



Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Tuesday, 21 January 2014
Grant PUD Office (USBOR Building)
Ephrata, WA

TECHNICAL MEMBERS

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Carl Merkle, Umatilla Tribe
Tom Dresser, GCPUD
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Keith Hatch, BIA
Pat McGuire, WDOE
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Jason McLellan, CCT

ATTENDEES

Patrick Verhey, WDFW
Bob Rose, YN (via phone)
Aaron Jackson, CTUIR (via phone)
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (via phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Chad Jackson, WDFW
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Donella Miller, YN (via phone)
Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Action Items:

- 1. Fish Ladder Tour is scheduled for 31 January 2014. Those planning to attend need to send Mike Clement a copy of their driver's license and date of birth for Grant PUD badge security purposes.**
- 2. Mike Clement will ask Jim Powell and Larry Hildebrand for suggestions on other experts who are members of the Sturgeon World Conservation Society that might be part of the expert panel.**
- 3. PRFF will provide names of other sturgeon experts to Tracy Hillman and Debbie Williams.**
- 4. Tracy Hillman will draft an objective summary of sturgeon issues and send it to the PRFF for review before sending it to the experts.**
- 5. Tracy Hillman or Debbie Williams will send a doodle poll to find a date for the combined PRFF and RRF meeting in February.**

6. **Mike Clement will check with Power Management to see when juvenile sampling in Wanapum Reservoir can be conducted in February or March.**

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed attendees to the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) meeting. Self-introductions were made.
- II. **Agenda Review** – The agenda was reviewed and approved.
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - 10 December 2013 – Approved
- IV. **Review of Action Items** - Action items identified during the December meeting were discussed.
 1. The Yakama Nation will prepare a white paper that describes the reasons why they believe 6,500 juveniles should be released in 2014. **Complete. The Yakama Nation will send the document to Tracy Hillman for distribution to PRFF.**
 2. Larry Hildebrand will attend the January or February meeting to discuss growth and survival modeling. **Ongoing.**
 3. Mike Clement will send the sturgeon model to Debbie Williams for distribution. **Complete.**
 4. Tracy Hillman will distribute the Beamesderfer paper after he receives it from Jim Powell. **Complete.**
 5. The Yakama Nation will prepare a draft NNI document and analysis for review during the January or February PRFF. Each agency needs to review NNI associated with their license. **Ongoing. Bob Rose will distribute it to Tracy Hillman.**
 6. The PRFF will send to RD Nelle a list of people who can sit on the Regional Implementation Planning panel. **Ongoing.**
 7. Debbie Williams will send out a doodle poll for fish ladder tour dates in late January. **Complete. The tour will be on 31 January 2014.**
- V. **White Sturgeon Management Plan Program**

Juvenile Rearing and Health at Marion Drain—Donella Miller reported that juvenile sturgeon growth is good and that their size is similar to past years. Heat pumps will be turned on next week in order to grow fish large enough to tag in mid-March. Tagging will occur before Chelan PUD starts their broodstock collection. This allows the YN enough time to release fish and get ready to bring broodstock into the facility. WDFW took pathology samples last

week. Health results should be available soon. There are approximately 10,000 fish on station.

Juvenile Rearing and Health at Wells—Chad Jackson reported that the juvenile sturgeon that were collected as larvae from Lake Roosevelt and are rearing at Wells Hatchery are doing well. Lake Roosevelt fish have grown to about 70 grams. WDFW and Douglas PUD staff tagged the 12 Wanapum fish and released them into Wells Reservoir to free up rearing space for the Lake Roosevelt origin fish (the 12 Wanapum origin fish were occupying a whole rearing vessel). There have been very few to no mortalities in the Lake Roosevelt fish and they still remain asymptomatic of iridovirus (WSIV). As long as no outbreak occurs and barring any new and compelling information that leads WDFW to determine that these fish are not suitable for release, WDFW plans to release the fish into Wells Reservoir. WDFW will collect histology samples during tagging (1-1.5 months pre-release) to test for WSIV infection rates. The Idaho Fish Health Lab in Orofino, ID, will perform the histological examination on the samples. WDFW wants to determine if WSIV infection rates decrease with size/age as suggested in the literature.

Stocking Decision for 2014—The PRFF continued to discuss alternative 2014 juvenile sturgeon stocking numbers. The majority of the PRFF agreed to stock ~ 4,300 fish, with the exception of the Yakama Nation and Umatilla Tribe, who want to stock 6,500 as outlined in the White Sturgeon Management Plan. **The Yakama Nation has prepared a white paper outlining their rationale. Tracy Hillman will distribute the paper to the PRFF.**

Tracy Hillman reminded members that this is a technical group and that he's hopeful the decision can be made in this forum without the need to elevate it to the PRFF Policy Group. Tracy Hillman and Mike Clement suggested an expert panel be formed in order to provide input on sturgeon genetics, population dynamics, and ecology, and then bring their recommendation to the PRFF. Members provided the following list of experts to contact:

Paul Anders, Cramer Fish Sciences

Ray Beamesderfer, R2 Resources

Andrea Schreier, UC Davis

James Crossman, BC Hydro

Kim Scribner, Michigan State University

Mike Clement suggested that Jim Powell and Larry Hildebrand be included on the expert panel as reviewers. **Mike Clement will ask Jim and Larry for suggestions on other experts who are members of the Sturgeon World Conservation Society. The Forum will provide names of other experts to Tracy Hillman and Debbie Williams. An objective summary of sturgeon issues will be drafted by Tracy Hillman and sent to the PRFF for review before being sent to the experts.**

In order to discuss this issue in-depth, the February PRFF and RRFF will hold a joint meeting. **A doodle poll will be sent out to find a date for the combined meeting.** If consensus cannot be met after this meeting, the issue will be elevated to the PRFF Policy Group.

WSMP Annual Report Update—Debbie Williams will send the draft report out next week for a 30 day review. It will include a 2014 Work Plan (year three).

Other White Sturgeon Items—Chad Jackson reported that in an effort to rule out any difference between facilities, WDFW fish health staff collected 60 PCR samples from juvenile sturgeon from the Chelan PUD program. WDFW PCR protocols were developed at Dworshak Dam. Samples will analyzed in house by WDFW. Revised fish health sampling protocols are being developed by WDFW.

VI. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

Update on Annual Report and Presentation—The draft lamprey report was distributed by Debbie Williams last week. **Comments are due to Mike Clement prior to 15 February.** Mike would like to have Boa Le give a presentation on the annual report in March or April. Blue Leaf Environmental will present the passage metrics in March.

No Net Impact Discussion—The Yakama Nation (YN) and Grant PUD met to discuss the NNI conceptual framework. The YN and Umatilla Tribe will meet with Grant PUD over the next few weeks to determine what the conceptual framework will look like. Progress is being made. Mike Clement explained that the overarching concept will allow for continued conservation geared towards natural and supplemental production of lamprey throughout the system.

Regional Implementation Planning Process— This effort is ongoing. There were no updates provided during the meeting.

Priest Rapids HD Pit-Tag Detectors—Mike Clement will work with Blue Leaf Environmental to move HD PIT-tag detectors in the ladder next winter. Mike and Blue Leaf will identify potential locations for the detectors and share that with the PRFF.

Juvenile Habitat Assessment—Mike Clement explained that he is working with Grant PUD's Power Management folks to allow for juvenile sampling in Wanapum reservoir this February or March. **Mike Clement will check to see when Wanapum Reservoir juvenile sampling can be conducted.**

VII. **Schedule a Fish Ladder Tour in January or February**— The tour will be on 31 January 2014. Attendees need to send Mike Clement a copy of their driver's license and date of birth. This is for Grant PUD badge security purposes.

VIII. Next Meeting

February 2014 meeting will be held later in February with the RRFF. Possible meeting dates include Feb 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21). The next regular meeting of the PRFF will be on 5 March 2014 in Ephrata.