



Grant County
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
Excellence in Service and Leadership

Priest Rapids Fish Forum Meeting

Wednesday, 5 September 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
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
Pat Wyena, 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
Tom Skiles, CTUIR (Via Phone)	Erin McIntyre, Grant PUD
RD Nelle, USFWS	Ralph Lampman, YN (Via Phone)
Breean Zimmerman, WDOE (Via Phone)	Kirk Truscott, CCT (Via Phone)
Pat Wyena, Wanapum (Via Phone)	Chad Jackson, WDFW (Via Phone)
Tracy Hillman, Chair	

Action Items:

- Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan.
- Tom Skiles will check with the Yakama Nation on numbers of tagged sturgeon captured in the winter tribal fishery.
- Chad Jackson will send the final report on the 2018 sturgeon recreational fishery to Tracy Hillman, who will forward it to the PRFF.

- Mike Clement will send the final adult lamprey trapping numbers to Tracy Hillman, who will forward them to the PRFF.
- Ralph Lampman will send the adult lamprey release plan for the Methow River to Tracy Hillman, who will forward it to the PRFF.

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Tracy Hillman welcomed everyone and participants introduced themselves.
- II. **Agenda Review** – Members reviewed and approved the draft agenda.
- III. **Approve August Meeting Notes** – The August 2018 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved during the meeting.

A. **Action Items from the August Meeting:**

1. Steve Lewis will add Wanapum to the invasive species action plan's participation list. He will also provide updates to the PRFF on the status of the draft action plan. **Ongoing**.
2. Tom Skiles will check with Blaine Parker on numbers of tagged sturgeon captured in the winter tribal fishery. **Complete.** Tom Skiles said Blaine has received no tag information. Therefore, Tom will contact the Yakama Nation and see if they have any tag information.

IV. White Sturgeon Management Plan

- A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Chris Mott said he has received no new information from Donella Miller. This likely means rearing is going well.
- B. **Juvenile Index Monitoring and Population Assessments** – Chris Mott indicated that juvenile index monitoring concluded on 29 August in Priest Rapids Reservoir and on 24 August on Wanapum Reservoir. Juvenile numbers appear to be slightly less than last year. Golder is currently analyzing the data. This will complete the third year of a three-year assessment.

Chris said that population assessments will begin in September. Tagging surveys will occur on 10-21 September and recapture surveys on 1-12 October. Golder and Blue Leaf will conduct the surveys. The consultants will analyze the data, write the report, and give a presentation to the PRFF early next year. The population assessment and juvenile index monitoring data will be evaluated in 2019 to determine if there is significantly new information that may alter the reasoning or intent of the 2016 SOA (three-year check-in for the Priest Rapids Project White Sturgeon Stocking Program for Population Rebuilding, Mitigation, and Enhancement SOA).

Members asked if open or closed population models are used to assess population sizes and survival rates. Chris said he believes the Cormack-Jolly-Seber (CJS) model is used. Tracy Hillman said this model, which is an open population model, is likely used to estimate survival rates. The Jolly-Seber or perhaps a closed population model (e.g., Petersen-Lincoln estimator, Schnabel Census, or Discrete-Time Models) is used to estimate population size. Which model is used depends on assumptions associated with capture and survival probabilities. He said it is likely the consultants run several models and use likelihood ratio tests or information-theoretic approaches to select the most appropriate model.

- C. **Other White Sturgeon Items** – Mike Clement asked when the recreational sturgeon fishery in the Project Area will close. Chad Jackson replied that the fishery will close on 1 September. Chad will send the final recreational fishery report to Tracy Hillman for

distribution. The final report should be available in 1-2 weeks. Chad said harvest this year was relatively poor, maybe because of high flows or anglers were unable to find sturgeon in the reservoirs.

V. Pacific Lamprey Management Plan

- A. **Adult Lamprey Collection, Transport, and Coordination** – Mike Clement indicated that Grant PUD started trapping adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam on 31 July (traps were “splashed” on 30 July). This began the three-week trapping period required in the SOA. Trapping for the Grant PUD program ended on 17 August. During the first week of the three-week collection period, Grant PUD transported and released 177 adult lamprey upstream from Rock Island Dam (released at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park). These fish were released untagged. During the last two weeks of the collection period, all lamprey collected by Grant PUD were transferred to Douglas PUD at Kirby Billingsley Hydro Park. Douglas PUD transported and released the fish upstream from Wells Dam.

Beginning on the week of 20 August, Grant PUD began a three-week trapping period for the Douglas PUD translocation program. This trapping effort will end on 7 September. Douglas PUD picked up the adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam and released them upstream from Wells Dam.

Mike indicated that as of today, Grant PUD has collected 810 adult lamprey. Of these, 660 were taken by Douglas PUD and released upstream from Wells Dam. All of these were PIT tagged. Of the 660 adult lamprey transported upstream from Wells Dam, 91 were transferred to the Colville Tribes and released in the Similkameen River (61 fish), Omak Creek (15 fish), and Salmon Creek (15 fish). Mike indicated that the Yakama Nation expressed interest to collect and tag adult lamprey at Priest Rapids Dam; however, the parties were unable to complete a Facility Use Agreement in time to collect adults. Mike said adult captures are starting to wane.

Mike said trap efficiency averaged about 30% this year. He indicated that trap efficiency varied widely during the trapping period (2-93% per night). So far, about 10,500 adult lamprey have passed Priest Rapids Dam; about 8,000 have passed Wanapum Dam. Next week, Mike will send the final trapping counts to Tracy Hillman for distribution to the PRFF.

Pat Wyena asked if the traps are set in the same place every year. Mike said yes. The location of the traps provides relatively high capture efficiencies and infrastructure is in place to support the trapping efforts.

Adult Lamprey Translocation – Ralph Lampman reported that the Yakama Nation translocated 200 adult lamprey into the Wenatchee River basin. They released 40 near the mouth of the river, 40 just downstream from Tumwater Dam, 60 in the lake just upstream from Tumwater Dam, and 60 near Plain (at the Chumstick Highway Bridge). All fish were collected from the lower Columbia River. The fish were PIT tagged and released last week. Ralph indicated that they will also release 200 adult lamprey into the Methow River basin on Friday. A total of 100 adults will be released near the mouth of the Methow River and 100 at the Chewuch River confluence. If there is a desire, additional lamprey can be translocated into the Okanogan River basin. Kirk Truscott recommended that Ralph coordinate with Paul Wagner. Ralph said 50 adults originally designated for release at the Chewuch River confluence were transported to Okanogan River tributaries: 25 into Salmon Creek and 25 into Omak Creek, with assistance from Colville Tribe staff. Members asked Ralph if he has a release plan for the Methow River. Ralph responded yes and said he will send the report to Tracy Hillman for distribution.

- B. **Other Pacific Lamprey Items** – None.

VI. Priest Rapids Dam

- A. **Update on Priest Rapids Dam Operations** – Mike Clement shared the latest information on Priest Rapids Dam drilling and inspections. He said drilling for drainage and inspection in the spillway monoliths at Priest Rapids Dam is complete. About 230 core samples have been extracted from the dam's grout gallery. The discovery of excess leakage due to a disbanded lift joint earlier this year resulted in the need for the drilling.

Crews are now installing additional instrumentation that will help detect monolith movements within the spillway. Thirty-seven new instruments are scheduled to be installed. The devices are intended to measure vertical movements of the monoliths as well as any displacements across the disbanded joint or at the foundation of the structure.

Installation of these devices is anticipated to last until early September. The placement of the new equipment, coupled with the existing surveillance and monitoring instruments and activities, will allow for additional data collection across the spillway.

Following the installation of the monitoring equipment, Grant PUD will seek Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval to remove the lower operating-level restriction that is currently in place for the Priest Rapids reservoir. The elevation of the reservoir was lowered by about three feet, which is still within the normal operating range, while inspection work took place. Priest Rapids Reservoir continues to be held at operating elevations between 484.5 to 481.5 feet above sea level. The maximum normal reservoir elevation is 488.0 feet.

Once FERC makes its decision, Grant PUD officials will determine what, if any, other remedies are needed beyond the drilling. Engineering staff will also examine factors that caused and led to the disbanded lift joint.

The drainage drilling reduced the pressure from the water inflow at the disbanded lift joint, while also allowing crews to determine the extent of leakage throughout the spillway monoliths

- VII. **Next Meeting:** 3 October 2018 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Wenatchee Office.