

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 26 April 2023 WFPOM meeting. The meeting was held via WebEx and call in.

1. Introductions and agenda updates

Last Name	First Name	Email
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Wertheimer	Bob	Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil
Ziller	Jeff	Jeffrey.S.ZILLER@odfw.oregon.gov

2. Approve W-FPOM minutes (February)

Review of the minutes ongoing.

3. Action Items – None**4. Updates****4.1. North Santiam**

4.1.1. Marion Forks Hatchery (Grenbemer) - Some mortality in the CH, they were given two rounds of Thiamin treatments and fish responded well, plan to put them outside next week.

4.1.1.1. Marion Creek intake – (Wertheimer) No update

4.3.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. Pierce - Emergency propane generator is out of service; a tech will trouble shoot it. Down to two FWS pumps at the facility to operate the facility. Order has been finalized for two VFDs. One will be installed immediately. Post sort pool liners needed to be remade and will be shipped soon.

4.4. Middle Fork

4.4.1. Willamette Hatchery (Peck) – Rainbow going out every week. Trying to get CH up to size, fish are smaller than usual due to the cooler temps. Marking starts next month.

4.4.2. Dexter Fish Facility (Peck) – No smolts, all dried up.

4.4.2.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. No update.

4.4.3. Fall Creek Fish Facility (Garletts) – Opened the facility 17 April, collection -31 winter StW translocated (11 males 20 females) upstream of impoundment.

4.4.3.1. Maintenance activities needed or recently completed. No update.

4.5. Bull trout and Oregon Chub (Taylor) – No updates. Waiting on contracting.

4.6. WFFDWG/Research updates (Laird) – No updates.

4.7. Water Quality updates (S. Hart) – Tackley – A little elevated TDG due to spill ops for the injunction, working with NMFS to balance the two objectives.

4.8. BPA updates – No update.

4.9. Pinniped Updates – Reis - Boat surveys from Willamette Falls to the Columbia River observed 1 ZCA and 1 EJU at Willamette Falls, 1 EJU at St Johns Bridge Cathedral Park area as of April 21. Wertheimer– There are over 70 in the BON tailrace and they are not hauling out on the traps. Hypothesis is they are following the Eulachon run. Working on other methods of capture.

5. HGMP BiOp T&Cs

5.1. Production and Biometrics – included in the hatchery production contracts.

5.2. Use of natural origin broodstock.

5.3. Bennett Counts (ODFW) – 310 winters, 3 summer steelhead.

5.4. Lebanon Counts (USACE) Wertheimer – Pit tag array is up, partially working. MOA needs to be developed. Unsure how the injunction will affect the ability to do counts.

5.5. Leaburg Counts (EWEB/USACE) – Ziller said count system is semi functional. Camera issues causing recording problems. Need a more efficient count system.

5.6. Reducing pHOS in the McKenzie River - Leaburg sorter – Ziller – conducting interviews, plan to start up first part of June depending on fish numbers.

5.7. Improving broodstock holding at Willamette Hatchery

5.8. Analyze steelhead genetics (ODFW)

5.9. Assess future effects of hatchery summer steelhead in the North and South Santiam Rivers. (ODFW)

5.10. Assess genetic pedigree of Chinook salmon (up to 2019 and then every five years after) – No update. It's on Ida's radar.

5.11. Assess salmon spawning above federal dams

5.12. Adaptively manage hatchery salmon outplanting above federal dams.

5.13. Willamette Chinook Salmon Database.

5.14. Three-year report for NMFS SFD. Report due 2022. The report has been submitted to NMFS previously. Reis asked if the report was distributed to this group. Reis will distribute the report.

6. Willamette Valley Production Contracts

6.1. Willamette Hatcheries (Wertheimer) – option year awarded. Number of mods being worked. Couture said removing otolith marking component could be helpful. Wertheimer would like to check with NMFS to see if removing otolith marking is a viable option.

6.2. Trout Production (Wertheimer) - need to award last option year by 30 September. Going out for bid after last option year award.

7. **Coordination/Notification forms (need concurrence/discussion)**

Ongoing:

7.1. 21CGR02 Cougar Butterfly Valve Replacement (2024?) -No updates/comments

7.2. 22DEX02 MOC Fish Facility Rebuild IWW periods – No comments

7.3. 23WVP01 FY23 FW budget shortfall – Pierce said once Bull Trout contract is in place funds for other facilities will be clearer.

New:

7.4. 23BCL01 MFR Circuit Breaker XJ31 Outage returned on 21st at 8:23. Full repair to be done during July outage.

9. **Task Group/PDT Updates.**

9.1. Willamette Valley Operational Fish Passage Measures (PDT) – Operations identified under the injunction. Fall creek delayed refill, holding at elevation 728, tracking inflows and fish pass info to start refill most likely early May. Big cliff gas abatement and spill. Cougar delay refill continues keeping it at 1520 through mid-May. Refill to 1571 to use water temp control tower weirs. Foster delayed until Memorial Day prioritizing spillway use fish weir for temp management. Green Perter hit a month ago may prolong spill operation beyond 10 May. RT study fish got sick were not able to be used. Lookout Point free flowing ungated spill. Gates out of the water at after 30 days gated spill. Also spilling at Dexter. Storing water at Detroit for coming spill in mid-May. Deep drawn down at Green Peter and Lookout this fall, starting the gradual drawdowns through the summer. Green Peter screw trapping is still on going. Cramer is getting ready to release fry this spring, they will be PIT with 8mm tags.

9.2. Green Peter Out planting Task Group – New 2023 contract is being created. Trout stocking and rainbow get released above screw trapping. Entrained rainbow trout can get into the traps. Need to coordinate release or perhaps release downstream instead of upstream. Need better coordination opportunities.

Elise said dependent on release locations, sometimes they release off bridges. At the campground release areas Elise didn't feel that would affect the screw traps.

Trachtenberg said Breitenbush and Santiam are the sites that needed coordination. They could raise the trap to avoid entraining rainbows.

Elise said they will ensure the daily release schedule and updates are made available.

9.2.1. Quartzville Creek Trout stocking discussion (21P0130). Wertheimer – The PPT. will be posted. USACE has concerns of the impacts of trout stocked at Quartzville Creek and the effect on the injunction fish, though there is a NMFS evaluation and ESA coverage.

Wertheimer - USACE should not be directing an action that creates a take. There are several potential take issues associated with trout stocking.

Elise – Said that showing the trout in the photo creates bias and that the fish's size is likely reflective of it eating dead, moribund, or injured fish that have passed the dam. ODFW has done several things to mitigate hatchery trout effects on juvenile Chinook. Look at Detroit reservoir and what's happening there. There is no evidence of that a significant impact is occurring from hatchery trout on juvenile Chinook.

There are thousands of juvenile Chinook in the reservoir every spring. Hatchery trout are not super piscivorous right out of the hatchery.

Wertheimer – Clarify that he did not say a significant impact but a potential impact. Why is an action agency directing an action that may have potential take. As far as additive versus compensatory likely that some of those fish that pass may be alive.

Elise – Warm water fish and pikeminnow have more of an outsized impact of predation on juvenile CH than trout do. Outplantings into Quartzville Creek are covered under the hatchery BiOp.

Lance said - Evaluate effects of action on the ground, have been evaluating all the stocking and releases and determined that stocking does not jeopardize juvenile CH and winter steelhead. Take is occurring and is covered in the ESA. Action is aligned with the goals.

Wertheimer – Said, the document was a living document and is evolving and asked when the next review would be done.

Lance said - Next status review is occurring right now.

Couture said - Winter steelhead have little to no overlap with the trout stocking.

Other impacts may be more impactful than that of the trout program.

Wertheimer - Said rainbows move around a lot, have no site fidelity, and move throughout the system.

Couture – Said, the signature of hatchery rainbows in NOR in winter steelhead in the upper Willamette shows the potential of hybridization is extremely low and evidence indicates it is from historic, rather than recent, planting practices.

Ziller - Said triploid trout don't survive the winter. Impact minimized in 4-6 weeks because they are caught, they are designed for a short-term fishery.

Romer – Said, no biological or legal justification for Wertheimer's opinion

Lance – Said, older reports from the first BiOp could be reviewed as they were more focused on the trout issues.

Lance – Said, a CH paper highlighted Clackamas spring CH increases. Could dig into this information and look at what's working there.

Wertheimer - asked Lance to share this paper.

9.3. Safety and Environmental corrections (PDT)

9.4. Hatchery Non-routine maintenance/repairs (PDT)

9.5. McKenzie Water Supply Task Group/PDT – Update will be posted.

10. Fish Operations Plan: WFOP homepage:

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/WFOP/