



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Wednesday, June 28, 2017

PRCC Meeting Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS
Keely Murdoch, Bob Rose (alt) YN
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt.), CCT
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Jim Craig, USFWS
Curt Dotson, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator
Danny Didrickson, WDFW
Mike Tonseth, WDFW
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Tom Dresser, GPUD, via phone
Erin McIntyre, GCPUD
Chad Jackson, WDFW
Pat Wyena, Grant PUD
Jenni Novak, WDFW

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

- I. **Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) – Moved around presentations.
Jeff Korth's last day is Friday, June 30. Chad Jackson is acting PRCC representative until replacement is hired. Interviews on 7/13, three candidates.
- II. **Meeting Minutes Review:** (D. Rohr) – DECISION ITEMS
December 13-14, 2016 meetings; January 25, 2017 conference call; January 31, 2017 meeting; February 27, 2017 meeting; March 13-15-17, 2017; March 29, 2017 meeting; April 26, 2017 meeting; May 24, 2017 meeting
Approvals received from J. Craig, S. Carlon and C Dotson. Some received from T. Skiles. Looking for approvals from the rest of the group. J. Korth will abstain from approval as his memory wasn't good at that time. Rohr will follow up with all members.
- III. **Action Items Review from May 24, 2017 meeting** (D. Rohr) Discussion on Quincy Valley Fish Derby date change question discussion between D. Rohr, J Korth and K. Truscott - Completed
- IV. **Grant PUD Coho Mitigation** (T. Dresser)
Urgency on this as SOA (2007-16) expires 12/31/2017. Need to develop/revise SOA.

GPUD- stressed concerns over timing in getting a new/revised SOA. The current SOA 2007-16 related to Coho mitigation expires December 31, 2017.

WDFW and CCT raised issue of a procedural error related to SOA 2007-16 approved by the PRCC. Under SOA 2017-01 - - "The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees that yearling Chinook salmon will be used as a surrogate for Coho salmon survival. This surrogate survival will be used to estimate No-Net-Impact (NNI) hatchery compensation for upper Columbia Basin Coho salmon that enter the Priest Rapids Project".

Several PRCC members mentioned they were unaware of the specific Coho mitigation requirements with the SSSA. GPUD stressed that has on multiple occasions strongly encouraged the PRCC members to read and familiarize themselves with the Coho mitigation requirements.

Some concern has been raised in the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee that a procedural error related to the PRCC approved SOA 2017-01 to use yearling Chinook survival as a surrogacy for Coho survival.

ACTION ITEM – D. Rohr will talk with PRCC Hatchery facilitator E. McManus to determine the status of Coho discussions in the Hatchery Subcommittee, including Draft SOA 2017-04.

V. 2014 Yearling Chinook Survival Estimate (C. Dotson) –

C. Dotson, GPUD presented the 2014 Priest Rapids Project yearling Chinook Survival Study. These are the yearly studies that Grant has done, which illustrated the years of evaluation and associated for survival estimates (2003-2005 and 2014). Three-year (2003-05) consecutive average is 86.56%. The 2014 estimate is 90.81%. Since 2003-2005, over \$300 million in investments have been made to increase smolt survival, so it is not unreasonable to see a 4% increase in survival.

GPUD presented specific survival data for years 2003, 2004 and 2014 that illustrates there is very little difference between years. No comparable data for 2005. Survival data for 2003-2005 was 86.56% compared to 90.81% for 2014 (see presentation for detail).

GPUD presented information on travel time for yearling Chinook in 2014. Travel time was compared between 2006-2010 with 2014 (Page 14 in Hatch et al. 2015). Also see presentation for graphically comparison.

Fish Passage Center (2014) indicated that survival was at or above the long-term average. Relative fish migration rates were similar to past years.

Skalski & Townsend (2016) also reported that travel time for yearling Chinook from Rocky Reach to McNary Dam (including Wanapum) is not an outlier based on multiple years analyzed (2010-2013 & 2015) in comparison to 2014. Mean travel time without 2014 included was 10.65 compared to 10.60 with 2014 included.

In summary, GPUD asserted that survival differences between Wanapum and Priest Rapids Developments within and between years were similar in 2003, 2004 and 2014. In addition, travel times for yearling Chinook in 2014 were similar to other years between 2010-2013 and 2015. Large investments that were made to improve survival since 2005 are likely to have improved survival significantly since 2005.

GPUD is NOT providing a Draft Statement of Agreement (SOA) for consideration today.

CRITFC Question/Comment: requests ability to directly comment on PowerPoint presentation. Request 2 weeks to provide comments. CRITFC also asked about what specific information would be included in an SOA and what are the potential ramifications. Potential ramifications identified include; valid estimate for yearling Chinook, serve as 5 year check-in and potential Coho hatchery mitigation.

GPUD Comment: GPUD would propose that the 2014 survival estimate is a valid estimate and would serve as the required 5 year check-in. After further discussion, GPUD indicated that it needed to discuss this internally further.

CCT Question/Comment: Variable travels times within the reservoir in 2014 could have impacted overall survival. Need to compare travel time between arrays within Wanapum reservoir for 2014 and compare that to other years? GPUD responded that there were no arrays within Wanapum Reservoir in 2014, which could be used to partition reach specific survival.

WDFW Question/Comment: Requested median travel time data for the Wanapum Reservoir for 2014 and then compare it to other years. Concerns that not enough data to compare yearling Chinook travel times within Wanapum Reservoir with other years.

CRITFC Question/Comment: Was there an increase in survival for yearling Chinook going through the turbines? GPUD not sure.

CRITFC Question/Comment: Not a reflection of normal operating conditions. Having difficulties determining if hydraulic conditions and/or changes in predation rates had improved survival.

USFWS Question/Comment: Was there more spill at Priest Rapids Dam in 2014 than previous years? GPUD provided information to the PRCC illustrating that spill through Priest Rapids Dam was an outlier or not. Data illustrated/presented is not an outlier.

CCT Question/Comment: Made a reference to SOA 2014-02. Specific language states "*The PRCC agrees that the Priest Rapids Reservoir survival and Priest Rapids Top-spill Bypass survival and behavior evaluations (if valid) will be counted as progress towards meeting performance standards in the Priest Rapids Project for juvenile steelhead and yearling Chinook. The PRCC will determine how valid results would be incorporated into future performance standards calculations.*"

CCT Question/Comment: Indicated that SOA 2014-02 is not clear on whether the 2014 data point is a stand-alone estimate and/or 5 year check-in.

GPUD Response: Indicated that based on SSSA section 15.7.2: survival estimates shall be adjusted at five-year intervals, or at such frequency as the Parties at that time may decide. SOA also specifically calls this out.

- VI. (10:00 am) NNI Funding Proposal: "Priest Rapids Project NNI/Habitat Fund Request – Support to Continue the Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program", Presentation by Danny Didricksen and/or Jenni Novak, WDFW (J. Korth, B. Rose) – for consideration today and DECISION ITEM in July 26th PRCC meeting.

Danny Didricksen and J. Novak (WDFW) communicated that the proposal covers a 5 year timeframe and a budget of \$1,292,035. WDFW staff presented a series of slides that illustrated potential projects that are ready to go. The first is located on Peshastin Creek and is part of Peshastin Irrigation District but some of which is located on private property.

The Tandy diversion has a long intake ditch before reaching the fish screen and a problematic fish bypass. The fish bypass and irrigation spill (required to convey water to the screen) are combined into a pool that drops approx. 3 feet into the bypass channel. The bypass channel routes fish through a long ditch before reaching the creek. The bypass length, insufficient slope of the ditch, and disconnection to the creek at low flows leaves potential for fish stranding and mortality to occur. This diversion also lacks a functional head gate to prevent leakage into the ditch after shut down. Push-up rock dams are arranged in Peshastin Creek annually. WDFW would like to relocate the existing fish screen closer to the point of diversion, install a new fish bypass pipe that will return fish directly to the creek from the forebay, and install a head gate that will reduce and control flows diverted and flooding across. Deflector boulders will need to be installed instream to ensure that the fish bypass pipe outlet connects with instream flow during seasonal low flows.

The second project ready to go is located on the Twisp River, part of which is located on Douglas PUD property. This diversion is located on Twisp River, a tributary to the Methow River. The fish bypass is a braided open channel. There is no good connection back to the river and beaver activity has created a dam, blocking the bypass channel. During salvage efforts in the fall of 2016 WDFW crews found juvenile Chinook and *O. mykiss* in inundated areas of the forest floor adjacent to the bypass channel. WDFW would like to excavate, relocate, and pipe a bypass channel to ensure safe fish passage back to the river. This project would include survey, design, and construction.

Fort-Thurlow Diversion: Private Property. This diversion is located on Frazer Creek, a tributary to Beaver Creek and the Methow River. The site contains a paddle wheel driven rotary drum screen. A concrete dam was removed from this site and a roughened channel was constructed a few years ago. Due to a problem with bed elevations after that action, the irrigator needs to operate his fish screen at full submergence in order to obtain his water right, resulting in overtopping during spring runoff or rain events. WDFW would like to make modifications to bring the screen site to grade to allow it to operate below 85% submergence and prevent overtopping.

Colockum Creek: Private property. Steelhead salmon utilize reaches of Colockum creek and its tributaries. Many of the barriers that have been identified on Colockum creek have been or are in the process of being removed and one out of four identified unscreened diversions have been screened. WDFW would like to take a similar approach to bring the remaining three unscreened diversions into compliance.

Pump Screens: Based on the field work funded through Office of the Columbia River in the Icicle and Peshastin watersheds in 2016 ten pump diversions were identified as non-compliant. The Upper Columbia River Salmon Recover Board has funded inventory efforts throughout the Wenatchee basin that are ongoing and may also fund inventory work in the Methow basin in the future. These funds would be used as cost-share to with water users to bring these identified diversions into compliance.

WDFW Comments: Identified other projects and communicated that having NNI dollars upfront makes it easier to secure cost shares. WDFW walked through the budget and provided information on outreach materials and the importance of salvage. WDFW also commented that a 5 year funding cycle is more beneficial to allow for project development, permitting and outreach to develop partnerships.

USFWS Question/Comment: Asked about Washington State Funding. It was communicated that dollars are locked up with other higher priority projects.

GPUD Comment: If there are projects on other PUD properties, they should be ran through the HCP tributary committee first. GPUD also asked whether NNI funds covered 100% of WDFW staff salaries (WDFW responded that it was). GPUD also requested information regarding how much cost share dollars were leveraged with the approximately \$1.3 million allocated by the PRCC to date. GPUD is looking for both capital and total dollars leveraged.

GPUD Comment: Also stressed concern that more progress needs to be made to secure other funding sources for screening projects and long-term capital and operational and maintenance prior to when the NNI Account is terminated and/or expended. GPUD further requested regular updates from WDFW on its progress as it relates to securing long-term funding through the legislative process for screening projects (capital, materials and labor). GPUD is stressed that 5 years ago and with every change order since this has been a topic of discussion within the PRCC. It appears that limited progress has been made by WDFW on securing long-term funding.

CRITFC Question/Comment: As projects are closed out, how are is their success evaluated and is there a long-term monitoring and evaluation attached to each. CRITFC also asked about how new projects are prioritized? How do you determine which project to take on? How do you evaluate project success?

WDFW Response: WDFW indicated that all new projects not reviewed today would be presented to PRCC for approval. WDFW also indicated that they have a screening priority index but they tend not to use it. WDFW currently has pilot programs that they can collect information using Pit tags. Generally professional judgement and input from local citizens. WDFW currently does not have a monitoring and evaluation component.

DECISION: This will be on the July 26th PRCC agenda for consideration.

VII. AFFIRMATION OF EMAIL VOTE TO APPROVE: Quincy Valley Tourism Association – Request to change 2017 Pikeminnow Fishing Derby Dates from June 23-25 to September 22-24 (D. Rohr) – Final email approval received June 5, 2017.

VIII. White River SOA – Useful or Nullify? -- (J. Korth)
WDFW is still fully supporting their Lake Wenatchee evaluation. Open to other alternatives and a phased approach. WDFW did review Blue Leaf's proposal and has major problems with it as drafted. Need to get moving on White River, WDFW believes a decision cannot wait for a 10 year period. If more progress is not being made, WDFW will recommend withdrawing from the SOA.

USFWS Comment: Still have concerns regarding the predation part of the evaluation. The USFWS also has concerns over the number of fish collected/to be sampled. Discussions are occurring between USFWS and WDFW.

WDFW Comment: Working on new proposal that may back-out the predation part of the analysis. Revised draft due out later this summer. WDFW also provided information related use and operation of an additional trap (8') in addition to the existing 5' trap.

WDFW Comment: WDFW staff recommended a formal letter from the PRCCHatchery SC to the PRCC regarding the need to conduct the Lake Wenatchee evaluation.

GPUD Comment: GPUD communicated to WDFW/PRCC that it is not against data collection regarding predation within Lake Wenatchee, but has not supportive of the evaluation (as presented) for various reasons that have been communicated within the PRCC and directly to WDFW on several occasions. In addition, GPUD staff would not endorse support for a formal letter from the PRCCHSC to PRCC supporting the Lake Wenatchee evaluation.

IX. Update Discussion: Pinnipeds (C. Dotson) – Dotson mentioned that U.S. Reps. J. Butler (R-WA) and K. Schrader (D-OR) introduced the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Act to the House of Representatives in April. Dotson was passing this on to the committee as an “FYI”, if their respective organizations wanted to be supportive of the bill.

X. POTPOURRI (D. Rohr)

A. NNI Funding Guidance Document, dated December 28, 2013 –
No discussion occurred due to absence of PRCC members (S. Carlon, NOAA, and B. Rose & K. Murdock, Yakama Nation).

XI. UPDATES

A. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) (Weekly Reports being distributed to PRCC members) –

B. Denny has been passing out the weekly OSU avian reports. 6/7 report tagged birds 80% in Columbia Plateau. The past couple of weekly reports of the satellite-tagged terns show no predation within the PR Project. Last year we had 14% for the same time period. C. terns are long living birds, (23-27 years), so it is taking time to “train” the Caspian tern to move out of the area. Presently there are two S-tagged terns in Grays harbor, one in Oregon and one in Eastern Montana. For the last two weeks, no satellite birds in the PR area. Dotson also shared an Email received from OSU professors who will be headed to Alaska to work on a species of tern that is of concern, and also a research project in China on an endangered tern species there. Dotson stated to the committee how their NNI dollars have been used to benefit the PR Project via the satellite tag project, but now the expertise and knowledge gained from our project is now being used world-wide to assist other endangered species research projects.

C. Spill Report (C. Dotson) –

GPUD is presently in “summer spill”, which was initiated on June 15, 2017. Spill operations for “summer spill” are the exact same ones used during “spring spill”.

D. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser) – No Updates

1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications
4. Penticton Hatchery

- E. Hatchery Permits: Sec 10 Consultation/Summer Chinook, Sec 7 Consultation/Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – No Updates
- F. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. (Final Report Update) -- 2016 Real Time Research / Oregon State university – “Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region” - (C. Dotson)
Final report completed and will be distributed to PRCC.
 - 2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I - II Contract Extension – (J. Korth)
No Update.
 - 3. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (2016-17) – (T. Dresser)
No Update.
 - 4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) -
Rohr will contact Trout Unlimited for availability to provide an update at the next PRCC meeting..
 - 5. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) –
Rohr will contact Trout Unlimited for availability to provide an update at the next PRCC meeting.
 - 6. Predator Fish Recruitment Reduction (B. Rose) – C. Dotson –
10K that went to J. McMichaels. Mouth of Yakima. June 19 conf call, Jeff is still working on that, number of people on the call. Working out the details, to use this method. If a rapid draw down is performed, what is the effect on erosion. The review work is still moving forward, the whole group is working on it. 10K is taking place and looking for additional funding. New concept to do it. It's going forward. 10K extended to December 2017. McMichaels required to give a report.

June 19, 2017 conference call with various regional stakeholders (BPA, USCOE, NOAA, Yakama Nation, etc.). Still review study methodology, issues, concerns and impacts.
 - 7. Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce / Tourism Association – 2017 Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (T. Dresser)
Contract process has been completed.
 - 8. Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt (K. Truscott)
Three year contract with \$75,000 approved. Waiting signature from CCT.
 - 9. Satellite Telemetry of Caspian Terns (C. Dotson)

XII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) Rohr distributed to members prior to meeting

XIII. Otrly NNI and Habitat Funds Report (D. Rohr) – Came out at noon today, will talk about at next meeting.

XIV. Next Meeting – Wed, July 26, 2017, Wanapum HOB, Conf Rm 107 (D. Rohr)

Action Items from June 28, 2017 Meeting:

- A. Rohr to discuss Hatchery Subcommittee Coho status with McManus.
- B. NNI Funding Request from WDFW for screening projects (agenda item VI above) will be included in next PRCC meeting for consideration.
- C. NNI Funding Guidance Document will be discussed at July 26th meeting.