



Grant County  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**  
*Excellence in Service and Leadership*

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee  
**FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, October 28, 2015  
9:00 am

PRCC Representatives

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Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS  
Bob Rose, YN  
Jeff Korth, C. Andonaegui (Alt), P. Verhey (Alt), WDFW  
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser (Alt), GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant

MEETING ATTENDEES

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Scott Carlon, NMFS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Orlene Hahn, GCPUD, Executive Assistant (via phone)  
Mark Timko, Blue Leaf Environmental  
Kyle Hatch, Blue Leaf Environmental

Bob Rose, YN  
Jeff Korth, WDFW  
Curt Dotson, Tom Dresser, GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc., Facilitator  
Leah Sullivan, Blue Leaf Environmental  
John Skalski, UW

**Action Items from September 23, 2015 PRCC Meeting**

1. **Draft 2016 Juvenile Steelhead Survival Evaluation Study Plan** – Skiles is to send Rohr and Dotson an example performance standard test report and internal standards of the Corps, as they relate to criteria for rejecting a fish for not tagging it as a “study fish”. Dotson is to review the 2014 Blue Leaf report regarding the same issue – basis of rejecting or selecting a given smolt for tagging. **Completed**
2. **November/December Meetings** - Rohr to work on dates as there may be some conflicts with other meetings when these meetings are moved up a week. **Completed**
3. **SOA 2015-02, Schedule for Conducting Sub-yearling Survival Evaluations** – Dotson will have a new draft of the SOA for approval at the October meeting. Rohr is to talk to Ferguson about doing something jointly. We will put this on the Agenda and talk about this in January. It was suggested to have a sub-yearling workshop on the same day as the HCP meeting. HCP meeting in the morning and a joint sub-yearling workshop in the afternoon the same as was done in 2010 or 2011. **Completed**

**FINAL MINUTES**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Rohr added under Item IX – D. Hanford Reach Spawning Report.
- III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)

- A. Approval for August 26, 2015 (D. Rohr) – **Approval subject to email vote**
- B. Approval for September 23, 2015 – **Approval subject to email vote**
- IV. Action Items Review from September 23, 2015 Meeting (D. Rohr) – **Completed**
- V. 2015 Preliminary Juvenile steelhead and sockeye survival & behavior evaluation results (C. Dotson) – Dotson introduced the presenters. Review of additional information with updated data from Leah Sullivan on November 2, 2015.

Handling Category	Species	
	Steelhead	Sockeye Salmon
Total Handled	7,169	16,322
Previously acoustic + PIT tagged	57	13
Previously PIT tagged	821	66
Did not meet size criteria	5	12,923
Not available for tagging	883	13,002
% Not available for tagging	12.3%	79.7%
Met all acceptance criteria	6,286	3,320
Excluded for condition	91	47
% Excluded	1.4%	1.4%
Number tagged for live release	1,693	1,690
Post-tagging mortality	5	11
% Mortality	0.3%	0.7%
Pre-release tag failure	14	2
% Tag failure	0.8%	0.1%

- A. **Statistical aspects (presentation) of the survival study** – John Skalski presented the Spring 2015 Survival Results for Sockeye Salmon and Steelhead at Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams report – see presentation for details.
- B. **Project-Wide, Development and Route Specific survival & behavior** – Kyle Hatch from Blue Leaf presented the 2015 Steelhead and Sockeye Salmon Acoustic Tag Study – see presentation for details.
- C. **Wanapum Future Unit Bypass 15kcfs vs 20kcfs** – Blue Leaf
- D. **PR Fish Mode (off fish mode)** – Blue Leaf/Curt Dotson
- VI. 2016 Juvenile Steelhead Survival Evaluation Study Plan (C. Dotson) – Discussion took place regarding whether or not a 2016 study would take place and if it did take place what would the study look like. Discussion was ongoing so no action was taken regarding the draft 2016 study plan that was submitted to the Committee in September.
- VII. Revised) SOA 2015-02, Schedule for Conducting Sub-yearling Survival Evaluations (C. Dotson) – The PRCC did not reach agreement of specific wording for the SOA, which would have deferred subyearling evaluation out to 2019-2021, so it was table until 2016. The PRCC also requested that the PRCC facilitator work with the HCP facilitator to set up a sub-yearling Chinook workshop in January/February 2016. The PRCC did agree that no evaluations would occur in 2016 and committed to provide agreement via an email vote. Grant PUD also communicated to the PRCC that deferring an agreed upon SOA to later stages of 2016, made it very unlikely that any type of evaluation would occur in 2017.

VIII. Potpourri (D. Rohr)

- A. Grant PUD is now using SharePoint for document management. Rohr provided forms from Grant PUD IT Department for Committee members to sign so they will be granted access to the Resource Committee SharePoint site. Orlene is currently working on developing the Resource Committee SharePoint site. The plan is to have Orlene attend the November meeting, time permitting, to do some SharePoint training. (Dresser and Orlene talked after the meeting and Orlene will attend to do SharePoint training sometime in early 2016.)

IX. Updates

- A. Inland Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson) – The field season is over. OSU and Real Time Research are still crunching the numbers. They will be giving a presentation next month. There is an Avian Predation Workshop coming up on November 30, 2015 at The Dalles Dam. Updates of the season will be given at this workshop. The AFEP Annual Review Meeting is coming up in Walla Walla from December 8-10, 2015. Rohr to send out information regarding these two events.
- B. Hatchery Activities (T. Dresser)
  - 1. Carlton Acclimation Facility – Dresser stated that 200,000 fish will go in next week. He reviewed issues that are still ongoing and reviewed the purchase of water for filling the tanks from water banks.
  - 2. Nason Creek Acclimation Facility – Dresser stated that 220,000 fish should be on station today or late this week. He reviewed issues that are still ongoing.
  - 3. Priest Rapids Hatchery Modifications – Nothing to report
  - 4. Penticton Hatchery – Nothing to report.
- C. Hatchery Permits (Section 10 for Summer Chinook and Section 7 Consultation for Bull Trout. (T. Dresser) – NOAA and USFWS just notified that they will be discussing this at the rest of their meetings this year. This is on hold for now. Section 10 – three PUDS are working with NOAA Fisheries. Scheduled meeting in November with NOAA. Currently there is a letter in place from NOAA extending the permit.
- D. Hanford Reach Spawning Report (C. Dotson) – Dotson shared the study results. Initiation of spawning has been determined.
- E. NNI Funded Projects
  - 1. Supplementary Tags and Tagging for Assessment of Predation Losses of Subyearling Chinook Salmon in the Lower Hanford Reach and Upper McNary Reservoir (C. Dotson) – The report was sent out three weeks ago which makes this now “completed”.
  - 2. 2015 Real Time Research / Oregon State University – “Evaluation of Foraging Behavior, Dispersal, and Predation on ESA-listed Salmonids from the Upper Columbia River by Caspian Terns Displaced from Managed Colonies in the Columbia Plateau Region” C. Dotson) – A presentation will be given at next month’s meeting. The report will come out late January.
  - 3. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase I Contract Extension (J. Korth) – November presentation - Danny Didricksen, WDFW, to present.

4. Upper Columbia Fish Screen Monitoring Program Phase II – (J. Korth) - November presentation – Danny Didricksen, WDFW, to present.
  5. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – (J. Korth) – November presentation – Aaron Penvose and Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited, to present.
  6. Mid-Columbia River Intake Screen and Diversion Assessment (T. Dresser) - November presentation - Danny Didricksen, WDFW, to present.
  7. Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) Instream Flow Improvement Project (T. Dresser) – November presentation – Aaron Penvose and Lisa Pelly, Trout Unlimited, to present.
- F. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Rohr sent by email to committee members. The PRFF report went out.
- G. Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report through June 30, 2015 (D. Rohr) – Orlene to check on status of this report.
- X. **Next Meetings** – Possibly move the next meeting to November 17, 2015, SeaTac Radisson Hotel. Rohr to check back with committee members. Orlene to secure a room at the SeaTac Radisson Hotel for this date. Review of December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting schedule (D. Rohr).

**Action Items from October 28, 2015 PRCC meeting**

1. **Avian Predation Workshop** - Rohr to send Agenda and information to the PRCC members for this workshop at The Dalles Dam on November 30, 2015.
2. **AFEP Annual Review Meeting** – Rohr to send Agenda and information to the PRCC members for this meeting in Walla Walla from December 8-10, 2015.
3. **Quarterly NNI and Habitat Funds Report** - Orlene to check on status of this report. During the meeting Orlene received confirmation that this report should be sent out tomorrow Thursday, October 29, 2015. The report was received on the 29<sup>th</sup> and Rohr emailed it to the Committee members.
4. **Next Meeting** – Possibly move the next meeting to November 17<sup>th</sup>. Rohr to check back with committee members. Orlene to secure a room at the SeaTac Radisson Hotel for this date. A room has been secured for the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson.