

SOA 2007-16

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee  
Statement of Agreement on Grant PUD's Coho Obligation**

Presented to the Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee: September 20, 2007

Approved by the Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee: September 25, 2007

Presented to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: September 25, 2007

Approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: September 25, 2007

**Statement:**

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee and PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agree to the coho hatchery compensation per this Statement of Agreement (SOA). Grant PUD shall begin providing hatchery compensation no later than October 1, 2007.

This SOA establishes coho as a "Covered Species" and supersedes the criteria for such determination as discussed in the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement. As a "Covered Species" this SOA defines the measures for implementing and evaluating the coho protection program included in the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.

- 1) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that through Grant PUD's early implementation in providing O&M funding prior to a determination on whether a hatchery program and/or population of coho exists in the Wenatchee, Entiat and Methow basins, development and expansion of existing facilities (either Grant PUD or facilities owned or operated by others) will not be considered. The use of future production facilities developed by Grant PUD will be considered for coho use if consistent with the Yakama Nation's Master Plan.
- 2) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that O&M funds provided by Grant PUD for the coho program also includes funding for coho M&E programs. These funds provided by Grant PUD annually to the Yakama Nation using a relative cost per smolt is compensation for the 14% juvenile loss at the Priest Rapids Project as described in #3.
- 3) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that an interim juvenile salmonid project survival standard of 93% and 95% dam passage survival will be assumed for the Priest Rapids Project.
- 4) Juvenile coho survival studies will not be performed at the Priest Rapids Project unless there is compelling<sup>1</sup> evidence that demonstrates hydro operations have an impact of greater than seven percent mortality on coho.
- 5) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that if the coho program does not meet its program/performance goals:
  - i) Other impacts to the coho program will be researched before evaluation of Project survival will be considered. This may include such things as harvest, hatchery performance, facilities, use of lower river stock for up-river production, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> "Compelling" evidence could relate to information collected as part of the hatchery monitoring and evaluation program. For example, smolt to adult survivals for coho that is significantly lower than other species of interest in the same geographic area may be compelling evidence that coho are experiencing differential mortality rates in project passage. In all cases the information should be empirical and related to Project survival.

- ii) Existing information for coho behavior and survival at other facilities in the Columbia Basin will be considered.
  - iii) There is agreement that when and if there is a requirement for survival studies, it is accomplished in the most cost-effective manner.
- 6) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree there will be no NNI contribution for coho. If there is “compelling” evidence (See footnote 1) and studies are implemented and passage survival standards are not being met, compensation would be achieved through actual cost-per-pound of overall hatchery production, as negotiated by Yakama Nation and Grant PUD.
- 7) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that adult passage evaluations for coho at the Priest Rapids Project will not be required. Priority will remain on measurement and hydro operations for co-migrating Permit Species.
- 8) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that the performance of coho program will be evaluated in 2017 and will need to meet the appropriate standards and goals as established by the committees to ensure protection of the Permit Species. If, as a result of the evaluations and program modifications either (a) the coho population is stable or increasing, or (b) the coho population is declining and other basin species populations are declining, then Grant PUD will continue to provide compensation pursuant to the Agreement entered into between the Yakama Nation and Grant PUD and this Statement of Agreement. If the coho population is declining and other basin populations are stable or increasing, then the PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee should determine the viability of a coho program and if the program should remain a requirement of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.
- If the PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee determine that a coho program is no longer viable, Grant PUD will not be required to continue providing compensation pursuant to Section 12.1 (any other Agreement entered into between the Yakama Nation and Grant PUD) of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement or this Statement of Agreement. Funding would continue through the end of the respective brood-year.
- 9) The PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee agree that by adhering to all the actions in this SOA, Grant PUD fully meets its coho mitigation obligation under the Settlement Agreement through 2017.

**Background:**

**Priest Rapids Salmon & Steelhead Settlement Agreement - Part XII. Reintroduction Species – Section 12.1 Coho Protection Program**

Compensation for coho in the Wenatchee, Entiat and Methow river basins will be assessed within 6 months following the signing of the Settlement Agreement, following the development of an anticipated long-term coho hatchery program and/or the establishment of a threshold population of naturally reproducing coho in the above three sub-basins.

The PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee shall make the determination as to whether a hatchery program and/or naturally reproducing population of coho are present in any or all of the three basins. Should the Hatchery Subcommittee determine that such a program and/or population of coho exist in any or all of the three basins, and then the Hatchery

Subcommittee shall determine the most appropriate means to satisfy NNI for the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow river basins. Programs to meet NNI for the Wenatchee, Entiat and Methow river basins may include, but are not limited to; 1) Provide operation and maintenance funding in the amount equivalent to 14% (7% per project) juvenile project passage loss or 2) provide funding for acclimation or adult collection facilities both in the amount equivalent to a total of 14% for the Priest Rapids Project. The programs selected to achieve NNI for the three sub-basins will utilize an interim value of project survival, based upon the three-year average juvenile project mortality of 7% per each dam and reservoir. This interim value of total Project mortality will remain until specific passage and survival studies can be conducted and verified by the PRCC on coho passing through the Priest Rapids Project, and until the evaluation of ongoing programs/populations in the Wenatchee, Entiat, and Methow sub-basins by the PRCC is accomplished.