



## Priest Rapids Coordinating Committee Meeting

### FINAL APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

1:00 pm

Microsoft Teams Webinar

#### PRCC Representatives

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Scott Carlon, Justin Yeager (Alt), NMFS  
Keely Murdoch, Brandon Rogers (Alt), YN  
Chad Jackson, P. Verhey (Alt) WDFW  
Curt Dotson, Peter Graf (Alt), GCPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator

Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, Casey Baldwin (alt), CCT  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Erin Harris, Admin Ass't, GPUD

#### PRCC Meeting Attendees

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Curt Dotson, GPUD  
Keely Murdoch, YN  
Chad Jackson, WDFW  
Tom Skiles, CTUIR  
Scott Carlon, NMFS

Peter Graf, GPUD  
Denny Rohr, D. Rohr & Assoc, Facilitator  
Erin Harris, GPUD  
Jim Craig, USFWS  
Kirk Truscott, CCT

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- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Denny Rohr welcomed everyone, and everyone introduced themselves.
  - I. **Agenda Review** – No additions were made to the agenda.
  - II. **Meeting Minutes**
    - A. October 27, 2020 – Approved pending Tom Skiles approval.
  - III. **Review of Actions Items from September 22, 2020 Webinar Conference** –
    - A. **BOR / PRCC Special Meeting** - Denny Rohr will follow up with Talmadge Oxford/BOR for further update on this topic and scheduling of a special meeting. - **In progress.**

**B. 91% Combined Survival Estimates for Covered Species** - Denny Rohr will follow up with committee members regarding continued discussion at the November meeting. - **Completed.**

**C. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program** - Denny Rohr shared Danny Didricksen. will be at the December meeting. D. Rohr will call Danny Didricksen to let him know the date. - **Completed.**

**IV. Review of Scheduled Meeting with BOR on December 8, 2020** - Denny Rohr will prepare an agenda for the 12/8/2020 BOR meeting and send it to PRCC committee members early next week. Denny Rohr will share the agenda with Talmadge Oxford/BOR and Scott Hoefer/BOR asking them both what they would like added to the agenda and he'll share what the PRCC is looking for. Members shared a few topics they would like covered during the 12/8/2020 meeting. One agenda item will be what the 2021 BOR plan and schedule is. Also, regarding the FCRPS BIOP requirement, how do they view that requirement and what is the plan moving forward. Kirk Truscott and Curt Dotson discussed the number of nests on Goose Island to compare with PRCC and BOR dissuasion effort levels and the results of each. Kirk would like to share this information with Talmadge Oxford and Scott Hoefer. Jim Craig shared this is a good approach with the key take away being what the BOR's plans are going forward with the PRCC committee having an optimistic outlook on this.

**V. 91% Combined Survival Estimates for Covered Species.** - Denny Rohr shared he spoke with each committee member since the October meeting and understands most members are interested in the legal review that Keely Murdoch has in progress. Keely Murdoch shared that her request for legal review was assigned to a Yakama Nation staff attorney and she met with him a few weeks ago to address her concerns. Keely provided the attorney with a copy of the Salmon Steelhead Settlement Agreement (SSSA) and other supporting documents, including the October 2020 meeting minutes, Grant PUD's White Paper, and explanation of Scott Carlon's comments of the history and intent of the language under review and discussion at the October 2020 meeting. Keely said she let the attorney know that Scott explained that the intent of the language of the performance standards was to be treated the same as what is in the Chelan and Douglas HCPs. Keeley shared the reason for having this reviewed is she feels the language in the SSSA is not the same as the language in the HCPs. She is hoping to receive an internal memo from YN Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) in the first part of December and next herself, David Blodgett, and possibly other YN staff will meet with the OLC for further review and discussion. Keely hopes to have information to share with committee members at the December meeting. Keely also talked additionally about listening to Scott at the last meeting share his view on the language in the 2004 BIOP. She looked into the documents hoping to find something that supports what Grant PUD and Scott are saying, in that the intent is an "either/or". She shared the HCP's clearly read "or" and not "and". Her hope is to find language that will provide some clarity. She also looked at the 2008 BIOP and it seems clearer to her than the SSSA that this is an "and" situation and not an "or". Keely said the 2008 BIOP references the 2006 FERC document that is the final EIS as a source for the performance

standards language. Keely reviewed the 2006 FERC document, and she feels it reads that it is also an “and” and not an “or”. Keely stated the FERC document cited the 2004 BIOP in which Keely felt in many sections in it reads like both must be achieved. She said looking into these documents and the history of the language has not helped to clear up her questions. Keely feels there is conflicting information and language in the SSSA that are not the same as the language in the HCP’s. She feels the analysis the committee uses still needs to be approved to determine what size of fish and standards of error are appropriate. This process will need to be gone through if we want to start measuring adult survival, she stated. Keely said she had three concerns and one is the language, two is the process concerns, and the third is the data that is being used. She stated this was discussed last month as Peter Graf talked about hatchery fish and making sure we are sampling the right population. Chad Jackson shared that shortly after Keely contacted her legal department, WDFW had some internal discussion and the same information was also sent to their Assistant AG for review and to get a ruling on what the survival standards are. Chad expects those answers prior to our December meeting. Kirk Truscott shared he has similar concerns as Keely and thanked her for her work in moving things along. He went on to question if PIT tagged fish are a part of the run at large and said there is no way to evaluate if the PIT tagged juvenile wild fish are representative of all the juveniles moving out of a basin or sub-basin. He felt there needs to be an evaluation of the PIT tagged fish that are returning and questions if they are representative of all the Chinook fish returning at Priest Rapids Dam. Kirk shared he talked with Peter Graf, who put together information on proportional run timing of PIT tagged adult Fall Chinook, Steelhead and Sockeye. Kirk shared he is looking forward to this information helping to make an assessment on consistent fish passage. Peter Graf shared he is working on that information for the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Scott Carlon shared with Keely that he will email her the contact information for the NOAA attorney that worked on the BiOp language, and that the YN attorney may want to contact the NOAA attorney to discuss the language being questioned. Murdoch also discussed the research paper recently distributed by WDFW on steelhead overshoots, and how the current methodology of measuring adult survival would not include the survival of the overshoots in the reach. She felt it was important to make sure the survival of all adults passing through the project reach was considered.

- VI. Potpourri**– Denny Rohr shared that the NWPC is sending a letter of support for continued funding for Dr. Michelle Rub and the sea lion work she is doing.

## **UPDATES**

- VII. Avian Predation Activities**– No further updates. See above item IV., Review of Scheduled Meeting with BOR on December 8, 2020.
- VIII. FCRPS BiOp – Corps/BOR Avian Predation Management in Columbia Plateau Region** – No updates currently.
- IX. Review of Outstanding NNI Funded Projects**

- A. Continued Support for UC Fish Screen Program– Denny Rohr has been talking with Danny Didricksen regarding his schedule and availability to attend the December meeting. Denny informed committee members that Danny’s attendance may need to be moved to the January meeting. More to follow.
  - B. Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhancement Project Phase II – No updates.
  - C. “Non-Native Predator Recruitment Reduction – Phase I” -No updates currently.
  - D. “Northern Pike Removal in Lake Roosevelt” -No updates currently.
  - E. 2020 Quincy Valley Tourism Association Northern Pikeminnow Fishing Derby (moved to 2021 due to Covid-19) - No updates / placeholder.
  - F. Avian Predation on ESA-listed Juvenile Salmonids on the Mid-Columbia River, 2020, Real Time Research -No updates currently.
  - G. Barkley Irrigation Co Permanent Point of Diversion, Completing Implementation of the Permanent Solution– Denny Rohr updated members that the Habitat Subcommittee is continuing to discuss this project. Some have expressed interest in the Wilson Property for restoration work, and the committee members are discussing delaying any decisions until next spring when interest will peak for the property.
- X. Committee Reports** – Reports distributed electronically to members earlier this month.
- XI. NNI and Habitat Funds Report, Q3, 2020** Distributed electronically to members earlier this month.
- XII. Next Meeting** – December 15, 2020, 1:00, TEAMS Webinar Meeting

**Action Items from November 24, 2020 meeting**

1. Denny Rohr to reach out to Talmadge Oxford and Scott Hoefler to share agenda items for the December 8<sup>th</sup> BOR meeting. Denny will send the agenda out to members next week.
2. Keely and Chad will update committee members at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on legal review of SSSA language and 91% Combined Survival Estimates for Covered Species.

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