



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

WEBINAR CONFERENCE

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

9:00 am

Audio: 1-800-977-8002 Bridge: 45582544

Webinar Instructions:

<https://grantpud.webex.com/grantpud/j.php?MTID=m3050f8f5182b6caafb34510f58f0210e>

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager, NMFS

Jim Craig, USFWS

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Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Meeting Minutes Affirmation and Approval:
 - A. Rohr affirmed approvals received for the July 23, 2014 meeting minutes from Craig, Skiles, Carlon, and Korth

Bob Rose, YN
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui, P. Verhey, WDFW
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- II. Meeting Minutes Affirmation and Approval:
 - A. Rohr affirmed approvals received for the July 23, 2014 meeting minutes from Craig, Skiles, Carlon, and Korth
 - B. Approval of August 27, 2014 meeting minutes
- III. Agenda Review
- IV. Action Items Review – August 27, 2014 Meeting
- V. Update of Wanapum Dam Activities (T. Dresser)
- VI. Schedule of PRCC Draft Reports and Presentations in October, 2014 by John Skalski and Blue Leaf Environmental (C. Dotson)
- VII. Spill Report for 2014 (C. Dotson)
- VIII. Updates

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- A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (Goose Island / NW Rocks Follow Up) (C. Dotson)
- B. Priest Rapids Bypass Operation (C. Dotson, T. Dresser)
- C. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
 - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility
 - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility
 - 3. PR Hatchery Modifications
 - 4. Penticton Hatchery
- D. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout. (T. Dresser)
- E. NNI Funded Projects
 - 1. Real Time Research Avian Study (C. Dotson)
 - ** Including "Comprehensive Assessment of Total Smolt Mortality in Relation to Avian Predation on the Mid- and Lower Columbia River: Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Reservoir-Specific Smolt Losses"
 - 2. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson)

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3. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth)
 4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – (J. Korth)
 5. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth)
 6. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (B. Nordlund, T. Dresser)
 7. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser)
- F. Committee Reports - Emailed (C. Dotson)
 - G. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (C. Dotson)
 - H. Other
- IX. Review of Next Month's Agenda Topics (C. Dotson)
 - X. Next Meeting – October 29, 2014, SeaTac Radisson Hotel (C. Dotson)

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Wednesday, September 24, 2014

9:00 – 10:00

Conference Call

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager, NMFS

Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui, P. Verhey, WDFW

Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees

Scott Carlon, NMFS

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Bob Rose, YN

Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Action Items:

1. Dotson will affirm Craig's approval of the August 27, 2014 meeting minutes.
2. Dotson will email the SOA's associated with moving the year-3 sockeye survival study from 2011 out to 2016 to PRCC members prior to Oct. PRCC meeting.

Final Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Meeting Minutes Affirmation and Approval:

- A. Approval of August 27, 2014 meeting minutes – Approved contingent upon Craig's approval. Dotson will confirm with Craig.

III. Agenda Review – No additions were made to the agenda.

IV. Action Items Review – August 27, 2014 Meeting – All Action Items were complete. **Update of Wanapum Dam Activities (C. Dotson)** – Grant PUD provided an update on issues at Wanapum Dam resulting from the fracture. The update described the successful passage of

fish, ongoing cleaning of aquatic vegetation from the pump screens, and the status of installation of tendons in the monolith piers. Development of a refill plan continues. The plan will allow the pool to be operated from 558' to 560'. Although the target refill time has not been determined, it is likely to occur between October and December 2014. Prior to implementation, the refill plan must be approved by the Board of Consultants and FERC.

V. **Schedule of PRCC Draft Reports and Presentations in October, 2014 by John Skalski and Blue Leaf Environmental (C. Dotson)** – Dotson reminded attendees that 2014 study season draft reports will be presented at the next PRCC meeting, October 29th.

VI. **Spill Report for 2014 (C. Dotson)** – Spill ended at Wanapum Dam (WD) on September 28th and on September 29th at Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). Adult fallback is occurring at Gate 22 (sluice gate) at PRD, and through the bypass at WD (4kcfs).

Carlton mentioned the lower than “normal” PIT-tagged sockeye survival estimate for Rock Island to McNary that the NOAA Science Center (NSC) saw in 2014. Carlton explained that the NSC used PIT-tagged fish released from various hatcheries and then detected at McNary Dam, to estimate juvenile survival in the upper Columbia River. Carlton was unaware of how many fish were PIT-tagged, noting that the federal system doesn't PIT-tag a large number of individual species. The sockeye survival rate from Rock Island Dam (RID) to McNary Dam (MD) was only 42%, significantly lower than seen in previous years. NSC posted 2014 yearling Chinook survival at 57% and steelhead survival at 48.8% (Carlton was unaware of release points between RI and MD). Dotson said preliminary data shows Grant PUD's yearling Chinook survival was 93% for the Priest Rapids Project. No sockeye were actively tagged for Grant's 2014 survival studies. Dotson will present 2014 survival data at the October PRCC meeting. Dotson mentioned that at next month's meeting he would like to discuss moving the sockeye JSATS behavioral/survival study scheduled in 2016, up to 2015 because of the noticeable decrease in NSC's sockeye passage survival estimates seen in 2014, and address others' questions of whether the Priest Rapids newly constructed Fish Bypass was a factor in their lower sockeye survival estimate. Dotson will email the SOA's associated with moving the year-3 (2011) sockeye survival study from 2011 out to 2016.

VII. Updates

- A. **Inland Avian Predation Activities (Goose Island / NW Rocks Follow Up) (C. Dotson)** – Dotson reported that the islands are being scanned for PIT-tags and that data is being analyzed. A date to discuss 2015 activities will be determined by Inland Avian Predation Working Group and sent out the later part of October or early November.
- B. **Priest Rapids Bypass Operation (C. Dotson)** – Bay 22, which has an ice/trash sluice gate, is being used for adult fallback, the other two gates are closed. Collection efficiency and survival numbers for the bypass will be presented at October's meeting.
- C. **Hatchery Activities (C. Dotson, J. Korth)**
1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – No update provided.
 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Korth reported that the facility is ready for fish, but due to a problem that developed in marking, not all fish have been marked.

This will delay getting fish onsite until mid-October. PRCC members will be invited to the dedication ceremony on November 13, 2014.

3. PR Hatchery Modifications – OLAFT is being operated by WDFW for additional broodstock.
4. Penticton Hatchery – Dedication took place on Saturday, September 20, 2014.

D. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout – No update provided

E. NNI Funded Projects

1. Real Time Research Avian Study (C. Dotson) – Draft results will be available at the end of October.

** Including “Comprehensive Assessment of Total Smolt Mortality in Relation to Avian Predation on the Mid- and Lower Columbia River: Spatial and Temporal Analysis of Reservoir-Specific Smolt Losses”

2. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson) – Battelle is analyzing data; a draft report will be available in October.
3. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth) – No update provided.
4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – (J. Korth) – No update provided.
5. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – No update provided.
6. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment – Korth reported that Danny Didricksen, WDFW, is working on the diving bid for the Priest Rapids reservoir, which will occur mid to late October. The original \$65,000 contract was to cover divers in both the Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs. Due to the Wanapum drawdown (diving is not needed due to low reservoir elevations), PRCC members agreed that if funds specified for the Wanapum reservoir are needed to cover cost in the Priest Rapids reservoir, that they be used.
7. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – No update provided.

F. Committee Reports (C. Dotson) – Emailed to members.

G. NNI and Habitat Funds Report (C. Dotson) – Report will be sent upon Grant’s receipt.

VIII. Review of Next Month’s Agenda Topics (C. Dotson) – Presentations by consulting groups that worked on 2014 survival studies.

IX. Next Meeting – October 29, 2014, SeaTac Radisson Hotel



BioAnalysts, Inc.
4725 N. Cloverdale Rd.
Suite 102
Boise, Idaho 83713
Phone: 208.321.0363
Fax: 208.321.0364

Memorandum

To: Denny Rohr
From: Tracy Hillman
Date: 10 September 2014
Re: FCWG Meeting Progress Report

The Fall Chinook Working Group (FCWG) met at Grant PUD in Ephrata, WA, on Tuesday, 2 September from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Wanapum Dam Issues

- Grant PUD gave a brief update on the status of Wanapum Dam. The update described the successful passage of fish, ongoing cleaning of aquatic vegetation from the pump screens, evaluation of adult Pacific lamprey passage including adult lamprey trap and haul, and the status of installation of tendons in the monolith piers.

Final Report and Implementation Feasibility Study/Implementation Feasibility Plan

- Consistent with the 401 reporting requirements, Grant PUD is preparing a final report for Ecology that includes the investigation of reasonable and feasible measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate for adverse effects (Implementation Feasibility Study; IFS) and a plan to implement approved measures (Implementation Feasibility Plan; IFP). A draft of the final report will be available for review in November. The FCWG will have 90 days to review the report. The final report will be submitted to Ecology and FERC in April 2015.
- Grant PUD prepared recommendations for assessing density dependence in the Hanford Reach. Recommended studies focus on spawning habitat, rearing habitat, food availability, and other sources (e.g., marine environment). A fruitful approach is the evaluation of otoliths from juvenile and adult salmon. Grant PUD will conduct cohort reconstructions, productivity assessments every five years, egg retention studies, and otolith collection and archival. Outside funding is needed to examine the otoliths.
- Grant PUD continues to examine historic stranding and entrapment data to identify data and sampling gaps. They are also evaluating ways to reduce the large variance associated with entrapment estimates. This work will be completed in October.

Hanford Reach Working Group Updates

- Grant PUD and WDFW are preparing the Hanford Reach Annual Report. A draft report will be available for review by the FCWG/HRWG by 1 October 2014.
- Adult fall Chinook trapping for the Priest Rapids Hatchery Program will begin the first week of September. Volunteers are needed to help capture untagged fall Chinook from the Hanford Reach on 24-26 October. The goal is to collect 500 untagged Chinook using hook-and-line gear.

2014 Return-Year Studies and Funding Opportunities

- The FCWG discussed different studies that could be conducted to address density dependence, which is likely to occur this year with the projected high escapement of adult fall Chinook to the Hanford Reach. It looks promising that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will fund part of a redd superimposition study. Proposals by Mainstem Research and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory were developed to investigate the predation in the McNary reservoir and the effect of superimposition on emergence timing. The proposals were submitted to the Northern Fund. Ecosystem Insights is pursuing funding to take aerial photos of redds using the same methods as during 2013. Finally, a proposal by Ecosystem Insights and WDFW was developed to analyze otoliths to investigate limiting factors. The proposal was submitted to the Northern Fund and will also be submitted through the LOA process.

Next Steps

The FCWG will next meet on Tuesday, 7 October 2014 at Grant PUD in Ephrata, WA.



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Memorandum

To: Denny Rohr
From: Tracy Hillman
Date: 10 September 2014
Re: PRFF Meeting Progress Report

The Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) met at Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA, on Wednesday, 3 September 2014, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Wanapum Dam Issues

- Grant PUD provided an update on issues at Wanapum Dam. The update described the successful passage of fish, ongoing cleaning of aquatic vegetation from the pump screens, evaluation of adult Pacific lamprey passage including adult lamprey trap and haul, and the status of installation of tendons in the monolith piers.

White Sturgeon Updates

- On 21 July, Ecology sent a letter to Grant PUD instructing them to release the remaining 2,168 juvenile sturgeon on station at Marion Drain. On 5 August, Chairman Boyd (Colville Tribes) submitted a letter to Director Bellon (Ecology) requesting a government-to-government consultation and asked Ecology to instruct Grant PUD to stay release of the juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain. On 26 August, Chairman Boyd submitted a letter to FERC asking FERC to describe their role in ensuring compliance with the 401 Certification, clarification of the process for resolving PRFF disputes, and FERC's position on the appropriate release number for 2014.
- WDFW provided the PRFF with a revised proposal on the number of juvenile white sturgeon to release into the Project Area in 2015. The PRFF has two weeks to review the proposal and members will submit their vote on the proposal by Wednesday, 17 September.
- Juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain and at WDFW facilities are doing well. Culling and grading has begun at the WDFW facilities.
- The Colville Tribes have been conducting sturgeon index surveys in the Priest Rapids Project Area. They completed surveys in the Priest Rapids Reservoir and are in the middle of sampling in the Wanapum Reservoir.
- The PRFF discussed the need to examine sturgeon broodstock that die before, during, or after spawning. They are reviewing necropsy protocols established for the Upper Columbia Sturgeon Program.

Pacific Lamprey Updates

- The PRFF Pacific Lamprey Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, 17 September to discuss possible actions to implement over the next few years to address NNI.

- The PRFF will visit the OLAFT and its operations on Monday, 15 September.
- Approximately 5,600 adult lamprey have passed Priest Rapids Dam. A total of 1,971 adult lamprey have been captured within the adult ladders at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. These fish were released upstream from Rock Island Dam. About 200 captured lamprey were PIT tagged by Chelan PUD and released at Confluence State Park. Grant PUD will continue to trap adult lamprey until 15 September. They will then reevaluate the need to do additional trapping.
- Local experts will continue to meet to fill out templates for the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning process. Templates for all Upper Columbia areas except the Methow and Okanogan have been completed.
- Grant PUD reported that they will provide the PRFF with a draft report later this year on their assessment of benthic organisms stranded in Wanapum Reservoir due to water level reductions.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on Wednesday, 1 October 2014 at Grant PUD in Wenatchee, WA.