

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

**Statement of Agreement
For
Okanogan Spring Chinook Obligation**

Submitted to Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: December 18, 2007

Approved by Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: December 18, 2007

Statement

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees to the Okanogan spring Chinook hatchery compensation per this Statement of Agreement (SOA). Grant PUD shall begin providing hatchery compensation if the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) approves and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds the Colville Tribes' Chief Joseph Hatchery Program (CJHP).

This SOA establishes Okanogan spring Chinook 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 Okanogan Basin spring Chinook program included in the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.

1) The PRCC agrees that Grant PUD shall provide hatchery compensation as identified in the cost sharing agreement for the CJHP currently under negotiation among Grant PUD, Bonneville Power Administration and the Colville Tribes. This shall satisfy Grant PUD's hatchery obligation for Okanogan spring Chinook salmon, therefore the development and expansion of existing facilities (Grant PUD facilities) will not be considered.

2) The PRCC agrees that O&M funds provided by Grant PUD for the Okanogan spring Chinook program also includes funding for all M&E programs.

3) The PRCC agrees that juvenile Okanogan spring Chinook co-migrate with other spring Chinook and will be included in survival studies using run-of-river juveniles, thus independent survival studies will not be performed for Okanogan spring Chinook. Until the next regularly scheduled Priest Rapids Project spring Chinook survival evaluation, it will be assumed that juvenile Okanogan spring Chinook have a project survival of 93% and 95% individual dam passage survival.

4) The PRCC agrees there will be no additional NNI contribution for Okanogan spring Chinook. If passage survival standards are not being met for spring Chinook, mitigation for Okanogan spring Chinook would be achieved by adjusting the CJHP cost sharing agreement, as negotiated by the Colvilles and Grant PUD.

5) The PRCC agrees that adult passage evaluations specifically for Okanogan spring Chinook at the Priest Rapids Project will not be required.

6) The PRCC agrees that the performance of Okanogan spring Chinook program will be evaluated in 2019. At that time, the PRCC and its hatchery subcommittee should determine the viability of an Okanogan spring Chinook program and if the program should remain a requirement of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement.

If the PRCC determines that a Okanogan spring Chinook program is no longer viable, Grant PUD will not be required to continue providing compensation pursuant to Section 12.1 (or another Agreement entered into between the Colville and Grant PUD) the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement or this Statement of Agreement. Funding would continue through the end of the respective brood-year.

7) The PRCC agrees that by adhering to all the actions in this SOA, Grant PUD fully meets its Okanogan spring Chinook mitigation obligation under the Settlement Agreement through 2019.

Background

A major objective of the CJHP is to reintroduce extirpated spring Chinook salmon to historical habitats in the Okanogan River for the purpose of providing for a tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery, as well as recreational fishing. The Colville Tribe's CJHP has been an approved project within the NPCC's Fish and Wildlife Program since 2002. Following the NPCC's 3-Step Process, the CJHP has completed Step 1 (Master Plan Development) and is awaiting a decision on the approval of Step 2, which should occur early in 2008. An element of the Step-2 Process involved negotiating conceptual cost sharing agreements for funding the CJHP among BPA (the major funding entity) and other interested parties, including the Mid-Columbia PUDs. The District has been involved in these discussions and has conceptually agreed to cost sharing for their Okanogan Basin spring Chinook salmon hatchery compensation obligation using this process.

The Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement signed in 2005 stated that hatchery compensation for Okanogan basin spring Chinook will be assessed by the PRCC in 2007 following the development of a long term spring Chinook hatchery program and/or the establishment of a threshold population of naturally producing spring Chinook in the Okanogan watershed. Should the Committee determine that such a program or population exists, then the Committee shall determine the most appropriate means to satisfy the 7% hatchery compensation requirement for Okanogan basin spring Chinook.

Although the conditions in 12.2 of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement have not yet been achieved (i.e., the existence of a long-term hatchery program), the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee has expressed interest in pursuing this Statement of Agreement in an attempt to address this issue within the current schedules.