

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Hatchery Subcommittee
Statement of Agreement on BY06 White River spring Chinook releases**

Submitted to PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: Jan. 9, 2007

Approved by PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee: February 23, 2007

Statement

The Hatchery Subcommittee of the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) has reviewed the proposal by Grant PUD titled *Proposal for releases of BY2006 White River spring Chinook*. Because of access limitations during March and concerns about feasibility of the proposed volitional release, the subyearlings will be directly released at three locations (Sears Creek bridge, near river mile 7, and near the mouth of the Napeequa River), in approximately equal proportions. The details for each release group are summarized as follows:

- 1) 150,000 subyearlings marked with snout CWT. Released on two days during the fourth week of March 2007 by direct plants.
- 2) 150,000 yearlings differentially marked by ELISA group with adipose CWT. 10,000 fish from a representative proportion of each ELISA group will also be marked with PIT tags. Released first week of May 2008 from net pens.

Background

Reasonable and Prudent Action 29 of the 2004 Biological Opinion for the Priest Rapids Project requires that Grant PUD rear and release up to 250,000 yearling White River spring Chinook. Subsequently, the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee agreed that production goals for the White River should be reduced to 150,000. Current estimates for BY2006 White River spring Chinook exceed production goals by approximately 100 percent (310,873 eyed eggs). Furthermore, rearing space and opportunities for acclimation of these fish are limited and/or unproven. Therefore, release strategies must be developed to address production in excess of 150,000 yearlings. Based on discussions with the PRCC Hatchery Subcommittee, Grant PUD prepared a proposal with multiple release dates and a strategy for evaluation of all releases.