

**SOA 2010-07**

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee  
Statement of Agreement on the Sockeye Salmon program**

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: 9/13/2010

Approved by PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: 10/21/2010

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**Statement**

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) agrees with and approves of the following statements:

1. The mitigation goal of the 12-Year Reintroduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake Program (Skaha Reintroduction Program) managed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) with committee oversight by the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group (COBTWG, consisting of ONA, BC Ministry of Environment, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada) is establishing natural production and significant new spawning habitats in the Okanagan River and utilizing rearing habitats by natural and hatchery origin sockeye in Skaha and Okanagan lakes.
2. The Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County (Grant PUD) in collaboration with Chelan PUD, will provide funding for hatchery operations, monitoring and evaluation, and construction of a hatchery in Penticton, British Columbia to produce sufficient quantities of fry to support the Skaha Reintroduction Program. COBTWG has agreed in principle to an additional 5 years of hatchery fry production through broodyear 2020.
3. The PRCC HSC agrees to support Grant PUD's funding and implementation of the Skaha Reintroduction Program, from 2010 through 2021 (i.e., release of the 2020 brood year), in order to meet Grant PUD's No Net Impact (NNI) sockeye obligation for the Okanogan Basin.
4. In the event reintroduction is successful, Grant PUD will receive NNI credit for the Priest Rapids Project from (1) fry produced by the PUD-funded hatchery and (2) natural-origin smolts emigrating from Skaha and Okanagan lakes.
5. In the event that reintroduction is not successful, as defined by (1) discontinued support by COBTWG, or (2) a determination made by the PRCC HSC following a comprehensive program assessment in 2021, Grant PUD will meet its mitigation

- commitment by one of the following alternatives: flow augmentation targeted to improve instream conditions for sockeye salmon; and/or habitat improvements targeted for improved natural production of sockeye salmon; and/or other appropriate mitigation measures agreed to by the HSC.
6. As a contingency for additional production at the Penticton Hatchery in the future, Grant PUD will acquire the space and core infrastructure necessary to construct hatchery capacity for an 8 million egg program (i.e., 3 million more eggs than is currently approved). The program has approval from COBTWG for 5 million eggs until broodyear 2020.
  7. If the Skaha Reintroduction Program is successful prior to 2021, the PRCC HSC may require Grant PUD to expand the hatchery program to 8 million eggs, and to reallocate all or a portion of the resulting fry production for use in Okanagan Lake until 2021, pending COBTWG approval of reintroducing sockeye into Okanagan Lake.

### **Background**

The Priest Rapids Sockeye Salmon Artificial Propagation Program states (Section 11.4): *Grant PUD shall strive to artificially propagate up to 1,143,000 salmon smolts as described in the BAMP (1998). This will include researching available options for sockeye hatchery facilities, and consideration of experimental programs.*

On December 3, 2008, the PRCC approved SOA 2008-1, which states, “all elements of Section 11.4, Sockeye Salmon Artificial Propagation Program, listed in the Priest Rapids Project Salmon and Settlement Agreement are met by the 2006-2017 Experimental Reintroduction of Sockeye Salmon into Skaha Lake”.

The Skaha Reintroduction Program has shown no negative impacts towards Skaha Lake kokanee. COBTWG has granted an additional 5 years of fry production through broodyear 2020. Grant PUD has explored several hatchery designs for program continuation and expansion. Considerable time and effort has been given by all parties involved to reach an agreement on hatchery design. Progress is being made to adopt a long-term agreement to at least 2021 as a result of approval by COBTWG for the extension.