

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
July 21, 2016
Meeting Notes

Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, COE, BPA, Nez Perce Tribe, Umatilla Tribe, Oregon, Idaho and others participated in today's SCT discussion chaired by Bill Hevlin, NOAA Fisheries. These notes are an official record of the conversation, not a verbatim transcript. Final SCT notes for past meetings are available on the TMT website under the FPOM link. The draft notes from the May 19 meeting will be finalized today and posted to the site.

2 Review Updated FY 2017 CRFM Spreadsheet

Randy Chong, COE, led a discussion of the updated FY17 CRFM spreadsheet. Hevlin reported that due to schedule conflicts, several members asked that the August 18 meeting be cancelled, so SCT agreed and will reconvene on September 15 in the Mt. St. Helens room at 9 am.

Since SCT last met, Chong added three new items to the FY17 spreadsheet:

#26. Avian wires at McNary, \$100,000 – This is a placeholder (see discussion on page 6).

#40. CRFM contribution to court-ordered FCRPS NEPA documentation and EIS, \$100,000 – This also is a placeholder; the true cost is unknown. The NEPA process will focus on changing operations to go outside of rule curves, and alternatives could emerge that are beyond Action Agency purview. The line item is mandatory so SCT did not score it.

#41. Feasibility study of cooling adult ladders throughout system, \$100,000 – This placeholder was added to the spreadsheet as a result of SCT discussion in May. On August 24, FFDRWG will have a special meeting to discuss temperature modeling on the lower Snake River.

SCT then discussed several line items of concern on the updated FY17 CRFM spreadsheet and continued the ranking process:

#20. Lower Granite juvenile bypass facility, phase 1B, \$3 million – This is mandatory so SCT did not score it. Based on feedback at a special FFDRWG meeting July 18, the COE is proceeding with option 3 which will delay relocation of the Lower Granite juvenile bypass until April 2018. Chong will adjust the estimate to reflect that a full-blown performance survival performance standards study will not be done in FY17. There will be a post-construction evaluation in FY18. It might be possible to fund both years of work with FY17 dollars. Oregon and Nez Perce Tribe representatives expressed concern about the delay.

#18. Lower Granite performance verification monitoring, \$7.275 million – Without the new juvenile bypass in place, the Lower Granite performance study will not be conducted in spring 2017 as planned. The FY17 estimate will drop dramatically as a result.

#3. Bonneville B2 fish guidance efficiency, \$350,000 – This mandatory effort is continuing. The project could extend beyond FY17 if FGE studies are inconclusive.

#4. Bonneville sluiceway PIT tag detection feasibility, \$100,000 –Oregon, NOAA, Nez Perce and Idaho representatives agreed this placeholder should fund efforts beyond feasibility analysis to include the design of an actual PIT detection system at BON. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 4
- NOAA – 5 (Funding should cover design)
- Oregon – 5 (Should be further along than just a feasibility study)
- Nez Perce – 5 (Same comment as Oregon and NOAA)
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 5 (Funding should cover design)
- COE – Defer (Wants to reinitiate consultation)

#5. Bonneville floating orifice gate closures, \$0 – This will be moved to the O&M budget. Several SCT members questioned the advisability of designating it as O&M because it might not get funded. The prospective cost is unknown. Ian Chane, COE Portland, said he will convey SCT's concerns regarding O&M funding to COE management. SCT scoring was deferred.

#6. Estuary avian predation, \$3.1 million – This line item covers meeting the requirements of the BiOp and a separate EIS management plan to reduce tern and cormorant predation in the estuary. Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- COE – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 3
- Nez Perce – 4
- Oregon – 3

#7. Estuary habitat studies, \$2.93 million –These studies focus on nutrients in restored vs. unrestored habitats, as well as what fish are eating as they move through the river system, Trevor Conder, NOAA, explained. It was noted that little is known about juvenile lamprey use of the estuary, with no data on lamprey use before estuary habitat restoration began. Nez Perce Tribe and Oregon representatives said an ecosystem-based study should include lamprey in its scope. Scores for this line item today were:

- Umatilla – 2
- NOAA – 3

- COE – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 2
- Nez Perce – 2 (An ecosystem-based study doesn't include sufficient information on Pacific lamprey life stages)
- Oregon – Defer (Until more information is available)

#8. Ice Harbor performance verification monitoring, \$6.43 million – Concern was expressed that this project is not well defined for such a big budget, and several SCT members deferred scoring until more is known about the scope. Trevor Conder, NOAA, asked whether a 50% operation at Ice Harbor would be worthy of study; Tom Lorz, Umatilla, said that makes sense and would probably save money. Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 0 (Do not fund as is)
- NOAA – Defer
- BPA – Defer
- Nez Perce – 0 (Do not fund as is)
- COE – Defer
- Idaho – Defer
- Oregon – Defer

#9. Ice Harbor turbine runner replacement, \$4.63 million – Several SCT members questioned this estimate as being too costly for a comparative review of how fish pass through fixed- and adjustable-blade units. There was agreement the work is important, but the estimate needs to be better defined. Including lamprey in the comparative assessment will require lamprey tagging technology, which should be available soon. Several SCT members said the analysis should be deferred until lamprey can be included. FFDRWG will continue this conversation. Scores were:

- NOAA – 4
- Nez Perce – Defer (Until lamprey can be included)
- BPA – 5
- Umatilla – 3 (Assuming the cost covers two years of testing)
- COE – 5
- Idaho – 3 (Wait until lamprey can be included)
- Oregon – Defer

#10. John Day north shore ladder entrance improvements, \$150,000 – This is mandatory because a contractor claim is in process. There could be an opportunity to fund the claim in FY17.

#11. John Day AMIP, adult PIT, \$650,000 – This follow-on work is already underway and will be finished in the FY16-17 in-water work window. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5

- Umatilla – 4
- Nez Perce – 5
- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – 5

#12. John Day avian wire array deficiency correction, \$600,000 – The estimate is preliminary and will be adjusted. This work is separate from O&M to replace existing bird wires. The reason it's being funded under CRFM is that the project is not sustainable as O&M. The wires, which were supposed to last for 10-15 years, failed within the first 5 years. Scores today were:

- Oregon – Defer (Wants more information about what's involved)
- Umatilla – 5 (This is the only way to performance-test the JDA wires)
- NOAA – 5 (It's a necessity)
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5 (It's needed for survival benefits)
- Idaho – 5
- Nez Perce – 5 (For potential lamprey benefits)

#13. Little Goose adjustable spillway weir SAEDC, \$500,000 – This line item is mandatory. The contract will be awarded in the next few weeks. Once completed, the modification will allow project operators to touch a button and move the ASW from the high-crest to the low-crest position and anywhere in between. The resulting ability to alter spill will provide enormous benefits for adult passage.

#14. Little Goose evaluation of data and alternatives for meeting summer performance standards, \$0 – The COE has no plans to do summer performance testing this year, Chong said.

#15. Little Goose spillway boat barrier, \$1.6 million – Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 3
- Idaho – 3
- Oregon – 3
- Nez Perce – 2
- COE – 5

#16. Little Goose adult ladder temperature mitigation, \$2.25 million – This line item will fund a temporary temperature mitigation system for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 passage seasons. Scores today were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- Idaho – Defer (Wants to see how well the rental pumps at Goose work when it's hot)

- Oregon – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Umatilla – 4 (Would be 5 with a guarantee that funds will be available next year)

#17. Lower Granite spillway PIT tag detection, \$5 million – Scores today were:

- Oregon – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- BPA – 4
- COE – 4
- Idaho – 5

#18. Lower Granite performance verification monitoring/post-construction evaluation, \$7.275 million – The COE’s goal is to award a contract next summer so construction can begin in the spring of FY18. There was general agreement that this item is not well defined, and a post-construction evaluation in 2018 might turn out to be less costly than the estimate. Scores were:

- NOAA – Defer (Wants to see how things progress)
- BPA – Defer (Wants to see how things progress)
- Umatilla – 0 (Same comment as for #8. Ice Harbor performance verification monitoring)
- Nez Perce – 0 (Agrees with Umatilla)
- Idaho – Defer
- Oregon – Defer (Score will be low)
- COE – Defer (It will be important to test this)

#21. Lower Granite surface passage modification, \$400,000 – The goal is to make the removable weir at Granite stowable. Work will start with testing minimal fixes, such as changing valves or programming. As it stands, the weir would probably be destroyed if it had to be submerged during a flood. Hevlin suggested adding this topic to the upcoming FFDRWG meeting agenda. Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 1 (Concerned about ongoing costs)
- NOAA – 4
- COE – 5
- Idaho – 1
- Oregon – Defer (Clarify impacts to juvenile and adult passage)
- Nez Perce – Defer

#22. Lower Granite post construction evaluation of adult ladder temperature improvements, \$220,000 – This line item will add another year of monitoring and evaluation to the existing contract. Scores were:

- Oregon – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Idaho – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- BPA – Defer (Not sure what it covers)
- COE – 5

#23. Lower Granite spillway boat barrier, \$1.85 million – SCT members agreed to give this line item the same scores they gave #15. Little Goose spillway boat barrier:

- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 3
- Idaho – 3
- Oregon – 3
- Nez Perce – 2
- COE – 5

#24. McNary TSW closure leaf seals, \$300,000 – This funding covers the design of new closure leaf seals that are needed as a result of modifications for fish passage. Scores today were:

- COE – 4
- Idaho – 3
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – Defer
- Umatilla – 3
- BPA – 4
- NOAA – 3

#26. McNary avian array feasibility study, \$100,000 – This placeholder would pay for a feasibility study of installing bird wires at McNary. Concerns have been raised at FPOM about bird predation at the outfall and whether hazing alone is a sufficient deterrent. Gary Fredricks, NOAA, and Tom Lorz, Umatilla, agreed that hazing may not be enough; hazing by boat has been ineffective at the outfall. Increased hazing and bird wires may both be needed to achieve the dissuasion goals of the FPP and BiOp. Scores today were:

- NOAA – 3 (Pending feasibility investigation)
- Umatilla – 4
- BPA – 3
- Idaho – 4
- Oregon – Defer (Wants more information)
- Nez Perce – 3
- COE – Defer

#27. Lower River BiOp performance standards testing, \$300,000 – These funds will pay to finish downsizing the JSATs tag; Chong will change the title to “JSATs downsizing efforts.”

#28. Lower River BiOp performance standards testing – PIT trawl, \$1.43 million – This estimate covers JSATs testing only. Lorz said he will follow up on problems with lithium battery leakage that have been reported. He suggested adding downsized JSATs tags to the next FFDRWG agenda and specified that the line item involves downsizing tags for smaller salmon, not for lamprey. The work is mandatory so SCT did not score it.

#28. Lower river PIT trawl, \$1.45 million – This covers detection at the PIT trawl, not performance standards testing. Jointly funded by BPA and CRFM, the PIT trawl will help determine reach survival rates from Bonneville. Scores today were:

- Umatilla – 2
- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- Idaho – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – 3
- COE – 4

#29. Avian island PIT detection, \$450,000 – This effort is part of the EIS management plan. Scores were:

- NOAA – 4
- COE – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- Nez Perce – 4
- Oregon – 3
- Idaho – 4
- BPA – 3

#30. Turbine survival program, \$300,000 – The scope of this work is more limited than it used to be. Scores today were:

- NOAA – 3
- COE – 4
- BPA – 5
- Umatilla – 3
- Idaho – 3
- Oregon – Defer for now
- Nez Perce – 2

#31. Snake River intake gate closure, reinstate 10-minute criteria, \$250,000 – When the gates at Little Goose were raised to improve fish guidance efficiency, they were no longer in compliance

with the COE's 10-minute closure criteria for dam safety. A field test will help determine whether there's a significant difference between having the gates down vs. in the raised position. Structural alternatives that might cost less than the estimate are being considered. Scores were:

- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- NOAA – 3
- Umatilla – Defer
- Oregon – 1 (Same score as last year)
- Nez Perce – 2
- Idaho – 2

#32. Snake River adult sockeye passage initiatives, \$350,000 – SCT agreed to postpone scoring this until FFDWRG meets in August.

#35. Inland avian management plan, \$625,000 – The estimate has gone up recently. It covers post-construction modeling for avian management in the Columbia basin and at Don Edwards Island in San Francisco. Scores today were:

- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- Idaho – 4
- COE – 5
- Oregon – 3
- BPA – 5
- Nez Perce – Defer

4. Upcoming FFDRWG and SRWG meeting dates

- **August 24** – Walla Walla FFDRWG subgroup meeting to discuss modeling of lower Snake River water temperatures
- **August 25** – Next Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting

5. Next SCT Meeting

SCT will meet next on September 15 to finish scoring the FY 2017 CRFM spreadsheet. These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Bill Hevlin	NOAA
Randy Chong	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Gary Fredricks	NOAA
Ian Chane	COE

Dave Statler
Tom Lorz
Trevor Conder

Nez Perce Tribe
CRITFC/Umatilla
NOAA

Phone:

Erick Van Dyke
Russ Kiefer
Derek Fryer

Oregon
Idaho
COE Walla Walla