



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdock, Bob Rose (Alt), YN
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Erin McIntyre, GPUD, Admin Ass't

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS
Scott Carlon, NMFS
Erin McIntyre, GPUD
Kyle Hatch, BLE
Mark Timko, BLE
Tom Dresser, GPUD
Chad Jackson, WDFW

Tom Skiles, CTUIR (Phone)
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc.
Leah Sullivan, BLE
Rich Townsend, CBR
Keely Murdock, YN
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Patrick Verhey, WDFW (Phone)

Approved Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 25, 2017
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- I. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Briefing
- II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – No additions to the agenda.
- III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr) - September 27, 2017 meeting – Approved.
- IV. Action Items Review from September 27, 2017 meeting (D. Rohr) –
 - NNI Funding Proposal: “Priest Rapids Project NNI Funding Request – Support to Continue the Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program”
Action: WDFW to finish new proposal and discuss with internal staff on how to present monthly updates, progress updates, or attending meetings. **Completed**
 - Lake Wenatchee NNI Proposal -- Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee
Action: NOAA will review the ISAB report on the Wenatchee Basin Spring Chinook Life Cycle Model and report back to PRCC. **Completed**
- V. Presentation and Review of 2017 Steelhead Survival Study – Rich Townsend, Columbia

Basin Research; Kyle Hatch, Blue Leaf Environmental (C. Dotson) – Columbia Basin Research and Blue Leaf Environmental delivered PowerPoint presentations on the 2017 juvenile steelhead survival evaluation. Primary objective was to determine survival through the Priest Rapids Project which is consistent with the 2008 NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion and Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. JSATS Arrays, tagging, handling and release methods were all identical to the evaluation conducted in 2015 and 2016. Juvenile steelhead survival met standards in 2017 at 90.75% (SE 1.7%). Based on the three-year consecutive average (2015-2017), juvenile steelhead standards have been achieved for the Priest Rapids Project (87.01%; SE 2.0%). Draft Final Reports will be distributed to the PRCC within the next few weeks. Once the PRCC receives the reports, there will be a 30-day period for review and comment.

Action Items

* Rohr will distribute the PowerPoint presentations to the PRCC. McIntyre will post presentations to PRCC SharePoint site.

* Draft Reports to be distributed to PRCC within next few weeks, and upon receipt PRCC will have 30 days for review and comment.

- VI. Review and Discussion: Grant PUD Coho Mitigation – (T. Dresser, K. Murdoch)** – The Statement of Agreement, SOA 2017-06, determining evaluation requirements for the Coho program included within SOA 2007-16 and inclusion of a review process has not yet been approved by the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee. There will be a call for vote at the next meeting in November. CCT asked a question about how mitigation would be provided. GPUD explained that SOA 2017-06 is not intended to provide how the mitigation will be provided in the various basins. CCT indicated that they have concerns over implementation of the Coho program in the Methow Basin by the Yakama Nation. GPUD stated they are required per the Priest Rapids Settlement Agreement to provide Coho mitigation in the Wenatchee and the Methow Basins and that the CCT were party to that agreement, and Grant will not jeopardize their mitigation requirements by being out of compliance with the Settlement Agreement and FERC License Order. CCT stated that they are not opposed to GPUD meeting their mitigation requirement, but it's the "how". GPUD stated it is their understanding this is an issue between the CCT and YN, and it is unrelated to Grant PUD mitigation requirements and should stay out of the PRCC and PRCC Hatchery Sub-committee. Rohr reminded the PRCC that once SOA 2017-06 is approved by the Hatchery SC, it next must also be approved and finalized by the PRCC. YN also reported that ISRP has responded to the YN's letter regarding the updated Coho Master Plan. YN reported that the response was favorable and that the Plan meets scientific criteria. YN will provide a copy of the response to Rohr for distribution to the PRCC members. YN and GPUD continue to meet on Coho in an effort to move the issue forward.

Action Item

* YN to send Rohr a copy of ISRP response for distribution to PRCC members.

- VII. Update Discussion of Estimating the Survival of Juvenile Spring Chinook in Lake Wenatchee (S. Carlon, D. Rohr)** – The PRCC NOAA representative has talked to the NOAA Science Center modeler. The modeler indicated that survival information on subyearlings and yearling Chinook is missing. The modeler was unaware that there was existing PIT tag data available on survival through Lake Wenatchee. The PRCC indicated that survival through Lake Wenatchee was still of interest to them. WDFW reported that it appears that all the necessary habitat/spawning capacity data was being collected with ongoing research activities. The PRCC discussed the additional effort to collect subyearling and yearling via the use of a second rotary screw trap. The discussion concluded that the NOAA PRCC representative will

continue discussions with the modeler and ask if PIT tag data would work for the model exercise. Rohr commented that follow up discussion will continue at the November meeting.

Action Item:

* NOAA PRCC representative will ask modeler if PIT tag data would work for modelling exercise.

VIII. Potpourri – (D. Rohr)

- A. PRCC members to send potential future NNI Funding projects to Rohr for PRCC consideration.
- B. Review of PRCC NNI Funds Project Specifications Sheet – Rohr handed out copies of the PRCC NNI funds Project Specification sheet and discussed the purpose and need to use this form when submitting a proposal to be considered for NNI funding. GPUD also reported that there had been a recent project proposed by PRCC Habitat Subcommittee that has raised substantial issues related to insurance and liability. Additionally, GPUD's risk and procurement departments are reviewing possible revisions to habitat/NNI contracting process.

IX. GENERAL UPDATES

A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) –

Caspian Tern Depredation Permit / Process Update – Dresser report that based on a call between GPUD and USFWS permitting staff it appears that support for GPUD's depredation permit application is limited. The reason being is that recent modeling information indicates that the overall Caspian tern population is illustrating a declining trend and that GPUD recently achieved its juvenile steelhead performance standards.

Rohr also reported the 2017 AFEP conference is scheduled for November 28, 29 at the PNNL auditorium in Richland. The second day of the conference will primarily be concentrating on avian predation related topics with an avian predation workshop to follow in the afternoon. A conference agenda will be available for distribution soon.

B. Spill Report (C. Dotson) – No update

C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)

- 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – Summer Chinook moved onto station mid-October.
- 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Recent gravel re-location and boulder placement has been completed. GPUD will need to work on long-term operation and maintenance plan in case future actions are necessary.
- 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – No update
- 4. Penticton Hatchery – No update

D. Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser). No Update

E. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects

- 1. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension (C. Jackson) – Rohr commented that the contract for this specific project has ended and he will be talking with Jackson regarding an update presentation from D. Didricksen. More to follow.

2. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) (T. Dresser) – These two will be combined under one contract. Rohr commented that the contract for this specific project has ended and he will be talking with Jackson regarding an update presentation from D. Didricksen. More to follow.
 3. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson) - No update
 4. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – No Update
 5. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (PFRR) (B. Rose) – Rohr recently distributed update information received from B. Rose. A draft proposal is being prepared by G. McMichael for submittal to BPA for funding. More to follow.
 6. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott) –No update.
 7. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson) – No update
- X. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Rohr distributed to committee members by email.
- XI. **Qtrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report - Placeholder** (D. Rohr) Rohr has received information from Grant PUD accounting staff that a 3rd Quarter Report will be completed soon, perhaps today. Rohr will distribute to committee members upon receipt.
- XII. **Next Meeting – November and December meeting schedules to be discussed**, Wanapum HOB, Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr) – After discussion, it was decided to keep the November 22nd meeting date available for a possible PRCC meeting if needed, and the meeting would be a webinar conference. There was also discussion of the December meeting with the conclusion for Rohr to coordinate with the HCP CC chair to consider changing the meeting date to Wednesday, December 13th, and possibly making this a webinar conference also. Rohr will keep the committee members advised.