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May 17, 2023

Kimberly D. Bose. Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project No. 2114-211 - Article 401(a)(22) - 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan (AISP) Annual Report

Dear Secretary Bose,

Please find enclosed the Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington's (Grant PUD) annual report of the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan Program (AISP Program). Activities conducted in 2021 consistent with the requirements of the Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan (AISP), Article 401(a)(22) of the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project License¹ and associated obligations and mandates, including the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) 401 Water Quality Certification. The AISP Program activities for 2021 were conducted in accordance with the management plan titled, *Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan* (Grant PUD 2010), which was developed in consultation with the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW's) Aquatic Invasive Species Program, and the WDOE's Freshwater Aquatic Weed Control Program. The AISP was submitted to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on March 3, 2010 and approved on July 7, 2010. An amendment to the 2010 AISP was approved by FERC in October of 2016².

Grant PUD prepared and disseminated a draft summary of the 2022 Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Program activities for comment on February 21, 2023 to WDOE, WDFW and to members of the PRFF which includes WDOE, WDFW, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Colville Confederated Tribes, Yakama Nation, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Wanapum People.

Grant PUD's annual AIS meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams on April 20, 2023. Participants included WDOE, WDFW, and Grant PUD. A brief review of the 2022 AIS activities was presented to the group, during which the stakeholders and Grant PUD engaged in

¹ 123 FERC ¶ 61,049 (2008)

² 157 FERC ¶ 62,067 (2016)

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conversations and provided feedback on any updates and/or new AIS threats and concerns. No comments were received.

FERC staff with any questions should contact Tom Dresser at <u>TDresse@gcpud.org</u> or 509-797-5182.

Respectfully,

Shannon Lowry

Shannon Lowry

License Compliance and Lands Services Manager

CC: Breann Zimmerman – WDOE

Jenifer Parsons – WDOE Patrick Verhey – WDFW Jesse Schultz – WDFW

Marcie Clement - Chelan PUD

Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (P-2114)

2022 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL AND PREVENTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

License Article 401(a)(22)

By Nathan Dietrich

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2114

Executive Summary

The Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Program (AISP Program) activities for 2022 were conducted in accordance with the management plan titled, *Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan* (AISP; Grant PUD 2010)¹ and associated amendments (Keeler 2016)². Key components of the AISP include education and monitoring that are designed to help manage, regulate, and potentially prevent introduction and/or spread of existing/new aquatic invasive species (AIS) within Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County's (Grant PUD's) Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (Project).

Monitoring activities for 2022 consisted of zebra/quagga mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha/Dreissena rostriformis bugensis*) sampling (artificial substrate, plankton tows, environmental DNA (eDNA) and shoreline monitoring), aquatic plant surveys at boat launches, and the use of eDNA as an early monitoring technique for the presence/absence of Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*). Educational activities for 2022 included AIS informational signage displayed at Grant PUD boat launches. In 2022 the voluntary boaters survey was conducted using a new online survey. Signs with a quick response code (QR code) were put out at boat launches within the project during the recreation season (Memorial Day through Labor day).

No Northern Pike were detected with the use of eDNA within the Project. No zebra/quagga mussel veliger, zebra/quagga mussels or New Zealand mudsnail (NZMS; *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) were sampled during plankton tow and eDNA samples or detected on artificial substrates or shoreline monitoring sites within the Project.

In 2022, the boat launch aquatic vegetation survey results mirrored the boat launch surveys from prior years, in that the boat launch areas have been primarily recolonized by native species overall, but also contain either Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and/or curly leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) to a lesser extent.

¹ 132 FERC ¶ 62,016 (2010)

² 157 FERC ¶ 62,067 (2016)

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Terms and Abbreviations

AIS Aquatic Invasive Species

AISP Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan

AISP Program Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Program

CDFG California Department of Fish and Game

FERC Federal Energy Regulatory Committee

Grant PUD Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington

GIS Geographic Information Systems

GPS Global Positioning System

MW Megawatt

NZMS New Zealand Mudsnail

PRFB Priest Rapids Fish Bypass

PRFF Priest Rapids Fish Forum

PRRA Priest Rapids Recreation Area

Project Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project

RM River Mile

USFWS United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WFB Wanapum Fish Bypass

WDFW Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

WDOE Washington Department of Ecology

WQC Water Quality Certification

1.0 Introduction

Public Utility District No. 2 of Grant County, Washington (Grant PUD) owns and operates the Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project (Project), located along the mid-Columbia River in central Washington state. The Project is authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under Project No. 2114³ and includes the Wanapum and Priest Rapids developments. A 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for the operation of the Project was issued by the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) on April 3, 2007, amended on March 6, 2008 (WDOE 2007), and directly incorporated into the FERC license to operate the Project on April 17, 2008 (FERC 2008).

The Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Program (AISP Program) activities for 2022 were conducted in accordance with the management plan titled, Aquatic Invasive Species Control and Prevention Plan (AISP; Grant PUD 2010) and associated amendments (Keeler 2016). The AISP was initially developed by Grant PUD in consultation with the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF), the WDOE's Freshwater Aquatic Weed Control Program, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW's) Aquatic Invasive Species Program, and in accordance with Section 6.6.4 of the 401 WQC (WDOE 2007) and Article 401(a)(22) of the FERC license (FERC 2008). The original AISP was submitted to FERC on March 3, 2010 and was approved on July 7, 2010. In June of 2016, Grant PUD requested an amendment to the 2010 AISP to incorporate modifications to the monitoring frequencies, which was approved by FERC in October of 2016⁴.

This annual report summarizes activities conducted in implementation year 2022 under the AISP Program.

1.1 **Objectives**

As identified in the AISP, the primary objective is to address methods to monitor and manage aquatic invasive flora and fauna in the Project. Key components of the AISP include education and monitoring designed to help manage, regulate, and potentially prevent introduction and/or spread of new/existing aquatic invasive species (AIS) within the Project.

1.2 **Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project Description**

The downstream boundary of the Project is located approximately three miles below Priest Rapids Dam (river mile [RM] 397.1) and extends upriver to the Rock Island Dam tailrace at RM 453.5 (Figure 1).

The Priest Rapids development consists of a 7,725-acre reservoir and a 10,103-foot-long by 179.5-foot-high dam spanning the Columbia River. The dam consists of left and right embankment sections; left and right concrete gravity dam sections; a left and right fish passage structure, each with an upstream fish ladder; a gated spillway; a downstream fish passage structure (the Priest Rapids Fish Bypass (PRFB)); and a powerhouse containing ten vertical shaft integrated Kaplan turbine/generator sets with a total authorized installed capacity of 675 MW (best gate) (Figure 2).

The Wanapum Development consists of a 14,680-acre reservoir and an 8,637-foot-long by 186.5-foot-high dam spanning the Columbia River. The dam consists of left and right

³ 123 FERC ¶ 61,049 (2008)

⁴ 157 FERC ¶ 62,067 (2016)

embankment sections; left and right concrete gravity dam sections; a left and right fish passage structure, each with an upstream fish ladder; a gated spillway; a downstream fish passage structure (the Wanapum Fish Bypass (WFB)); and a powerhouse containing ten vertical shaft integrated Kaplan turbine/generator sets with a total authorized installed capacity (best gate) of 735 MW (Figure 3).

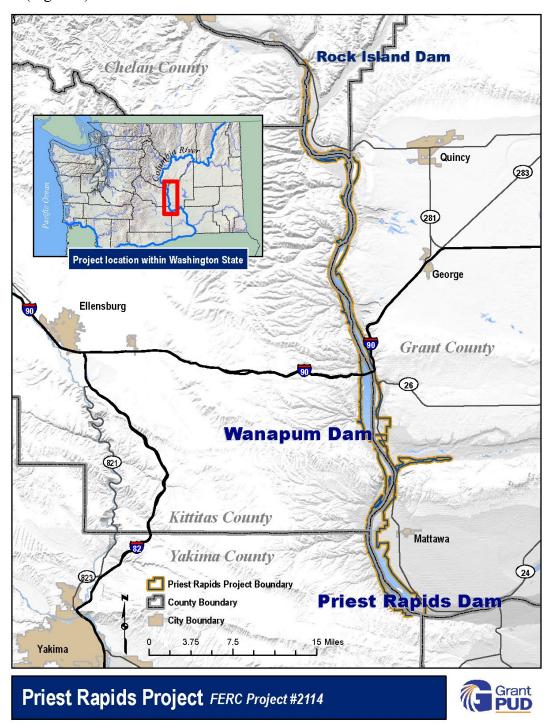


Figure 1 The Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project with Project Boundary, mid-Columbia River, WA.

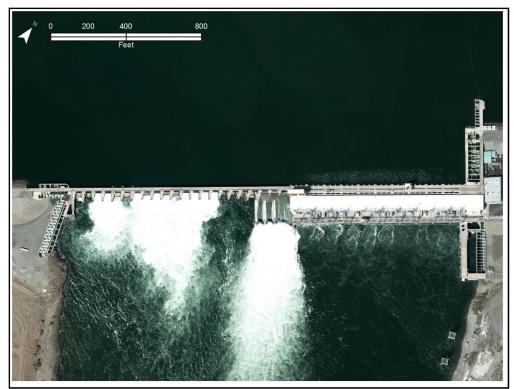


Figure 2 Aerial photograph of Priest Rapids Dam, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.



Figure 3 Aerial photograph of Wanapum Dam, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

2.0 Activities

The following sections provide a summary of the activities conducted in 2022 for the AISP. These activities include elements of education, monitoring, and local and regional coordination. Each of these activities are discussed in more detail below.

2.1 Education

The educational activities implemented as part of the AISP for 2022 included, maintaining, and updating AIS educational signage at Project boat launches as needed. Voluntary boater surveys were conducted through an online survey. Signs with a QR code were located at boat launches within the project during the recreation season (Memorial Day-Labor Day). Surveys were available at both Crescent Bar boat launches (Chinook and Riverbend), Vantage Boat Launch, and Desert Aire (Priest Rapids Recreation Area - PRRA) Boat Launch.

2.1.1 Educational Signage

All Project boat launches during 2022 consisted of the approximate configuration of informational and educational signage as the example displayed in Figure 4 below. Grant PUD has updated all AIS educational signage at Project boat launches to be in line with the updated WDFW AIS signage as noted within Figure 5.

2.1.2 Voluntary Boater Surveys

In 2022 the voluntary boater surveys were done through an online survey. Signs with QR codes were placed at the Crescent Bar boat launches, Vantage Boat Launch, and the PRRA Boat Launch. The survey was not complete and available for the start of the recreations season (Memorial Day-Labor Day). Only two surveys were taken in 2022. One was taken at the Vantage Boat Launch and another at PRRA Boat Launch.



Figure 4 Informational/Educational signage configuration at the Vantage (Kittitas County) boat launch, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA

Protect Your Waters

From Aquatic Invasive Species

BEFORE and AFTER launching boat

CLEAN

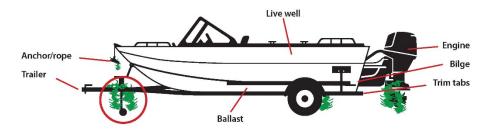
Clean interior/exterior of boat, trailer, & vehicle of any organic matter such as aquatic plants & mud. Dispose organic matter & unused bait in trash.

DRAIN

Drain bilge, ballast, wells & buckets before you leave area. Keep bilge plug out during transport.

DRY

Dry equipment before launching watercraft into another body of water.



For information on FREE boat inspections, call 1-888-WDFW-AIS (933-9247) or visit wdfw.wa.gov/ais.

Before you launch a boat that is not registered in Washington, you MUST purchase an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit.

How to buy:

- Online at fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov
- Find a license dealer near you at wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/dealers

Funds from permit sales supports efforts to keep Washington's waters free of aquatic invasive species and manage infestations when prevention fails.

Avoid Citations or Fines

Failure to possess an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permit – Infraction — RCW 77.15.160

Possession of aquatic conveyance not meeting clean drain requirements — Infraction — RCW 77.135.110

Introduction or possession of prohibited species — up to class C felony — RCW 77.15.160 (4)







Figure 5 Updated Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) signage for Priest Rapids Project Boat Launches.

2.2 Monitoring

The monitoring activities implemented as part of the AISP for 2022 included zebra/quagga mussel sampling (including plankton tows, eDNA, artificial substrates, and shoreline surveys), aquatic plant surveys at boat launches, and Northern Pike early detection monitoring. Descriptions of the monitoring activities applied during 2022 are presented in the following sections.

2.2.1 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Sampling

Zebra/quagga mussel(s) presence/absence were monitored throughout the Project by use of a plankton tow net, eDNA, inspection of artificial substrates, and visual shoreline surveys adjacent to artificial substrate locations. Each of these monitoring methods is covered in the following sections.

2.2.1.1 Plankton Tow Net

Horizontal and vertical plankton tow net samples were collected throughout the Project. Samples were collected at Crescent Bar, Sunland Estates, Wanapum forebay, Crab Creek, Lake Geneva, and the Priest Rapids forebay. Samples were collected four times throughout the monitoring season (once in June, July, August and September 2022).

Sample methods included the use of a Wisconsin plankton net (363μ mesh net) drifted for 40-100 ft. at a depth of approximately 20 ft. for each location. The plankton tow net was thoroughly rinsed, and all sample materials were transferred to a 250 ml Teflon bottle and preserved with 70% isopropyl alcohol. A label was affixed to the sample bottle and appropriately filled out. Methods for collecting vertical tow samples were almost identical to the horizontal tow sampling method as described above, except that samples were taken from one meter above the bottom of the river up through the entire water column without drifting. The sampling procedures followed protocols developed by WDFW (Jesse Schultz, WDFW, personal communication).

After collection, samples were cataloged and shipped for analysis to Cameron Lange, a Senior Environmental Scientist located in the Great Lakes region of the United States familiar with the identification of zebra/quagga mussel veliger. Results and more information of these analyses are presented in Section 3.1.1 and Appendix A.

2.2.1.2 Artificial Substrates

Grant PUD deployed artificial substrates at some Project boat launch areas as an additional monitoring technique during 2022 to monitor for zebra and quagga mussels (and other AIS) near areas with high boater traffic. Boat launches selected for substrate deployment included Huntzinger and PRRA in the Priest Rapids Reservoir, and Kittitas County (Vantage) and Crescent Bar (Chinook) in the Wanapum Reservoir. Grant PUD followed the artificial substrate monitoring protocols as established by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG 2008) and provided by the WDFW (Jesse Schultz, WDFW, personal communication). One substrate was deployed at each site. The substrates were kept at least one meter above the bottom of the river and were examined on the same schedule as the plankton tow net samples. Results from the artificial substrate monitoring are presented in Section 3.1.2.

2.2.1.3 Shoreline Surveys

A brief (~10 minute) shoreline survey occurred adjacent to the same high-traffic boat launches visited for the artificial substrate sampling schedule (see Section 2.2.1.2 above), and followed

protocols developed by the 100th Meridian Initiative – Columbia River Basin Team (WDFW personal communication) to briefly survey the shoreline near boat launches for adult zebra/quagga mussels, or other adult AIS. Results from these surveys are presented in Section 3.1.3.

2.2.2 Aquatic Plant Surveys

Aquatic vegetation surveys conducted in 2022 focused on assessing aquatic plant distribution and species dominance within the projects boat launches. During the 2025 monitoring season Grant PUD will conduct another round of Project-wide aquatic vegetation surveys. In 2022 Grant PUD continued to monitor aquatic vegetation using established transects within the Project's boat launches.

2.2.2.1 Boat-Based Surveys Methods

Survey dates were consistent with surveys from prior years (August/September). These survey efforts fulfilled the objective of revisiting transects at Project boat launches to collect sample data for species along the transects.

Transect methodology generally followed the same protocol in 2022 as was completed during previous monitoring events, which were modified slightly from the original protocol of 2011 (Keeler 2012-2020), but consistent with AISP requirements (Grant PUD 2010). The AISP states that boat launch surveys will:

"...be conducted by traveling three 50-meter transects out from the boat launch, or until visual contact with the macrophytes is lost. The first transect will be 30m upstream of the launch, the second will be even with the middle of the launch, and the third transect will be 30 meters downstream of the launch."

In practice, transect configurations were adapted to local conditions based on the presence of adjacent shorelines, jetties and/or other structures.

In accordance with the AISP, three transects were surveyed at each boat launch; however, four transects were surveyed at the Priest Rapids Recreation Area boat launch due to its reconfiguration. Other boat launches have been reconstructed since surveys began (Frenchman Coulee, Vantage, Wanapum State Park, Wanapum Forebay, and Huntzinger) but not substantially reconfigured; therefore, transect locations were not modified at these boat launches. During surveys, aquatic vegetation was sampled periodically along each transect, and dominance or occurrence of AIS species (e.g., Eurasian watermilfoil or curly leaf pondweed), native species, or no vegetation was recorded at each sample point. Boat launches surveyed within the Wanapum Reservoir included the following:

- Apricot Orchard
- Crescent Bar Chinook (off-island)
- Crescent Bar Riverbend (on-island)
- Sunland Estates
- Frenchman Coulee
- Kittitas County (Vantage)
- Wanapum State Park

• Upper Wanapum

Boat launches surveyed within the Priest Rapids Reservoir included the following:

- Lower Wanapum
- Huntzinger
- Buckshot and
- Desert Aire/Priest Rapids Recreation Area (PRRA)

Aquatic vegetation sampling was conducted either visually or using a sampling rake to collect from points along each transect, or within the aquatic vegetation areas. At each of the sampling locations, a GPS point with associated aquatic plant presence/absence and species composition data was recorded using the iPad. Rake samples were also examined for presence of potential macroinvertebrate AIS including quagga/zebra mussels and/or New Zealand mudsnails.

During the 2022 surveys, aquatic vegetation presence was recorded at each location as follows:

- Dominant species at each location was recorded as Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, native species, or no vegetation.
- Secondary and/or tertiary sub-dominant species, if present, were also recorded (Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and/or native species).

Results for the 2022 aquatic vegetation surveys are discussed in detail in Section 3.2 and displayed in Figures C-1 through C-11 in Appendix C and Figures D-1 through D-10 in Appendix D.

2.2.3 Northern Pike Early Detection Monitoring

Grant PUD conducted activities for a Northern Pikeminnow removal program in 2022 that utilized set lines, beach seining, and angling. These efforts provided a potential avenue for early detection of Northern Pike within the Project. Additional activities conducted by Grant PUD which also served as a potential early detection method for Northern Pike include video fish count systems (Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams), dewatering of fish ladders and turbines (during maintenance), and a White Sturgeon Monitoring and Evaluation Program (i.e., set line fishery). The primary early detection technique that was first implemented during the 2019 season was the use of eDNA technology. This method was continued during the 2022 season. More details on these potential early monitoring techniques are provided in the following sections.

2.2.3.1 Setlines

Set lines are approximately 500 feet in length with hooks attached at equidistant intervals (approximately 5-ft. Each set line is composed of tarred Power Braided Twine No. 84. Both ends of the set line are equipped with an 8 lb. cylindrical lead anchor, and 150-foot buoy lines which are attached upon deployment to mark the location and allow retrieval of the set line. Set line buoys are labeled with contact information and the current scientific collection permit number. The hook clips used on the set line consisted of a single-loop ground clip, a swivel, one foot of 10 lb test monofilament line, a size-10 winner day-glow float, and a No. 10 treble hook baited with a cricket. Light-weight monofilament is used to allow inadvertently caught larger non-target

fish such as White Sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) to break away. Set lines are fished over a 24–48-hour period (typically) and recovered daily (depending on river/weather conditions).

2.2.3.2 Beach Seining

A beach seine fishery is conducted annually in the late summer and early fall. An 80 ft long, 6 ft deep beach seine with 1/8th in. mesh is used to remove age three and younger non-native piscivorous fish. Beach seining activities generally occur in the Wanapum Reservoir where juvenile Northern Pikeminnow and non-native piscivorous fish have been collected in previous years.

2.2.3.3 Angling

Angling efforts are conducted in the tailrace directly below the transformer deck of Wanapum Dam using 8'6" spinning rods spooled with 30 lb test mainline and 10 lb. test leaders. Plastic fishing lures resembling juvenile salmonids are used.

2.2.3.4 Video Fish Counting

Annual adult fish counting equipment at both Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams provides reliable fish counts to track trends for both resident and anadromous species and serves as an early detection or monitoring system for non-native species. The video fish counting (VFC) system configuration at each dam has digital video cameras in each fishway streaming data to digital video recorders (DVRs). These DVRs are networked and accessed by fish counters via PCs from the fish counting room at Wanapum Dam. Data from the DVRs are played back, and fish are identified and counted by the fish counters via a separate tallying program. Fish counting runs April 15 through November 15 of each year.

2.2.3.5 Fish Ladder and Turbine Dewatering

Dewatering of the fishways at Wanapum and Priest Rapids dams for inspection and maintenance is conducted annually during the periods of minimum fish migration (November 15 – March 31). Although infrequent, turbine dewatering for maintenance or rehabilitation occurs which allows Grant PUD staff to access and perform fish salvage activities within the dams. If Northern Pike were present within the fishways during salvage activities they would be observed and collected.

2.2.3.6 Environmental DNA

The use of eDNA was first implemented during the 2019 season within the Project and was continued during the 2022 season. The protocols followed for eDNA sample collection were established by the Rocky Mountain Research Station (Carmin et. al 2016). Sites included are Crescent Bar Riverbend Park Boat Launch (on-island), the Rattlesnake Cove day-use area adjacent to Sunland Estates and Wanapum State Park boat launch near Vantage in the Wanapum Reservoir, the mouth of Crab Creek and Buckshot boat launch in the Priest Rapids Reservoir. Results from these efforts are noted within Section 3.3 below and in Appendix B.

2.3 Local and Regional Coordination

Local and regional coordination activities in 2022 involved hosting Grant PUD's Annual Aquatic Invasive Species meeting (virtually for 2022) on April 19, 2022 and attending the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) Columbia River Basin AIS meeting in Spokane WA on December 6 and 7, 2022.

Additionally, Grant PUD worked collaboratively with the Confederate Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) during 2022 to develop a Northern Pike rapid response plan that included the Priest Rapids Project, as well as other areas of the Columbia River (NORTHERN PIKE RAPID RESPONSE PLAN – Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (ucsrb.org)). Grant PUD, CCT and other participants recognized that Northern Pike present a threat to native anadromous and resident fish species in the Columbia River and that the best chance of addressing the establishment of Northern Pike populations in anadromous waters is through communication and collaboration among multiple entities with the expertise and resources to detect and respond to Northern Pike occurrences.

The primary objective of this plan is to serve as a coordination and technical resource document, which is intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of detection and early response activities when Northern Pike are detected within the plan area. The plan also provides communication guidance to ensure that verification and detection information is provided to fisheries managers and other key stakeholders to inform future management decisions. Further details included in the plan can be reviewed at https://www.ucsrb.org/mdocs-posts/northern-pike-rapid-response-plan.

2.3.1 Annual Aquatic Invasive Species Meeting

On April 19, 2022, in accordance with the AISP, Grant PUD hosted its annual AIS meeting that was conducted virtually in 2022. Per the AISP, the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the upcoming monitoring and educational season, any needed/warranted changes to AIS education, monitoring, and/or control methods or other changes to the AISP based on results from the previous year, new technologies, new AIS threats and/or introductions, new AIS pathways, etc. Attendees included Nathan Dietrich (Grant PUD), Jesse Schultz (WDFW), Patrick Verhey (WDFW), Marcie Clement (Chelan PUD) and Breean Zimmerman (WDOE). A PowerPoint was presented by Grant PUD on the results from the 2021 season along with a brief overview of the AISP activities to date. Comments were received from both WDFW and WDOE and incorporated into the final AIS report for 2022 (Dietrich 2022).

2.3.2 Flowering Rush Monitoring

Grant PUD participated in a Flowering Rush monitoring event within the Rocky Reach Reservoir on August 16, 2022 hosted by Chelan PUD. This event was held to conduct surveys to evaluate the potential spread of the Flowering Rush species and to mark areas for a removal team to visit and aid in the eradication effort. Grant PUD continues to maintain communication with Chelan PUD regarding these monitoring events. Grant PUD continues to monitor for Flowering Rush during aquatic vegetation surveys within the project area.

3.0 Results

The following sections provide results from activities conducted as part of the AISP in 2022, which includes outcomes from the zebra/quagga mussel sampling (plankton tows and artificial substrate/shoreline surveys), aquatic vegetation boat launch transect surveys and Northern Pike monitoring.

3.1 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Monitoring

As stated above in Section 2.2.1, zebra/quagga mussels were monitored by use of plankton tow nets, artificial substrates, and shoreline surveys throughout the Project. Results from each method are discussed in the following sections.

3.1.1 Plankton Tow Net Results

A total of 24 samples were collected from June – September, cataloged, and sent for analysis to Cameron Lange, a Senior Environmental Scientist located in the Great Lakes region of the United States who is familiar with the identification of zebra/quagga mussel veliger and is recognized as an expert by WDFW (Jesse Schultz, WDFW, personal communication). The 24 samples were analyzed using standardized techniques that are accepted for zebra mussel analyses. These techniques included the use of a dissecting style microscope fitted with polarizing filters used to examine the samples under 40x-120x magnification. Since zebra mussels have not previously been found at the sample locations within the Project, the entire settled contents of each sample were examined. If samples contained a lot of phytoplankton or plankton, they were prescreened through a 425-micron mesh sieve (Lange 2020).

No zebra mussels were found in any of the samples analyzed. A copy of each analysis was sent via email to WDFW during the 2022 season. See Appendix A of this annual report for results from samples analyzed during 2022.

3.1.2 Artificial Substrate/Shoreline Survey Results

During the same timeframe that plankton tow samples were collected (June through September), artificial substrates and shoreline areas around the substrate locations were checked for presence/absence of zebra/quagga mussels or other AIS macroinvertebrates. A standard form was supplied by WDFW to check for presence/absence of mussels (WDFW 2016). No presence of zebra/quagga mussels, or any other macroinvertebrate AIS, were detected during the 2022 season. Results were documented, scanned, and sent via email to WDFW during 2022.

3.2 Aquatic Plant Survey Results

Results from the survey efforts put forth along transects at each boat launch are depicted in the following sections. Survey efforts during 2022 concentrated on boat launch transects that were recorded during previous survey efforts (Keeler 2012-2020).

3.2.1 Boat Launch Transect Results

Figures C-1 through C-12 illustrate results from aquatic vegetation mapping along transects established at each Project boat launch within Appendix C of this annual report. Each GPS point location along these transects represents a single sampling location where dominance, presence and/or absence of AIS and native aquatic vegetation were recorded based on visual observations and/or rake sampling within an approximate 4 meter by 2 meter plot located at the front of the boat. Where multiple species were present, the dominant species was recorded, and additional species were noted as sub-dominant. In some cases, transects were terminated early because of loss of contact with aquatic vegetation, which was often correlated with a water depth greater than 20 feet. This is consistent with the protocol for these surveys described in the AISP (Grant PUD 2010).

Results from the 2022 boat launch aquatic plant surveys within the Priest Rapids Reservoir were similar to the results from 2020 and 2021, with some minor differences. Results for the Wanapum Reservoir continued to differ from pre-drawdown surveys but were similar to post-drawdown surveys (i.e., areas more dominated by native vs AIS). In 2022, four of the eight Wanapum Reservoir boat launches had been recolonized with primarily native species, but also contained either Eurasian watermilfoil and/or curly leaf pondweed (Table 1) to a lesser extent. The boat launch at Crescent Bar was found to be dominated/sub-dominated by native species.

Project-wide boat launch results indicated a slight change in dominant/sub-dominant species, with the presence of both Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Table 1 includes a summary of results for each boat launch. Figure 6 and Figure 7 display a visual representation of dominant and sub-dominant species found at each transect sample point for each boat launch.

Table 1 Summary Results for Boat Launch Transect Monitoring, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA

		prico rcha		Cres	scent	Bar	Sı	unlar	nd		nchn		٧	antag	ge		napu ite Pa			Jppe anapı			owe		Hui	ntzin	ger	Bu	cksh	ot		esei Aire	
Year	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS	EM	СР	NS
2011				Х	Х		х			Х	Х		Х	Х		Х	Х		Х	х								Х			Х		
2012				Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х	Х							Х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2013				Х	х	Х	х	х	х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	***************************************	х	х							х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2014												000000000000000000000000000000000000000				000000000000000000000000000000000000000									х	х	х	х		х	Х	х	х
2015				***************************************		Х	Х	Х	х						Х		Х	Х			Х	***************************************	***************************************		Х		Х	Х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2016				Х		Х	х		х	х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х			Х				х		х	Х		х	Х		х
2017	Х		х	Х		Х	Х		х	Х		Х	Х		Х			Χ	***************************************		Х			***************************************	Х		Х	Х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2018	Х		х	Х		Х	х		х	х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			х			***************************************	х		х	Х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2019	Х		х	Х		Х	х		х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			Х	***************************************	***************************************		Х		х	Х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2020	Х		х	Х		Х	Х	***************************************	х	х	х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	***************************************		Х	***************************************	*************	200000000000	Х	***************************************	х	х	Х	х	Х	х	х
2021		х	х	х		х	х		х	х	х	х	Х	х	Х		Х	х		х	х				х	х	х	х		х	х	х	х
2022	Х	х		Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х		Х	Х		Х			Х		Х					Х		Х	Х		х		х	х

Notes:

- 1. EM = Eurasian watermilfoil; CP = curly leaf pondweed; NS = native species.
- 2. Native species were not recorded in 2011.
- 3. The following boat launches were not surveyed in 2014 due to the Wanapum drawdown: Crescent Bar, Sunland, Frenchman Coulee, Vantage, Wanapum State Park and Upper Wanapum.
- 4. Huntzinger boat launch was formally established between the 2013 and 2014 survey seasons and therefore was not sampled prior to 2014.
- 5. Apricot Orchard boat launch was formally established between 2016 and 2017 survey seasons, and therefore was not sampled prior to 2017.
- 6. Crescent Bar Riverbend Park Boat Launch (on-island) was formally established in 2018 and 2019. Results in table include data from both on and off Island boat launches.

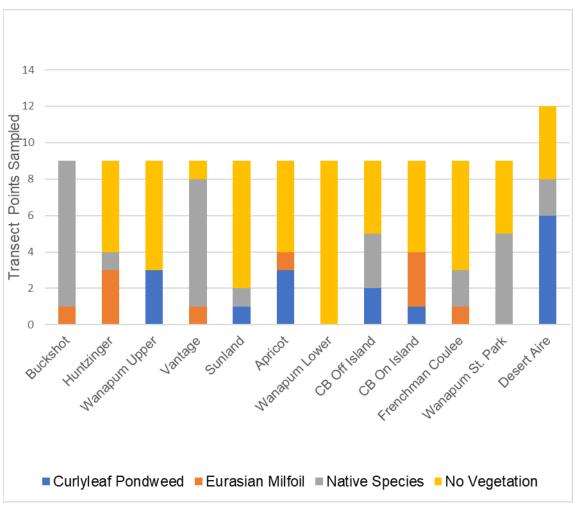


Figure 6 Dominant species noted along transect points at Priest Rapids Project boat launches in 2022.

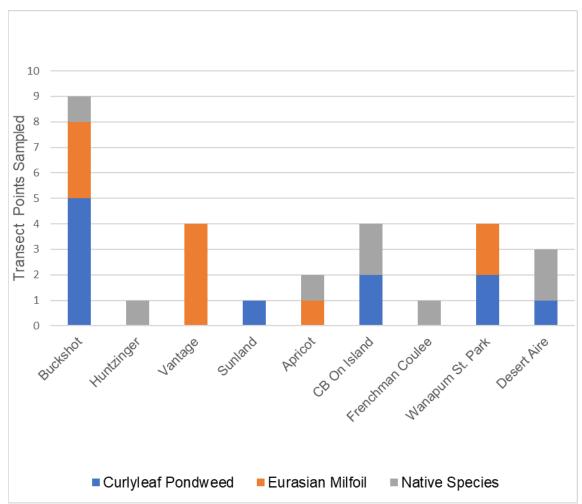


Figure 7 Sub-dominant species noted along transect points at Priest Rapids Project boat launches in 2022.

3.3 Northern Pike Monitoring Results

During 2022, various fish collection techniques (beach seining, setlines, and angling) were employed over differing habitat types within the Project, and no Northern Pike were collected. Additionally, no Northern Pike were detected during the fish ladder and/or turbine maintenance or were observed passing through the fishways via the video fish counting system in 2022.

Lastly, as noted above in section 2.2.3.7, eDNA was collected eight times at five locations during 2022. No Northern Pike eDNA were detected in any of the 40 samples analyzed. A copy of each analysis was sent via email to WDFW during the 2022 season. See Appendix B of this annual report for eDNA results from samples analyzed during 2022.

4.0 Conclusion/Summary

Educational activities for 2022 included providing signage updates at Project boat launches to match current WDFW AIS boat launch signage statewide. A new QR code Voluntary Boaters Survey was made available. Monitoring activities during 2022 consisted of zebra/quagga mussel sampling, aquatic plant surveys at boat launches, and Northern Pike monitoring. Results from the monitoring efforts in 2022 reported no zebra/quagga mussel veliger identified in any samples, no

presence of zebra/quagga mussels or other macroinvertebrate AIS, including New Zealand mudsnail (NZMS), on any artificial substrates within the Project. Results from the boat launch aquatic vegetation surveys within the Project were similar to prior years, with some minor deviations. Lastly, the efforts, which included the use of eDNA sampling, employed for early detection of Northern Pike and zebra/quagga mussels within the Project did not detect the occurrence of the species within the Project.

Discussions about the future of the AISP Program took place during Grant PUD's annual AIS meeting in on April 20th 2023. No comments were received and the results from these discussions are documented and included in the final AIS report, due to FERC by June 1, 2023.

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Appendix A Zebra/Quagga Mussel veliger sample results during 2022 Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA

Table A-1 Zebra/Quagga Mussel Veliger Sampling Results, Priest Rapids Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

Date	Sample #	Reservoir	Location	Zebra Mussels	Corbicula	Prescreeened	Comments
6/9/2022	1	Priest Rapids	Crab Creek	No	No	No	
6/9/2022	2	Priest Rapids	Lake Geneva	No	No	No	
6/9/2022	3	Priest Rapids	Priest Rapids Forebay	No	No	No	
6/9/2022	4	Wanapum	Crescent Bar	No	No	No	A Few Ostracodes
6/9/2022	5	Wanapum	Sunland Estates	No	No	No	
6/9/2022	6	Wanapum	Wanapum Dam Forebay	No	No	No	

Date	Sample	Reservoir	Location	Zebra	Corbicula	Prescreeened	Comments
	#			Mussels			
7/12/2022	1	Priest	Crab Creek	No	Few	No	
		Rapids					
7/12/2022	2	Priest	Lake Geneva	No	No	No	
		Rapids					
7/12/2022	3	Priest	Priest Rapids	No	No	No	
		Rapids	Forebay				
7/12/2022	4	Wanapum	Crescent Bar	No	No	No	Some Ostracodes
7/12/2022	5	Wanapum	Sunland Estates	No	No	No	
7/12/2022	6	Wanapum	Wanapum Dam	No	No	No	
		_	Forebay/State				
			Park				

Date	Sample	Reservoir	Location	Zebra	Corbicula	Prescreeened	Comments
	#			Mussels			
8/9/2022	1	Priest	Crab Creek	No	Few	No	Heavy
		Rapids					Phytoplankton
8/9/2022	2	Priest	Lake Geneva	No	Few	No	
		Rapids					
8/9/2022	3	Priest	Priest Rapids	No	No	No	
		Rapids	Forebay				
8/9/2022	4	Wanapum	Crescent Bar	No	Few	No	
8/9/2022	5	Wanapum	Sunland Estates	No	No	No	
8/9/2022	6	Wanapum	Wanapum Dam	No	Few	No	Some Cladocerans
			Forebay/State				
			Park				





Figure A-1 Quagga/Zebra Mussel Sample Locations, Priest Rapids Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

Appendix B 2022 Northern Pike eDNA Results

Table B-1

Results of eDNA analysis for detection of Northern Pike in samples collected by Grant PUD. All samples were processed at the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation. Samples were analyzed in triplicate. PCR reactions using an eDNA assay developed by Carim et al. (2019). "#Filters" refers to the number of filters used to obtain the sample. "Filter volumes" refers to the volume of water in liters that was pumped through each filter. "Positive Wells" refers to the number positive reactions in each triplicate analysis. No samples in this dataset showed signs of PCR inhibition.

		mary 515. 140 Sam					
Waterbody	Site #	Site Description	Date	#	Filter	Norther	Positive
		•		Filter	Volume	n Pike	Wells
				S	s (L)	Detecte	
				5	3 (2)	d	
						DNA?	
C 1 1' D'	CD 01	G I D	2/21/2022	1			0./2
Columbia River	CB-01	Crescent Bar on	3/21/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum		island Boat					
Reservoir)		Launch					
Columbia River	SL-02	Sunland	3/21/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum		Estates/Rattlesna					
Reservoir)		ke Cove					
Columbia River	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near	3/21/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)		the mouth					
Columbia River	BK-04	Buckshot Boat	3/21/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)	DIL	Launch	3/21/2022	-		11	0/3
Columbia River	SP-05		3/21/2022	1	5	N	0/3
	SP-03	Wanapum State Park Boat	3/21/2022	1	3	IN	0/3
(Wanapum							
Reservoir)		Launch					
Columbia River	CB-01	Crescent Bar on	4/4/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum	CD 01	island Boat	17 17 2022	_		11	0/3
Reservoir)		Launch					
Columbia River	SL-02	Sunland	4/4/2022	1	5	N	0/2
	SL-02		4/4/2022	1	3	IN	0/3
(Wanapum		Estates/Rattlesna					
Reservoir)		ke Cove					
Columbia River	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near	4/4/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)		the mouth					
Columbia River	BK-04	Buckshot Boat	4/4/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)		Launch					
Columbia River	SP-05	Wanapum State	4/4/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum		Park Boat					
Reservoir)		Launch					
			- 12 15		1	_	
Columbia River	CB-01	Crescent Bar on	5/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum		island Boat					
Reservoir)		Launch					
Columbia River	SL-02	Sunland	5/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Wanapum		Estates/Rattlesna					
Reservoir)		ke Cove					
Columbia River	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near	5/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)		the mouth		_		•	
Columbia River	BK-04	Buckshot Boat	5/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
(Priest Rapids)	DIX UT	Launch	31712022	1		1.4	0/3
Columbia River	SP-05		5/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
	SP-03	Wanapum State	3/9/2022	1)	IN	0/3
(Wanapum		Park Boat					
Reservoir)		Launch					

Waterbody	Site #	Site Description	Date	# Filter s	Filter Volume s (L)	Norther n Pike Detecte d DNA?	Positive Wells
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	CB-01	Crescent Bar on island Boat Launch	6/13/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SL-02	Sunland Estates/Rattlesna ke Cove	6/13/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near the mouth	6/13/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	BK-04	Buckshot Boat Launch	6/13/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SP-05	Wanapum State Park Boat Launch	6/13/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	CB-01	Crescent Bar on island Boat Launch	7/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SL-02	Sunland Estates/Rattlesna ke Cove	7/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near the mouth	7/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	BK-04	Buckshot Boat Launch	7/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SP-05	Wanapum State Park Boat Launch	7/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	CB-01	Crescent Bar on island Boat Launch	8/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SL-02	Sunland Estates/Rattlesna ke Cove	8/9/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near the mouth	8/8/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	BK-04	Buckshot Boat Launch	8/8/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SP-05	Wanapum State Park Boat Launch	8/8/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	CB-01	Crescent Bar on island Boat Launch	9/20/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SL-02	Sunland Estates/Rattlesna ke Cove	9/20/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near the mouth	9/20/2022	1	5	N	0/3

Waterbody	Site #	Site Description	Date	# Filter s	Filter Volume s (L)	Norther n Pike Detecte d DNA?	Positive Wells
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	BK-04	Buckshot Boat Launch	9/20/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SP-05	Wanapum State Park Boat Launch	9/20/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	CB-01	Crescent Bar on island Boat Launch	10/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SL-02	Sunland Estates/Rattlesna ke Cove	10/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	CC-03	Crab Creek/Near the mouth	10/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Priest Rapids)	BK-04	Buckshot Boat Launch	10/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3
Columbia River (Wanapum Reservoir)	SP-05	Wanapum State Park Boat Launch	10/12/2022	1	5	N	0/3





Figure B-1 Northern Pike Environmental DNA (eDNA) Sample Locations, Priest Rapids Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

Appendix C Boat Launch Survey Maps Series for 2022

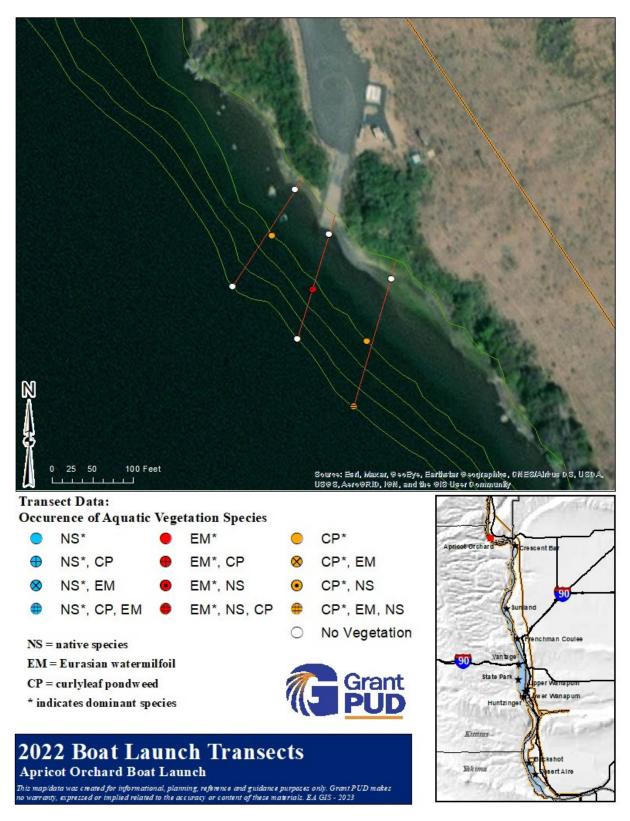


Figure C-1 Apricot Orchard Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

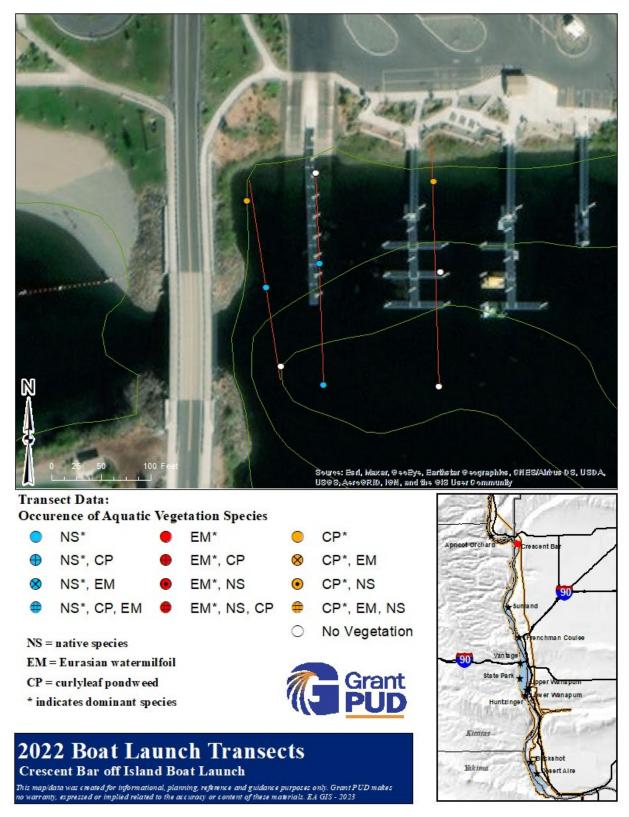


Figure C-2 Crescent Bar Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

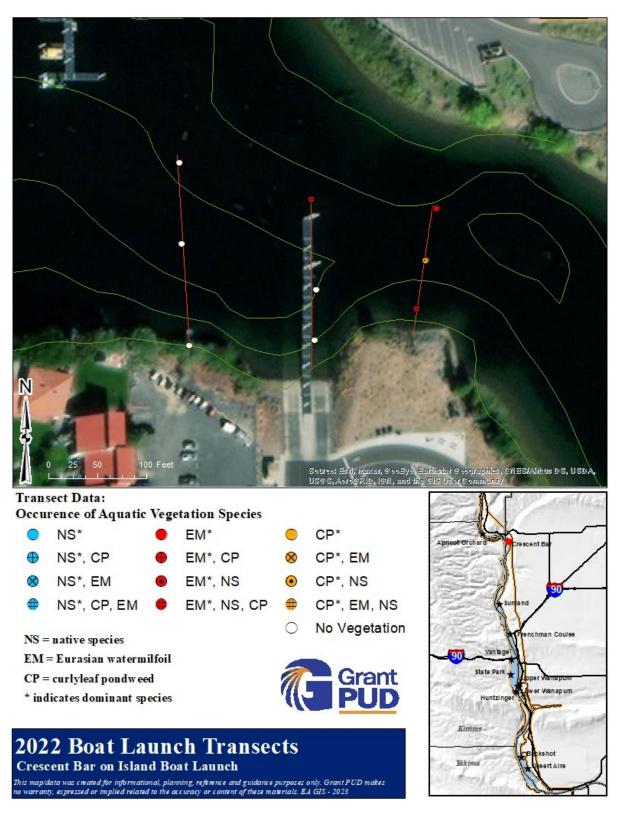


Figure C-3 Crescent Bar on Island Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

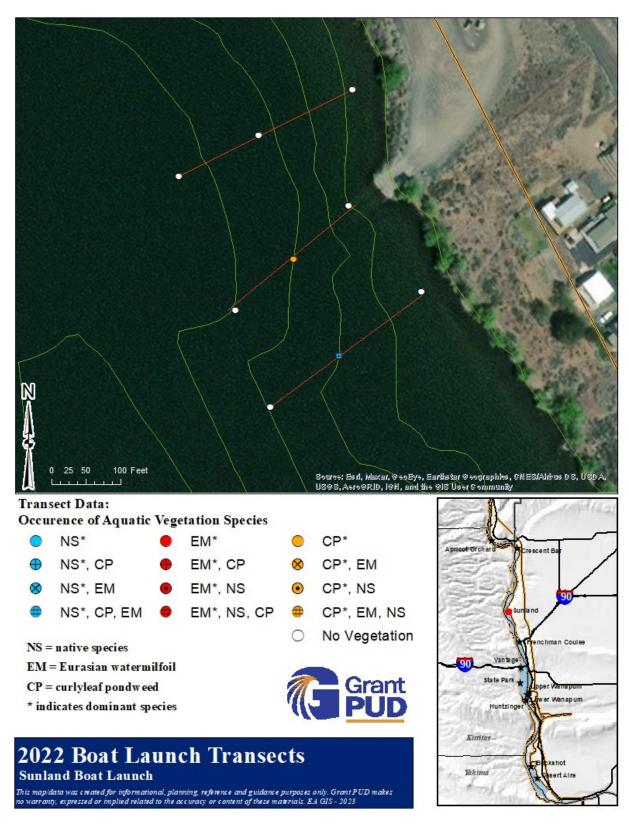


Figure C-4 Sunland Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

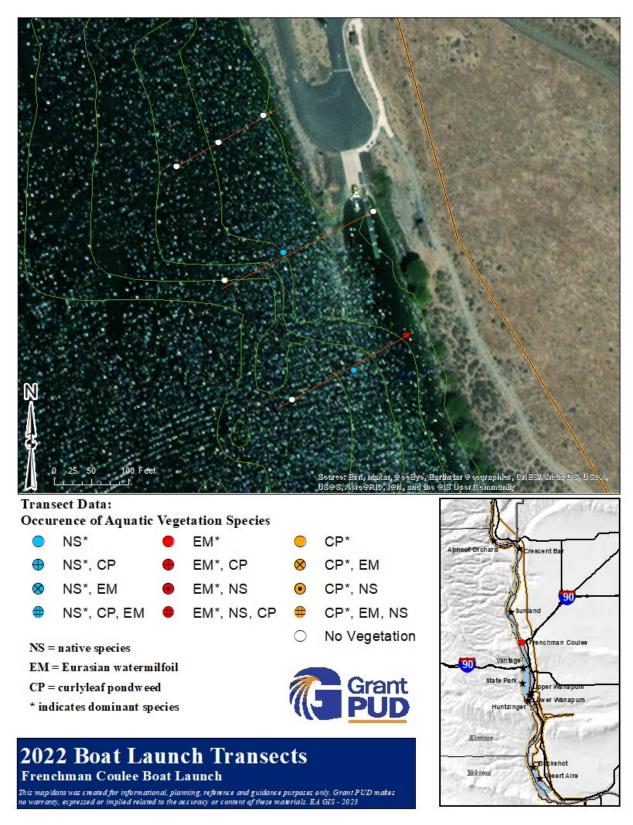


Figure C-5 Frenchman Coulee Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

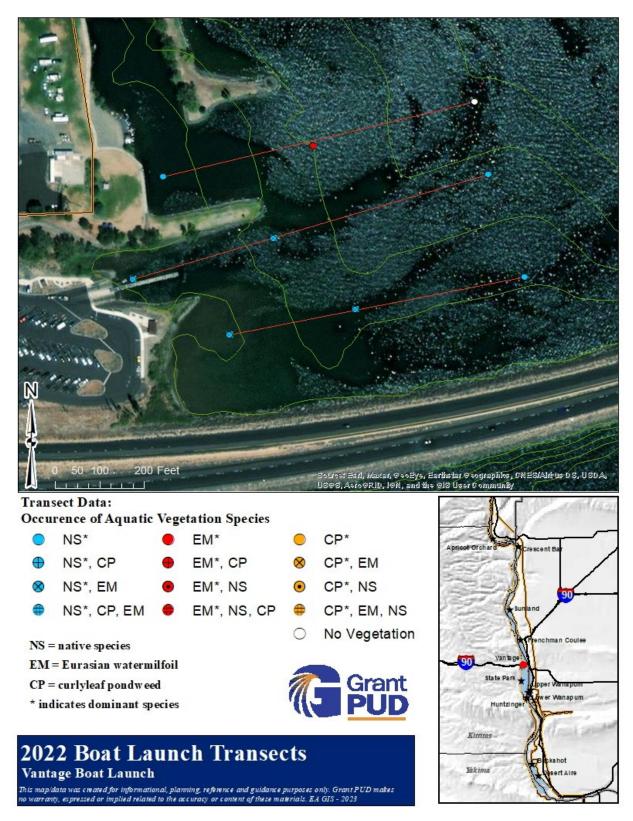


Figure C-6 Kittitas County (Vantage) Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

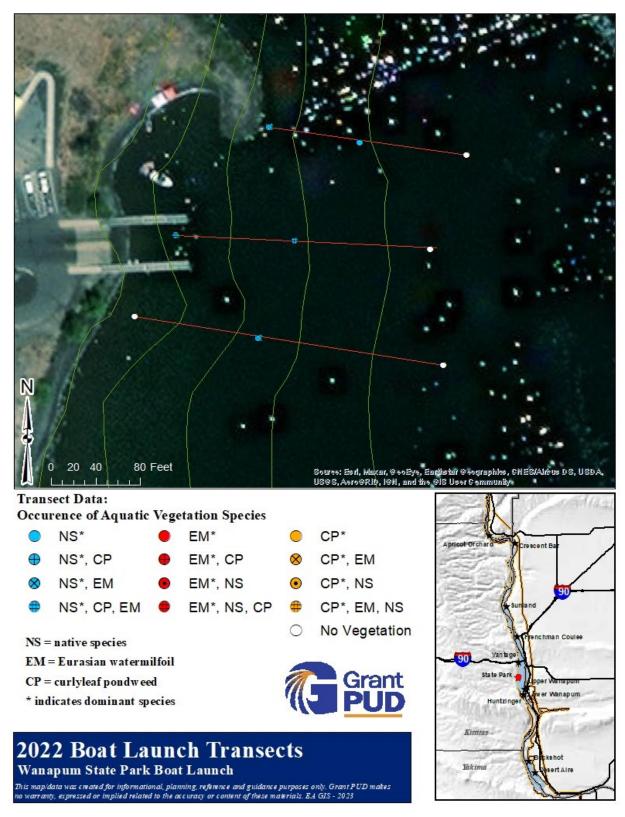


Figure C-7 Wanapum State Park Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

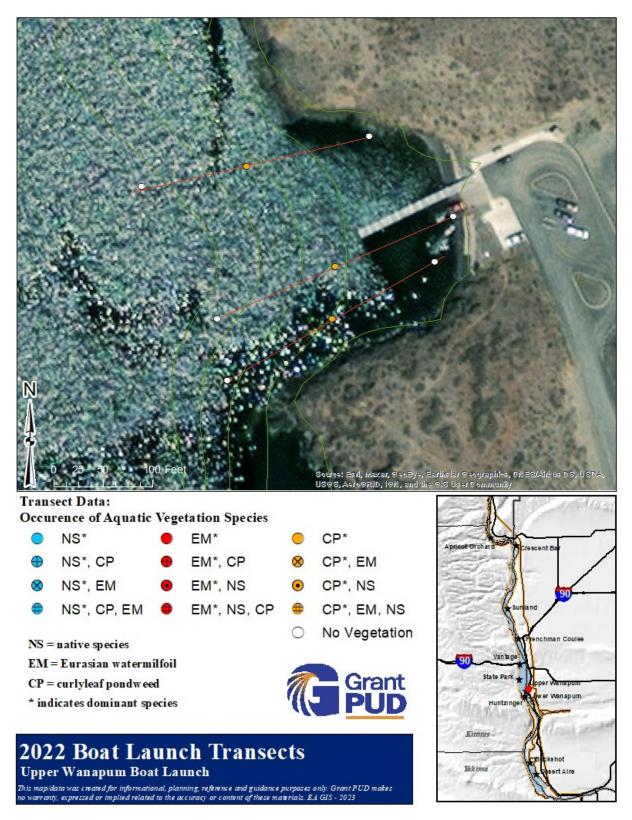


Figure C-8 Upper Wanapum Boat Launch Transects, Wanapum Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

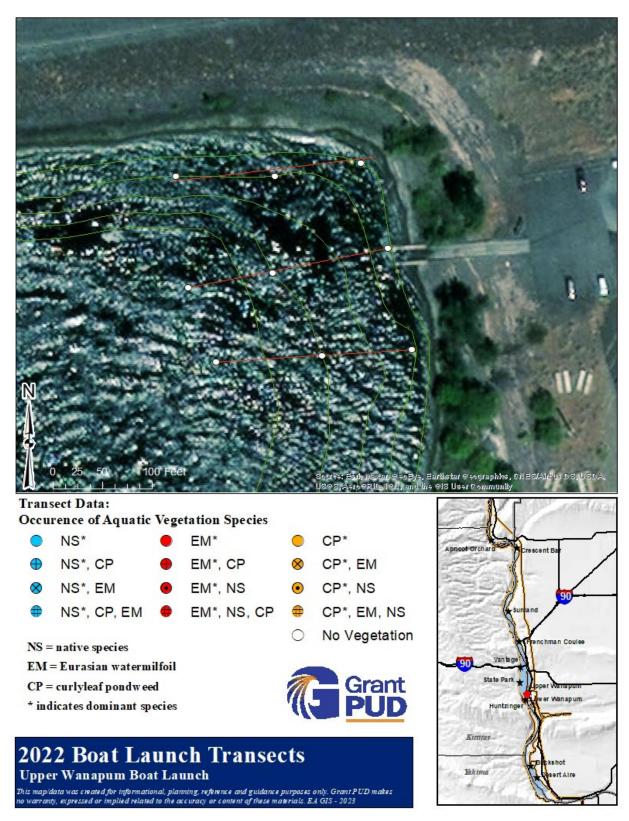


Figure C-9 Lower Wanapum Boat Launch Transects, Priest Rapids Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

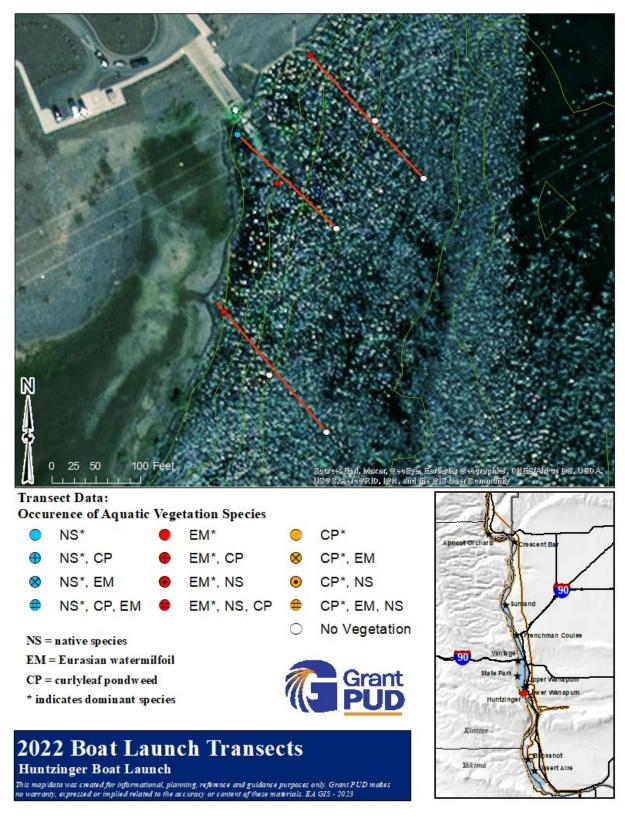


Figure C-10 Huntzinger Boat Launch Transects, Priest Rapids Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

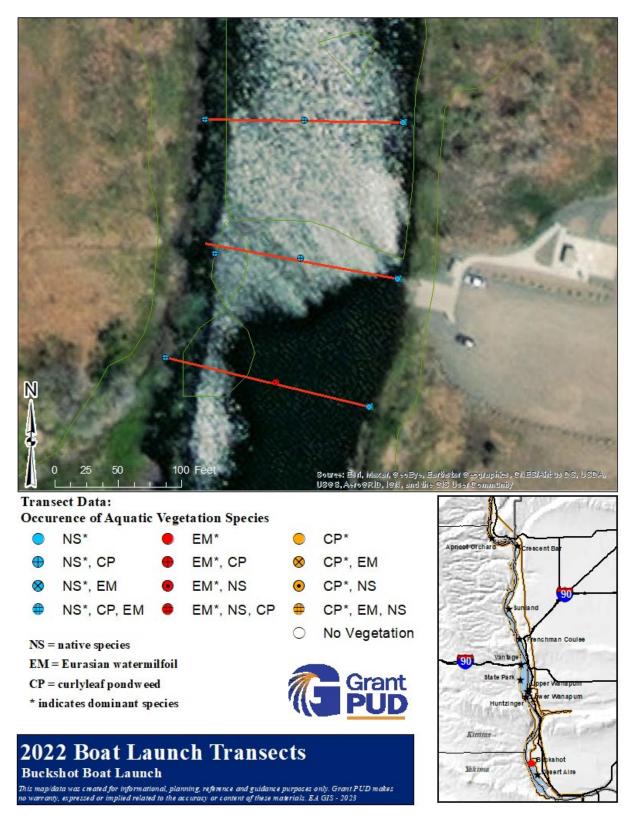


Figure C-11 Buckshot Boat Launch Transects, Priest Rapids Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, WA.

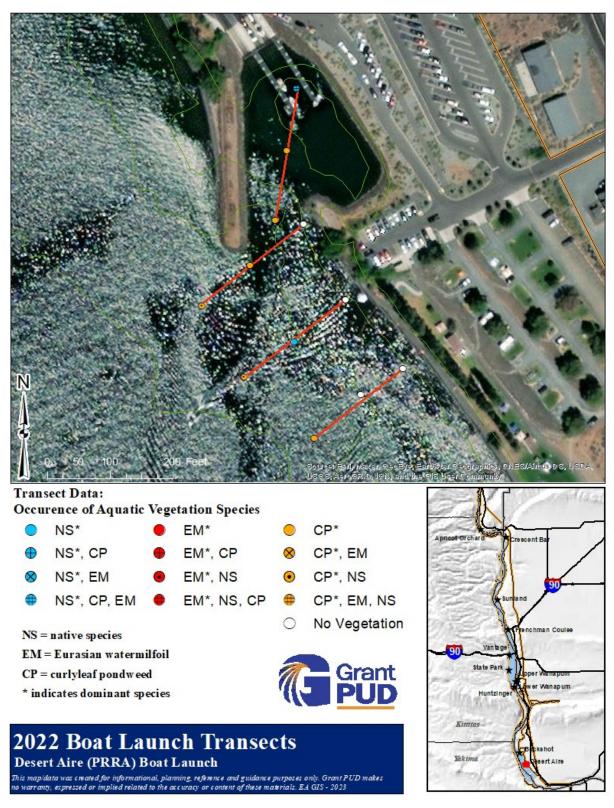


Figure C-12 Desert Aire (PRRA) Boat Launch Transects, Priest Rapids Reservoir, Priest Rapids Hydroelectric Project, mid-Columbia River, Washington.