



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Meeting**

**Wednesday, 4 September 2019
10:00 a.m. – 11:15 p.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, YN
Pat Wyena, Wanapum
Kirk Truscott, Jason McLellan, CCT
Mike Clement, Chris Mott Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Keith Hatch, BIA
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

ATTENDEES

Laura Heironimus, WDFW (Via Phone)
RD Nelle, USFWS (Via Phone)
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum (Via Phone)
Ralph Lampman, YN (Via Phone)
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Jason McLellan, CCT (Via Phone)
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (Via Phone)
Patrick Verhey, WDFW

Action Items:

- Jason McLellan will look into the availability of written updates on northern pike suppression efforts. If those exist, he will share them with the PRFF.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** - Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone, and participants introduced themselves.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the agenda with the addition of an update on northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt.
- III. **Approve August Meeting Notes** – Draft August Meeting Notes were approved with edits.
 - A. **Action Items from August Meeting:**
 - 1. Tracy Hillman will provide the PRFF with a paper prepared by Steve Hemstrom regarding the mark-recapture model and its assumptions used to evaluate juvenile lamprey survival through hydroelectric projects. **Complete.**
- IV. **Northern Pike**

Northern Pike Suppression in Lake Roosevelt – Jason McLellan provided a summary of northern pike suppression efforts in Lake Roosevelt. He said two crews have been working continuously within areas known to have high densities of pike. In addition to using gill nets, crews are experimenting with setlines. If they find that setlines effectively capture pike and there is minimal bycatch, then setlines can be used in areas with ESA-listed species. They are evaluating steel leaders, heavy fluorocarbon leaders, and possibly heavy monofilament leaders. They bait the setlines with herring, anchovy, and bycatch from gillnet sampling. So far, the results are mixed. They are working to refine the technique. Jason said suppression efforts will continue through the end of October. They will then conduct monitoring and evaluation surveys in November. Suppression efforts will resume in February. Jason said he will check to see if they produce written updates on suppression efforts. If they do, he will share those with the PRFF.
- V. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**
 - A. **Update on Juvenile Sturgeon Rearing** – Mike Clement said there is no new information on juvenile sturgeon rearing at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. He said they should soon have information on when juvenile fish will be sampled for health and autopolyploidy.
 - B. **Juvenile Index Monitoring** – Mike Clement noted that a single boat crew began juvenile sturgeon index monitoring within Priest Rapid Reservoir on 28 August. Two boats will begin juvenile index monitoring within Wanapum Reservoir this week. Monitoring should be completed by 25 September. He added that monitoring has been standardized, meaning that efforts will be consistent with past years and consistent with efforts conducted by other PUDs in their reservoirs. He said Chris Mott will provide a monitoring update during the October meeting.
 - C. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – None.
- VI. **Pacific Lamprey Management Plan**
 - A. **Adult Lamprey Collection, Transport, and Coordination** – Mike Clement reported that adult lamprey trapping at Priest Rapids Dam began on 6 August. Since then, they have captured a total of 225 adult lamprey. Lamprey collected during the first three weeks (N = 152 adults) went to Douglas PUD for their program. Mike said the fish collected during the third week of trapping for Douglas PUD went to the Colville Tribes. The Tribes released those fish (N = 48 adults) into Omak Creek and the Similkameen River. All fish were tagged. Mike noted that the adult lamprey collected during the fourth week of trapping (N = 73 adults) were for the Grant PUD program and those fish were transported upriver and released at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park, which is located upstream from Rock Island Dam. Grant PUD will trap for two more weeks. All fish captured will be released at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park.

Mike reported that adult lamprey passage behavior is a bit odd this year. He noted that generally most adult lamprey pass through the left-bank ladder at Priest Rapids Dam. This year, however, adult lamprey have switched back-and-forth between the right and left-bank ladders. He suspected the presence of white sturgeon in the ladders may be affecting adult lamprey passage behavior. He said the sturgeon tend to follow the shad into the ladders. Shad are quite abundant this year.

Finally, Mike reported that about 70,000 adult lamprey have passed Bonneville Dam, 2,700 have passed Priest Rapids, 2,150 have passed Wanapum, 714 have passed Rock Island, 605 have passed Rocky Reach, and 14 have passed Wells Dam. Thus, so far, about 8% of the lamprey passing Priest Rapids have been trapped and hauled. RD Nelle indicated that the percent of the run captured at Priest Rapids Dam last year was actually higher than what was reported in the annual report.

- B. Yakama Nation Translocation Work** – Ralph Lampman said the number of adult lamprey trapped at Bonneville Dam this year was less than the number captured last year. He said the peak migration occurred several weeks ago. They are currently capturing lamprey at the tail-end of the migration. He reported that they released 100 adults into the Wenatchee River at two locations; Lake Jolanda (just upstream from Tumwater Dam) and near Plain, WA. He added that today they are releasing 100 adult lamprey into the Methow River (50 downstream from the Twisp River and 50 downstream from the Chewuch River). All fish were PIT tagged, but some shed their tags. He said they have also released adult lamprey into the Yakima and Klickitat rivers.

Ralph reported that they have found lamprey larvae in Nason Creek (up to RM 20) and in Icicle Creek. They have not yet found larvae in the Chiwawa River; however, eDNA work indicated the presence of lamprey in the Chiwawa River. Adult lamprey have been detected at PIT-tag arrays in the Chiwawa River. Ralph acknowledged the USFWS for their help in releasing adults and helping with larvae sampling.

When asked about the translocation efforts of other tribes, Ralph indicated that the Umatilla are no longer releasing adults into the Umatilla River (adult lamprey are returning naturally to the Umatilla River). Rather, they are releasing adult lamprey into the Grande Ronde, Walla Walla, Tucannon, and other tributaries. The Nez Perce are releasing adult lamprey into various tributaries to the Clearwater and Salmon rivers. The Warm Springs are not currently translocating lamprey. However, they are looking into it.

- C. Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None.

- VII. Next Meeting:** If necessary, the next PRFF meeting will be on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA.