

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Steering Team Meeting
February 7 and 11, 2019***

Location: DS Consulting Office and Conference Call

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

**FINAL Facilitator's Summary
[Edits from: BPA]**

Action	By Whom?	By When?
Coordinate with Chris Walker and Tammy Mackey regarding an After Action Report for presentation and face to face engagement at a future Steering Team meeting.	Donna	End of February for April ST
Inform RM&E of Steering Team's request re: LOP fry study	Mike and DSC	At or before next RM&E meeting, 2/28
Follow-up, update and discuss LOP fry study and SOR	Steering Team	March 5 th meeting
Postpone and reschedule Managers Forum session	DSC	ASAP
Draft updates to share with WATER partners	COE	End of February
Meet to refine ideas and approach to the visioning/path forward discussion at Managers Forum	Kelly, Lawrence, Marc and Mike	2/19 (now, TBD!)

(Facilitator's Note: Due to time constraints, the February 7, 2019 Steering Team meeting discussion was continued to a conference call on February 11, 2019. These notes are a consolidated summary of the discussion that occurred on both dates.)

Participants in the Room for 2/7/19: Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFW), Marc Liverman (NMFS)

Participants on the Phone (for all or part of the 2/7/19 meeting): Leslie Bach (NWPC), Ian Chane (USACE), Brad Eppard (USACE), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde), Dan Spear (BPA), Karl Weist (NWPC), Patricia Wilson (USFS-WNF).

Participants on the Phone (for all or part of the 2/11/19 Conference Call): Ian Chane (USACE), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Marc Liverman (NMFS), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (Grand Ronde), Dan Spear (BPA)

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

Welcome and Housekeeping

Donna conducted a round of introductions. Donna welcomed the Services back and provided a recap of the January 8, 2019 meeting, which occurred while the Services were on furlough. The team approved the January 8, 2019 Meeting Summary, with the added note that today's meeting was being held at DS Consulting instead of at the NW Science Review, which was rescheduled to March 12-14, 2019.

Donna reviewed the meeting agenda with the group; Mike Hudson, requested, on behalf of the RM&E Team, that a discussion regarding spill at LOP be added to the agenda.

As a process suggestion, Donna encouraged Steering Team members to foster collaboration within the team and “be the collaborator that they want to see” in the meeting.

Presentation on 2018 South Santiam Flow Conditions and Decisions

The Steering Team has been interested in better understanding the flow conditions in the South Santiam in 2018 and how the Flow Team made decisions throughout the year. Specifically, Steering Team members noted that there were fairly high flows in the spring during spawning for steelhead and, later in the year, flows were lowered and eventually were reduced down to the power pool, in order to continue to produce electricity and, as a consequence, maintain downstream flows. The lower flows impacted researchers’ ability to conduct the Foster fish weir study..

The Steering Team wants to ensure that the later-season consequences of early-season decisions regarding flow are being considered when early-season decisions get made. The Steering Team would like to work with the Flow Team to discuss and determine

- What is the decision process (and who makes the final decisions?)
- How should the Steering Team be informed of decisions/actions that have regional impacts?
- When should the Steering Team be engaged to discuss and ensure that early season decisions are made with the input of WATER partners?

Ian noted that all decisions to vary flow, including requests from the Services, are documented and the Corps prepares Memorandums of Coordination (MOC) that provide a record of how flow decisions are made. One possibility would be to require that these MOC’s identify the later-season consequences of any flow decisions.

As a next step, the Steering Team will ask the Flow Team and Reservoir Regulation staff to conduct an After-Action assessment of the flow decision-making process for the South Santiam in 2018, with a focus on lessons learned and discussion about how future decisions could be made in a way that involves regional partners.

→ **Action:** Donna will coordinate with Chris Walker and Tammy Mackey regarding an After Action Report for presentation and face to face engagement at a future Steering Team meeting.

JPL-19-01-LOP Lookout Point Spring Spill Study

Mike Hudson brought forward questions from the RM&E team regarding the concept for JPL-19-01-LOP. The RM&E Team previously discussed elevation of the following questions to the Steering Team: whether the concept should be pursued as 1) a long-term solution or 2) an interim operation while the long term operation is being developed. Mike noted that the RM&E team agreed that a second year of study was not needed for smolt-sized fish. However, the group did feel that further discussion was needed on whether a study should be conducted regarding fry.

Ian noted that the Corps does not see this concept as informing the long-term solution at LOP. Marc Liverman, NMFS, supported doing the fry study to inform an interim operation. Marc indicated that this could be an opportunity to study an adaptive management solution that provides interim benefits for fish. He noted that even a period of brief spill could move out large numbers of small fish and thus provide an interim benefit (for example, he noted that it is possible that 50% of fish could pass in one day of spill). Mike also noted that there may be a need to have information on fry in order to make a decision regarding interim operations and requested the Steering Team’s support for the RM&E Team to proceed with convening researchers (possibly in a workshop format) to refine questions regarding fry passage and survival at LOP for a potential FY20 concept.

The Steering Team agreed, by consensus:

Request that the RM&E team: Identify methods for developing a study to understand and improve fry passage and survival at LOP in order to inform interim operations and longer-term decisions for LOP and the Middle Fork.

[Note: Group Members discussed and refined the following questions to be considered below via email and during the 2/11/19 Conference Call]

Questions for the RM&E Team to answer include, but are not limited to:

- What is the requested operation?
- What is hydrologically possible? (e.g. what volume or what proportion of water would pass through what route at LOP and at what time(s)?)
- How could the Dexter screw trap study be used to inform results this Spring?
- What are the biological and/or research benefits expected from this operation?
- What costs might be associated with this becoming a longer term solution? (actual and lost generation costs – which can only be determined for a specific operation)

Dan noted that one template for the fish managers to help clarify a proposed operation at LOP is the Systems Operations Request (SOR). The SOR has been used as a means for fish managers to propose changes to system operations on Columbia and Snake River dams through the Technical Management Team (TMT) for almost 20 years. The SOR would be a means of identifying what the operation is, why it is needed, the requested periods of spill, and supporting information such as the data related to NMFS' assertion of a possible 50% egress in one day of spill. He suggested that those interested should look at a TMT SOR as an example. [Note: Donna sent an example to the group following the 2/11/19 call]

ACTION: Mike will inform the RM&E of the Steering Teams request. Fish managers will review the SOR example from TMT and draft their request for LOP operations to achieve this study.

→ **This issue will be on the March 5th Steering team agenda**

WATER Managers Preparation

When the Steering Team reconvened on 2/11 to discuss the WATER Managers Forum agenda, it was suggested that postponing the meeting until a later date would be preferred to a short meeting of updates. Members expressed that, given the importance of the visioning discussion to a couple of the managers, having the meeting as a full-blown, face-to-face discussion which all managers can attend is key to success. Instead, the group requested that the Corps draft brief updates on each of the agenda items proposed for the 2/19 Managers meeting and circulate those as a means of keeping partners up to date on issues that Kevin feels are important. The updates should be sent to the managers and the steering team members, who committed to sitting with their manager and clarifying any questions. Also, a small group would like to think more about the visioning/path forward component of the meeting to address why it is needed and how it could be done most successfully once the managers are convened.

ACTIONS:

- Donna will notify the managers that the meeting will be postponed for a time they can all meet together and DSC will send a Doodle to get the next date. Likely this will be late March or early April.
- The COE will draft and circulate the updates scheduled for the 2/19 meeting.
- A subgroup of Kelly, Lawrence, Marc and Mike will meet on 2/19 to discuss the visioning/path forward component of the Managers meeting. *[Note: due to schedule conflicts, this meeting was postponed for another date TBD].*

Regional Updates

Team members provided updates: The President's budget for FY20 is delayed. The Preliminary Injunction response is due 2/25. The COE has sent out a request for Cooperating agencies for the Willamette Basin EIS. The Willamette Fisheries Science Review has been rescheduled for March 12-14.