

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
No-Net-Impact Fund Contributions**

Statement of Agreement

Submitted to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: 12/16/2022

Approved by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: 12/16/2022

Statement:

The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) agrees that juvenile performance standards have been achieved for yearling Chinook (in 2006), juvenile sockeye (in 2012 and confirmed in 2015), and juvenile steelhead (in 2017). Therefore, per Part XV and Section 15.3 of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) No-Net-Impact Funding (NNI) contributions for these species were terminated the year following achievement of the survival standard. The purpose of this Statement of Agreement is to document that performance standards for yearling Chinook, juvenile steelhead, and juvenile sockeye have been achieved.

Background: The Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (Grant PUD) required contributions into the No-Net-Impact fund (NNI Fund) are incorporated into the License through the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement (Agreement) and additionally, within the Washington Department of Ecology 401 water quality certification (WQC) for the Project, Grant PUD is required to operate in compliance with the Agreement¹.

Part XV of the Agreement required Grant PUD to establish a NNI Fund and make annual contributions based on formulas included in the tables and methodology included in Sections 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7.3. As described in section 15.3, the primary purpose of the NNI Fund was to be used to provide the Parties² (to the Agreement) with additional financial capacity to undertake measures to improve survival of the species covered by the Agreement in the near-term and until performance standards can be achieved on a species-by-species basis.

As progress is achieved towards meeting performance standards on a species-by-species basis, Section 15.3 allows Grant PUD to reduce its annual NNI Fund contributions and these contributions can be terminated once the Parties determine that the performance standards have been achieved on a species-by-species basis.

Yearling Chinook: Three consecutive years of performance standard evaluations were conducted for yearling Chinook in 2003, 2004, and 2005. The three-year consecutive arithmetic average of 86.6% exceeded the required standard of 86.49% and therefore NNI Fund contributions for spring Chinook were terminated in 2005.

Juvenile Sockeye Salmon: Two consecutive years of evaluations were conducted to estimate juvenile sockeye survival in 2009 and 2010; yielding a two-year arithmetic average performance standard of 91.7%. As a result of this high observed survival, the PRCC agreed to defer the third

¹ Section 6.2(1)

² NOAA Fisheries, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington Department of Fish and Game, Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County.

year of juvenile sockeye survival evaluation until 2016 (SOA 2011-06). SOA 2014-04 revised the evaluation schedule for sockeye from 2016 to a start date in 2015.

The PRCC also agreed (SOA 2011-01) that NNI Fund contributions for sockeye for years 2012 through 2016 would be based on a two-year average. Since the two-year average of 91.7% exceeded the required performance standard (86.49%), NNI Fund contributions for juvenile sockeye were terminated in 2012. The PRCC did however agree (SOA 2011-01), that a revised estimate would occur and be based on data from 2009, 2010 and 2015 and if this estimate was below the standard, then NNI Fund contributions would continue until performance standards were achieved.

Based on three years, the arithmetic average performance standard for juvenile sockeye passage through the Project is 91.7%, exceeding the required standard of 86.49%, therefore no additional NNI Fund contributions for juvenile sockeye were warranted per Section 15.3 beyond 2016.

Juvenile Steelhead: Three consecutive years of evaluation to evaluate juvenile steelhead survival were completed in 2017 (2015-2017). Based on the three consecutive arithmetic year average (87.0%) performance standards for juvenile steelhead were achieved. Annual NNI Fund contributions for juvenile steelhead were terminated in 2017.

Summer sub-yearling Chinook: At this time, contributions into the NNI Fund are ongoing for summer subyearling Chinook. Per Part XV of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement, these contributions will continue until the parties determine that the performance standards have been achieved for this species.

Currently there is no consensus among the Parties regarding whether contributions to the NNI fund would resume if survival standards were not maintained as determined by survival confirmation studies described in section 15.7.2.