



## Priest Rapids Fish Forum Conference Call

Wednesday, 6 October 2021  
9:00 – 10:00 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

#### Meeting Attendees

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RD Nelle, USFWS  
Mike Clement, Grant PUD  
Chris Mott, Grant PUD  
Nathan Patterson, YN  
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE  
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum  
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Ralph Lampman, YN  
Patrick Verhey, WDFW  
Laura Heironimus, WDFW  
Erin Harris, Grant PUD  
Steve Lewis, USFWS  
Tom Skiles, CRITFC/CTUIR

#### Action Items:

- None.

## I. Welcome and Introductions

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

## II. Agenda Review

Tracy Hillman reviewed the draft agenda. Attendees approved the agenda with no additions.

## III. Approve August Meeting Notes

PRFF members present reviewed and approved the 4 August 2021 meeting minutes.

## IV. Review Action Items

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

- Tracy Hillman will reach out to Steve Lewis and RD Nelle to find out who will be the new USFWS Technical Representative on the PRFF. **Completed. Steve Lewis will continue as the USFWS Technical Representative on the PRFF until further notice.**
- Ralph Lampman will send contact information on Elaine Harvey, Nate Patterson, and Tom Iverson to Tracy Hillman to add to the PRFF distribution list. **Completed.**
- Ralph Lampman will ask Donella Miller for an update on the status of juvenile White Sturgeon at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery. **Completed.**

## V. White Sturgeon

### A. Update on Juvenile Rearing

Nathan Patterson reported that the first sampling of juvenile sturgeon at the Yakama Nation Sturgeon Hatchery occurred on 29 September. He said the fish average 50.1 fish/pound, which is consistent with previous years at this time. He added that survival rates are good and there are no rearing issues at this time.

### B. Adult Index Monitoring

Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD completed adult index monitoring in the project area. They completed two survey sessions: one from 16-26 August and the second from 9-19 September. During the first session, they fished 30 overnight sets in Priest Rapids Reservoir and 66 overnight sets in Wanapum Reservoir. The following tables show the numbers of adult sturgeon captured and their sizes (fork length in cm) during the first session.

Location	GPUD Releases Captured	CRITFC Hatchery Fish Capture	Wild Fish Captured	Total Captured
Priest Rapids	39	2	0	41
Wanapum	177	8	4	189
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>230</b>

Location	Minimum and Maximum Size (FKL; cm)		
	GPUD Releases	CRITFC Hatchery Fish	Wild Fish
Priest Rapids	45.5-124.0	127.0-164.0	--
Wanapum	41.5-134.0	145.0-184.0	148.0-212.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>41.5-134.0</b>	<b>127.0-184.0</b>	<b>148.0-212.0</b>

During the second session, they fished 30 overnight sets in Priest Rapids Reservoir and 66 overnight sets in Wanapum Reservoir. The following tables show the numbers of adult sturgeon captured and their sizes (fork length in cm) during the second session.

Location	GPUD Releases Captured	CRITFC Hatchery Fish Capture	Wild Fish Captured	Total Captured
Priest Rapids	66	2	1	69
Wanapum	133	8	3	144
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>213</b>

Location	Minimum and Maximum Size (FkL; cm)		
	GPUD Releases	CRITFC Hatchery Fish	Wild Fish
Priest Rapids	46.0-159.0	143.0-163.0	98.0-98.0
Wanapum	37.5-117.5	116.5-175.5	182.0-252.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>37.5-159.0</b>	<b>116.5-175.5</b>	<b>98.0-252.0</b>

### C. Juvenile Index Monitoring

Mike Clement indicated that they are currently conducting juvenile index monitoring in the project area. They will conduct two survey sessions in both reservoirs. They will have preliminary results to share with the PRFF during the November meeting.

### D. Other White Sturgeon Items

None.

## VI. Pacific Lamprey

### A. Update on Adult Pacific Lamprey Trapping

Mike Clement indicated that they completed eight weeks of adult lamprey trapping at Priest Rapids Dam. He said they captured a total of 462 adult Pacific Lamprey during the eight-week trapping period (see Table below). He reminded the PRFF that adults collected during the first four-week trapping period were provided to Douglas PUD for their program. Douglas PUD picked up the fish at Priest Rapids Dam and transported the fish to release locations upstream from Wells Dam. During the second four-week trapping period, Grant PUD transported the fish to Kirby Billingsley Hydo Park (upstream from Rock Island Dam) and transferred the fish to Douglas PUD. These fish were then transported upstream of Wells Dam by Douglas PUD. Thus, all 462 adult lamprey trapped at Priest Rapids Dam were translocated upstream from Wells Dam. Mike said the 462 adult lamprey trapped and transported represented about 16% (462/2,861) of the adult lamprey run at Priest Rapids Dam. Mike added that he and Douglas PUD coordinated weekly during the trapping period.

Ralph Lampman stated that 75% of the adult lamprey trapped at Priest Rapids Dam were released into the Columbia River just downstream from the mouth of the Methow River. The other 25% were released into the Okanogan River basin by the Colville Tribes. Ralph said that all the fish were PIT tagged. In addition, tissue samples were collected from each fish for genetic analysis.

Date	Right Bank West Trap	Right Bank East Trap	Left Bank West Trap	Left Bank East Trap	Total Trapped	24 Hour Window Count	Trap Efficiency (%)
7/20/2021	6	2	4	12	24	35	0.41
7/21/2021	8	3	4	2	17	28	0.38
7/22/2021	1	0	2	12	15	42	0.26
7/27/2021	4	2	0	1	7	19	0.27
7/28/2021	7	0	0	22	29	8	0.78
7/29/2021	6	1	5	19	31	32	0.49
8/3/2021	8	10	1	15	34	20	0.63
8/4/2021	26	6	8	1	41	33	0.55
8/5/2021	18	7	5	9	39	28	0.58
8/10/2021	19	5	0	12	36	19	0.65
8/11/2021	12	5	3	9	29	27	0.52
8/12/2021	5	6	1	11	23	29	0.44
8/17/2021	2	0	1	7	10	8	0.56
8/18/2021	2	0	0	4	6	12	0.33
8/19/2021	11	1	0	0	12	11	0.52
8/24/2021	1	1	3	17	22	9	0.71
8/25/2021	5	1	7	16	29	33	0.47
8/26/2021	8	0	1	1	10	29	0.26
8/31/2021	1	0	2	12	15	22	0.41
9/1/2021	0	0	1	5	6	20	0.23
9/2/2021	0	0	0	2	2	35	0.05
9/7/2021	1	0	1	6	8	22	0.27
9/8/2021	0	0	1	0	1	18	0.05
9/9/2021	0	0	1	15	16	11	0.59
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>462</b>		<b>Ave=43</b>

## B. Other Pacific Lamprey Items

Ralph Lampman reported that the Yakama Nation received funding to conduct eDNA and bile acids monitoring work. They started sampling in late September-early October at Bonneville and Rocky Reach dams. They plan to sample at Wells Dam next year. Steve Lewis asked whether the monitoring conducted by the Yakama Nation in tributaries and elsewhere will produce results that can be used to help determine the percentage of adults translocated into various tributaries. Ralph responded that the monitoring will describe occurrence and distribution of lamprey within tributaries and in some cases will estimate abundances. These data can be used to inform future translocation efforts. Ralph added that he does not know the level of monitoring occurring within the Okanogan River basin.

## VII. Adjourn

Tracy Hillman adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

## **VIII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PRFF will be on 3 November 2021.