



Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

Final Approved Meeting Minutes

(amended August 7, 2020)

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams

PRCC Representatives

Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS	Jim Craig, USFWS
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN	Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW	Tom Skiles, CTUIR
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD	Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator	

PRCC Meeting Attendees

Curt Dotson, GPUD	Peter Graf, GPUD
Keely Murdoch, YN	Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator
Scott Carlon, NMFS	Erin Harris, GPUD
Tom Skiles, CTUIR	Jim Craig, USFWS
Chad Jackson, WDFW	Kirk Truscott, CCT
Johnny Buck, Wanapum	Patrick Verhey, DFW

Decisions made during June 23, 2020 meeting

1. **May 26, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – Approved.
2. **Request for Time-Extension: Non-native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase 1** - Committee APPROVED time extension from 5/31/2021 to 9/30/2021.

MEETING MINUTES

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review (D. Rohr) – Nothing new added.

III. Meeting Minutes (D. Rohr)

- A. May 26, 2020 – Committee members attending the May 26th meeting approved with C. Jackson abstaining from the vote due to not being present for the entire May 26 meeting.

IV. Review of Actions Items from June 23, 2020 Webinar Conference (D. Rohr)

1. **Action:** Tom Skiles will send the research article **Avian Predation on Steelhead is Consistent with Compensatory Mortality** to Denny Rohr for distribution. – **Completed.**
2. **Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson) – Action:** Chad Jackson will work with Danny Didricksen to schedule his report on this at a future meeting. – **Completed.**
3. **“Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch) – Action:** Keeley Murdoch will notify Geoff McMichael that Curt Dotson will be in touch with him regarding contract extension. – **Completed.**
4. **2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing (C. Dotson) – Action:** Curt Dotson will double check with NOAA regarding permit details – **Completed.**

- V. **UPDATE - Priest Rapids Right Embankment Improvement Project - Addendum 1 to Draft Environmental Assessment, V2, dated May 2020 (Redline) (C. Dotson, D. Rohr) –** C. Dotson reviewed activities surrounding this subject and explained after additional consultation with stakeholders, Grant PUD has removed the additional/alternate section of the Dept. of Army Yakima Training Center (YTC) access route (which was illustrated on slide#5 in the PowerPoint presentation provided by Tom Dresser in the PRCC meeting on 4/28/20). This decision was based on potential impacts to cultural resources. Based on the removal of the alternate section of the road, the originally proposed Army YTC segment of the upstream access route that was proposed as part of the May 17, 2019 draft EA that was submitted to FERC will need additional maintenance and repair work that was not described in sufficient detail in the May 17, 2019 draft EA. The additional maintenance and repair work are necessary to safely transport materials and equipment to and from the Cow Creek Quarry.

The draft EA addendum that was provided to PRCC for review on April 28 has been updated to reflect these changes and can be found in the red-line version of the draft EA addendum distributed by Rohr to PRCC members with email of June 12th. Also included in the redline version is the Army YTC Roadway Repair and Maintenance Plan, which is included as Appendix C of the updated draft EA addendum.

The following changes were listed in the June 12th distribution to PRCC:

1. Only changes necessary to reflect to removal of the Alternate Access Route along the Army YTC road and needed maintenance and repair work needed

- along the originally proposed Army YTC access route are included in this updated draft EA addendum.
- Grant PUD is still reviewing comments received on the draft EA addendum that was sent to PRCC on April 28th, and as such any revisions based on those comments are not reflected in the updated draft EA addendum. Grant PUD will include a comment and response matrix in response to comments on the April 28 draft, as well as any comments related to the changes described above, in the final draft EA addendum that is filed with FERC.

Rohr explained that a 30-day comment period ending COB on July 15th had been set in the June 12th email to the PRCC members. Any additional comments PRCC members may have on the red-line changes to the updated draft EA addendum were requested to be sent to Tom Dresser at Grant PUD.

- VI. (ADDITIONAL ACTION NEEDED) Request for Time-Extension: Non-native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase 1 (C. Dotson, K. Murdoch)** – Time extension is needed to allow time for data analysis and report completion. Originally requested to change from May 31, 2021 extension to July 31, 2021. C. Dotson suggests moving it to September 30, 2021. **Action: Committee APPROVED time extension from 5/31/2021 to 9/30/2021.**
- VII. UPDATE - Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution (D. Rohr)** – D. Rohr provided an update of the status of the \$250,000 Trout Unlimited funding request discussed with the PRCC in the May 26th meeting and shared the PRCC HabSC approved the funding request. Additionally, Rohr explained the Wilson property purchased for temporary use during the implementation of this project is no longer needed and the HabSC is considering a sale of this property to backfill the funding request. The value of the Wilson property exceeds the \$250,000 funding request. C. Dotson asked who owns the Wilson property and Rohr shared that his understanding is that it is either Trout Unlimited or the Methow Conservancy. C. Dotson shared if owned by Grant, there could be a surplus process to go through before selling it and someone will need to check into that. Rohr stated he is reasonably certain that Grant is not the owner of the property. Rohr will keep the PRCC advised of additional HabSC discussion regarding this project.
- VIII. 2020 Fish Spill Update (C. Dotson)** - C. Dotson shared procedure changes as Grant moved from Spring Fish Spill into Summer Fish Spill on June 15, 2020.
- IX. Potpourri (D. Rohr) – (Avian Predation)** Dotson reviewed the news story, “Avian Predation: A River System Out of Balance”, by John Harrison, May 18, 2020 that appeared on the NWPCC webpage. At Dotson’s request, Rohr recently distributed a copy of this story to PRCC members. Committee members commented that it was well done. The story included an interview with Dan Roby, OSU, describing avian activities throughout the Columbia Basin, plus comments by Curt Dotson and reference to the PRCC regarding avian predation and PRCC funding activities in the Columbia Plateau Region. Additionally, Skiles further discussed the Haesecker 2020 article, “Avian Predation on Steelhead is

Consistent with Compensatory Mortality”. Skiles shared with the committee that CRITFC had reviewed this article and provided a review memorandum as well. Skiles will send both the Haesecker article and the CRITFC review memorandum to Rohr for distribution to the PRCC members. Rohr commented that the momentum and focus on aviation predation activities continues to increase and he recommends everyone keep their eyes on it.

GENERAL UPDATES

- X. Avian Predation Activities (C. Dotson)** – Dotson shared that part of the NNI Funding of RTR for 2020 work was for PIT tagging and that activity has been completed. The goal was to tag 7,000 steelhead smolts and the final number was approximately 6,300 tagged. Dotson also shared that when RTR submitted their NNI funding request for the 2020 season, they were not aware of a new “facilities use fee” that Chelan PUD has started to charge for use of its facilities (i.e. the Rock Island smolt tagging facilities) and also additional costs that would be incurred due to COVID-19 and the additional expenses required for “social distancing” of their crew. This has resulted in a budget shortfall and Dotson will provide more details for discussion at the next meeting.
- XI. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region (C. Dotson)** – no update information
- XII. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**
 - A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program (C. Jackson)** – D. Rohr shared Covid-19 has slowed down this work and Danny Didricksen will join a future meeting for an update when appropriate.
 - B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II (C. Jackson, D. Rohr)** D. Rohr shared no Habitat dollars being spent on this project at this time. Aaron Penvose, Trout Unlimited, is pursuing funding from additional sources. PRCC Habitat SC provided a letter of support regarding additional funding sources.
 - C. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” (K. Murdoch)** – nothing additional
 - D. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” (K. Truscott)** – K. Truscott informed the committee that Pike removal is taking place, but is limited due to the need of social distancing practices within the crews, but they are back on the water and working. They are collecting some fish with gill netting and set lining but doing so at a reduced pace due to the circumstances.
 - E. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (C. Dotson)** – C. Dotson shared the weekend of 9/18-9/20 has been set as a place holder for the Derby and they will be reviewed further when approaching these dates.

F. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research (C. Dotson) – nothing additional

XIII. Committee Reports (D. Rohr) – Distributed to committee members.

XIV. NNI and Habitat Funds Report, 2020 (D. Rohr) – D. Rohr shared end of Q2 is June and should see the report in July.

XV. Next Meeting – Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 1:00 pm, Location TBD

Action Items from June 23, 2020 meeting

1. Rohr explained that a 30-day comment period ending COB on July 15th had been set in the June 12th email to the PRCC members. Any additional comments PRCC members may have on the red-line changes to the updated draft EA addendum were requested to be sent to Tom Dresser at Grant PUD.
2. Rohr will keep the PRCC advised of the Barkley Irrigation Company project activities.
3. T. Skiles will send avian predation documents discussed during today's meeting to Rohr for distribution to committee members.
4. Dotson will provide more details regarding part of the RTR activities being unknown in their funding request regarding a Chelan PUD funding requirement.

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