



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, December 4, 2015
9:30 am
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office
11 Spokane Street, Suite 205B

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 (via phone)
Kirk Truscott, CCT
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (via phone)
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant (via phone)
Bob Rose, YN (via phone)

Jim Craig, USFWS
Jeff Korth, WDFW
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

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. **Completed**
2. **SOA 2015-03, Agreement for Not Conducting a Sub-yearling Survival Study in 2016** (C. Dotson) – Committee agreed to defer for one year. Rohr received approval from Rose of November 17th committee decision to defer. **Completed**

FINAL MINUTES

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
- II. **Agenda Review** (D. Rohr) - No additions
- III. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – August 26, 2015; September 23, 2015; **Approved**. October 28, 2015; November 17, 2015. (D. Rohr) – Rohr to do an email vote during December for October 28th and November 17th meeting minutes.
- IV. **Action Items Review** – from November 17, 2015 (D. Rohr) **Completed**
- V. **2015 Juvenile Steelhead and Sockeye Survival & Behavior Evaluation** (C. Dotson)

- A. **2015 Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon Acoustic Tag Study – Data Analysis Update** – Dotson presented the update via a PowerPoint. Dotson discussed the impact that the control fish (the R3 group) have on the PR Project overall survival estimate if enough time is not allowed so all release groups of fish (R1, R2, and R3) have handling effects manifested within that specific release group. By moving the study's final detection arrays downstream farther, enough time would be allowed so that both groups (treatment fish and control fish) have experienced similar mortalities (in this case – handling effects). Skalski's recommendation is to move the study's final detection array from its present Vernita Bridge location downstream to the two detection arrays referred to as Hanford 1 and Hanford 2. For Yearling Chinook salmon, this would result in the sample size getting smaller but the rate of survival is the same. Dropping at the same rate. Therefore, in 2016 include the new detection sites further downstream at Hanford 1&2. Put another detection between Vernita Bridge and White Bluffs – there is 8-9 hours between these two. The committee members continued their discussion regarding possibly adding more detection sites downstream in 2016. The question was raised as to how to handle the 2015 data and survival calculations if the last detection sites are moved downstream by adding additional detections sites in 2016. Dotson commented that for other reasons unrelated to this survival study, additional monitoring was done downstream in 2014 and also in 2015 at the Hanford 1&2 sites, and the data is available to include in the 2014 and 2015 survival calculations. Dotson further commented that Blue Leaf and Skalski have studied the data and recommend moving the lower monitoring sites downstream to Hanford 1&2 as they feel the estimates are biased low by not including these sites. Rose requested "error bars" be added to the lines on the graphs depicting the survival data. Carlon asked if the same analysis could be done for 2014, 2015, and ultimately 2016 if the last detection sites are moved downstream which results in a change of the data parameters. Dotson reiterated that the downstream data was collected in 2014 and 2015, and it would also be collected in 2016 at the Hanford 1&2 site, so the data would be comparable for all three years of studies. Rose and Korth asked if anything could be done to address the negative handling effects. Dotson commented probably not, but moving the last monitoring sites downstream does allow enough time for the different groups of fish to "cancel out" those effects. Skiles and Rose commented on the standard error bounds, and that the number would be changing and getting larger, greater than the +/- 2.5% criteria that is associated with doing a survival study. Dotson commented that this could be addressed by increasing the number of tagged fish used in the study and/or improvements to the detection arrays to improve detection efficiency. After further discussion, the committee agreed to meet again on December 15th to continue the discussion. Dotson will continue to refine the data, and Blue Leaf and Skalski will be asked to attend the next meeting and be a part of the continued discussion.
- B. Wanapum Future Unit Bypass - 15kcfs vs 20kcfs Study – Deferred for discussion at next meeting.
- C. PR Fish Mode Operations Study – Deferred for discussion at next meeting.
- VI. **2016 Juvenile Steelhead Survival Evaluation Study Plan** (C. Dotson) – Deferred for discussion at next meeting.
- VII. **2016 Study Proposal – "Evaluation of Caspian Tern Management to Reduce Predation on ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Columbia Plateau Region"** (C. Dotson) – Dotson reviewed the proposal, and members discussed and provided comments. Members requested more time for review and directed Rohr to include the proposal for discussion and action at the next meeting on December 15th.
- VIII. **Potpourri** (D. Rohr) – Rohr commented that the 2015 AFEP Meeting hosted by the USACE is scheduled for December 8, 9, and 10 in Walla Walla. Rohr on the previous day had distributed meeting information to the committee members for their review.

IX. Updates

- A. **Inland Avian Predation Activities** (C. Dotson) No update
- B. **Hatchery Activities** (T. Dresser) – **No updates**
 - 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) No update
- D. **Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Spawning Report** (C. Dotson) No update
- 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) - A draft report is expected to be received after the first of the year.
 - 2. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension – Presentation by Danny Didricksen, WDFW, **to be scheduled** (J. Korth, D. Rohr) no update
 - 3. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – Presentation by Danny Didricksen, WDFW, **to be scheduled** (J. Korth, D. Rohr) no update
 - 4. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – Presentation by Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, **to be scheduled** (J. Korth, D. Rohr) no update
 - 5. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment – Presentation by Danny Didricksen, WDFW, **to be scheduled** (T. Dresser, D. Rohr) no update
 - 6. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project – Presentation by Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, **to be scheduled** (T. Dresser, D. Rohr) no update
- F. **Committee Reports** (D. Rohr) Rohr distributed by email to the committee members.
- G. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report through September 30, 2015** (D. Rohr) Rohr distributed by email to the committee members.
- X. **Next Meetings (*Note Schedule Changes*) – December 15, 2015 conference call (if needed); December 23, 2015 meeting is cancelled (D. Rohr), Wednesday, January 27, 2016.** The committee agreed the next meeting would be held on December 15th at the Grant PUD Wenatchee office beginning at 9:30 am; the next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 27, 2016.

Action Items from December 4, 2015 PRCC Meeting:

- 1. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – Rohr to send e-mail out to get approval from the Committee for the October 28, 2015 and November 17, 2015 meeting minutes.