

Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee – Policy Committee
Statement of Agreement
White River Spring Chinook Mitigation

Approved On February 8, 2013 by the Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee – Policy Committee

Statement: The Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee - Policy Committee (PRCC PC) agrees that given the technical, scientific, and political challenges the planned alternative of implementing a 74,556 hatchery smolt supplementation program on the White River is not feasible at this time. In order for Grant PUD to meet its Wenatchee spring Chinook salmon mitigation for the period from BY 2013 through BY 2026, the PRCC PC agrees to the following:

- 1) Grant PUD will complete the White River Captive Brood Program with the last release in 2016 and the last monitoring of captive brood fish in the natural environment in 2019. Grant PUD will not be responsible for any artificial propagation activities in the White River through BY 2026;
- 2) Grant PUD will continue to implement the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan for the White River (2020-2026), which was developed by the PRCC HSC and reviewed and approved by FERC on February 7th, 2012 and is currently being updated by the PRCC HSC. Finalization of this update is anticipated in spring 2013. Grant PUD agrees that the PRCC HSC would be responsible for adapting the M&E program to new information. Grant PUD may need to seek FERC approval per license Article 401(b) prior to implementation. Additional data collection beyond that collected as part of the Grant PUD-funded hatchery M&E plan is not the obligation of Grant PUD but may be funded via other sources such as the PRCC's Habitat and No Net Impact accounts, Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board, and/or Bonneville Power Administration;
- 3) Grant PUD will build the Nason Creek Acclimation Facility to accommodate up to 275,000 smolts;
- 4) Grant PUD Wenatchee spring Chinook mitigation requirements will be met via a combined total of 223,670 spring Chinook between the Nason Creek Program and the White River Captive Brood Program through 2016. For example, the current target for Nason Creek is 150,000 smolts, while the target for White River is 75,000 smolts. In the near-term, it is expected that the White River Program

PRCC – Policy Committee
Statement of Agreement 2013-01
Upper Wenatchee River Basin
Spring Chinook Mitigation – White River

will produce in excess of 75,000 smolts while Nason Creek may experience shortfalls as that program develops. During this timeframe, up to 75,000 White River smolts will be credited to Grant PUD's overall Wenatchee spring Chinook production requirement of 223,670;

- 5) Grant PUD will meet its Wenatchee spring Chinook mitigation post 2016 (2017-2026) via the Nason Creek Program. In the event shortfalls in meeting production at Nason Creek are identified, Grant PUD will, in consultation with the PRCC HSC, develop strategies to address these shortfalls through hatchery production or other alternatives as agreed to by the PRCC HSC;
- 6) The disposition of White River and non-Nason Creek natural origin adults encountered during broodstock collections at Tumwater and/or other locations will be the responsibility of the Joint Fisheries Parties that are signatories to the Section 10 permit for the Nason Creek spring Chinook program;
- 7) By 2026, the PRCC HSC will assess the need to restart a White River spring Chinook hatchery supplementation program by assembling all relevant technical information and overseeing an independent scientific review. The independent scientific review will consist of a panel of subject matter experts selected by the PRCC HSC who will address specific critical questions developed by the PRCC HSC. The expert panel will address the critical questions but will not have decision-making authority over the future of the White River spring Chinook program. Prior to initiating the independent scientific review, the PRCC will review and approve the framework and structure of the review. Once the framework and structure of the scientific review is approved by the PRCC, the review should be complete within one year.
- 8) Implementation of this agreement is contingent upon National Marine Fisheries Service issuance of an ESA Section 10 permit for the Nason Creek spring Chinook program prior to 2013 broodstock collection.

Denny Rohr
Facilitator
PRCC Policy Committee