



## Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 2 June 2021  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

### FINAL MINUTES

#### PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

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Steve Lewis, USFWS  
Ralph Lampman, Donella Miller, YN  
TBD, 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

#### ATTENDEES

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RD Nelle, USFWS  
Mike Clement, Grant PUD  
Chris Mott, Grant PUD  
Jason McLellan, CCT  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Ralph Lampman, YN  
Patrick Verhey, WDFW  
Laura Heironimus, WDFW  
Erin Harris, Grant PUD

#### Action Items:

- Tracy Hillman will coordinate with John Ferguson (ASWG Chair) on the joint PRFF, RRFF, and ASWG meeting to be held on 7 July 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss adult Pacific lamprey translocation efforts upstream from Priest Rapids Dam.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the call and participants introduced themselves. Tracy noted that the meetings are now recorded for meeting minutes. Once the notes are finalized, the recording will be destroyed.
  
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the June agenda.
  
- III. **Approve May Meeting Notes** – The 5 May 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
  - A. **Review Action Items from May Meeting**
    - 1. Grant PUD will check with Chelan PUD on percentages of non-8N sturgeon Chelan PUD identified within each family group at Columbia Basin Hatchery. **Complete. Mike Clement met with Brian Lyons, WDFW, and found that the percentages of fish with non-8N detected at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery was similar to percentages found within the Chelan PUD program.**
    - 2. Ralph Lampman will contact the Warm Springs Tribe to see if they intend to tag adult lamprey with HDX PIT tags this year in the Lower Columbia River. **Complete. Based on a referral from Ralph Lampman, Mike Clement contacted staff at the Warm Springs Tribe and they will not tag fish this year with HDX PIT tags. This is because of changes in staff and the COVID-19 pandemic. Mike confirmed that Grant PUD will not activate their HCX detectors within their projects.**
  
- IV. **PRFF Administration**
  - A. **USFWS Representation on the PRFF** – Tracy Hillman reported that Steve Lewis has a new position and will not serve as the USFWS technical representative on the PRFF. Rather, he will serve as the USFWS policy representative on the PRFF Policy Committee. His replacement on the PRFF has not been announced.
  
- V. **White Sturgeon**
  - A. **2021 White Sturgeon Broodstock Collection and Spawning** – Mike Clement reported that they successfully captured 54 sturgeon ( $\geq 150$  cm) over the two-week collection period. One of these was a female that had been used for broodstock in the past. A total of six females and six males were transported to the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. One female had a large oocyte PI value and may not be used in spawning. Thus, they achieved at least a 5 x 6 matrix. Mike added that ODFW gave Grant PUD left-over acoustic tags to implant in sturgeon. He said they tagged five males and four F3 females.
 

Mike asked the PRFF for their thoughts on reusing female sturgeon that have been included in broodstock in the past. He said the Yakama Nation does not want to include those fish in current broodstock for genetic reasons. However, if collection fails to capture adequate numbers of previously unused broodstock, should we include adults that have been spawned previously in current broodstock? Jason McLellan said they do not reuse broodstock in the Upper Columbia program (based on evaluation of effective population size) and recommended against reusing broodstock in the Grant PUD program. Others agreed.

Laura Heironimus shared a document showing the estimated abundance of sturgeon within John Day Reservoir (Sturgeon Management Task Force 2019 report). Sampling in 2019 suggests there were roughly 33,000 sturgeon over 54 inches in the reservoir, indicating there may be adequate numbers of adult sturgeon available for broodstock. Laura noted the possibility of recapturing broodstock sturgeon may increase if the same reservoirs are fished

annually at about the same time each year. Recaptures will also depend on the spawning frequency of adult females.

Tracy Hillman asked whether there are other locations where broodstock may be collected. Mike responded that downstream from McNary Dam is the only place where they have had success collecting broodstock. Mike added that it may be useful to invite a geneticist to weigh-in on the discussion; however, at this time, it is probably not necessary to make changes in collection protocols.

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

## VI. Pacific Lamprey

- A. **Translocation Coordination among Forums** – Tracy Hillman reported that he is coordinating with John Ferguson (Chair of the Aquatic Settlement Work Group) to hold the combined PRFF, RRFF, and ASWG meeting on Wednesday, 7 July 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and coordinate translocation efforts upstream from Priest Rapids Dam. Members indicated their preference to meet in the morning (9:00 am – noon) on 7 July. Ralph Lampman asked whether it is necessary to have the coordination meeting before lamprey trapping begins. Tracy said it should not matter because the important issue is whether adult lamprey collected during the second, four-week period will be translocated to areas upstream from Wells Dam. Tracy will continue to coordinate with John Ferguson on logistics. The meeting will be virtual.
- B. **USFWS Lamprey Conservation Initiative Meeting** – RD Nelle indicated that the USFWS Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative meeting hosted by the National Fish Habitat Partnership was recently held. The group set a July date for receipt of proposals. Ralph Lampman also shared that the group discussed changes in distribution of lamprey associated with translocation work and reviewed WDFW maps that outline the current translocation areas. Ralph said they also discussed changes in threats and covered funding availability. For more information on the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative, see: <https://www.fws.gov/pacificlamprey/mainpage.cfm>
- C. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** - None.

## VII. Next Meeting: 7 July 2021 (Joint meeting with RRFF and ASWG)