

**WATER Steering Team Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Fireside Room, USACE Portland District**

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

**FINAL Facilitator's Summary
[no edits received]**

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Review April and October 2019 Managers Forum meeting summaries with Kevin and report back to DSC.	Ian	3/10/20
Review and update the 2019 Sub-basin planning table and provide it to the Steering Team ahead of the April 7 th meeting.	RM&E Team	3/31/20
Connect with managers about May Managers Forum meeting topics.	Steering Team members	4/7/20

Participants in the room or on the phone (for all or part of the meeting): Eric Anderson (BPA), Ian Chane (USACE), Brad Eppard (USACE), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Johan Horgervorst (USFS), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullen (NMFS), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA).

Facilitator & Notetaker: Donna Silverberg & Emily Stranz, DS Consulting.

Welcome, Introductions, & Housekeeping

Facilitator, Donna Silverberg, welcomed the group to the meeting and conducted a round of introductions. Steering Team members approved the February 5th Steering Team meeting summary. Regarding the April and October 2019 Managers Forum meeting summaries, BPA, CTGR, NOAA, NPCC, ODEQ, ODFW, and USFWS reviewed the summaries with their Managers and were okay with the summaries pending the suggested revisions. The Corps needed additional time to review. Ian will review the summaries with Kevin and circle back to DSC with the Corps' input asap.

South Fork McKenzie floodplain restoration project

Johan Hogervorst, USFS Hydrologist, presented on the 2018-2019 "Stage 0" restoration effort in the South Fork McKenzie River Basin (https://drive.google.com/a/dsconsult.co/file/d/1IXdsxNOx9n8VLCVc4CUfrZQ8IVN0vPFD/view?usp=drive_web).

He explained that Stage 0 is an important restoration tool because it provides maximum productivity and habitat. He provided a history of Forestry's floodplain restoration methods and the associated habitat impacts and benefits. He noted that, as science has evolved, the Forest Service has evolved their approach to stream restoration. Part of the evolution has been a shift from focusing on the stream channel to restoring complexity to the entire floodplain valley, with the intention of restoring the depositional environment.

The South Fork project is a four phase project aimed at increasing the complexity of the South Fork McKenzie River between the confluence with the mainstem and Cougar Dam. Phase 1 and 2 were completed in 2018-2019. The presentation slides show before, during and after photos of the work conducted. The USFS is working with partners to implement monitoring, with initial promising results: the area is anastomosing and in 2018, when they first opened the area, there were 14 redds; in 2019, 241 were seen. In 2020, additional PIT tag arrays will be installed.

Steering team members were impressed by the project and its initial results. In response to questions from the Steering Team, Johan noted that some people are concerned because Stage 0 restoration efforts have a large initial disturbance. Additionally, in the recent past, restoration has focused primarily on the channel, so it is a shift for people to think about a valley-based approach. Johan noted that the Stage 0 approach is not appropriate for every area, only depositional environments where there are no constraints to reactivating the original floodplain. In areas where there is existing infrastructure that would be impacted by restoring the floodplains, one option is to utilize a Stage 8 approach, which essentially moves the floodplain and water table lower in elevation and attempts to broaden the floodplain, while maintaining infrastructure at the existing elevations. This sort of effort is possible for some sections of the mainstem Willamette and will be implemented at Finn Rock in the McKenzie watershed.

The Steering Team expressed interest in having their June 2020 meeting at Cougar Dam and going on a tour of the North Fork work. Johan welcomed this.

FY20 and FY21 Budget Updates

Ian provided an update on the FY20 budget, noting that the money has been authorized (see budget spreadsheet provided with meeting summary). The FY20 budget includes \$20M for continuation of the 2008 Lamprey Accords, which is to be spent in FY19-23. Due to spending restrictions, the Corps is not allowed to ask for additional lamprey funding in their FY21 budget request. Additional restrictions state that FY20 monies are not to be spent on design or construction, thus the Corps has carried over FY19 funds to continue progress on Detroit and Cougar design and construction. As part of the carry over funds, \$1.9M of FY19 money was reprogrammed from the Lower Columbia Ecosystem Restoration fund and carried over to FY20.

The FY20 CRFM budget was for \$21.6M, which was augmented by a Congressional workplan (the \$20M for Lamprey Accords), and FY19 carryover, totaling \$48.566M for FY20. This money will be provided quarterly.

Ian provided specifics on the FY20 budget:

- Some of the money allocated for Detroit may need to be carried to FY21 because of FY21 restrictions (see below).
- The Foster line item includes design and contracting, but no funding for construction in FY20.
- Cougar downstream passage will progress to 90% plans and specs in FY20.
- Cougar 2.0 will be funded; to analyze fish passage under a non-hydro power scenario.
- Fall Creek adult fish collection construction may require carry over funding into FY21 for oversight of construction.
- The RM&E line item includes 5 RM&E studies for FY20.

Ian reported that the FY21 PBUD is for \$15.377M for the entire CRFM program. The Corps will work to reallocate and carry over funds; they will also make a request for additional workplan funds. Any funding for Detroit and Cougar in FY21 will need to be carried over from FY19, due funding restrictions which do not allow design, construction or lamprey funding for FY21.

The Corps' approach is to get the projects as close to implementation stage as possible for whenever construction funding becomes available. By 2022, Cougar will have design and specs, and Detroit will have above water design. However, the Corps will need funds for modelling and underwater design work.

Key Take-Aways from the 2019 Willamette Basin Fisheries Science Review (WBFSR)

Group members shared key take-aways from the WBFSR:

- Poor ocean conditions emphasized a need for us to consider diversity in migration timing.

- Given the poor ocean conditions, when planning RM&E, we need to rethink how to measure success – what indicators, other than smolt to adult returns, can be used to signal improvements?.
- Ocean conditions are a major factor in the success of adult returns; in looking at ocean conditions and the changing ocean environment it seems that the ocean is not able to support the current population of salmon. Is there a new and lower carrying capacity of the Pacific Ocean, which seems to be exceeded?
- The copepod research is breaking new ground. New findings include evidence that the copepods thrive at warmer temperatures than previously thought and that much of the damage on fish gills is done by juvenile copepods. Also, impressed to see that the gills can regenerate if the copepods are eliminated.
- The new technology using aerial imagery and bathymetry to measure water depth is helpful for habitat projects and will eventually be a helpful tool for managers. This approach is more efficient and less data intensive than field surveys.
- The need for maintaining biological diversity really stood out.
- Appreciated Col. Dorf's attendance and attention for the whole WBFSR.
- Suggestion: In years when there are not a lot of study results to share, consider opportunities to shorten the duration of the review.
 - The presentations were heavy on modelling; some of which were difficult to digest.
- Looking forward to more information on the use of alternative flows and updated rule curves; appreciated the California case study and presentations.

Review of 2019 Sub-Basin Planning Tables & Input for RM&E Team

The Steering Team discussed RM&E priorities and needs from a policy perspective. They walked through each sub-basin, noting areas that they would like the RM&E Team to focus or consider for the next round of concepts. Additionally, they requested that the RM&E Team review and update the sub-basin planning tables to identify any items that need to be moved forward to avoid data gaps. They requested an updated table in preparation for the April 7th Joint Steering and RM&E Teams meeting.

- **ACTION:** The RM&E Team will review and update the 2019 Sub-basin planning table and provide it to the Steering Team ahead of the April 7th meeting.

The Steering Team provided the following guidance for the sub-basins:

- **Middle Fork:** Maintain the path to a 2021 decision point.
 - What next steps are needed?
 - Are there additional RM&E needs to support the RM&E Plan?
 - Is there anything outside of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshops on which we need to remain focused? If so, what?
 - Are there assumptions in the SDM that need validating and can be tested via research, literature review, etc.?
- **North Santiam:** There currently is an effort to implement a new spill pattern to spread the spill and monitor TDG with existing gauges. Is there any additional monitoring needed?
- **South Santiam:** What is currently known about the potential for spawning, production, etc. upstream of Green Peter? What do we still need to know and by when?
- **McKenzie:** Given HHB, COU 2.0, and trap and hauls< is there anything we are/can be doing to inform passage decisions?
- **Systemwide:** Where is SWIFT and what needs to, or can be done next to provide information about mainstem flow and adaptive management?

May Managers Forum Meeting

DS Consulting will work with Managers and Steering Team members to find a date in May for a Managers Forum meeting. Following the April 7th Joint session with RM&E, the Steering Team will

meet to develop the Managers agenda. In preparation, Steering Team members will connect with their managers for agenda items.

- **ACTION:** Steering Team members will connect with their managers to discuss the May meeting and ask for input on agenda topics.

WFDWG Team Update

Ian noted that Fenton sent out an update email the week of February 24th; there are no additional updates.

Regional Updates

- FWS – Mike reported that he has a room at the Oregon Zoo reserved for the May 5th Steering Team meeting. **A phone line is not available, so plan to join in person!**
- Corps – Ian reported that the CRSO EIS is out for public review and comment, ending on April 15th.
- ODFW – Kelly reported that winter steelhead counts are looking promising after a few bad years; ODFW is hopeful that pinniped management at Willamette Falls is helping.
- ODEQ, BPA, CTGR did not have anything to report.

With that, Donna thanked the Steering Team and the meeting was adjourned

The next Steering Team meeting is scheduled from 12:30 to 4:30 on April 7th; this will be a joint ST/RM&E meeting, followed by a Steering Team meeting.

*This summary is respectfully submitted by the impartial facilitation team at DS Consulting.
Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to emily@dsconsult.co*