

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER )  
Steering Team Meeting  
April 13, 2017**

[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/)

**Facilitator’s Summary**

<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom?</b>	<b>By When?</b>
Incorporate agreed on changes to 3/17 meeting summary	Emily	4/20/17
Provide written response to Issue 1 and spreadsheet analysis to DSC to send to Steering Team.	Ian	4/20/17
Draft Issue 2 briefing memo (and Issue 3 if needed); provide to Steering Team for review prior to the April 25 <sup>th</sup> Managers Forum meeting.	Ian	4/20/17
Talk with Kevin regarding details to share at the MF meeting re: Corps’ funding process.	Ian & Joyce	4/21/17
Meet to discuss options for research at Green Peter in 2017/2018; report back to ST. If no resolution, elevate Issue 3 to the Managers on April 25 <sup>th</sup> .	Ian, Joyce, & Marc	4/20/17
Coordinate a workshop on MF HOR alternative.	Corps & DSC	Fall 2017 (?)
Incorporate the Steering Team’s edits to the planning schedule and present it to the Managers at their April 25 <sup>th</sup> meeting.	Rich	4/20/17
Incorporate Steering Team’s edits to the WATER Guidelines; provide approved version to the Managers on April 25 <sup>th</sup> .	DSC	4/17/17
Look into lunch options for the Managers meeting.	DSC	4/21/17

***In the room:*** Joyce Casey (USACE), Ian Chane (USACE), Bernadette Graham-Hudson (ODFW), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Rich Piaskowski (USACE), Dan Spear (BPA), Karl Weist (NPCC);

***Participants on the Phone:*** Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde Tribe)

***Facilitation and Notes Team:*** Donna Silverberg and Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

**Welcome, introductions, & housekeeping**

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg, welcomed the Steering Team, noting that the goal for the day’s session is to finalize the Managers’ Forum agenda, including identifying any issues that need to be elevated, the Middle Fork Critical Path document, and the WATER Guidelines. Donna reminded the Steering Team that, at their December meeting, the Managers requested that the Steering Team bring them a ‘near final’ draft of the Guidelines to approve.

The Steering Team approved the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting summary, pending clarification that the meeting was not a joint RM&E and Steering Team meeting (all 1s and 2s using the Five Fingers of Consensus).

**Updates & Process Check-in**

The Corps updated the Steering Team on the status of their written responses to the three RM&E issues elevated in October:

**Issue #1: ongoing analysis and reporting of paired-release returning adults:** At the November Steering Team meeting, the Corps explained that they will not fund the interim reporting on the paired release, however, they will provide the annual dataset to the region for their information. The Corps has prepared a written response that will be sent out with the session's meeting summary, along with the 2016 spreadsheet analysis.

→ **ACTION:** Ian will provide the written response and spreadsheet analysis to DS Consulting to send to the Steering Team.

**Issue 2: Annual parentage analysis, spawning surveys and screw-trapping:** The Corps acknowledged that this work is important for the region. They have been discussing funding options internally and with BPA, however, at this point have not been able to find a source of funding for the work. Donna pointed out that according to the WATER Guidelines (as drafted) this is an issue that should be passed up to the Managers for resolution, as the Steering Team has determined that it is an important need for the region, however, after months of consideration, no resolution has been identified. It was noted that the Managers may have other staff and/or resources to use to address the issue. **The Steering Team agreed to elevate issue 2 to the Managers at their April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

→ **ACTION:** Issue 2 (Annual parentage analysis, spawning surveys and screw-trapping) will be elevated to the Managers Forum on April 25<sup>th</sup>, as the Steering Team has deemed it an important effort that does not fit within the available funding sources. Ian will draft a briefing memo for the Managers; he will provide the memo to the Steering Team for review prior to the Managers Forum meeting.

Stephanie noted that although the Corps has said that there is not funding for the screw trapping studies requested by many at the RM&E Team, and that O&M funds would have to be acquired for this type of long-term monitoring, NMFS received a take request for Corps operated screw traps. She continued that these screw traps were not prioritized by the RM&E Team and that the differing response from the Corps in regards to funding the same type of work is worrisome. Joyce and Ian acknowledged the impact and optics and noted that this was an internal communication issue: the Project was staffed up and ready to run the PFFC and when that effort was deemed unnecessary, the Project shifted efforts to screw trapping. Internally, the Corps Portland District had not shared with the Project the ongoing RM&E discussions regarding funding transparently and screw trapping. Stephanie suggested that the Project staff attend the RM&E Team meetings so that they are kept in the loop.

**Ian, Joyce, and Rich agreed to work internally to improve communication between the Portland District and Project staff to make sure that the Corps is speaking with one voice. They will also circle back to the RM&E Team at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Ian and Joyce also explained that the funding for the Corps' screw trapping effort are allocated to the Project for us at the project's discretion (hence the missed communication between the Project and Portland District). Ian noted that the only O&M funds at the Portland District are the hatchery related funds; all other O&M funds are directly allocated to the Project operation.

Donna noted that it would be helpful for Kevin to provide explanation on this shift in funding allocation when he presents the Corps' funding process at the Managers' Forum meeting. Joyce and Ian will provide this input to Kevin.

→ **ACTION:** Connect with Kevin regarding additional funding process details that would be helpful to share at the Managers' Forum meeting.

**Issue 3: Green Peter outplanting, parentage, spawning surveys and screw trapping:** The Steering Team recapped that in March, NMFS provided a draft memo to the Corps stating that research at Green Peter is

a necessary part of the current BiOp and should be implemented as such. The Corps agreed to provide comments back to NMFS; however, due to time out of the office and a heavy workload, they have not done so yet. Stephanie noted that the RM&E Team needs to know ASAP if they can move forward with studies at Green Peter in FY17 or FY 18. Joyce suggested that she is hopeful that a conversation between the Corps and NMFS around needs and interests may help them look at the problem differently and increase the likelihood of “getting to yes”. Joyce, Ian, and Marc agreed to meet to discuss options, if they are unable to find resolution, Issue 3 will be elevated to the Managers on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

→ **ACTION:** Joyce, Ian, and Marc will meet the week of April 17th to discuss options for research at Green Peter in 2017/2018; if they are unable to find resolution, Issue 3 will be elevated to the Managers on April 25<sup>th</sup>. They will report back to the Steering Team on their conversation and/or issue elevation by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dan noted that the teams have taken a long look at the CRFM funding and know the hard edges of those funding parameters and have also had several side conversations on this issue. While BPA’s Fish and Wildlife program is fully allocated it may be possible for Oregon to look into their portfolio under the Fish and Wildlife Program to look for opportunities to reallocate existing funds towards high priorities such as the annual spawning surveys. He reiterated his offer to bring someone into the Steering Team to provide a description of the funds, noting that he has heard that there are not funds available at this time, but that it may be helpful to have a better understanding or possibly see if existing funds could be reallocated. Karl noted that he has reviewed the Fish and Wildlife funds and echoed that there is nothing available at this time, but it would be worth people looking at and understanding the funding stream.

Rich suggested a need for more discussion on what is needed at Green Peter and by when, as well as what the decision points are. Marc briefly noted that initial research at Green Peter will inform the long-term sequencing of studies to clarify the sideboards for a reintroduction plan. He noted that the trend for listed spring Chinook is decreasing; there are fewer now than when listed. Marc noted that the region needs to pay attention to this because, if the trend continues, it will lead to up-listing.

#### **Middle Fork RM&E Plan: Critical Path**

Dan reported back on the sub-group meeting planned at the March Steering Team meeting. He shared that the RM&E Team developed a version of a timeline that incorporated Chuck’s efforts with more specific RM&E details and that this revision seemed to meet the needs of the group. The sub-group thought that both versions are helpful: the broad approach for the Managers and the detailed approach for the Technical Teams.

Rich walked the Steering Team through the detailed timeline, noting that it displays passage alternatives, key information needed to evaluate the alternatives, and how the alternatives are compared and rolled into EDR and DDR. He noted that there is significant agreement between NMFS and the Corps on most of the timeline; however, they still need to discuss HOR and construction feasibility and biological benefits. Rich suggested a workshop aimed at discussing the state of the knowledge, clarifying what information is needed, defining the evaluation objectives and approach, and then next steps (e.g. a prototype?). **The group thought a joint workshop was a good approach.**

→ **ACTION:** DS Consulting will help the Corps coordinate a workshop with WATER teams to discuss HOR options and needs.

Rich continued that this timeline provides a general approach and the region will still need to manage adaptively. For instance, the hydrology this year may have an impact on the research and associated information, so some things may need to shift accordingly. He suggested that the region likely would refine the chart in 2019 and 2021 because 2021 is a key decision point. Additionally, in 2021, the Corps

will have to ask for a total project cost increase, or they will not get the funding or ‘go ahead’ to move forward in time. Furthermore, per the regional executive’s agreement, the “lessons learned” from Cougar will need to be incorporated before passage is designed at the Middle Fork. **[Note: The Steering Team noted that it would also be helpful to hear from BPA, Corps, and NMFS managers regarding their executives’ decision to do adaptive management on the projects and construction.]**

Stephanie asked whether the EDR and DDR could be moved up to 2019 if there is clear data pointing to one or two alternatives over another. The Corps stressed that the Cougar ‘lessons learned’ needs to be incorporated in that discussion and data is not expected until 2023-2025. However, the Corps noted that the request could be made. The Action Agencies stressed the need for success with passage at Cougar in order to move forward with any other high head passage project. The group agreed to add another row on the chart signaling the EDR/DDR discussion timeline and will note uncertainty of the agreements that executives made regarding Cougar. With this addition, the Team agreed to present the detailed timeline to the Managers on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

- **AGREEMENT:** The Steering Team agreed that Rich will make changes noted to the detailed planning schedule and then it represents the RM&E plan for the Middle Fork. They also agreed to present this version to the Managers on April 25<sup>th</sup>. (All 1’s and 2s using the Five Fingers of Consensus.)
- **ACTION:** Rich will incorporate the Steering Team’s edits to the planning schedule and will present it (with Marc) to the Managers at their April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Marc thanked everyone for their effort on this schedule, noting that it condensed a lot of information clearly and is helpful.

### **Next Steps for Sub-Basin RM&E Plans**

Emily noted that the RM&E Team is continuing to flesh out the RM&E charts that were initiated at the joint February RM&E and Steering Teams meeting. They have identified the concepts to develop for the South Santiam in FY 18. Moving forward, they will do the same for the North Santiam, McKenzie and mainstem if needed. The Steering Team suggested the following priority order for developing sub-basin plans:

1. South Santiam
2. McKenzie
3. North Santiam
4. RM&E team decides where the Willamette Mainstem system plan fits in.

**All supported the end goal: to incorporate the charts and associated concepts into a RM&E Plan similar to the one being developed for the Middle Fork Sub-Basin.**

### **Update on Status of Reintroduction Plans**

Bernadette reported that ODFW has generated an outline of what will be included in the Reintroduction Plans and their next step is to sit down with NMFS to develop the outline. They will be developing plans for both spring Chinook and winter steelhead. It was suggested that the reintroduction plans could follow the same priority order as the sub-basin RM&E plans. **Bernadette noted that ODFW will likely create the plans concurrently with the RM&E plans and will make sure to fold the reintroduction plan needs into the RM&E discussions and plans.**

### **WATER Guidelines**

As requested, DS Consulting incorporated the region’s edits into the revised WATER Guidelines and provided them back to the Steering Team for review and consensus on next steps. The group discussed

the Guidelines, noting that there still remains a need to: hold each other accountable for implementing the Guidelines, clarify the dispute resolution process; and note that the Guidelines are a living document which may can be revised in the future to adapt to the group's needs.

The group discussed the purpose of WFPOM and some expressed that, currently, WFPOM is primarily a report out, is repetitive and, as such, it is unnecessary to include WATER members those meetings. As a way to keep a link between WATER and WFPOM, it was suggested that Tammy Macke join the Steering Team meetings. **Ian and Joyce said they would take this idea back to the Corps and Tammy to see what shifts they could make to meet the WATER partners' needs.**

The group provided some edits to the Guidelines, which DS Consulting will incorporate. It was agreed that the short turn-around on the latest draft made it tough for team members to feel they could adequately respond. As such, **Steering Team members requested another look to clarify additional changes needed before they could either "enthusiastically support" or find the document to be "fine" (a 1 or 2 on the Five Fingers of Consensus). Once this has occurred, DS Consulting will provide them (noting the Steering Team's recommendation for approval) to the Managers for approval at their April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.** The group also agreed that, although this has been a long and many versioned process, it had provided good opportunities for discussion and clarification about needed process enhancements that, if followed, will lead to positive results. The group is looking forward to discussing more actions and less plans/procedures in the near future.

→ **ACTION:** DS Consulting will incorporate the Steering Team's edits and provide a revised version to them by COB, Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Team will clarify any additional edits needed by end of day on Wed April 19<sup>th</sup> in order for them to support the document with a "1" or "2" on the Five Fingers of Consensus. DS Consulting will send the last version to the Managers by Thursday April 20, 2017.

### **Preparation for the Managers' Forum Session**

Donna provided a draft agenda for the April 25<sup>th</sup> Managers' Forum meeting, noting that she had talked with NMFS, BPA, Corps, and ODFW Managers to make sure that their issues were on the agenda. Donna asked if there were any other items that need to be on the agenda. It was noted that Issue 2 will be bumped up to the Managers and that Issue 3 may be as well. Ian will provide briefing memos on the issues bumped up.

→ **ACTION:** Ian will draft briefing memos on Issue 2 and if needed, Issue 3 to inform the Managers discussion.

Marc followed up on his suggestion of having Meta Loftsgaarden present information about the Willamette Initiative at an upcoming Managers Forum meeting; Donna noted that she contacted Meta and neither the April or September dates work for her. Marc suggested inviting Allison Hensey (Meyer Memorial Trust) instead since it actually is their program.

Finally, the group thought that it might be nice to bring food in for a joint lunch after the meeting. Donna will follow up on this idea and respond accordingly.

### **Next Steps**

The Steering Team will prepare for the Managers Forum meeting by: preparing briefing memos for the issues elevated, clarifying whether Issue 3 needs to be elevated, updating the Middle Fork planning schedule, and providing edits and, hopefully, approval to the Guidelines. DS Consulting will continue coordination efforts for the Managers meeting.

The RM&E sub-basin plans will continue to be developed, with a workshop regarding the HOR operations on the Middle Fork. Reintroduction plans will be developed concurrently with the RM&E plans.

**The next Steering Team meeting will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-5:00 at the DS Consulting Office.**