

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Meeting

**In Person at Wanapum Hydro Office Building
and Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, July 28, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.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
Dennis Moore, 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	Scott Carlon, NMFS
Caitlin Burd*, Anchor QEA, Technical Support	Emi Melton, NMFS
Pete McHugh*, CRITFC for CTUIR	Bill Gale, USFWS
Rod O'Connor, GPUD	Chad Jackson, WDFW
Tim Taylor, GPUD	Keely Murdoch, YN

*Joined virtually.

Action Items

- L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC Policy Committee (PRCC PC) meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation. *(Note: L. Rohrbach emailed the PRCC PC Representatives on August 6 to distribute relevant materials and identify a September meeting date. This item is complete.)*
- 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.)*

- L. Rohrbach will draft language to define the PRCC PC's task and guide decision-making for the White River spring Chinook Salmon mitigation (*Note: L. Rohrbach emailed the PRCC on August 3 to share draft content and then sent this content to the PRCC PC Representatives on August 6. This item is complete.*)

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.

Decisions and Approvals

- None.

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

L. Rohrbach welcomed the PRCC and reviewed the agenda. The agenda was approved by all members in attendance.

The draft June 23 PRCC meeting minutes were distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 15. Edits were received from the Yakama Nation (YN). The revised minutes were distributed on July 21, which show edits received in tracked changes. The June 23 minutes were approved by members who attended that meeting. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) abstained because a representative did not participate in the PRCC June 23 meeting. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) approved via email on July 31.

II. Actions Items Review

Action items from the PRCC June 23 meeting and follow-up discussions were as follows (*Note: Italicized text corresponds to agenda items from the June 23 meeting.*):

- *Anchor QEA will add Dennis Moore (CTCR PRCC Acting Representative) to the PRCC monthly meeting invites and PRCC primary email list.*
This was completed.
- *L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC PC meeting, including a timeline for materials preparation.*
This item is ongoing.
- *Grant PUD will review and respond to the JFP's revisions to the draft 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.*

Additional information regarding avian predation on Grant PUD study fish from past years with known passage routes at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams (Attachment A) was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 27. This item is complete.

K. Murdoch thanked Rod O'Connor for preparing and sharing summary data tables but said that for this to be more informative, the proportion of fish using each migration route should be identified to determine whether passage route influenced predation rates. R. O'Connor said that no data stood out and agreed that proportions of fish taking each passage route are worth investigation; however, LGL identified such small sample sizes due to low numbers of tags recovered from avian colonies, and Grant PUD is therefore hesitant to formulate proportions due to the small sample size creating unmeaningful data. K. Murdoch said that it would be useful to understand if there are no significant relationships between passage route and predation within the data, relative to the proportion that took each passage route, regardless of sample size. R. O'Connor noted that that information is available from past survival study reports.

- *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.*

This item is ongoing.

- *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.*

R. O'Connor said that there is a safety concern with shifting spill from the right bank to the left bank, and this was not determined to be feasible to allow any spill while the contractor works in the tailrace. The project originally required 80 hours of outages, with the most recent outage occurring at the time of this meeting.

They are likely to be able to reduce this substantially. Grant PUD will provide an update to any modifications to the work plan going forward.

III. White River

L. Rohrbach shared on Microsoft Teams the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee's (PRCC HSC's) memorandum *White River Mitigation Recommendations* (PRCC HSC's Mitigation Memorandum; Attachment B), which was distributed to the PRCC by K. Geris on July 21.

The 2013 *Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee – Policy Committee Statement of Agreement White River Spring Chinook Mitigation* (White River SOA) outlines actions for Grant PUD to take regarding White River mitigation. Action 7 in the White River SOA states the following:

- *7) By 2026, the PRCC HSC will assess the need to restart a White River spring Chinook hatchery supplementation program by assembling all relevant technical information and overseeing an independent scientific review. The independent scientific review will consist of a panel of subject matter experts selected by the PRCC HSC who will address specific critical questions developed by the PRCC HSC. The expert panel will address the critical questions but will not have decision-making authority over the future of the White River spring Chinook program. Prior to initiating the independent scientific review, the PRCC will review and approve the framework and structure of the review. Once the framework and structure of the scientific review is approved by the PRCC, the review should be complete within one year.*

L. Rohrbach said that the White River SOA does not explain what actions should be taken after 2026. The White River Decision Tree states that Grant PUD should monitor and/or consider other actions that can contribute to recovery upon the Expert Panel's non-approval of a White River adult supplementation program. The PRCC HSC has expressed that it is not a decision-making body and therefore elevated these management recommendations to the PRCC and PRCC PC. The purpose of the PRCC HSC's Mitigation Memorandum is to lay the foundation for PRCC PC representatives to make informed decisions.

L. Rohrbach presented the 2006 Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (Settlement Agreement). Action 29 of the Settlement Agreement states that a White River Spring-Run Chinook Program would be implemented to reach a yearling smolt production level of up to 250,000 fish, provided the spring-run Chinook Salmon program total production is 600,000. Adult supplementation is no longer the first recommendation for allocating this mitigation and therefore Action 29 will not be implemented as written.

K. Murdoch agreed that the decision to officially not pursue a White River adult supplementation program is a policy-level decision. The PRCC HSC cannot make that decision. All parties involved need to know what next steps to take moving forward now that the Actions in the White River SOA have expired. K. Murdoch clarified that the Expert Panel did not say that a White River adult supplementation program could not be definitively implemented; rather, the Expert Panel did not recommend adult supplementation as a mitigation action at this time.

L. Rohrbach opened the floor for PRCC discussion on clarifying the PRCC PC's task.

B. Gale asked whether the PRCC PC would like the PRCC to finetune these recommendations before submittal. L. Rohrbach said that she has not had any discussions with PRCC PC yet and that it is the PRCC's opportunity to dictate how the committees would like to utilize their assistance.

C. Jackson did not recommend modifying PRCC HSC recommendations before submittal to the PRCC PC. He said he did not feel that modification of mitigation recommendations from the technical subcommittee is not within the role of the PRCC. Rather, the PRCC should put the recommendations forward to the PRCC PC as a courtesy notification from the PRCC HSC. C. Jackson said that the memorandum reads as an opportunity to build in key data gaps and identify tools to formulate a replacement for the White River adult supplementation program.

K. Murdoch said that the YN is respectful of the mitigation's intent to benefit the White River spawning aggregate, while recognizing that this is mitigation for the Wenatchee population. The YN believes it is important for mitigation to benefit the White River and/or the entire Wenatchee basin. Keeping all production in Nason Creek does not push the population toward recovery. Therefore, mitigation recommendations (e.g., a direct action or data collection that could inform an action) are suggested that would benefit the White River spawning aggregate *and/or* the whole Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon population. Grant PUD's mitigation obligation has been met numerically; however, the intent of the mitigation to benefit the White River spawning aggregate has not been met. Therefore, these actions do not contribute to the recovery of the wider Wenatchee population. R. O'Connor confirmed that data supports that mitigation at the Nason Creek facility is numerically meeting mitigation targets.

B. Gale said that White River mitigation could continue to occur in Nason Creek. He expressed concern that the recommendations outlined in the memorandum are not based in PRCC HSC or PRCC consensus. There is not sufficient information included in the memorandum to decide whether to support each recommendation. This may make the decision-making process more difficult for the PRCC PC. K. Murdoch clarified that the PRCC HSC intentionally did not attempt to reach consensus because it is not a decision-making body for this scale of operational change. The PRCC HSC operated under what they considered were their orders for proposing alternatives to a White River adult supplementation program. L. Rohrbach agreed and noted that the memorandum satisfies the task given to the PRCC HSC.

E. Melton asked whether there is an opportunity to receive input from the PRCC PC and determine what additional information is needed for them to begin their task. C. Jackson said that the PRCC PC may send the memorandum back to the PRCC if they have technical or procedural questions. E. Melton said that in reading the memorandum, she

felt that she did not have enough information presented to her to make an informed decision on mitigation options. B. Gale proposed adding language that clarifies the PRCC PC may send the memorandum back to the PRCC HSC if additional information is needed to make an informed decision. P. McHugh agreed that the PRCC PC's task and scope of analysis need to be clarified.

L. Rohrbach said that it will be important for the PRCC to understand any documents elevated to the PRCC PC. Meetings can be scheduled with PRCC PC representatives to provide a structured foundation for the task. Tracy Hillman will also be available to attend these meetings and provide context to the recommendations. The PRCC can additionally oversee organizing sidebar conversations for the PRCC PC.

E. Melton said that it is unclear what direction to give the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) PRCC PC representative based on the information presented in this memorandum. What is the structure of analysis? Would the PRCC PC rank the recommendations in a priority list based on factors such as funding or feasibility?

K. Murdoch said that the primary task of the PRCC PC is to officially decide whether the White River program will be implemented. Their second task is to decide what mitigation alternatives would be implemented if the White River program is not implemented.

K. Murdoch reminded the PRCC that placing the White River adult supplementation program on hold 10 years ago was based on NMFS recommendations.

B. Gale asked whether Action 29 will need to be rewritten if the White River program is not implemented. K. Murdoch said that Action 29 may need to be rewritten, or the PRCC HSC felt that it could be deferred again, and suggested a period of 10 years. Deferring Action 29 would be the easiest option as it keeps the Settlement Agreement and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses intact. C. Jackson noted that the memorandum allows for a possible future reconsideration of implementing a White River program. Use of an integrated population model and monitoring in Lake Wenatchee could shed light on new opportunities to implement an adult supplementation program in the years to come.

L. Rohrbach summarized the following points for consideration based on the discussion:

- A decision is needed on implementation of Action 29
- Better understanding is needed on procedural steps available to the PRCC PC to if Action 29 is not implemented
- The memorandum from the PRCC HSC summarizes additional measures that could be implemented that would be beneficial to the White River spawning aggregate, specifically

E. Melton asked whether there is a guiding document to provide PRCC PC representatives for reference during this process. S. Carlton said that it is the Settlement Agreement. He noted that the NMFS representative is new to hydropower work and would benefit from a list of references to consult. B. Gale said that the guiding documents would include the Settlement Agreement and Biological Opinion (BiOp). Keely Murdoch recommended including the memo from past PRCC HSC facilitator Elizabeth McManus, the 2013 PRCC PC SOA, and the PRCC HSC's Mitigation Memorandum; for additional details, the PRCC PC representatives should discuss internally with their PRCC HSC representatives. S. Carlton said that it is not common to amend a BiOp, but it could be done if needed.

L. Rohrbach will draft language to define the PRCC PC's task and guide decision-making for the upcoming White River spring Chinook Salmon mitigation discussion. L. Rohrbach will work with T. Dresser to identify proposed dates for a PRCC PC meeting, aiming for September.

IV. 2026 Fish Passage Operations Report

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

L. Rohrbach reviewed the adult fish counts through July 12, 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	10,307	200	26,934	186	0	0	59,490	14	252
WAN	9,945	272	26,608	210	0	0	55,694	0	246
RIS	8,573	563	25,610	597	0	0	53,065	0	183

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

UPDATES

VIII. Review of Outstanding NNI-Funded Projects

- **Northern Pike Removal**
No updates were shared.
- **WDFW PIT-Tag Detection Barge**
No updates were shared.
- **2026 Quincy Northern Pikeminnow Derby**
No updates were shared.
- **2026 RTR Avian Predation Study**
See RTR weekly reports via email. L. Rohrbach said that colony monitoring activities have been completed and image analysis to estimate colony sizes has

begun. Passive integrated transponder-tag recovery has also just begun as birds leave the colonies.

- **Tag Effects Evaluation for Summer Subyearling Chinook Salmon**

R. O'Connor said that tagging of 6,000 subyearling Chelan Falls summer Chinook Salmon is completed. The subyearlings have been transported to Abernathy Fish Technology Center for initial acclimation. Subyearlings were divided into four temperature groups after initial acclimation and tagged accordingly. Fish are currently being held in the facility and will be handled for tagging in 3 weeks. L. Rohrbach asked whether the actual size range matched the study plan. R. O'Connor said that fish were small and did not grow large as anticipated by the start of the study period. Therefore, it was actually an opportunity to increase the sample sizes in the smaller size classes.

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 July 1, next meeting Tuesday, August 4 (Wells tour).
- Habitat Subcommittee – met July 9, next meeting August 13
- Fall Chinook Work Group – met April 30, next meeting October 5.
- Hatchery Subcommittee – met July 15, next meeting August 19 to 20.

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, August 25, 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 – Avian predation table

Attachment B – PRCC HSC memorandum *White River Mitigation Recommendations*

Quantities (n) of PIT tags assigned to Grant PUD study fish (yearling Chinook Salmon, juvenile steelhead, and juvenile Sockeye Salmon) with a known downstream passage route that were consumed within the study area and recovered from avian colonies.

Powerhouse = turbine passage

Spillway = tainter gate spillway passage

Prototype Top-Spill = Priest Rapids prototype prior to construction of the fish bypass

Fish Bypass = fully operational bypasses

StudyYear	Species	PassageDam	PassageRoute	n
2008	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	3
2008	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	Spillway	1
2008	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	3
2008	Spring Chinook	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	7
2008	Spring Chinook	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	2
2008	Spring Chinook	Wanapum Dam	Spillway	3
2008	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	32
2008	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Spillway	5
2008	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	14
2008	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	22
2008	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	12
2008	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Spillway	8
2009	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	23
2009	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	24
2009	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	21
2009	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	10
2010	Sockeye	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	2
2010	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	25
2010	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	25
2010	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	21
2010	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	16
2011	Sockeye	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	4
2011	Sockeye	Priest Rapids Dam	Spillway	6
2011	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	1
2011	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	3
2011	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	11
2011	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Spillway	24
2011	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	8
2011	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	2
2014	Spring Chinook	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	2
2014	Spring Chinook	Wanapum Dam	Spillway	1
2014	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	3
2014	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Spillway	2
2014	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Prototype Top Spill	4
2014	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	1
2014	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Spillway	2
2015	Sockeye	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	1
2015	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Fish Bypass	2
2015	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	3
2015	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	1
2015	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	3
2016	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	Fish Bypass	4
2016	Steelhead	Priest Rapids Dam	PowerHouse	3
2016	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	Fish Bypass	13
2016	Steelhead	Wanapum Dam	PowerHouse	5



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Memorandum

To: Larissa Rohrbach, PRCC Chair
From: Tracy Hillman, PRCC HSC Chair
Date: 20 July 2026
Re: White River Mitigation Recommendations

Brief Background

In response to the 2013-01 Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) Policy Committee Statement of Agreement (SOA), in 2016, the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) developed a decision-making framework (aka decision tree) to describe the types of questions that would be addressed in an independent evaluation (see Attachment 1). Following the decision tree, in 2024 and 2025, the PRCC HSC began the process of selecting expert review panelists by subject area. The PRCC HSC went through a rigorous process of identifying and selecting potential experts. By May 2025, the PRCC HSC identified and approved 13 experts and several technical advisors. They also identified eight specific questions (from the table in the decision-making framework document) for the experts and compiled reports (as required in the 2013-01 SOA) for review by the panelists. Per the 2013-01 SOA, on 27 May 2025, the PRCC HSC submitted to the PRCC the framework and structure for the White River expert panel review. The PRCC approved the framework and structure for the expert panel review process on 24 June 2025.

Following approval of the framework and structure by the PRCC, the PRCC HSC reached out to the 13 experts to see whether they would be willing to participate on the panel. Eight experts accepted the invitation and signed the conflict-of-interest forms. Responses from the eight panelists were received by 19 December 2025. Panelists provided extensive responses; however, regarding the question in box 3 in the decision tree (would an adult-based supplementation program in the White River increase the probability of meeting Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP) criteria?), the panelists generally agreed that an adult-based supplementation program in the White River would likely not increase the probability of meeting VSP criteria: one was not sure it would, two were somewhat sure it would not, three were very sure it would not, and two were between somewhat sure it would not and very sure it would not. Based on this information and following the decision tree, parties will “monitor and/or consider if other actions can contribute to recovery.”

Below, members of the PRCC HSC offer both expectations (what are assumed to be actions that need to continue) and recommendations (other actions that can contribute to or inform recovery).

Expectations

Members generally agree that the following items will continue in the absence of an adult-based supplementation program in the White River.

- Continue to meet White River NNI production in Nason Creek.
 - *Justification:* The NNI production requirement for the White River is detailed in Action 29 of the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. However, because this production is rolled into the Nason Creek program, it does not serve in a recovery or conservation capacity for the White River spawning aggregate. As such, there is still a need (requirement) to maintain the NNI production obligation under Action 29 for the White River

spring Chinook Salmon program. It is recommended that the current location of production continue until other options are identified based on the best available science.

- Continue monitoring and evaluation to assess effectiveness of supplementation.
 - *Justification:* Continued monitoring and evaluation are needed to make sure mitigation actions meet their objectives and are consistent with monitoring and evaluation requirements stated in Action 28 of the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.

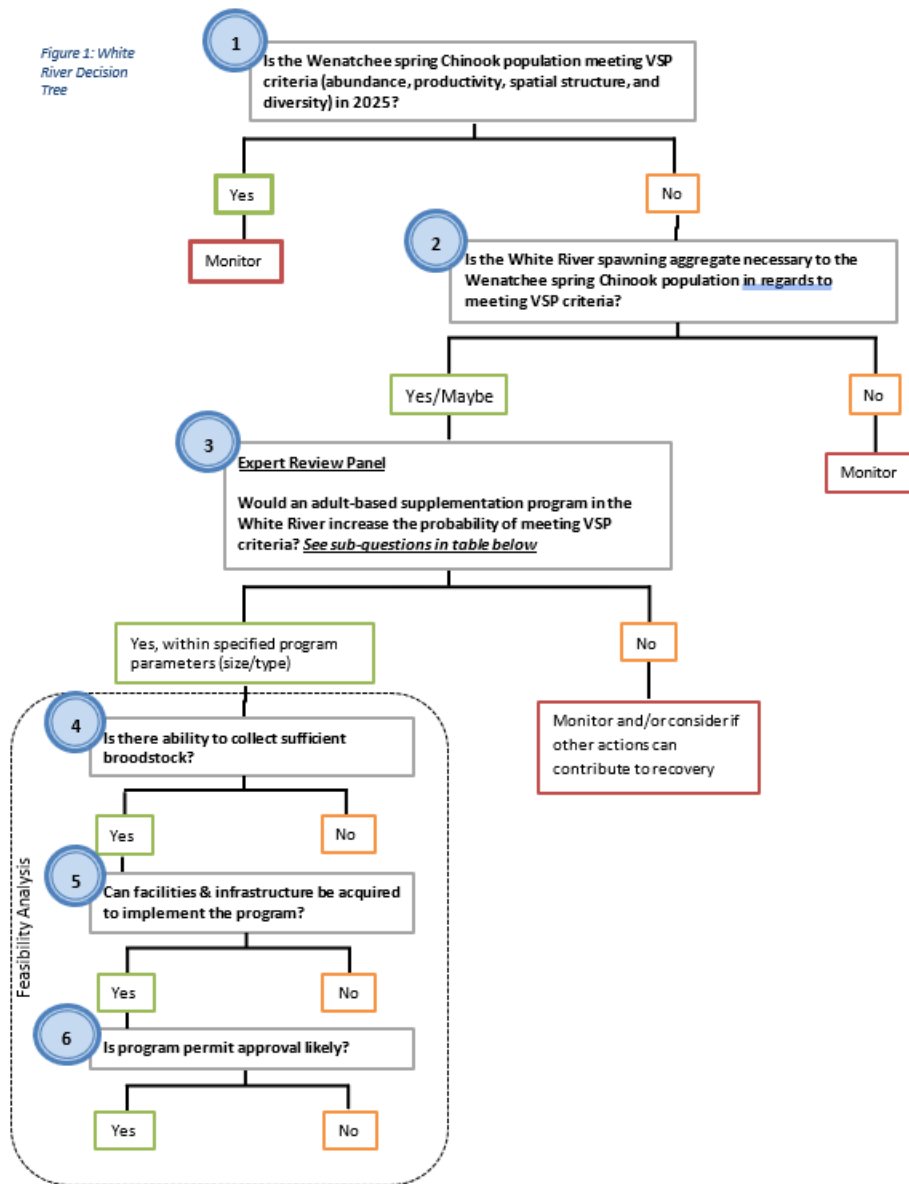
Recommendations

Based on the decision tree (“consider if other actions can contribute to recovery”), members of the PRCC HSC decided to offer possible mitigation actions that may contribute to recovery. Members of the PRCC HSC identified the following recommendations, in no order, for consideration by the PRCC and PRCC Policy Committee. These actions are intended to help the Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon population move toward recovery or inform actions leading toward recovery. Importantly, these are recommendations from individual members of the PRCC HSC and do not represent consensus recommendations by the PRCC HSC.

- Fund and implement a study in Lake Wenatchee that would inform survival of juvenile spring Chinook Salmon in the lake and assess predation rates.
 - *Justification:* The survival data would feed into the future Integrated Population Model (IPM). If predation by Pikeminnow on juvenile Chinook Salmon is a problem, there are management actions that can be taken to improve survival of White River fish in the lake. This study may look similar to proposals submitted for No Net Impact (NNI) funding by WDFW, and later by the Yakama Nation.
- Construct a weir or other reasonable, feasible, and permissible collection option in Nason Creek.
 - *Justification:* This action benefits both the White River and the entire Wenatchee spring Chinook Salmon population by allowing removal of Tumwater Dam. A Nason Creek weir or other collection option also benefits the whole Wenatchee population by allowing Nason Creek to transition to its own broodstock instead of using Chiwawa River natural-origin returns. In the current Wenatchee River permits, the analysis conducted by NMFS (Craig Busack) indicated that a composite broodstock was essentially a temporary solution. To support recovery, the Nason Creek program would eventually need to transition to a Nason Creek broodstock. Development of an adult trapping facility in Nason Creek is identified in Action 30 of the Settlement Agreement.
- Support and fund IPM development for analytical use supporting the objectives in the Hatchery M&E Plan.
 - *Justification:* What is proposed here is the analytical framework capable of supporting M&E Plan objectives related to hatchery performance and life history diversity. If an IPM was in place, various management actions (including whether to implement a hatchery program and evaluating hatchery program size) could have been evaluated quantitatively, and the Expert Panel would have had a greater quantitative basis from which to work. An IPM would help identify the limiting factors and life stages within the Wenatchee population as they relate to hatchery and recovery goals; some panelists noted that understanding and addressing what is limiting the population is necessary for a hatchery program to be successful. This tool will help identify management actions. It is recognized that developing an IPM for the M&E plan is larger than just the Wenatchee Basin and may require cost-share funding.

- Mitigation actions to support meeting Action 29 of the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement should be framed in 10-year increments rather than for the remainder of the current FERC license (Project No. 2114).
 - *Justification:* ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A) permits and associated biological opinions issued for Upper Columbia River hatchery programs cover a 10-year period. White River mitigation options other than a White River hatchery program as outlined in Action 29 of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement would be a deviation to that agreement as well as the associated FERC license and biological opinion. Mitigation actions implemented under a 10-year framework preserve the parties' commitment to a White River supplementation program (should science support doing so in the future) without risking reopening the Settlement Agreement and FERC license.
- Identify and implement habitat enhancement actions that address habitat limitations in the White River.
 - *Justification:* As identified by the expert panel, there is degraded habitat in the White River, especially within the lower reaches of the river, that can be enhanced to improve the abundance, productivity, and diversity of the White River spring Chinook spawning aggregate.

White River Decision Tree:



Note that in the original decision tree, the response between boxes 2 and 3 indicated “Yes.” Following a meeting with NMFS in May 2024, the PRCC HSC agreed to change the “Yes” between boxes 2 and 3 to “Yes/Maybe.”