

**Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee
and
Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee**

**Statement of Agreement
Sockeye Salmon Program**

Approved by Priest Rapids Hatchery Sub-Committee: January 18, 2023

Approved by Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee: January 24, 2023

Statement: The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee (PRCC) and Priest Rapids Hatchery Subcommittee (PRCC HSC) agree with and approve the following statements:

- The Public Utility District No 2 of Washington (Grant PUD) No-Net-Impact (NNI) sockeye hatchery obligation will be achieved through funding and implementation of the Okanagan Subbasin Sockeye Reintroduction Program, from 2021 through 2041 (i.e., release of the 2040 brood year).
 - Grant PUD will provide funding (in conjunction with Chelan PUD) for necessary capital upgrades to the Okanagan Nation Alliance’s (ONA) *kl cp’alk’ stim* Sockeye Salmon hatchery to ensure capacity for up to an 8 million egg program. Capital upgrades will be completed within 3 years (not withstanding unforeseen circumstances) after the ONA is prepared to move forward with the expansion. The PRCC HSC will receive regular updates on progress and timelines. Updates on the expansion should be included during the annual program presentations by ONA.
 - Grant PUD will provide funding (in conjunction with Chelan PUD) for the operation and maintenance of ONA’s *kl cp’alk’ stim* Sockeye Salmon hatchery program of up to 5 million eggs on an annual basis (up to 8 million once the capital expansion is completed).
- Grant PUD will provide funding (in conjunction with Chelan PUD) for the monitoring and evaluation program of ONA’s hatchery program developed by the Okanagan Basin Salmon Restoration Sub-Committee 2020¹.
 - As part of the monitoring and evaluation program, Grant PUD (in conjunction with Chelan PUD) will work with ONA to ensure data can and will be collected to reasonably estimate hatchery and natural return rates (HRR/NRR).
- In addition to annual program presentations by the ONA, Grant PUD (in conjunction with Chelan PUD), will provide a 10-year comprehensive program assessment (2031) and a 20-year comprehensive program assessment (2041) to the PRCC HSC. The 10-year

¹ Okanagan Lake Salmonid Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan. 2020. Prepared by Okanagan Basin Salmon Restoration Sub-Committee for Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group.

assessment will provide the Committee an opportunity to review progress and make recommendations in the second half of the agreement. Consensus is necessary before recommendations are implemented.

- Grant PUD (in conjunction with Chelan PUD, the ONA, and the PRCC HSC) will determine the feasibility of collecting broodstock and/or gametes to support hatchery production at the *kl cp'alk stim* Sockeye Salmon hatchery in years when conditions are prohibitive or limited in the Okanagan River. If it is determined feasible, then Grant PUD (in conjunction with the aforementioned parties), will develop a consensus-based implementation plan. Feasibility determination and development of an HSC approved plan will be completed within two years (not withstanding unforeseen circumstances).
- Additionally, the Parties, within the term of this 20-year agreement, will work to resolve differences related to 'natural origin credit' for hatchery obligations as a result of reintroduction.

Background

The previous 10-year Sockeye NNI hatchery mitigation agreement (SOA 2010-07) stated that Grant PUD will receive NNI credit for the Priest Rapids Project from (1) fry produced by the PUD-funded hatchery and (2) natural-origin smolts emigrating from Skaha and Okanagan Lakes.

However, it is unknown what level of natural origin production is attributable to the effort and resources Grant PUD has and is investing in hatchery production and what is attributed to the investment in habitat actions related to the reintroductions. Chelan PUD invests similarly in these reintroduction efforts (hatchery and habitat) and Douglas PUD funds both habitat actions and the Water Management Tool. It is also possible that some level of natural production would arise from simply opening passage to the Lake Okanagan and Skaha Lake, and from the existing Kokanee populations in the absence of a hatchery program.

Grant PUD believes that during the development of the Priest Rapids Salmon and Steelhead Settlement Agreement the issues referenced above (and others yet defined) were not anticipated nor discussed. Other signatories to the agreement believe the agreement is clear and attributes hatchery 'credit' to hatchery production to mitigate for up to 7% unavoidable juvenile project mortality and habitat actions to mitigate for 2% (adult mortality). The habitat actions are intended to promote "the rebuilding of self-sustaining and harvestable populations of Covered Species" and that these credits are not interchangeable even for reintroductions or the funding and opening of new habitats.

Therefore, all Parties have agreed within the term of this SOA that Grant PUD will fully meet its hatchery mitigation obligation by funding the hatchery program (regardless of release numbers) and that Parties commit to discuss and resolve the issue of NNI credit for natural origin smolts before the expiration of this agreement.

PRCC and PRCC-HSC – SOA 2023-01
Sockeye Salmon Program

On April 21, 2021, the PRCC HSCs approved a Statement of Agreement (SOA) that the Okanagan Sockeye Salmon Reintroduction Program has been successful based on mitigation goals agreed to in the August 26, 2010, SOA and detailed in the comprehensive program assessment completed by the PRCC HSC in 2021.

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