



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Final Approved Meeting Minutes
--Webinar Conference--

Wednesday, December 7, 2016
2:30 – 4:00 pm +/-

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD

Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Erin McIntyre, GCPUD

Meeting Attendees

Scott Carlon, Kirk Truscott, Bob Rose, Jim Craig, Tom Dresser, Curt Dotson, Tom Skiles, Austin Rohr/D. Rohr & Associates, Jeff Korth, John Skalski/Columbia Basin Research, Leah Sullivan/BLE, Kyle Hatch/BLE.

AGENDA

- I. **Agenda Review** – Rohr commented that today’s webinar conference is primarily for continued review of information presented at the November 16, 2016 PRCC meeting regarding the “2016 Steelhead Survival Study at the Priest Rapids Project”. Jim Craig, Kirk Truscott, and Jeff Korth were unable to attend and participate in the November 16th meeting. Accordingly, today’s meeting will allow all members to hear the presentations and participate collectively. Rohr reminded members the close of comment date is December 14, 2016 for the draft report by Skalski, et al, titled “Survival of Acoustic-Tagged Steelhead Smolts Through the Priest Rapids Project in 2016”. Additionally, the report to be received from Blue Leaf Environmental regarding the 2016 survival study will be coming next month.

Dresser also added a discussion of the Coho Mitigation Program to the agenda.

- II. Presentation of “Spring 2016 Survival Results for Steelhead at the Priest Rapids Project”** – John Skalski, Columbia Basin Research, participated in today’s webinar and gave the PowerPoint presentation for the referenced information. As stated above in the agenda review comments, this was the same presentation given by Rich Townsend, Columbia Basin Research, at the November 16th PRCC meeting. The presentation included assessment of assumptions, survival trends, project passage survival, and passage efficiency and relative route survivals. (See November 16th meeting minutes). Committee members and Skalski exchanged questions and comments throughout the presentation.
- III. Presentation of “Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County 2016 Steelhead Acoustic Tag Study”** – Kyle Hatch, Blue Leaf Environmental, also participated in today’s webinar and made the PowerPoint presentation for this additional referenced information. Again, as stated above, this was the same presentation given by Hatch at the November 16th PRCC meeting. Hatch stated the primary objective was a focus upon the “survival estimation through the Priest Rapids Project”, and secondary objectives being “behavioral metrics such as migration rates and fish passage efficiencies” and “comparison of results and variables across previous studies where applicable and to achieve a deeper, more comprehensive understanding of the 2016 results”. (See November 16th meeting minutes). Discussion continued with committee member comments and questions throughout the presentation.

Dotson commented that two Reports are involved in the 2016 Steelhead Survival Study process. One Report, as referenced above, is the “Survival of Acoustic-Tagged Steelhead Smolts Through the Priest Rapids Project in 2016” (Skalski Report). This draft Report is currently undergoing committee review with December 14th set as the close of comment date. The second Report regards the presentation referenced above titled “Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County 2016 Steelhead Acoustic Tag Study” by Hatch, et al (Blue Leaf Report). The second Report will be sent to the committee for review and discussion at the January 25, 2017 PRCC meeting.

- IV. Coho Mitigation Program** – Dresser explained that the existing 10 year Coho Statement of Agreement (SOA 2007-16) approved by the PRCC expires December 31, 2017. SOA 2007-16 requires an evaluation of the Coho Program in 2017 to determine a path forward for GPUD’s Coho mitigation. Dresser reviewed the history of Coho in the upper Columbia, and the Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) Coho Mitigation Requirement. Dresser reviewed 9 components of SOA 2007-16 and the actions to be considered during 2017 for each. Dresser outlined the Key Principles of Evaluation, and he commented that substantial M&E data has become available over the 2007- 2016 timeframe. He commented on the next steps needed to conduct the evaluation, including the tasks and

schedules to be addressed in 2017 plus determining NNI and related SOAs similar to that approved by Douglas PUD.

Skalski also gave a PowerPoint presentation titled "Coho Survival Trends & Relationships in the Mid-Columbia". The presented data covered survival trends and survival ratios over the 2010-2016 period for Coho and Yearling Chinook, Steelhead, and Sockeye. The PowerPoint is based on the report "*Comparison of Juvenile Survival of Chinook Salmon, Sockeye Salmon, Steelhead, and Coho Salmon Releases through the Grant Project, 2010-2015*" (Skalski and Townsend, 2016), which was handed out to the PRCC at the Oct. 26, 2016 PRCC meeting. The conclusion was that Yearling Chinook track closer to one on one with Coho, and Yearling Chinook provided the best correlation as a surrogate for Coho. Dresser commented that additional information and discussion will take place at the January 25, 2017 PRCC meeting.

- V. **Next Meetings** – Rohr reminded everyone the next PRCC meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of December 13th at the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee, and December 14th, 9:00 am at Wanapum Dam, HOB conference room 107.

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