



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee

Monday, May 19, 2014
Conference Call

PRCC Members

Scott Carlon/Bryan Nordlund, NMFS
Bob Rose, YN

Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui, P. Verhey, WDFW
Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Tom Skiles, CTUIR

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Attendees

Scott Carlon, Bryan Nordlund, NMFS

Jeff Korth, WDFW

Kirk Truscott, CCT

Alyssa Buck, Wanapum

Debbie Williams, GCPUD

Jim Craig, USFWS

Tom Skiles, CRITFC

Bob Rose, Tom Iverson, YN

Tom Dresser/Curt Dotson, GCPUD

Denny Rohr, Facilitator

Decision Summary:

1. PRCC members agreed to modifications to the Wanapum Fishway Exit Passage Systems and outage as outlined by Dresser in his PowerPoint presentation.
2. Grant PUD will continue on track to install the spiral flume, unless otherwise decided by upper Grant PUD management.

Distributed Items:

1. May 19, 2014 PRCC Meeting PowerPoint

Action Items:

1. Dresser and Korth will meet to develop a contingency plan. PRCC members agreed that Trap-n-Transport will only be utilized if need be.

Final Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome

- ### II. Modifications to Wanapum Fishway Exit Passage Systems
- Because sockeye jump more than spring Chinook, modifications need to be made to the flume in preparation for the sockeye run. Grant PUD Engineers propose adding a walkway above the chute that would allow staff to

push fish through it, as well as if they have to use a high pressure wash system to push lamprey through. An 8'x8' poly canvas tarp will be installed on the ladder wall, adjacent to the bar grate, in an effort to keep fish from landing on the sill. A ladder will be installed to allow staff to access the sill area to clean fish out, if need be. Modifications will be made on both the right and left bank fishways at Wanapum Dam. A date hasn't been set for the outage.

PRCC members agreed to modifications to the Wanapum Fishway Exit Passage Systems and outage as outlined by Dresser.

- III. **Spiral Flume** – Dresser questioned the need for the spiral flume being installed as there haven't been any instances of mortality, stunned fish, or delays between Wanapum and Rock Island dams. Over 5,000 fish have passed Wanapum Dam; based on biological data, Grant PUD doesn't see a need for it, especially since the installation outage will be during the peak sockeye run. NMFS wants to see the spiral flume installed because of possible impacts to egg development in ripe females that traverse the chute and drop 9-13'. Not all members agreed with NMFS. After much discussion, it was agreed that the spiral flume will be delivered and stored on-site until internal discussions at Grant PUD determine if it will be installed or not. If installation moves forward, it will be installed on the WLBFL first. **Grant PUD will continue on track to install the spiral flume, unless otherwise decided by upper Grant PUD management.**

IV. **Sockeye, Summer Chinook & Steelhead Passage Plan**

- Priest Rapids Fishways will be operated to fish passage criteria and sockeye, summer Chinook and steelhead will be allowed to migrate upstream unimpeded;
- Trap-N-Transport is only a contingency plan;

If failure were to occur on both fishways at Wanapum, the Priest Rapids Fishway would be closed ASAP to preclude upstream passage and Trap-n-Transport would be implemented as ASAP.

If only 1 fishway at Wanapum experienced a failure, fishways at Priest Rapids would remain open and upstream migration would be allowed to occur through the single usable Wanapum Fishway Exit Passage System.

- Modifications will be implemented at the Priest Rapids OLAFT to allow for multi-loading options (to be completed by June 8th);
- Grant PUD & WDFW will develop a Trap-n-Transport protocol contingency plan based on the known amount of available transport vehicles and drivers;

Dresser and Korth will meet to develop a contingency plan. PRCC members agreed that Trap-n-Transport will only be utilized if need be.

- V. **Priest Rapids Off-ladder Trap Priorities** – Dresser explained that annual summer activities (trapping by the Yakama Nation and WDFW) at the OLAFT will continue unless Trap-n-Transport needs to be implemented again. PRCC members agreed that these priorities.

- VI. **Priest Rapids Right and Left Bank Fish Ladders** – Members discussed the unusual behavior of spring Chinook using the Priest Rapids Right Bank Fish Ladder (PRRBFL) vs. Priest Rapids Left Bank Fish Ladder (PRLBFL). Dotson said that prior to May 6th; right bank passage was low due to lack of attraction water. On May 7th, PRRBFL attraction flows were

turned on and passage rose to 60%. PRCC members questioned if the Priest Rapids Juvenile Bypass might have something to do with this phenomena. Data will continue to be monitored.

- VII. **Juvenile Passage Studies** – Dotson reported that yearling Chinook and steelhead have been tagged with acoustic JSATS and PIT-tags. Yearling Chinook releases are over half way complete, with 22 releases. Steelhead tagging started a week later due to the late arrival of fish. The last release is scheduled for May 28th, depending on weather. Receivers are being downloaded and data analyzed; rough numbers will be available in July, with a draft report due in September.
- VIII. **Jump Approach Ramp on Wanapum Right Bank Fish Ladder** – Dresser explained that the jump approach ramp has been installed on the WRBFL, and questioned if it needs to be installed on the WLBFL. Nordlund said not to install it on the WLBFL at this time. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- IX. **Next Meeting** – May 28, 2014, SeaTac Radisson Hotel Boardroom