



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee FINAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 17, 2015
9:00 am

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
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

MEETING ATTENDEES

Scott Carlon, NMFS
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant (via phone)
Mark Timko, Blue Leaf Environmental (via phone)
John Skalski, UW
Don Lyons, OSU

Jim Craig, USFWS
Jeff Korth, WDFW (via phone)
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator
Leah Sullivan, Blue Leaf Environmental
Allen Evans, RTR
Dan Roby, OSU

Action Items from October 28, 2015 PRCC meeting

1. **Avian Predation Workshop** - Rohr to send Agenda and information to the PRCC members for this workshop at The Dalles on November 30, 2015.
2. **AFEP Annual Review Meeting** – Rohr to send Agenda and information to the PRCC members for this meeting in Walla Walla on December 8-10, 2015.
3. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report** - Orlene to check on status of this report. During the meeting Orlene received confirmation that this report should be sent out tomorrow Thursday, October 29, 2015. The report was received on the 29th and Rohr emailed it to the Committee members.
4. **Next Meeting** – Possibly move the next meeting to November 17th. Rohr to check back with committee members. Orlene to secure a room at the SeaTac Radisson Hotel for this date. A room has been secured for the 17th at the Radisson.

FINAL MINUTES

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) – No new items added.

III. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – August 26, 2015; September 23, 2015 – **Approval subject to follow-up email to the Committee from Rohr.** October 28, 2015 (D. Rohr) – **in progress.**

IV. **Action Items Review** – from October 28, 2015 (D. Rohr) – Discussed during the meeting.

A. **Action Items for Additional Discussion from October 28th:**

1. Matrix showing the “Pros and Cons” of moving the R2 fish up to R1 to increase the sample size being released in RI tailrace (See Nov 5th email to PRCC with attachment from John Skalski) – Skalski presented and discussed the CBR-BLE Presentation.
2. Skalski analysis projection of number of fish and treatment blocks to give statistical power to a 15 vs 20 kcfs testing at WFB in 2016 (See Nov 5th email to PRCC with attachment from John Skalski) – Skalski presented and discussed the CBR-BLE Presentation. **We need to have ≥ 2 years of testing to have enough replicas of the tested blocks (due to length of out-migration season per year) to produce a statistical power ≥ 0.80 .** Not a whole lot of confidence with just 1 year of study, due to the lower statistical power to detect a 10% change that only 1 year gives. I have a very low power (0.27) in my initial estimate (due to sample size and number of replicas of test blocks) to know whether or not from going from 15,000 to 20,000 makes a difference in the FPE of the bypass. Blue Leaf has been working on the indicators of why we are seeing the variability. Skalski to go back and do more work. Grant is going to have to caucus on whether or not we do the 2016 study. We still need to talk about whether we do studies next year at all. We are to consider this in two weeks. The question was asked of the PRCC if there was anything special that the Committee is looking for in the next two weeks to help with the discussion.

Truscott requested a table summarizing the FPE and survival relative survival estimates for all years of study associated with the Wanapum bypass to assess the variability in FPE and survival. Such an assessment may provide insights to a range of impacts to survival associated with a 15 kcfs or 20 kcfs flow in the Wanapum bypass. Truscott further questioned whether or not, it was appropriate to reduce the bypass flows, even if the net effect on survival was minimal, given that project survival was far from meeting the required project survival criteria for steelhead.

V. **Presentation Report -- 2015 Real Time Research / Oregon State University – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region”, Don Lyons from OSU, Allen Evans from Real Time Research, Dan Roby USGS and OSU (C. Dotson) – Refer to presentation from Oregon State University and Real Time Research.** Don Lyons from OSU presented the satellite tagged bird work.

Allen Evans from Real Time Research presented on avian predation rates. Summary of Avian Predation Rates: Predation on steelhead and Chinook salmon by terns nesting on managed islands was reduced (Goose Is.) or largely eliminated (Crescent Is.) in 2015. Increased predation from terns nesting at nearby colonies and Goose Island terns that remained in the region, but did not nest elsewhere, offset survival benefits from managed tern colonies in 2015. Some evidence of increased survival of PIT-tagged steelhead between RIS and McNary Dam but decreased survival below McNary Dam in 2015. A spatially-explicit analysis of avian predation on AT-tagged smolts within the Wanapum-Priest Rapids Project in 2015 is in progress. Cumulative impacts of multiple avian predators (terns, gulls, and other species combined) on tagged smolts throughout the middle and lower Columbia River were substantial; some of the highest recorded to date. Biotic and abiotic factors may be related to increased avian predation rates in 2015; additional analyses are also in progress.

Dan Roby from USGS and OSU presented on the predation impacts and also presented a NNI proposal for avian predation funding in 2016 – similar to previous years

Dotson - Is there something here where RTR has highest survival rate and we have our lowest survival rate within the PR Project? Leah – Phone call from Real Time last week saying they were seeing different things. See presentation (16 pages). Rohr - If we have a conference call in a couple of weeks would you be able to discuss your findings. Dotson – We may not find anything. Leah Sullivan – Theoretically the predation should be the same or the semblance of the same between the handling effects between all release groups. We are not seeing that in the 2015 data when the last detection site used for Project survival estimates is Vernita.

When the last detection site is moved farther downstream, it appears that enough time is provided to allow the handling effects of the R3 group to manifest themselves

- A. **Proposal for NNI Funding in 2016** – Follow-up needed.
- VI. **2015 Preliminary Juvenile steelhead and sockeye survival & behavior evaluation results** (C. Dotson)
 - A. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass 15kcfs vs 20kcfs** – Blue Leaf - see Skalski presentation.
 - B. **PR Fish Mode (off fish mode)** – Blue Leaf/Curt Dotson - ___Dotson reported that during the evaluation period (May 1 – June 15th), PRD turbines were out of Fish Mode less than 1% of the time. No further comment from the committee was made.
- VII. **Continued Discussion of 2016 Juvenile Steelhead Survival Evaluation Study Plan** (C. Dotson) - No further action can be taken regarding the draft 2016 study plan that was presented to the committee in October until further discussion (Dec. 4th) regarding the results of the 2015 study i.e. will there even be a study conducted in 2016(?).
- VIII. **SOA 2015-03, Agreement for Not Conducting a Sub-yearling Survival Study in 2016** (C. Dotson) – Grant was looking for deferral for 3 years. Agreed to defer for one year. Rohr to get Rose's approval on this.
 - A. **(Revised) SOA 2015-02, Schedule for Conducting Sub-yearling Survival Evaluations** - The Committee approved SOA 2015-03, subject to approval from Bob Rose. Denny will be contacting Rose for his vote.
- IX. **Potpourri** (D. Rohr)
- X. **Updates**
 - A. **Inland Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) – Nothing new to report.
 - B. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) – Nothing new to report.
 - 1. **Carlton Acclimation Facility**
 - 2. **Nason Creek Acclimation Facility**
 - 3. **Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications**
 - 4. **Penticton Hatchery**
 - C. **Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout** (T. Dresser) – Nothing new to report.
 - D. **Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Spawning Report** (C. Dotson) – Still doing counts.
 - E. **NNI Funded Projects**
 - 1. **2015 Real Time Research / Oregon State University** – "Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region" (C. Dotson)
 - 2. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension** – November Presentation Deferred (J. Korth)
 - 3. **Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II** – November Presentation Deferred (J. Korth)
 - 4. **Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II** (J. Korth)
 - 5. **Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment** – November Presentation Deferred (T. Dresser)
 - 6. **Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project** – November Presentation Deferred (T. Dresser)
 - F. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) – Not received yet as this meeting was one week early.

G. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report through September 30, 2015** (D. Rohr) - The report was sent out on November 29, 2015 and covers through the end of September. NNI Fund 601 - \$3,335,070, Habitat Supplemental Fund 602 - \$3,058,293 and Habitat Fund 603 - \$553,807.

XI. **Next Meetings** (Note Schedule Changes) – December 4, 2015 Conference Call – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and December 15, 2015 Conference Call (if needed) – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. December 23, 2015 has been CANCELLED (D. Rohr).

Action Items from November 17, 2015 PRCC meeting

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – Rohr to send e-mail out to get approval from the Committee for the August 26, 2015 and September 23, 2015 minutes.
2. **SOA 2015-03, Agreement for Not Conducting a Sub-yearling Survival Study in 2016** (C. Dotson) – Grant was looking for deferral for 3 years. Agreed to defer for one year. Rohr to get Bob Rose's approval.