



Grant County **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

Priest Rapids Fish Forum

Wednesday, 3 February 2016
Grant PUD Wenatchee Office
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
FINAL MEETING MINUTES

PRFF Representatives

Stephen Lewis, USFWS
Bob Rose, YN
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Jason McLellan, CCT
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Orlene Hahn, Grant PUD

Patrick Verhey, Chad Jackson, WDFW
Pat McGuire, WDOE
Aaron Jackson, Carl Merkle, CTUIR
Keith Hatch, BIA
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Attendees

RD Nelle, USFWS
Doris Squeochs, Wanapum
Pat Wyena, Wanapum (via phone)
Jason McLellan, CCT (via phone)
Tracy Hillman, Facilitator

Steve Lewis, USFWS
Chris Mott, Grant PUD
Mike Clement, Grant PUD
Pat McGuire, WDOE
John Monahan, Grant PUD

Action Items:

1. Mike Clement will schedule a fish ladder tour at the beginning of March 2016.

Final Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Agenda Review:

- A. **Additional agenda items** – No additions were made to the agenda.

III. Meeting Minute approval – 6 January 2016 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved.

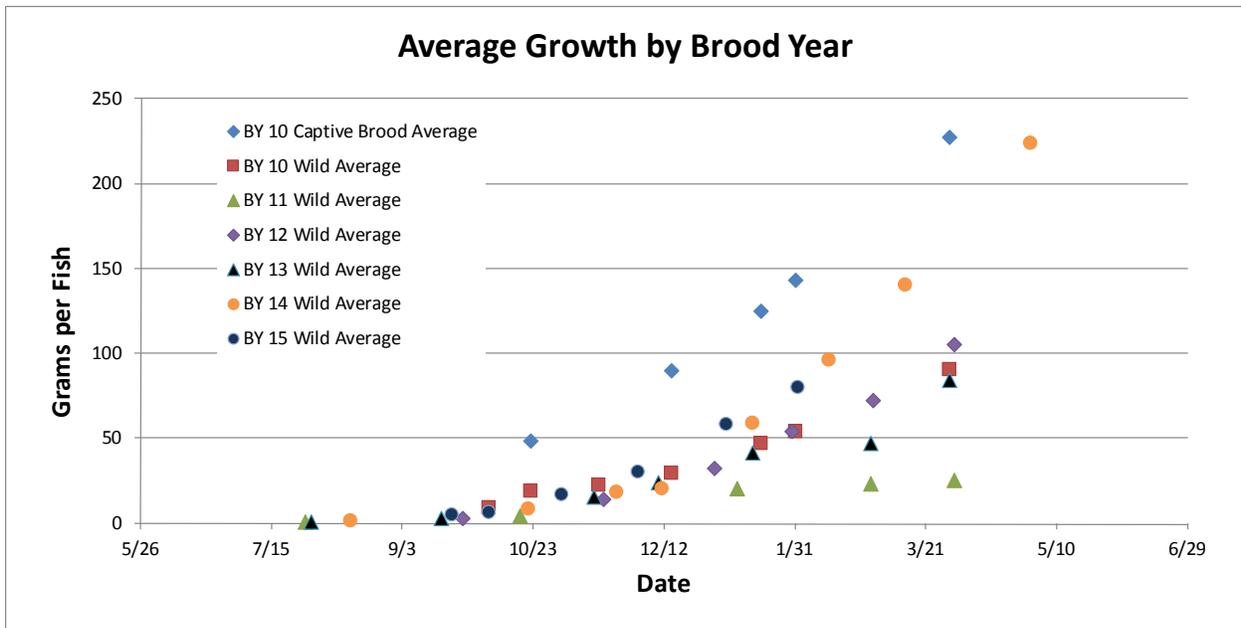
A. Review Action Items from January Meeting.

1. PRFF will review the draft report titled, "Pilot White Sturgeon Larvae Collection in Bonneville and The Dalles Reservoirs, Columbia River, 2015" and provide edits/comments to Chad Jackson by 29 January 2016. **Complete. Comments were provided.**
2. Mike Clement will summarize results contained within the draft 2015 lamprey monitoring report and share those results with the PRFF before the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup meeting on 19

January 2016. This was completed following 19 January meeting and will be available for the Subgroup meeting on 4 February 2016.

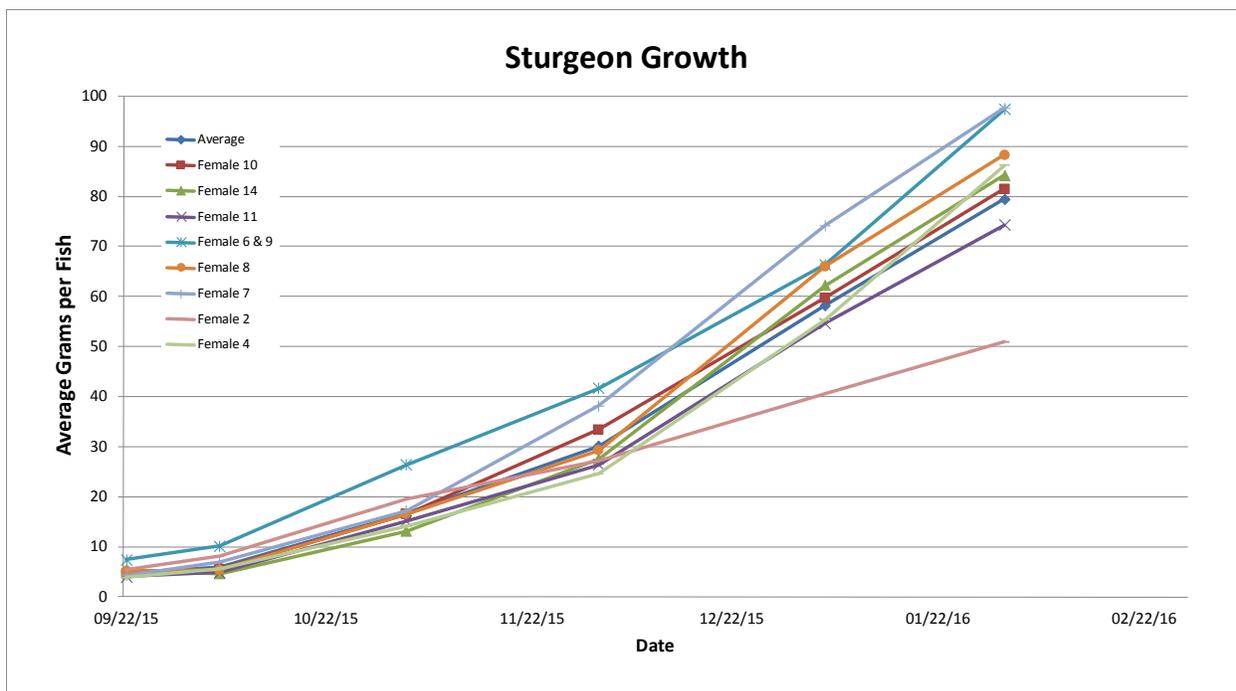
IV. Update on White Sturgeon Management Plan (WSMP)

A. **Update on Juvenile Rearing** – Chris Mott stated that he received an update on sturgeon rearing at Marion Drain from Donella Miller and sent it to Tracy Hillman. The fish are looking good and the size of the fish are moving in the right direction. Below is an updated figure showing the growth of juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain.



The growth of brood year 2015 sturgeon is consistent with other brood years.

In addition, Donella provided a figure showing the following growth information for juvenile sturgeon at Marion Drain.



B. Update from January Policy Conference Call

1. **Update from Sturgeon Modeling Group** – Tracy Hillman said that the Policy Representatives held a conference call on 15 January 2016. Tracy reviewed the topics addressed by the Policy members and stated that three different SOAs were prepared for discussion during the call. However, the day before the conference call it was brought to the Policy group's attention that the model used to project population growth was not behaving correctly. Recall that the model was used to help identify the stocking levels proposed in the SOAs. Tracy indicated that different people were running the model and coming up with different results. Although the Policy members were disappointed to find this out the day before the call, they believed it was a big enough issue to postpone discussion and voting on the proposed SOAs.

The Policy group agreed to form a small modeling group, consisting of Jason McLellan, Larry Hildebrand, Ray Beamesderfer, and Chad Jackson, to evaluate the population growth model. They indicated that other technical members could also participate in the modeling group. The Policy group identified the following assignments for the modeling group:

- Ensure that everyone is using the model consistently and that results from independent users are the same.
- Identify and agree to the data being used to populate the model, and identify and evaluate a reasonable range of survival values to be used in the model.
- Examine the effects of different stocking levels on allowable harvest (here harvest is defined as total catch, not harvest rate).

Tracy said that last week the modeling group met to address the assignments from the Policy group. The modeling group realized quickly that there were several different versions of the model available and not everyone was using the same version. Therefore, the group identified modifications to the model and developed the current version (version 4) of the complex model, which is being used by all parties. The complex model includes an updated harvest component. In addition, the modeling group used existing data from the upper, mid, and lower

Columbia River to identify a reasonable range of survival rates for age-1, 2, and 3+ sturgeon. In addition, they will model harvest rates of 10% and 20%. Golder will run the model using the various agreed upon rates and provide the Policy group with a summary report by Friday, 5 February. The Policy group will review the report and discuss it during their Wednesday, 10 February call. The Policy group will also identify a path forward for developing and accepting SOAs. The goal is to have approved SOAs by the end of the month.

C. Monitoring Updates

1. **Annual Monitoring Report** – Chris Mott stated that Grant PUD has the sturgeon monitoring report from Golder and that Grant is wrapping up a staff review and then there will be a management review. He stated that Grant PUD will have the report to the group no later than 16 February 2016. Chris also said that next week Golder will be in the project area for the side-scan sonar pilot evaluation. Paul Grutter is in a meeting today to decide which sites will be scanned. Tracy Hillman asked the Forum if there was a need for Golder to present their monitoring results to the Forum. The Forum decided that they would wait until after they review the monitoring report before asking Golder to give a presentation.

D. Other White Sturgeon Items – None.

V. Update on Pacific Lamprey Management Plan (PLMP)

A. NNI Update (No Net Impact)

1. **Subgroup Meeting** – Tracy Hillman reported that the Pacific Lamprey Subgroup met last month and put together a summary document that identified draft proposed adult NNI actions and non-NNI actions. He indicated that the purpose of the subgroup meeting tomorrow will be to complete the technical aspects associated with conducting the draft proposed actions and estimating the cost of implementing each proposed action. There was discussion about the use of juvenile lamprey to help with adult translocation efforts. For example, in the Okanogan River basin, water temperatures are too high to translocate adult lamprey into the Okanogan system during summer. Therefore, releasing juveniles into the recipient tributaries may attract adults released downstream from the recipient streams (pheromone hypothesis). RD Nelle noted that adults may move upstream without the presence of juveniles. He said they are finding adults moving into tributaries in the Umatilla and Yakima River basins that do not have juveniles.

The Forum talked about some of the monitoring items proposed in the draft NNI document. RD said they are still working on getting lamprey passage at Tumwater Dam and one way to assess passage is the use of radio telemetry. Currently, the Subgroup is considering using PIT tags and radio telemetry to identify lamprey spawning locations within tributaries and sonic tags to assess adult movement and habitat use in the reservoirs. Mike Clement stated that technology is a limitation. One technology may work better than another based on where and when it is used. FDX PIT tags can be used to estimate escapement into tributaries and identify which segments within tributaries adult lamprey reside. Active tags are needed to identify specific spawning locations.

- B. **Update on Adult Passage and Tagging Studies** – Mike Clement stated that the study plan for tagging adult lamprey in 2016 is similar to the plan implemented in 2015. He added that there is a short discussion in the plan describing the intent of the 2016 tagging studies. He said there will be another years of implementing 100 active tags and FDX PIT tags, combined with another test of the Priest Rapids left-bank adult ladder with 100-150 tagged adults. Tagging efforts will mirror 2015 efforts. Mike said that unless we glean significant results, he assumes that we would discontinue

active tag studies after 2016. He also stated that Grant PUD has verbally agreed to help Chelan PUD acquire adult lamprey for their tagging studies.

C. 2015 Draft Annual Comprehensive Report – Tracy Hillman reported that comments on the draft Comprehensive Report are due on 22 February 2016. Mike Clement said he will have more information to report after the fish ladder is dewatered in the next couple weeks. Mike will schedule a fish ladder tour in early March.

D. Other Pacific Lamprey Items – None.

VI. Update on Bull Trout

A. Mike Clement had nothing more to report from what he shared on this topic during the last meeting. He indicated that the Final Report has been submitted to Ecology for review.

VII. Next Meeting – 2 March 2016 at the Grant PUD Natural Resources Office in Wenatchee, WA.