



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 2 March 2016

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA

Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen Lewis, USFWS

Bob Rose, YN

Doris Squeochs, Wanapum

Jason McLellan, CCT

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW

Pat McGuire, WDOE

Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR

Keith Hatch, BIA

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

ATTENDEES

RD Nelle, USFWS

Chad Jackson, WDFW

Pat Wyena, Wanapum (via phone)

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

Pat McGuire, WDOE (via phone)

Bob Rose, YN (via phone)

Rod O'Connor, Blue Leaf

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Steve Lewis, USFWS

Chris Mott, Grant PUD

Mike Clement, Grant PUD

John Monahan, Grant PUD

Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)

Patrick Verhey, WDFW (via phone)

Jim Powell, BCAHS (via phone)

Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Action Items:

1. Tracy Hillman will distribute side-scan pictures to the PRFF.
2. Chris Mott will distribute the 2016 Draft Sturgeon Monitoring Plan to the PRFF.
3. The PRFF will send comments/edits to Tracy Hillman on the Draft Proposed Pacific Lamprey NNI Actions by 29 March 2016.

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review

- A. **Additional Agenda Items** – Bob Rose asked to provide two Pacific lamprey updates.

III. Approve February Meeting Notes

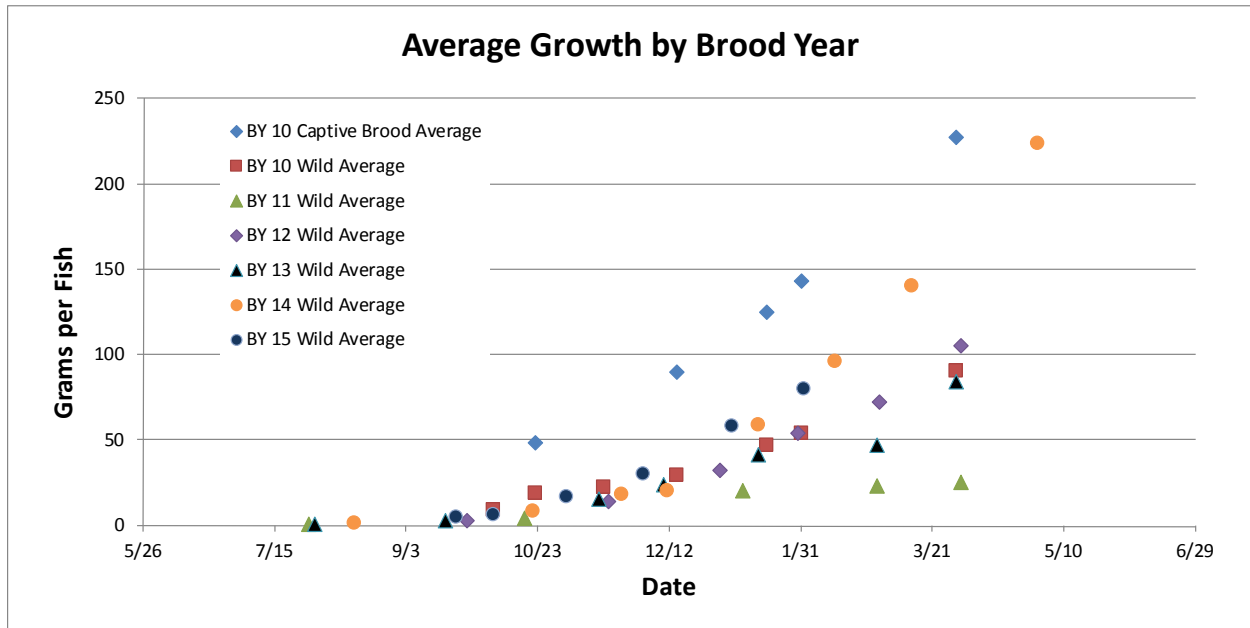
– 3 February 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

A. Review Action Items from February Meeting

1. Mike Clement will schedule a fish ladder tour at the beginning of March 2016. **Complete. The tour will be on 18 March.**

IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – During the meeting Chris Mott received an update on sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain from Donella Miller. The fish are looking good and the size of the fish are moving in the right direction. That is, their growth is similar to previous brood years. Below is an updated figure showing the growth of juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain.



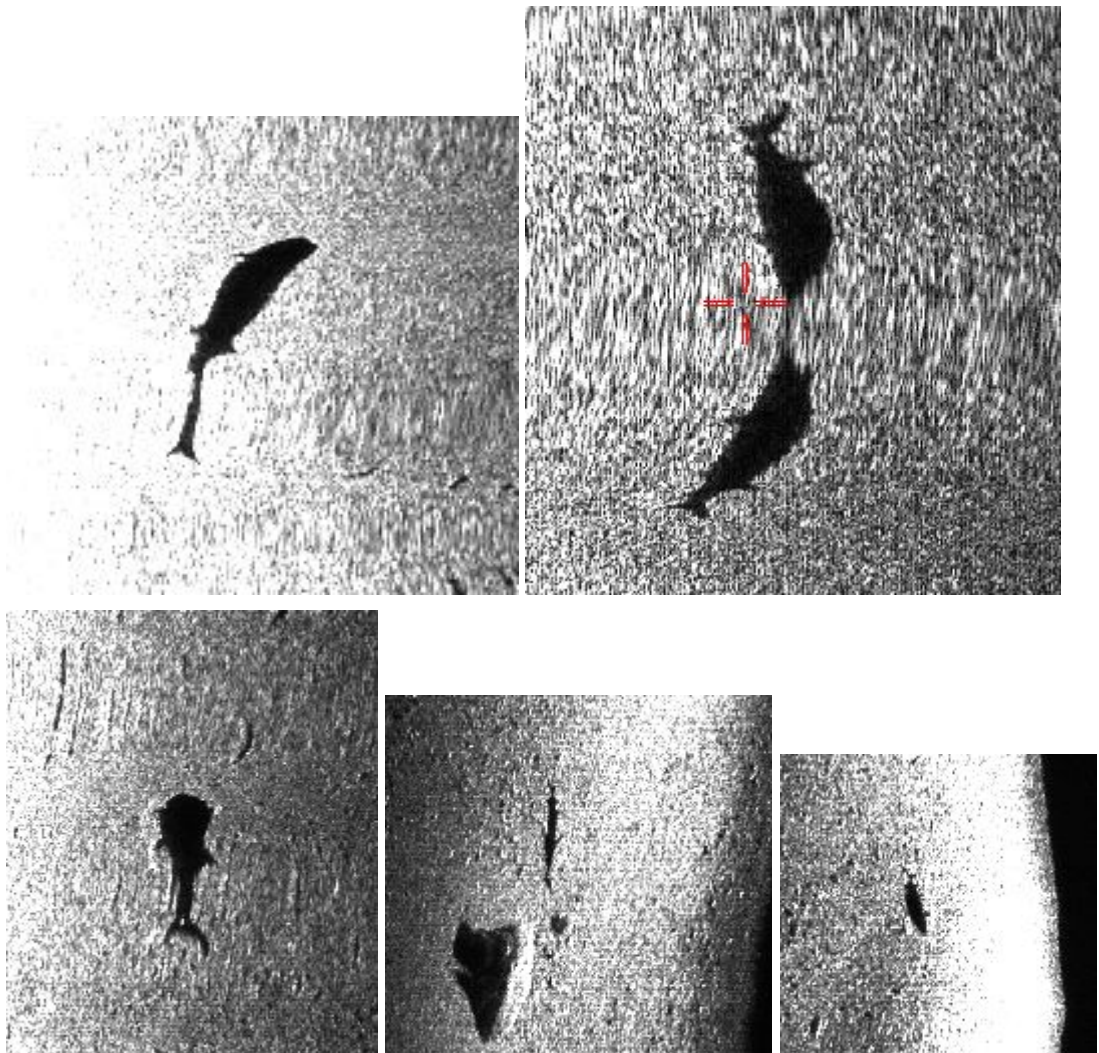
- B. **Update on February Policy Conference Call** – Tracy Hillman reviewed the results from the last Fish Forum Policy Committees call. Tracy said that WDFW submitted revised SOAs for Policy Committee review. Members of the Policy Committees asked for more time to review the SOAs. Policy members used the time during the call to discuss issues such as exploitation rates, survival rates, presence of CRITFC fish and how they will be removed from the project area, natural recruitment, and harvest slot limits. Policy members will provide WDFW with comments/recommendations on the SOAs by Friday, 4 March. WDFW will review the comments/recommendations and if necessary offer revised SOAs to the Committees by Monday, 7 March. The Committees will vote on the SOAs on Friday, 11 March.

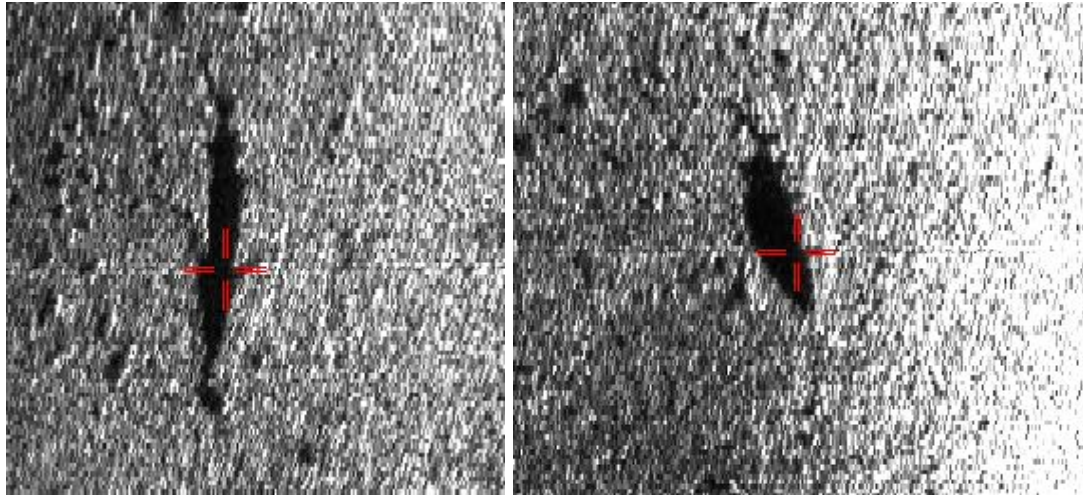
Jason McLellan asked the PRFF for their perspective on including natural recruitment within the project area and entrained sturgeon in the modeling work. Although both factors increase the abundance of sturgeon in the project area, members were uncertain how to estimate the two factors at this time. Thus, they weren't too concerned about including these factors in the model at this time. Steve Lewis, Jason McLellan, and Mike Clement had questions regarding harvest on CRITFC fish. Chad indicated that a fishery would open this year and a slot limit would be selected that will target CRITFC fish. In addition, Grant PUD can collect up to 200 CRITFC sturgeon for biological sampling. Mike Clement asked about the fishing season and Chad stated that WDFW is currently looking at July-September or June-August. WDFW may also try a winter harvest season.

WDFW is still working out the details. When Chad has more information, he will share it with the PRFF.

C. Monitoring Updates

- **Annual Monitoring Report** – The draft annual monitoring report is out for review and comments are due back to Grant PUD by 11 March 2016. Chris Mott said he has already received comments from Jason McLellan.
- **Side-Scan Sonar Efforts** – Chris Mott reported that Golder conducted side-scan sonar work within the project area. Although this is really cool technology, the river bed within the project area is not sandy, therefore it is tough to get good resolution images. Chris stated it is not going to be as effective as Grant PUD was hoping it would be. Below are images from side-scan work.





Chris also said that Grant PUD is completing the sturgeon monitoring plan for 2016. He will send the draft study plan to the PRFF as soon as possible.

D. **Other White Sturgeon Items - None**

V. **Update on PLMP**

- A. **Presentation on 2015 Lamprey Monitoring** – Rod O'Connor with Blue Leaf Environmental gave a presentation on adult lamprey passage assessments at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams (see Attachment 1). The objectives of the study were to (1) determine the fish passage efficiency for adult lamprey at the two dams and collaborative data sharing with Army Corps of Engineers and Chelan PUD to assess adult passage in the Columbia River and (2) evaluate the passage of adult lamprey through sections of the Priest Rapids fishways where new structures have been installed to facilitate upstream movement.

Rod concluded that: (1) the PIT tagging program contributes substantially to the local and regional passage database; (2) tagging efforts at Bonneville Dam in 2015 reduced sample sizes for run-of-the-river lamprey passage metrics; (3) minimum fish passage efficiency and median fishway travel times of tagged fish in 2015 were improved or comparable to previous years; (4) passage bottleneck in upper Priest Rapids left-bank fishway observed in 2010-2013 did not manifest during the 2015 OLAFT evaluation; (5) fallback fish usually re-ascended the fishways; (6) fish passage efficiency will continue to be adjusted through redetection of fish at large; and (7) study plan objectives are being achieved. Rod said the plan is to repeat the study in 2016.

- B. **Presentation on Migration Characteristics of Adult Pacific Lamprey** – Rod O'Connor gave a presentation on quantifying migration characteristics of adult lamprey in the Priest Rapids project area (see Attachment 2). The purpose of the study was to characterize lamprey reservoir passage and timing. Specifically, the study estimated the proportion of tagged lamprey that migrated upstream to the tailrace of Rock Island Dam (upstream limit of Priest Rapids Project Area).

Rod concluded that: (1) 92 of the 100 tagged fish have been detected since they were released in October; (2) passage through Priest Rapids and Wanapum reservoirs was about 75%; (3) travel rates of lamprey through Wanapum reservoir were comparable to other studies and adult salmonids; and (4) remaining objectives will be addressed at the end of the acoustic tag life (spring 2016). The plan is to repeat the study in 2016.

C. NNI Update

- **Proposed Draft Recommendations from Pacific Lamprey Subgroup** – Tracy Hillman reported that the subgroup met in February and worked through the draft proposed NNI document. The draft document was submitted to the PRFF for review. Tracy stated that he only received comments from Ralph Lampman, Yakama Nation. Those comments were included in the draft document that was sent to the PRFF. Tracy briefly reviewed the proposed actions identified within the draft document. There is no decision needed at this time because comments need to be addressed.

Bob Rose suggested that the PRFF provide comments and then the Subgroup reconvene to address the comments from the PRFF. The PRFF agreed to provide comments to Tracy by 29 March 2016. Tracy will compile comments into one document for members to review. The PRFF can discuss the comments during their April meeting. The Subgroup will meet on 12 April 2016 at 9:00 am in the Grant PUD Wenatchee office to address comments.

D. Other Pacific Lamprey Items

- Mike Clement indicated that Hydro Engineering asked to extend the outage for the Wanapum Left-Bank Ladder for two weeks. The purpose for the extended outage is to complete maintenance on fish pump #1 and complete fish ladder maintenance on the Wanapum Right-Bank.
- Mike Clement reported that the comment period on the draft Pacific lamprey annual report closed on 22 February. Mike said that he received some minor background/life history comments from Ralph Lampman after the comment period. Those comments will be addressed in the next annual report. The final 2015 report is being submitted to FERC.
- Bob Rose reported that the Regional Pacific Lamprey Conservation team will be reviewing tributary plans in the next few months and they will convene a meeting in Toppenish during the week of 11 April. The meeting will likely be on 11, 13, 14, or 15 April. Bob said he will send out a Doodle Poll to set a meeting date. He will also send objectives for the meeting.
- Bob Rose said that the Yakama Nation will be translocating about 200 adult lamprey into the Wenatchee River. The fish will be translocated during the third week of March. The Yakama Nation planted adult lamprey in the Methow River last year. They have no plans to translocate fish into the Methow River this year. Bob believed all the fish to be planted in the Wenatchee River will be tagged with FD PIT tags. The current plan is to plant them upstream and downstream of Tumwater Dam.

VI. **Next Meeting:** 6 April 2016 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office