

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
Statement of Agreement on the Invalidation of the
2006 Steelhead Survival Study Results**

Submitted to PRCoordinatingCommittee: February 9, 2007

Approved by PRCoordinatingCommittee: February 28, 2007

Statement

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees that the results from the 2006 Steelhead Acoustic Tag Survival Study are invalid and will not be used as year one of the needed three consecutive years of estimates used to generate the arithmetic averaged Project survival estimate for steelhead. This three year arithmetic averaged Project survival estimate is used to determine if the performance standard at the Priest Rapids and Wanapum developments has been met, as stated in RPA 1 of the Biological Opinion

Background

The PRCC determines that the 2006 steelhead Wanapum Development survival estimate of .7195 (SE = .0285) and the Priest Rapids Development survival estimate of .7107 (SE = .0294) were invalid based on the following items: (1) Steelhead survival estimates in the two developments (Chelan PUD) just upstream of Grant PUD were 94% and 96%, (2) 48-hour post-surgical mortality rates between Grant PUD and Chelan PUD tagging crews were 2.28 % and 0.07%, respectfully. (3) Yearling Chinook survival estimates in the Grant PUD developments have averaged 93% for the past three consecutive years, (4) In a head-to-head comparison between two independently acoustically-tagged groups of steelhead released into the Rock Island Dam tailrace (one group being Chelan PUD steelhead and the other group being Grant PUD tagged steelhead) showed a relative survival estimate difference of 9%, 97.9% and 88.7% respectfully, between the two groups in the short travel distance (time) between Rock Island tailrace and Sunland Estates.

The above findings in the Grant PUD 2006 steelhead survival study indicate a possible fish tagging/handling methodology problem existed in the study and that the study did not accurately reflect the performance standard for the Wanapum and Priest Rapids developments