

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Steering Team Meeting
April 3, 2018**

http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/

Facilitator's Summary

ACTION	By Whom	By When
Check to see if the Steelhead Hybridization Study review comments can be shared with the Steering Team.	Rich	ASAP
Review and discuss the Steelhead Hybridization Study and review comments.		May 1, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Send NMFS template regarding FY19 RM&E needs to Leslie and DS Consulting.	Diana	ASAP
Provide the 3/22/18 Summary with Tracked Changes and the NMFS Template to Leslie, Dan, Rich and Kelly.	DS Consulting	ASAP
Meet as a small group to revise Joint RM&E/Steering Team charts and provide to the RM&E/Steering Teams. Leslie will call the small group together.	Leslie, Dan, Rich and Kelly	Before April 26, 2018 RM&E Team Meeting
Review revised Joint RM&E/Steering Team charts.	Steering Team Members	Before April 26, 2018 RM&E Team Meeting
Provide a status report regarding Green Peter and the Federal Family's approach to the BiOp and the decision regarding whether to re-initiate consultation.	Joyce	May 1, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Provide a status report regarding Lookout Point memorandum on authority and Federal Family review.	Joyce	May 1, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Email Dan Spear regarding his questions on the Steelhead Status Update provided at the 3-2-18 Managers Forum.	Diana	ASAP
Consult with attorneys regarding the management needs for measuring progress and the suggested topics of review for the Progress Tracking Report.	NMFS, BPA, Corps	May 1, 2018 Steering Team Meeting
Share the revetment report with the Steering Team and the Habitat Technical Team.	Ian	ASAP
Invite Melissa Jundt and Keith Kirkendall present to Steering Team on High Head passage projects.	DS Consulting	ASAP

Participants in the Room: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Joyce Casey (USACE), Ian Chane (USACE), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Kahn (USACE), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Karl Weist (NPCC).

Participants on the Phone: Bernadette Graham-Hudson (ODFW), Tammy Mackey (USACE), Ann Mullan (NOAA), Rich Piaskowski (USACE), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Dan Spear (BPA).

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg, **Summary:** Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting

Review of Meeting Summaries:

Steering Team members discussed additional edits proposed by NMFS to the February 20th and March 9th summaries. The February 20 summary was approved with edits, including the following edit to the first sentence under the topic of Authority Issues re: LOP Deep Drawdown will be revised as follows: *Joyce Casey, Corps, reported that after much discussion, review of authorities, and after consulting with Corps and BPA counsel, Kevin Brice determined that they do not have authority to implement an operation that dips into the power pool at Lookout Point (LOP).* This reflects and is consistent with what had previously been reported at the 1/30/18 Steering Team meeting.

The March 9 summary was approved, with the following sentences added to the topic relating to CRFM funding (page 2): *Marc generally agreed and noted that the Corps’ definition of what is necessary to inform an action excludes many studies that are otherwise called for in the RPA, or that are supportive of RPA objectives. [Facilitator’s Note: At the April 3, 2018 Steering Team meeting, Marc asked that the March 9 summary include the following examples of studies that have not been funded: genetic analysis to determine origin of fish returning to dams; long-term monitoring of juvenile outmigration, adult spawning, and pre-spawning mortality; evaluation of potential revetment removal/modification; and studies to inform actions in the next BiOp.]*

RM&E/Steering Team Joint Discussion – Full System RM&E Needs for FY19

RM&E Team members joined Steering Team members for this portion of the meeting and resumed their joint discussion regarding system-wide RM&E needs for FY19. Their discussion is reflected in the following table:

[Facilitator’s Note: Rather than provide edits to this table, NMFS provided their own FY19 summary RM&E needs table, attached as a separate document to this summary]

Topic	Questions	Information/Research needed to answer
Mainstem Flows	Are flow targets adequate? Can we optimize for life stages? Mainstem and tributaries – what is limiting?	Do we have enough RM&E? What more is needed? What is the schedule for flow? What are the limiting effects?
Mainstem Habitat Use	What is the system response to flows? Do we need to change flows to positively impact habitat? How do fish use flood plain habitat? Can we help them more? Include Steelhead	How much habitat is available? What are the thermal regimes/relationship? Is the habitat used?
Migratory Timing	Where do juveniles go in the system? How can we modify flows and habitat to assist them?	Logistics: How many PIT tag arrays are needed? Where? Calibration? Are the other outmigration timing tools?
* Sustainable Rivers Program	How can we get funding to monitor?	
Reintroduction Planning	Do we need all the tributaries to make a difference? Where are fish going?	Are there information needs for the system? Common approach or...?
Hatchery Monitoring/Impacts		When has introgression occurred? Is there a legacy or recent effect? What is the magnitude/issue?
* Willamette Falls Fish Ladder and	How can we minimize the predation at Willamette Falls to increase safe	What changes could be made? How well is ladder working?

Pinnipeds (Note: Managers Forum Issue?)	fish passage? Do we have authority to act?	Are there additional efficiencies that could occur?
Pre-Spawn Mortality and Missing Fish	How much time are fish in? Is temperature an issue? Where are they going? Is fallback an issue?	PIT Tag information is critical
* Steelhead Status/Harvest	What do Steelhead need to improve their status? What management changes could be made? What fisheries changes are needed?	
Revetments	What can be modified to most benefit fish? Where?	What opportunities exist to modify flows and habitat?

* Denotes a policy question the Steering Team agrees needs to be discussed further by the Managers.

Next Steps: Leslie, Kelly, Dan and Rich will meet and refine the charts created at the 3/22/18 and 4/3/18 meetings. NMFS will send the group the template they created that relates to RM&E needs for FY19. The small group will create a revised draft, possibly using Dan’s or NMFS’ suggested headers, that will identify 1) areas that the RM&E team can begin having discussions regarding concepts and 2) areas that require further discussion by the Steering Team.

- **ACTION:** Diana will send NMFS template regarding FY19 RM&E needs to Leslie and DS Consulting. DS Consulting will provide the 3/22/18 Summary with Tracked Changes and the NMFS Template to the small group.
- Leslie will call a small group together (Leslie, Dan, Rich and Kelly) to create a revised draft of the charts and provide it to the Steering Team and RM&E Team before the RM&E Team’s next meeting on April 26.
- The Steering Team will review and provide a thumbs-up or thumbs-down regarding the areas RM&E can tackle and discuss/determine what to do with the other topics.

Steelhead Hybridization Study

The group discussed that Steelhead Hybridization study conducted by the University of Idaho and submitted for peer review on January 23, 2018. Steering Team members were interested in reviewing the comments on the study and considered whether the Steering Team and RM&E team should review it together. Rich will check to see if he can provide the reviewers’ comments to the Steering Team. The Steering Team decided that, if possible, it would review the study and comments and then discuss with the RM&E team.

- **ACTION:** Rich will check to see if the review comments can be provided to the Steering Team. The Steering Team will review the study and comments, and then discuss with the RM&E team.

Review of Past Action Items

- **Green Peter and federal attorneys’ input re: COP and RPA:** Joyce reported that this issue has not moved forward and, in light of the recent legal complaint regarding NMFS’ BiOp, the Corps is having internal conversations about the possibility of re-initiating consultation on the BiOp. She expects to know more about this question of re-initiation by the next Steering Team meeting. If there is a decision to re-initiate, that could resolve this issue. In the meantime, the Corps envisions continuing with the WATER forum process and projects.

→ **ACTION:** Joyce will update the team regarding the Federal Family's approach to the BiOp and the decision regarding whether to re-initiate consultation.

- **Federal family view re: next steps for Lookout Point:** Joyce reported that she has drafted a memorandum on the decision and rationale, with the intention of eventually sharing with NMFS and others. The memorandum provides more documentation regarding the decision and is currently being reviewed by Corps attorneys.

→ **ACTION:** Joyce will update the team regarding the status of the memorandum and Federal Family review.

- **New or emerging information from the facilities' High Head fish passage:** Ian reported that Keith Kirkendall and Melissa Jundt will be providing this information to the construction crew. The Corps will provide the current status on construction.

→ **ACTION:** DS Consulting will invite Melissa and/or Keith to provide an update at the May or June Steering Team meeting.

- **Steelhead Status Update**

→ **ACTION:** Diana will follow-up directly with Dan Spear to answer any questions he has regarding the Steelhead Status Update provided at the 3-2-18 Managers Forum.

High Head Bypass at Detroit/Cougar

Joyce updated the group on a recent WFFDWG meeting discussion regarding the possibility of piped bypass at Detroit and Cougar. The Corps has been continuing down the path of planning for trap and haul, but also have been looking at and studying high head, piped bypass possibilities. She noted that ODFW expressed a strong opinion in support of piped bypass/volitional passage and against Trap and Haul. Kelly Reis explained that Jeff Ziller had been involved in previous discussions for Cougar where volitional passage was considered. He was concerned that the Corps was continuing on the path toward Trap and Haul and not volitional passage, and that he had never received the rationale for why the Corps chose Trap and Haul as a preferred passage alternative. Joyce explained that, at the time fish passage was initially discussed, Trap and Haul was considered a known technology and less expensive. She acknowledged that the Corps has limited documentation regarding the rationale and has not yet documented the decision regarding Trap and Haul at Cougar. As more is learned about the impacts of Trap and Haul on fish, including disease, the Corps is trying to understand more about options for moving fish. For example, the Corps is considering whether Cougar could be retrofitted for piped bypass. Mike Hudson appreciated that the issue of piped bypass was being raised and hoped the group can help influence more consideration of piped bypass as a passage alternative at Detroit. Marc noted that the NMFS' engineers are not as enthusiastic about volitional passage. Joyce expressed her hope that good conversations would continue at WFFDWG.

Ian also noted that a Project Delivery Team (PDT) had previously been in place to consider piped bypass; this team had switched to a research team when the decision was made to pursue Trap and Haul. The PDT has been re-activated to consider the biological feasibility of piped bypass and research will also be needed to consider benefits and impacts (i.e. impacts of copepod and effects of velocity on fish that are sick). The Trap and Haul design team and the PDT on piped bypass will move forward concurrently. Joyce encouraged partners to use the opportunities to comment and express concerns about the design at the 30%, 60%, and 90% design stages. The Corp may ask agencies to send a letter to express their concerns.

Funding for Spawning Surveys and Trout Mitigation

Joyce updated the group regarding funding discussions for spawning surveys and trout mitigation. She noted that there is not enough funding at this time to fund both items. Partners had previously asked the Corps to get input from them about where to direct funding when it is limited. Consequently, the Corps requested partners' input on which items to fund. ODFW provided feedback that they would like both items funded. Joyce explained that, in the absence of more direct input, the intent is to fund the RPA measure (i.e. spawning surveys). The Corps is also trying to find more funding. Mike appreciated the Corps reaching out to partners. It was noted that the recent litigation may have affected some partners' ability to respond directly. Tammy stressed the need for the Region to provide input on issues brought to WFPOM because it should be a Regional effort to ensure BiOp/WFOP compliance. She also clarified that verbal comments, as well as written comments, will be included in the MOC and will be part of the administrative record.

WATER Progress Tracking Report

The group discussed and further refined what kind of report to create regarding the WATER Progress Tracking Report. Mike noted his understanding was that the intent was to have an ability to move toward an annual status report of progress in the Willamette and wanted to be sure others agreed. The group agreed that Progress Tracking Report was intended to be a mechanism to show what has been accomplished on an annual basis including:

- Research that has been conducted;
- Upstream and downstream facility construction;
- Flow changes;
- Capital funding projects; and
- What has not been accomplished that was planned (and why it has not occurred).

→ **ACTION:** Federal Family agencies will consult with their attorneys regarding the management needs for measuring progress and the suggested topics of review for the Progress Tracking Report, and report back to the Steering Team.

FY19 Budget

Ian provided the group with a handout that provided information regarding the FY19 budget. He noted that the current budget expired on 3/23/18. They do not expect to get additional funds until May 23. Until then, the Corps is using funds from the Construction General account.

Ian noted that the RM&E budget for this year is pretty tight. The Corps will be receiving close to the amount scheduled for research this year; however, there are greater costs than anticipated. Ian also noted that the revetment report was completed. He will share it with the Steering Team and the Habitat Technical Team.

→ **ACTION:** Ian will share the revetment report with the Steering Team and the Habitat Technical Team.

Next Steps

May Steering Team Meeting

Donna noted that the WATER annual plan provides for an annual review of the WATER Guidelines in April. She suggested deferring this discussion to the May Steering Team meeting until the Department of Justice clarifies how it will proceed concerning the litigation and possible re-initiation of consultation.

DS Consulting is in the process of scheduling the May Managers Forum meeting.

Potential Managers Forum agenda items include:

1. Middle Fork Construction Schedule, needs, other
2. Update on Federal approach to the BiOp and overall process
3. Team updates and progress

→ The Steering will further discuss the agenda for the Managers Forum at their May meeting.

May Steering Team Agenda Items

1. West Fir/ODFW perspective;
2. Update on Federal approach to BiOp and overall process;
3. Annual Review of Water Guidelines (?)
4. Review of revised Joint RM&E/Steering Team Charts and next steps for RM&E studies
5. Review and discuss the Steelhead Hybridization Study and review comments (if possible).
6. Managers Forum Meeting Agenda
6. Team updates

With that, Donna thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.

The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2018 from 12:30-4:30. Location TBD.

This summary is respectfully submitted by DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to nancy@dsconsult.co