

WATER Steering Team Meeting

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Location: COE Fireside Room

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

Final Facilitator's Summary

(Edits received by: NPCC, NOAA (Lance), NOAA, ST team on 11/6)

ACTION	By Whom?	By When?
Coordinate internally on the Corps request to dip into the power pool to maintain stream flow targets in the South Santiam; circle back to the Corps with a response.	Dan	ASAP
Review the draft RM&E plans and provide them to WATER partners for input.	Ian	10/12
Provide edits to the September meeting summary to DSC.	Steering Team members	10/30
Schedule the Willamette Falls Dam tour and December Managers Forum meeting.	DS Consulting	11/6
Provide details on the FY18 and FY19 budgets.	Ian	11/6
Provide information on the maintenance schedule and facility performance at Big Cliff.	Dan	11/6
Discuss potential structural fixes and project improvements for Big Cliff.	Federal Family	November FF meeting
Provide the Corps revetment report to the Steering Team.	Ian	Post internal Corps review
Help coordinate efforts to continue work on the reintroduction plans.	DS Consulting	Jan/Feb 2019

Participants in the Room: Leslie Bach (NWPCC), Ian Chane (USACE), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Karl Weist (NWPCC);

Participants on the Phone: Lance Kruzic (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde); Dan Spear (BPA);

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg; **Summary:** Emily Stranz, DS Consulting

Welcome, Introductions, & Housekeeping

Donna conducted a round of introductions and the team approved the August 7th meeting summary. Members needed additional time to review the September meeting summary; they will provide edits to Emily in preparation for approval at the November meeting.

- **Action:** Team members will review the September summary and provide any additional edits to Emily prior to the November 6th meeting; DSC will ask for approval for the summary at the November meeting.

Follow-up on September Managers Forum Meeting

The group reflected on the September 25th Managers Forum meeting, noting that the conversation on regional messaging did not materialize the way the Steering Team had intended. Instead of being a conversation around the Manager's vision for the basin, the conversation was largely rooted in the reality of the funding needs and support for the overall investment being made to implement the BiOp. One idea to move the conversation forward in the future was to ask each manager to share their vision and then compile them to see where and how the visions align.

Donna reminded the group that Kevin Brice offered to lead a tour of the Willamette Falls Dam, which Steering Team members expressed interest in attending. Donna will send out an invite to the Steering Team once the tour is solidified.

The next Managers Forum meeting will be scheduled for mid-December. There was discussion around cancelling the January Steering Team meeting, to allow more time (and progress) between the meetings.

→ **Action:** DSC will work to schedule the Willamette Falls Dam tour, as well as the December Managers Forum meeting.

HGMPs and Reintroduction Plans: Updates and planned next steps

Lance Kruzic, NOAA, provided an update on NOAA's formal evaluation process of the Willamette Basin Hatchery Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs), which were submitted to NOAA on behalf of the Corps and ODFW in 2016. Lance noted that the 2008 BiOp included RPAs related to the Chinook hatchery programs, specifically the need to incorporate wild fish into the hatchery broodstocks. Chinook and summer steelhead HGMPs have been submitted. NOAA is waiting to receive the rainbow trout HGMP, which the Corps will submit shortly.. This new consultation is evaluating all hatchery programs in the Upper Willamette..

Lance noted that the NOAA review includes both ESA and NEPA evaluation of the hatchery programs and will culminate in a BiOp, with Section 7 take, as well as 4(d) permits. NOAA plans to send the draft BiOp to co-managers for review prior to signing it. Once the BiOp is complete, NOAA will wrap up the NEPA process; they expect to develop the final EIS and ROD later this fall. Once NEPA is complete, co-managers will get the 4(d) authorization letter for the Chinook HGMPs, which will then signal that the agencies are allowed take wild fish for broodstock if criteria met. Lance noted that this will be a significant milestone for hatchery management, and if fish returns are up, they may be able to take some wild Chinook for brood next year.

Lance continued that there is huge conservation value for the Chinook in the upper Willamette Basin, however, there is no conservation value for rainbow trout or summer steelhead.

In regard to reintroduction of Chinook above the projects, Lance noted since the Chinook hatchery programs are being used for reintroduction, this is included in the HGMPs. He noted that the level of detail in the HGMPs is tailored to the role the program plays in reintroduction; such as when hatchery supplementation will be terminated after wild fish recover. There may be more information available now, for instance regarding timing of passage implementation, that could further inform the reintroduction plans.

Ian shared that from the Corps perspective, comprehensive reintroduction plans for each basin are needed to further clarify details such as the triggers and process for reintroduction, how fish will

be delivered, where will they be released, and passage standards. This helps the Corps know what they are working to attain. Ideally, Ian continued, the reintroduction plans, sub-basin RM&E, and HGMPs will all be aligned. Kelly shared that there are outlines for the reintroduction plans; however, the timeline to continue work on the plans has slipped. Diana suggested that a gap analysis comparing Jim Meyer's reintroduction plan framework, HGMP triggers, and the plan outlines would be a helpful next step to assess whether there are data gaps that need to be filled.

The group acknowledged that the Corps will be providing several documents that need partner review in the coming months and agreed to table the reintroduction plans until January/February 2019. Ian suggested that at that point, the South Fork of the McKenzie is prioritized, as the Corps will be working on construction at Cougar in FY20.

→ **Action:** DSC will help coordinate efforts to continue work on the reintroduction plans in January/February 2019.

Ian noted that 60% draft sub-basin RM&E plans are on his desk and waiting his review. Once Ian has reviewed the documents, he will provide them to WATER partners for their input.

→ **Action:** Ian will review the draft RM&E plans and provide them to WATER partners for input. He will aim to get the draft plans out to the group within the next 7-10 days.

Budget Updates: FY 18 End of Year and FY 19 Willamette

Ian reported that FY18 is officially wrapped up and that the CRFM budget was nearly completely executed (97-98%). He will provide final numbers for all the projects at the November meeting.

A budget for FY19 has passed and the Corps is waiting on funding, which could take a few months. Overall, there will be \$46 million for CRFM, plus some carryover from FY18. Ian will provide a program budget for both the Willamette and Columbia Rivers at the November meeting.

→ **Action:** Ian will provide details on the FY18 and FY19 budgets at the November Steering Team meeting.

High Head Passage Team/Cougar Downstream

The Detroit and Cougar DDR Gantt chart is in the process of internal review at the Corps and will be provided to the WATER partners before the November meeting. Ian noted that the Gantt chart will be helpful to use for tracking efforts moving forward.

The group discussed how the Corps is moving forward with EDR and DDR for the high head bypass at Cougar. Currently, the PDT is working to include DDR and EDR for a bypass port option that could at any point in time be added to the collection structure. Ian explained that the EDR will determine the best feasible alternative, and the DRR will provide details of that alternative, including an estimate of the capital and O&M costs for a 50-year lifespan. Once the EDR and DDR are complete, the bypass pipe concept will be "shelved" unless the need to further consider the option arises. **Ian clarified that the Corps plans to construct the collection facility to operate for trap and haul; if the trap and haul program is passing collection efficiency and survival standards, there is no need for a bypass pipe. IF trap and haul is not performing to standards, the Corps would then continue investigating options for a bypass pipe, if it is feasible.** This approach differed from what others had previously

understood, which was that the trap and haul and bypass EDR/DDR would be conducted and the trap and haul would be built on the current timeline, followed by addition of the bypass pipe within a couple of years to operate as a “hybrid” facility.

There is still a need to determine how trap and haul efficacy will be evaluated and what the trigger would be for failure. Ian’s best guess was that in 2023 the collector will be operating, performance standard testing would be conducted for 1-2 years, which will allow the Corps would determine whether the facility is working or not. At that point, if needed, the Corps could utilize the previously prepared plans and specs for the bypass pipe. The Corps would also have to assess whether additional funding would be needed.

North Santiam TDG

Dan reported that he is still working to gather information on the BPA asset management plan for Big Cliff. He shared that the unit is scheduled for replacement in 2035. Dan questioned whether the frequency of unplanned outages at Big Cliff is higher than normal or expected, to which Diana responded that she was unsure what is normal, however, the Water Quality reports have information about the frequency and duration of the outages. She asked Dan to look into other aspects of the facility that could be contributing to the outages, and to provide information on the system maintenance schedule. Additionally, Diana noted that sometimes the unit is brought back on line quickly and sometimes it takes multiple days, she asked for information as to why this is and whether there are ways to improve.

The Steering Team was willing to draft a letter of request for this information if it would be helpful. Dan agreed to do some more work to get the information and will circle back to the team if a letter would be helpful. The team will revisit North Santiam TDG at their November meeting. Additionally, potential structural fixes/project improvements will be added to the next federal family meeting agenda.

- **Action:** Dan will work internally to find more information on the maintenance schedule and facility performance at Big Cliff.
- **Action:** The federal family will discuss potential structural fixes and project improvements at their next meeting.

Revetments

Ian shared that the Corps’ revetment report is still in internal review and he is working to clarify when it can be released to WATER partners. Karl reminded the group that there may be HTT funds that could be utilized for revetment work and encouraged the Corps to wrap up review and get the report out to the group.

- **Action:** Ian will provide the revetment report to the Steering Team once Corps internal review has concluded.

Regional Updates

Steering Team members provided updates on various WATER teams and efforts.

- WWFDWG – The Cougar PDT has identified potential locations for the amphibious vehicle and is working on locations for release sites for trap and haul.
- HTT - The HTT will be meeting on 10/4 to discuss the FY19 budget. They expect to have some unallocated funds that will be available for habitat related projects that further BiOp actions.

- Due to low flows in the South Santiam, there is a need to dip into the power pool to maintain stream flow targets. Flow targets have been revised as a result of the low flows; typically they would be 1,500cfs for spawning and incubation, however, this year flow targets have been lowered to 1,000cfs. The fish agencies believe that 1,000cfs is enough to keep the redds wetted and protect emerging fry, however, less flow would dewater the redds. Ian asked that Dan coordinate as needed at BPA and let the Corps know as soon as possible if they can dip into the power pool to maintain stream flows. It was also noted that the Foster fish weir study has been shifted to do the 300 cfs test this fall instead of the 500cfs test. This was coordinated at RM&E and ODFW, FWS, and NMFS were okay with the change.

→ **Action:** Dan will coordinate internally on the Corps request to dip into the power pool to maintain stream flow targets in the South Santiam. He will circle back to the Corps as soon as possible.

- The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation program closed on two properties last week, one which has frontage on the North Santiam River.
- NOAA is in formal consultation with the Corps on the Willamette Basin Review, and has requested additional information. A final biop is due in January 2019. .
- There have been several adipose-clipped fall Chinook sighted returning over Willamette Falls. It was noted that these fish are mostly spring Chinook from hatcheries within the Willamette Basin that are late in returning and thus have been deemed fall Chinook. A handful of the fall Chinook are strays from Lower Columbia hatcheries. This is not a new phenomenon; rather there was a pulse of fish that caught the attention of counters at the falls.
- Litigation settlement conversations between NOAA/Corps and the Wild Earth Guardians have concluded without a settlement. Unless the plaintiffs make another motion or the Corps submits a new Proposed Action, the agencies will continue operating under the 2008 BiOp.

Next Steps

The group identified topics for their November meeting, including:

- Big Cliff TDG/Asset Management Plan
- FY18 budget actuals
- FY19 budget
- HHB Gantt chart and update
- Foster weir test and flow update
- Revetment study/HTT funding update

It was suggested that the next Steering Team meeting be at the Grand Ronde office in Grand Ronde. Lawrence agreed to see if there is a room available for the November 6th meeting, from 12:30-4:30. With that, Donna thanked the group and the meeting was adjourned.

This summary is respectfully submitted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team; suggested edits are welcome and can be provided to Emily Stranz at emily@dsconsult.co