



Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 4 May 2022
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

FINAL MINUTES

PRFF Members

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN
Clayton Buck, Wanapum
Jason McLellan, Bret Nine, CCT
Mike Clement, Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Patrick Verhey, Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Marchelle Foster, BIA
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Meeting Attendees

Ralph Lampman, YN
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Tim Taylor, Grant PUD
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR
Laura Heironimus, WDFW
Patrick Verhey, WDFW
RD Nelle, USFWS
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Action Items:

- PRFF members will ask their policy representatives if they are willing to meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year).
- PRFF members will identify their policy representatives and share those with Tracy Hillman.
- Tracy Hillman will ask Kirk Truscott if he would be willing to talk with the PRFF about the CTCR Pacific lamprey reintroduction program in the Okanogan subbasin.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the meeting and identified all attendees.

II. Agenda Review

The PRFF reviewed and approved the May agenda.

III. Approve February Meeting Notes

The PRFF reviewed and approved the 2 March 2022 meeting minutes.

IV. Review Action Items

The PRFF reviewed the following action items from the March meeting:

- PRFF members will review the 2021 White Sturgeon Draft Annual Report and send their comments/edits to Mike Clement by 11 March 2022. **Complete**
- PRFF members will review the 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species Draft Annual Report and send their comments/edits to Nate Dietrich by 1 April 2022. **Complete**
- Mike Clement will contact Corey Wright to organize 2022 white sturgeon broodstock collection and spawning work. **Complete. Mike will discuss this during the meeting today.**
- Ralph Lampman will check to see if anyone intends to tag adult Pacific lamprey in the Lower Columbia this year. **Complete. Ralph reported that there will be no tagging in the Lower Columbia this year.**
- PRFF members will indicate by 25 March whether they support extending the 2016 white sturgeon stocking SOA one additional year. **Complete**
- PRFF members will ask their policy representatives if they are willing to meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year). **Ongoing**
- PRFF members will identify their policy representatives and share those with Tracy Hillman. **Ongoing**

V. White Sturgeon

Juvenile Rearing and Release – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD worked with Yakama Nation staff during the week of 28 March to tag and screen juvenile sturgeon on station at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. Mike said Nate Patterson did an excellent job of preparing everything at the hatchery for tagging and screening. Mike added that a representative from Beckman was there to help with screening fish for autoploidy.

After working five long days, Mike said they screened and tagged just over 3,250 juvenile sturgeon at the hatchery. He said blood sampling takes a lot of time; however, they were able to screen about 850 fish per day. Of all the fish screened, only six tested positive for autoploidy. These fish were removed and not tagged. Only 8N fish were tagged.

Mike indicated that on 27 April, they evaluated the fish for tag retention and loaded the fish into a tanker truck and a trailer for transport to release sites. The tanker truck carried 2,015 juvenile sturgeon to Wanapum reservoir, where the fish were released at Vantage Boat Launch. The trailer transported juveniles to Priest Rapids reservoir, where the fish were released at Desert Aire Boat Launch. The trailer had to make two trips and released a total of 1,235 juvenile fish into Priest Rapids reservoir. All fish look healthy upon release.

2022 White Sturgeon Broodstock Collection – Mike Clement reported they plan to collect broodstock downstream from McNary Dam over a two-week period beginning on 16 May. As before, they will use two boats with guides. The intent is to collect 6 females and 6 males. Fish will be transported to the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery for spawning. Mike added that water temperatures this year are tracking closely with temperatures recorded last year at

this time. He also said they have a few telemetry tags that they will insert into adult sturgeon that are not suitable for broodstock. These tagged fish will be part of the ODFW study that began a few years ago. Laura Heironimus said she will let ODFW know that Grant PUD will use the remaining telemetry tags to tag adult sturgeon this year.

Other Sturgeon Items – No other sturgeon items were discussed.

VI. Pacific Lamprey

Translocation Efforts in 2022 – Ralph Lampman reported the numbers of adult lamprey to be translocated this year. All translocated fish will be PIT tagged. He added that no adult lamprey collected at Priest Rapids Dam will be used in Yakama Nation translocation efforts. Adults collected at Priest Rapids Dam will be used to satisfy Grant PUD's SOA and used to conduct passage studies at Wells Dam. Fish used in the Wells passage study will be PIT tagged, acoustic tagged, or both.

Grant PUD Adult Trapping Efforts in 2022 – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD will trap adults at Priest Rapids Dam just as they have in past years. Fish collected during the first four-week period will be given to Douglas PUD for their fish passage study at Wells Dam. In fulfillment of Grant PUD's SOA, all adult lamprey collected during the second four-week period will be transported to Kirby-Billingsley Hydro Park. Mike said that Kirk Truscott with CTCR indicated that they would like to take those fish and release them into the Okanogan subbasin (e.g., Similkameen River, Omak Creek, and other tributaries). Thus, CTCR will meet Grant PUD at Kirby-Billingsley Hydro Park and transport the fish up to the Okanogan subbasin. Mike recommended that Tracy contact Kirk to see if he would be willing to talk with the PRFF about the CTCR lamprey reintroduction program.

As a final point, Mike noted that because there are no adult lamprey being tagged this year, they will not power up their HDX PIT-tag readers at the dams.

Other Pacific Lamprey Items – No other lamprey items were discussed.

VII. Administration

In-Person Meetings – Tracy Hillman shared that with reduced COVID restrictions, the PRFF can begin meeting in person. The intent is to meet in person beginning with the 1 June meeting. The Forum will meet in the Grant PUD office in Wenatchee. Those who cannot participate in person can join the meeting virtually. That is, Tracy will continue to provide GoToMeeting access for those who cannot attend in person. Members agreed to meet in person beginning in June.

PRFF Policy Committee Representatives and Meetings – Tracy Hillman reminded members that they need to identify their policy representatives on the RRFF. There is interest by Grant PUD to have the PRFF Policy Committee meet more frequently (e.g., annually or every other year).

VIII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 1 June 2022.