

Project Specifications Sheet

Additional Funding Request for the Purchase of an Electrofishing Boat

Date Submitted: June 26, 2013

Project Sponsor: Curt Dotson/Tom Dresser, Grant PUD

Applicant: Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington

Project Liaison: Curt Dotson/Tom Dresser

Project Title: Additional NNI Funding request for the Purchase of an Electrofishing Boat

Project Type: Predator Control/Removal - Northern Pikeminnow

Background: In January of 2013, Grant PUD submitted a No-Net-Impact funding (NNI Fund) request to the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) for the purchase of an electrofishing boat and trailer for an estimated not-to-exceed amount of \$94,000. This request was approved by the PRCC on January 21, 2013. Under this request, Grant PUD committed to staff the electrofishing boat, as well as fund all operating and maintenance costs associated with the electrofishing boat, motor and trailer.

After further research, and guidance from internal contracting and legal staff that competitive bids would need to be secured, Grant PUD staff has determined that the original NNI funding request of \$94,000 is insufficient to cover the entire cost of an electrofishing boat, motor and trailer. Therefore, Grant PUD is requesting that the PRCC approve an increase in the not-to-exceed amount by \$31,000. The new total not-to-exceed amount requested for the purchase of an electrofishing boat, motor, and trailer is \$125,000.

NNI Funding Rationale: In 2012, the PRCC provided NNI funds to a contractor to remove northern pikeminnow from the Priest Rapids Project during May through October. The contractor was able to prove that electrofishing can be a useful tool to remove northern pikeminnow from the littoral zone. The contractor was able to remove a large number of pikeminnow (n=14,316) over approximately 63 days.

Although specific numbers of juvenile and/or subyearling salmonids “saved” is difficult to qualify, one can surmise that the removal of 4-8” northern pikeminnow may result in a near-term reduction in predation, as well as reduction in the northern pikeminnow population over the long-term. The 4-8” northern pikeminnow removed during 2012 represent the 1-3 year old class. One could assume that by reducing these year-classes, a future benefit in reduced predation may be realized.

More importantly, nighttime electrofishing provides the PRCC and Grant PUD with “another tool in the toolbox” that may aid in the overall reduction in predation on juvenile and subyearling salmonids. As illustrated in the 2012 northern pikeminnow electrofishing pilot study; electrofishing targets a particular habitat type (littoral zone) which is not readily accessible by the use of other methodologies (angling, set-lines and beach seining) presently used.