



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum
Meeting

Wednesday, 3 January 2018
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Grant PUD, 11 Spokane St., Suite 205B, Wenatchee, WA
Call-In Number: 1-800-977-8002, Bridge: 7422882

MEETING MINUTES

PRFF REPRESENTATIVES

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Steve Lewis, USFWS | Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW |
| Bob Rose, YN | Breean Zimmerman, WDOE |
| Doris Squeochs, Wanapum | Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR |
| Jason McLellan, CCT | Keith Hatch, BIA |
| Mike Clement, Grant PUD | Chris Mott, Grant PUD |
| Tracy Hillman, Facilitator | Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD |

ATTENDEES

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mike Clement, Grant PUD | Chris Mott, Grant PUD |
| Sean Goudy, YN (Via Phone) | Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD |
| Pat Wyena, Wanapum (Via Phone) | Patrick Verhey, WDFW |
| Tracy Hillman, Facilitator | Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via Phone) |
| Jason McLellan, CCT (Via Phone) | Steve Lewis, USFWS |

Action Items:

1. Breean Zimmerman will contact Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program to get more information on the effects of the herbicide used to control Eurasian milfoil on lamprey.
2. Chad Jackson will check with the Yakama Nation to see if they (or CRITFC) is collecting biological information from sturgeon harvested in the Project Area. In addition, Chad will see if the Yakama Nation is proposing another fishery this year.
3. Mike Clement will send Chad Jackson a formal invitation to present results from the 2017 resident fish surveys at the February meeting.
4. Comments on the draft Bull Trout report are due to Chris Mott by 14 January 2018.

5. Tracy Hillman will send an email to John Ferguson thanking him and the ASWG for providing answers to the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup questions.
 6. Mike Clement will provide the Forum with additional information about the fishway tour in February.
 7. Members of the PRFF will review the draft adult lamprey NNI statement of agreement and provide comments to Mike Clement by 31 January 2018.
- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone to the Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF or Forum) meeting. Participants introduced themselves.
 - II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the draft November meeting minutes. Tracy reminded the PRFF members that the USGS will discuss Triclopyr TEA (an herbicide used to control Eurasian milfoil) with the Rocky Reach Fish Forum (RRFF) at 1:30 pm today. PRFF members are welcome to participate in the discussion.
 - III. **Approve November Meeting Notes** – The November 2017 Draft Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved during the meeting.
 - A. Review Action Items from the November Meeting
 1. Breean Zimmerman will contact Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program to get more information on the active ingredients in the herbicide used to control Eurasian milfoil. **Ongoing. Breean was unable to attend the meeting.**
 2. Tracy Hillman will invite Elena Nilsen (USGS) to a future meeting to discuss the effects of the herbicide on lamprey larvae. **Complete. USGS will discuss the herbicide at 1:30 pm.**
 3. Chad Jackson will provide an update to the PRFF on the Yakama Nation sturgeon fishery in the Project Area. **Complete. Chad provided the information he had and recommended that the Forum ask the Yakama Nation for additional information.**
 4. Chad Jackson will provide an update to the PRFF on the resident fish surveys conducted by WDFW in the Project Area. **Complete. Chad will provide an additional update during the meeting.**
 5. Mike Clement will contact Chelan and Douglas PUDs to see if they need adult lamprey in 2018. **Complete. At this time, Chelan PUD is not sure if they will conduct another passage study at Rocky Reach Dam this year. They will discuss it with the RRFF. Mike heard nothing from Douglas PUD.**
 6. Mike Clement will draft an SOA that describes Grant PUD's commitment to trap adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam and relocate them upstream of Rock Island Dam to address adult NNI at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. **Complete. Mike will give an update during the meeting.**
 - IV. **White Sturgeon Management Plan**
 - A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Chris Mott reported that as of yesterday, all juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain are doing well. He added that Donella Miller will be conducting her monthly sampling today. Fish growth and mortality are consistent with past years.
 - B. **2018 Sturgeon Monitoring Activities** – Chris Mott said they (Grant PUD and the Yakama Nation) will tag juvenile sturgeon at the hatchery during the end of April. Juveniles will be released shortly thereafter. They will be released in the same locations and at the same

numbers as in previous years. Broodstock will likely be collected downstream from McNary Dam; although, specific collection sites remain unknown at this time. Grant PUD will continue to document movement of tagged sturgeon in the Project Area. They will also conduct juvenile index monitoring during July-August and adult index monitoring in September. Index monitoring will provide an estimate of the size of the sturgeon population in the Project Area.

- C. **Update on Tribal Fishery in the Priest Rapids Project Area** – Chad Jackson briefly summarized the information he provided to the Forum last month. Mike Clement asked if the Tribe is collecting biological information including the presence of PIT tags. Chad indicated that CRITFC gathers some of that information once the fish are sold to a buyer. Mike added that not reporting the removal of tagged fish from the Project Area will affect their monitoring program including the estimation of population size, growth, and survival. Mike asked if the collection of biological information is a condition of the permit. Chad indicated that when the Yakama Nation sells the fish, a fish ticket is produced. Chad will check on the information included on the fish tickets. Mike asked if there will be another commercial fishery in the Project Area. Chad responded that he has not heard about another commercial fishery, but will check with the Yakama Nation and see if they are proposing another fishery.
- D. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Mike Clement indicated that he and Chris Mott attended the sturgeon symposium in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The purpose of the symposium was to share information about the state of wild and hatchery white sturgeon in waters from the mouth of the Columbia River to the Snake River to the Kootenai River. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council hosted the symposium. Jason McLellan shared some of the issues discussed during the symposium. He indicated that there remains persistent recruitment failure in many wild sturgeon populations, leading to poor production of wild juveniles. He added that there has been significant progress in aquaculture, population modeling, and stock assessment. Some important issues identified during the meeting included: (1) the need to challenge our assumptions regarding the factors that affect recruitment and there is limited information in this regard; (2) collecting eggs and larvae for hatchery production can be productive and an alternative to adult fish for hatchery broodstock for some programs; (3) without stock assessment, it is difficult to evaluate management and conservation actions; and (4) mercury levels may affect reproduction in sturgeon, and this needs to be better understood.

Mike Clement asked Jason about the sturgeon fishery in Lake Roosevelt. Jason said that because of the high survival of stocked sturgeon (brood years 2001-2010), population modeling indicated that they need to harvest about 20,000 hatchery sturgeon from the lake to equalize maternal family sizes. Managers opened a fishery in May of 2017 with harvest allocated equally between Tribal and non-Tribal fishers. The focus of the fishery is to remove surplus larger, older hatchery sturgeon that are beginning to mature. The non-Tribal recreational fishery initially comprised of a four-month opening but it was reduced to two months after catch exceeded expectations. During the two-month fishery, non-Tribal fishers removed about 3,200 hatchery sturgeon. The Tribal fishery is still ongoing and harvest to date is estimated at roughly 200 hatchery sturgeon.

V. Resident Fish Study

- A. **Update on Resident Fish Sampling and Report** – Chad Jackson noted that the 2017 report will look very similar to the last report. The report will likely be completed this week and forwarded to the PRFF. Dave Burgess or someone from the Large Lakes Team will present findings to the PRFF during the February meeting. Chad indicated that results (e.g.,

fish assemblages) from the recent survey are similar to results from the previous survey. Mike Clement will send Chad a formal invitation to present results during the February meeting.

VI. Bull Trout Monitoring and Evaluation

- A. **Review of Draft Annual Monitoring Report** – Tracy Hillman stated that Deb Firestone, Grant PUD, sent the draft bull trout report to the PRFF and comments are due to Chris Mott by 14 January 2018. Chris briefly reviewed results contained in the report.

VII. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

- A. **Update on Lamprey Summit in Portland** – Patrick Verhey, Mike Clement, and Ralph Lampman described some of the issues discussed during the Pacific Lamprey Summit in Portland. There was agreement among the parties at the Summit to continue to move forward with the Conservation Agreement. In addition, there was a commitment from BPA to annually fund lamprey work (~\$100,000/year). There were technical discussions on genetic studies, lamprey tag development, eDNA, experiments on adult passage, and on use of 4-inch flexible tubes for adult passage. Pacific Lamprey Summits will take place more frequently in the future.
- B. **Review of ASWG Responses to Lamprey Subgroup Questions** – Tracy Hillman reviewed responses from the ASWG.

Question #1: Is there any evidence that adult Sturgeon are in the fishways and tailrace of Wells Dam during the time adult Pacific Lamprey are migrating through the project area? Yes, there are sturgeon in the tailrace and within the collection gallery at Wells Dam. Patrick said large numbers of sturgeon are in the tailrace.

Question #2: Is there a summary of results of tailrace and fishway passage efficiencies and entrance efficiencies for adult Pacific Lamprey at Wells Dam? If so, would the Aquatic SWG please share those with the Subgroups? They provided results from the 2016 studies. Steve Lewis said that he would like more clarity on the data provided and he has questions that he will take back to the ASWG.

Question #3: Are there velocity profiles for various flow conditions at the entrances of the fishways at Wells Dam? If so, would the Aquatic SWG share those with the Subgroups? There are no velocity profiles for the fishway entrances.

Question #4: Why is the Aquatic SWG not comfortable using adult Pacific Lamprey trapped downstream (e.g., at Priest Rapids Dam) for conducting passage efficiency studies? The short answer is that Douglas PUD believes those fish may have no desire to pass Wells Dam (lack of pheromones hypothesis).

After reviewing the responses, the PRFF identified the following questions:

- Why are there no physically measured velocity profiles that could be compared to documented lamprey swim speed? This would answer the question of whether or not lamprey are even capable of entering Wells fishway entrances.
- Why are only 2013 results discussed?
- Why didn't Douglas PUD respond to Grant PUD's offer to collect adult fish in 2018 at Priest Rapids Dam for further passage studies at Wells Dam or for translocation?

Tracy will thank the ASWG for responding to the Subgroups' questions.

- C. **2018 Lamprey Monitoring Activities** – Mike Clement reported that Grant PUD will continue to maintain their PIT-tag interrogation systems within fishways at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams. Grant PUD will not tag any fish this year; however, they will monitor the passage of adult lamprey tagged downstream. Mike said about 1,200 adult lamprey will be PIT-tagged downstream to evaluate a new weir at McNary Dam. Several of these fish (~20%) will likely pass through the Priest Rapids Project Area.
- D. **Fish Ladder Tour** – Mike Clement indicated that the fishway tour will be on Friday, 9 February 2018. Participants will meet at the HOB at 10:00 am. Mike will send out additional information as we get closer to the tour date.
- E. **Grant PUD Draft SOA on Adult Lamprey Translocation** – Mike Clement shared with the Forum a draft SOA on addressing adult NNI at Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams (see Attachment 1). In sum, Grant PUD proposes to trap adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam, transport them past the project area, and release them upstream of Rock Island Dam. This removes the Project Area and Rock Island Dam from the migration path and shortens their migration to upstream locations. The term of the agreement is for a period of ten years, unless there is compelling evidence demonstrating that the Priest Rapids Project has additional effects on adult survival.

Members discussed the framework of the SOA including what is meant by “compelling evidence.” Patrick and Steve agreed to provide adaptive management language to the SOA. Mike wants to make sure the framework of the SOA is appropriate before discussing details, such as how long trapping should occur each year and how many fish should be targeted for trap and haul. Mike noted that if we are to implement the SOA this year, we need to approve it by March. Members will study the SOA and provide comments back to Mike by the end of the month (31 January 2018).
- F. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – Mike Clement stated that Grant PUD prepares a comprehensive report every five years. Mike said the 2017 comprehensive report is similar to the last comprehensive report and includes cumulative passage results and results for acoustic work. He said the draft comprehensive report will be distributed to the Forum for review within a couple weeks.

VIII. Next Meeting: 7 February 2018 – Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office

Attachment 1: Grant PUD Statement of Agreement

Adult Pacific Lamprey No Net Impact Statement of Agreement

1. Statement:

The Priest Rapids Fish Forum (PRFF) agrees by consensus to this Pacific Lamprey No Net Impact Trap and Transportation Statement of Agreement (SOA).

As a result of this SOA, Grant PUD will deploy, operate, and maintain, mechanical traps at Priest Rapids Dam which have been used in previous years in support of adult Pacific lamprey trapping and tagging evaluations (2014-2017).

Grant PUD will fish the traps for approximately XX days or collect XX of adult lamprey annually (whichever is achieved first) during the peak migration period for adult Pacific lamprey and transport collected individuals above Rock Island Dam, thereby, removing the Priest Rapids Project area from their migration or potential effect of the Project.

This SOA maintains Pacific lamprey as a “Non-Covered Species” as defined in Grant PUD’s 401 Certification and achieves specific requirements in Grant PUD’s Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP, Objective 1: No Net Impact (NNI). Identify, address, and fully mitigate Project effects to the extent reasonable and feasible) for implementation measures associated with adult passage evaluations and goals and objectives associated with No Net Impact.

2. Terms of the Agreement:

This SOA will remain in effect for a period of 10 years unless there is compelling¹ evidence that demonstrates that the Priest Rapids Project have an impact on adult Pacific lamprey migration through the Priest Rapids Project. This SOA satisfies any further obligations related to adult lamprey NNI for the term of the Agreement.

¹ Compelling evidence could relate to information collected as part of the annual HDX Passive Integrated Transponder fishway monitoring program in the fishways of Wanapum and Priest Rapids Dams, through the white sturgeon monitoring and evaluation program (predation impacts), etc.