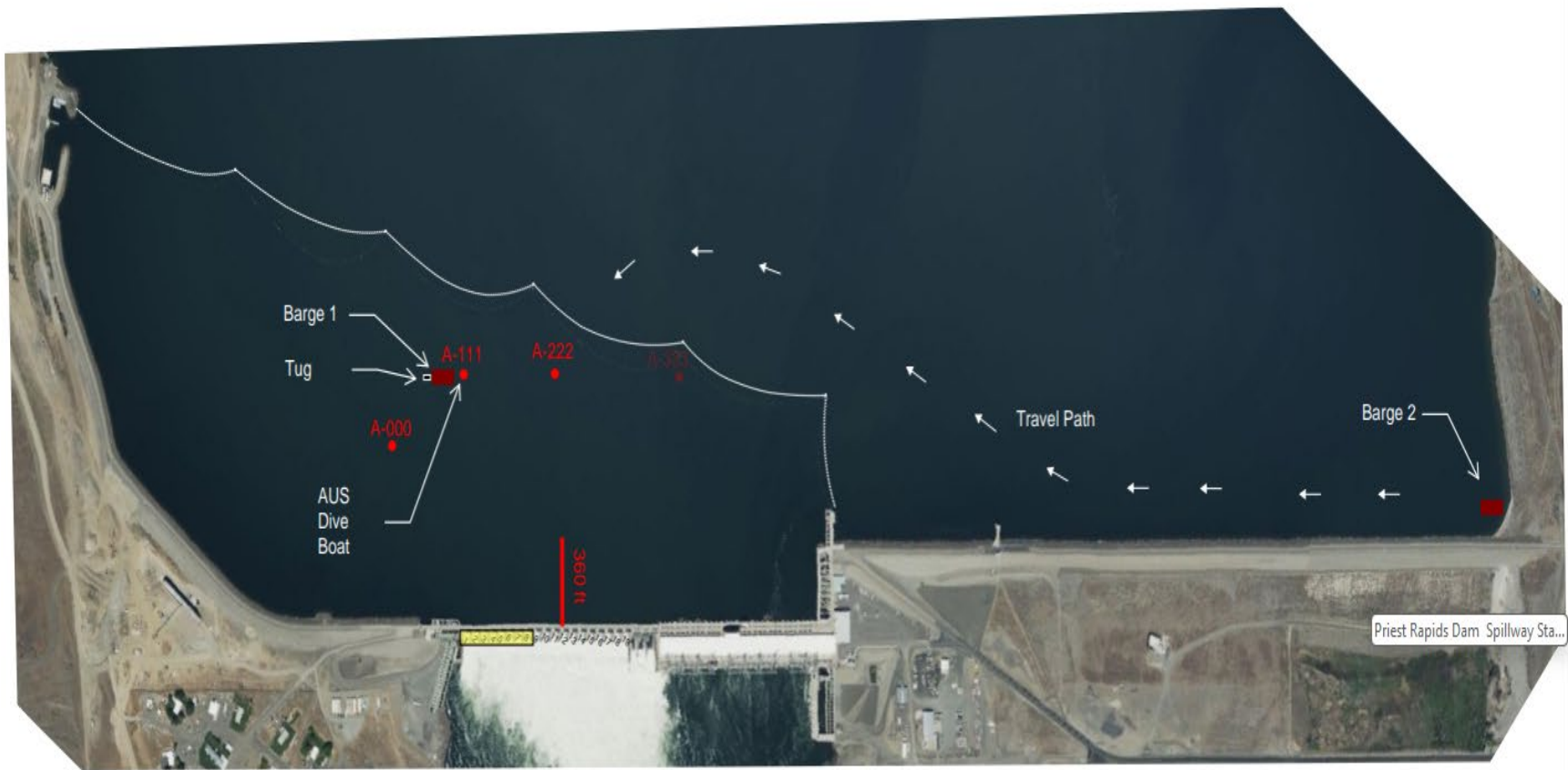


**June 29, 2026 - Bypass
Outage Request
8-10 hours.**

**Requires dive (100'+) &
boat work in front of
bypass & turbine units.**



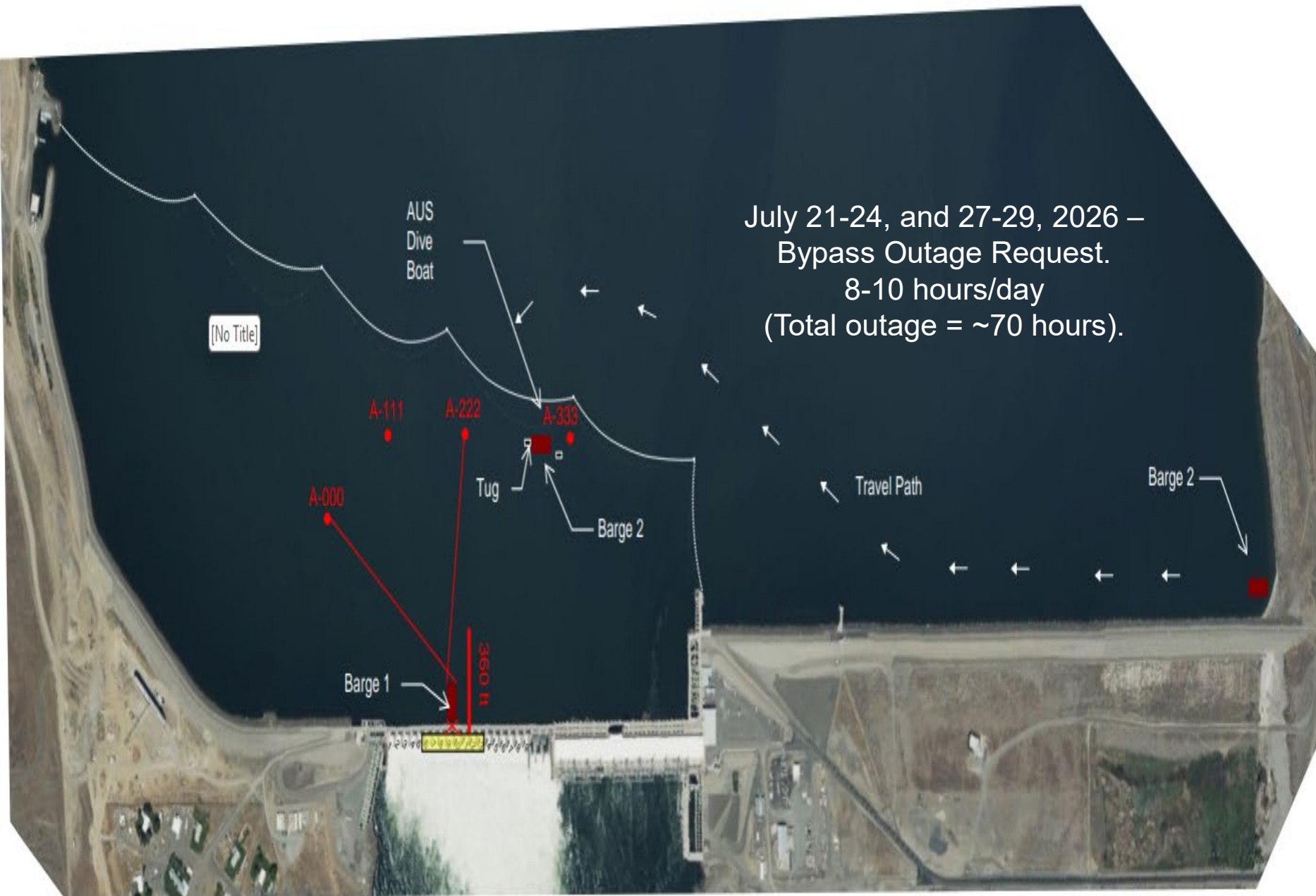
1	Install Temporary Floating Barrier - Pier 12
Gates on Clearance: 6-13	
Vessels: Work Boat, Tuff Boat	
Duration: 1 Day, (June 29th)	



Continue installing mooring anchors and gate signage

6a	Add Blocks to Anchor Block Cluster A-111 (3 Blocks)
Gates on Clearance: 1-8	
Vessels: Barge 1, Work Boat, Tug Boat, AUS Dive Boat	
Duration: 1 Day (July 10) Deep Dive - 100' +	
6b	Add Blocks to Anchor Block Cluster A-222 (3 Blocks)
Gates on Clearance: 1-8	
Vessels: Barge 1, Work Boat, Tug Boat, AUS Dive Boat	
Duration: 2 Day (July 13-14) Deep Dive - 100' +	

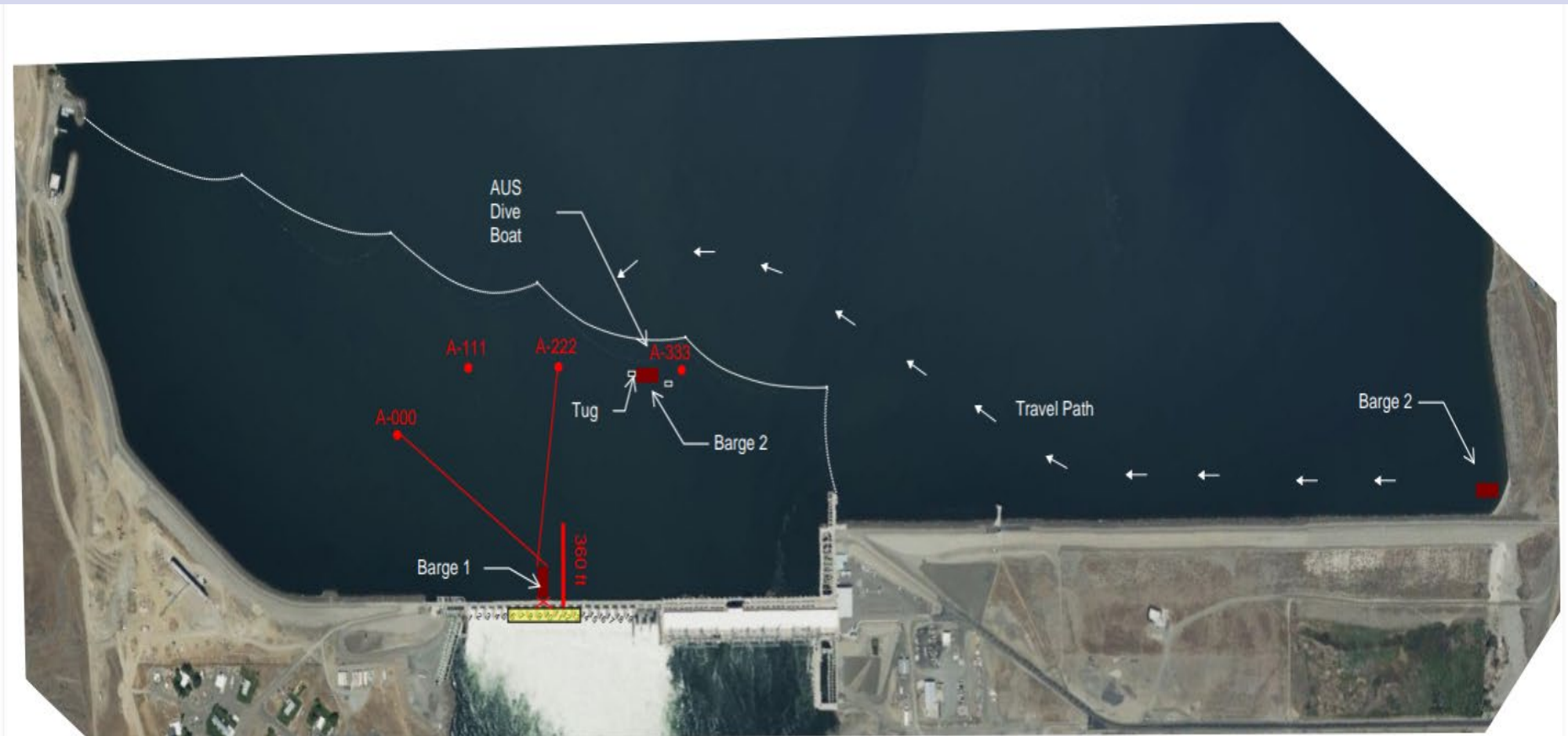
Return Barge to anchor at Left Bank at end of shift



July 21-24, and 27-29, 2026 –
Bypass Outage Request.
8-10 hours/day
(Total outage = ~70 hours).

Proposed PR Bypass Outage Schedule

- June 29, 2026 - 8-10 hours
- July 21-24, 2026 - 40 hours
- July 27-29, 2026 - 30 hours



MEMORANDUM

June 16, 2026

To: Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Via: Larissa Rohrbach, Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Facilitator

From: Tom Dresser, Sr. Manager of Fish, Wildlife and Water Quality *Tom Dresser*

Subject: Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance - June 9, 2026

Purpose: Report on Wanapum Fish Mode Exceedance.

Discussion: On June 9, 2026, at approximately 1000 hours (10:00 a.m.), eight of the ten units at Wanapum Dam were documented as operating outside of “Fish Mode” for a duration of approximately six minutes.

This deviation occurred during a period of reduced generation load that required an operator to initiate a unit shutdown. Prior to beginning the shutdown process, the operator received a request to exit load control to allow a system update. The operator then proceeded with a manual shutdown of the unit while off load control.

Following the shutdown, the remaining units did not automatically assume the additional load and flow as they typically would under load control conditions. As a result, unit discharge dropped below the minimum required level of 10 kcfs per unit, reaching approximately 9.8–9.9 kcfs across eight of the ten units.

A subsequent review determined that this event was not caused by a system or equipment failure. It was identified that, in the future; generation should be stabilized prior to exiting load control for routine system updates and before initiating unit shutdown procedures.