



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 7 May 2014
9:00 – 11:30
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office

PRFF 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:

Pat McGuire, WDOE
RD Nelle, USFWS
Patrick Verhey, WDFW (Via phone)
Steve Lewis, USFWS (Via phone)
Donella Miller, YN (Via phone)
Mike Clement, GCPUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Bob Rose, YN (Via phone)
Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via phone)
Tom Skiles, CRITFC (Via phone)
Tom Dresser, GCPUD (Via phone)
Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Distributed Items:

1. PRFF White Sturgeon Subcommittee Draft Report 04-25-14
2. Lamprey NNI Forum Presentation 05-07-14
3. PRFF Briefing Update

Action Items:

1. PRFF members were asked to review the No Net Impact document and send comments to Hillman.

Final Meeting Minutes

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Review
 - A. Action Items from last meeting – All action items were complete.
 - B. Meeting Minute Approval – Edits provided by Hildebrand were incorporated into the April meeting minutes. An additional review period was requested; please provide edits to Williams by May 8th.

- C. Additional agenda items – No additions were made to the agenda.
- III. **Update on Wanapum Dam and Fish Passage** – Dresser provided an update via PowerPoint presentation. He explained that in order to maximize lamprey passage, perforated plate will be added to the top 4' of the two outside vanes of the chute. If the perforated plate causes injuries to salmonids, the PRCC could decide to remove it. A spiral flume will be added to the outlet of the chute in order to minimize the distance fish drop into the forebay. As of May 6, 2014, all Trap-n-Transport activities at the Priest Rapids Left Bank Ladder have been suspended. The PRCC will continue to monitor data and adaptively manage passage at Wanapum Dam. As of May 6th there has been no fallback detected via acoustic or PIT-tagged fish.
- A. **Yearling Chinook & Juvenile Steelhead Acoustic Tag Evaluation Studies** – The study started on April 28, 2014. Release groups have 18 fish per tank, but will increase to around 33 at the runs peak.
- B. **Benthic Sampling Summary** - Benthic community surveys were conducted between mid-March and early April, 2014 to characterize species composition and estimate densities of freshwater mussels and snails throughout the ~60Km stretch of the Columbia River between Wanapum Dam and Rock Island Dam. Field teams also recorded ancillary observations of other aquatic organisms present such as lamprey and crayfish, when encountered during the survey efforts. Surveys were conducted in the dewatered areas as well as areas that have remained inundated (down to 30 feet below the current shoreline). Floater mussels belonging to the family *Anodonta* were relatively abundant throughout the entire project area and highest densities were located in sediment-dominated areas. In general, the densities of floater mussels encountered within the inundated portions of the river appeared similar to mussel densities measured within the dewatered portions of the river. Relatively large densities of the Western pearlshell mussel (*Margaritifera falcata*), previously suspected to be extinct in the Columbia River, was recorded within the more rocky substrates throughout the upper regions of the survey area. Snail samples are currently being identified and enumerated and as such no information is currently available. Although snail data has not yet been fully examined, the only invasive benthic invertebrate species encountered throughout study area was Asiatic clam (*Corbicula fluminea*). The draft report will be distributed in late-July to August.
- C. **Adult Lamprey Passage** – Grant PUD is proactively considering adult lamprey passage and the potential for trap and haul at Wanapum Dam. Clement received trap design information from the YN and Umatilla Tribe; trap construction will start soon. Based on personal lamprey observations, if lamprey are accumulating and choosing not to ascend or descend the fish ladder, traps like the ones Ralph Lampman, used at downstream hydro projects, could be deployed to Trap-n-Transport lamprey around Wanapum Dam and into the Wanapum forebay or other agreed-to location. Rose suggested the newly constructed traps be submerged in order to remove new construction smells. As part of the benthic surveys, Blue Leaf Environmental sampled below the 543'-545' water level. Densities were higher than those sampled above the ordinary high water mark. The juvenile sampling results will be presented as part of Grant PUD's juvenile sampling study results.
- D. **Wanapum Fracture Repair** (See PowerPoint Presentation) - The monolith has been stabilized as a result of the drawdown. Three tendons will be installed 70' into the bedrock at Pier 4, and one on each side of the ogee. Grant PUD is developing an intermediate pool raise plan to the 560'-562' level, which could occur August 1-15. The pool is remaining steady at 543'. Doris asked that if water levels are going to fluctuate at Rock Island Dam, that she be notified so she can notify irrigators drawing water from the Wanapum Reservoir. Steve Lewis said that Chelan

PUD did issue a notification that water levels would be dropped during denil testing at Rock Island Dam.

Grant PUD has developed passage criteria for salmonids during the drawdown; the PRFF needs to develop it for lamprey passage according to Bob Rose.

IV. Update on PLMP

- A. **NNI Update** – Rose reviewed the No Net Impact document that was distributed electronically to PRFF members on May 6th. He stressed the importance of the language contained in the Pacific Lamprey Management Plan, FERC License, and 401 Certifications, noting that adaptive management language is an important part of all of these documents, and it's incumbent on the Forums to discuss and deal with the problems. Hillman suggested that members look at the objectives and how they can be fulfilled, not just the regulatory objectives. **PRFF members were asked to review the document and send comments to Hillman.** Interested PRFF members will me on May 13· 2014, 9:00 -3:00, in Ephrata, WA, to develop NNI framework.
- B. **Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning Process** – Local experts will continue to meet to fill out templates for the Pacific Lamprey Regional Implementation Planning process. RD Nelle explained that the template YN staff used to define threats and actions that can be taken where potential threats occur was filled out for the Priest Rapids Project (PR tailrace to Rock Island tailrace), during the first regional meeting held yesterday. Clement said he's more concerned with upstream conversion rates from Rock Island to Wells Dam based on dam passage alone, however; there are other physiological characteristics of lamprey to consider such as overwintering and mainstem spawning that are not measureable. Follow up meetings will be held to complete the template in other areas (mainstem and upriver, Wenatchee River, Entiat River). It will then be sent out for comment. Howard Schaller is responsible for scheduling the large regional meeting.
- C. **Update on Juvenile Lamprey Sampling** – See Item III above.
- D. **Other Lamprey Items** - None

V. Update on WSMP

- A. **Juvenile tagging at Marion Drain and Releases** – Juvenile sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain were tagged and 4,332 juvenile sturgeon were released into the Priest Rapids Project Area. A total of 996 were released into the Priest Rapids Reservoir and 3,336 were released into Wanapum Reservoir. All were PIT-tagged and scute marked; 43 were implanted with acoustic transmitters.

Samples of juvenile sturgeon from Marion Drain are being analyzed for iridovirus in Olympia. Results should be available soon. Samples from Columbia Basin and Chelan Falls hatcheries have been analyzed and were negative for iridovirus.

- B. **Update on Dispute Resolution and Stocking Decision for 2014** – The White Sturgeon Subcommittee met on Friday, 11 April to discuss and resolve the dispute on the total number of juvenile sturgeon to release into the Priest Rapids Project Area. They submitted a report to the PRFF that described their recommendations for resolving the dispute. The Subcommittee was unable to come to agreement on the number of fish to release in 2014 and therefore recommended that the issue be elevated to the PRFF Policy Committee. They asked that the Policy Committee (1) determine the total number of juvenile white sturgeon to release into the Project Area in 2014, and (2) provide guidance or a SOA that outlines the protocols to be used to determine the appropriate release number after 2014. The PRFF agreed with the

recommendations submitted by the Subcommittee and has elevated this issue to the PRFF Policy Committee. The Policy Committee has 60 days to decide how many, if any, of the remaining 2,168 juvenile sturgeon on station at Marion Drain should be released into the Project Area.

- C. **WDFW Standardized WSIV Protocol** – Jackson didn't receive any comments to WDFW's standardized White Sturgeon Iridovirus protocols, so WDFW will move forward with the plan as written. Any changes that need to be made will be made next year.
 - D. **Broodstock Collection** – Sturgeon broodstock collection will begin on 18 May in McNary tailrace and on 31 May in Rock Island tailrace. Members discussed the importance of attaining two 3/3 crosses this year and the possibility of having to increase broodstock collection in order to reach it.
 - E. **Review of Juvenile Release Strategy/Options** – Fish were released at the same place as in previous years in the Priest Rapids Reservoir, and in the Wanapum Reservoir, they were released at the Rocky Coulee boat launch.
 - F. **Other White Sturgeon Items** - None
- VI. **Next Meeting** – 4 June 2014 at Grant PUD's Wenatchee, WA office.