

**SOA 2009-1**

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee  
Statement of Agreement on  
The Need of a Mass Mark for Grant PUD's Hatchery Programs**

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: January 22, 2009  
Approved by PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: March 19, 2009

**Statement**

The Hatchery Subcommittee of the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) collectively agrees that a mark should be applied to all (100% marking) Priest Rapids Hatchery produced fall Chinook for the purposes of making them identifiable as hatchery fish. This document is intended to be a living document and subject to change as new information becomes available.

**Background**

As identified in SOA 2008-03, Quantitative objectives have been approved for development and evaluation of the Priest Rapids Hatchery programs, which will be operated as an integrated hatchery program adjoining the large, healthy natural population of Hanford Reach fall chinook. Approved objectives specific to this marking SOA include; broodstock selection and collection, management of PNI, management of hatchery origin returns, monitoring plan development, and assessment of hatchery/natural interactions and risks at both the juvenile and adult life stages. Without the ability to accurately and precisely identify fish of hatchery origin it is impossible to collect information necessary to implement the M&E plans for assessment of impacts of the hatchery program and to adaptively manage the hatchery program. Marking at a 100% rate provides the necessary precision, and guards against potential biases associated with error in identification of small numbers of hatchery fish among large numbers of natural fish, as well as the opposite situation.