

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
May 25, 2017**

http://www.nwdwc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20ORME/RME.html

Facilitator's Summary

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Provide comments on Concept Papers	All	6/2
Look into holding the MF HOR workshop this summer.	Rich	6/22
Develop prototype document for Steering Team guidance on FY18 Prioritization.	Rich, Leslie, Mike	6/8

Participants in the room: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS), Chris Caudill (University of Idaho), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Sarah Hanchett (University of Idaho), Christine Peterson (BPA), Rich Piaskowski (USACE), Dana Weigel Sheedy (University of Idaho), Ricardo Walker (USACE);

Participants on the phone: Scott Fielding (USACE), Tom Friesen (ODFW), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Melissa Jundt (NMFS), Fenton Khan (USACE), Ilana Koch (University of Idaho), Fred Monzyk (ODFW), Jim Myers (NMFS), Shawn Narum (University of Idaho), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Cameron Sharpe (ODFW);

Facilitation & Notes: Emily Stranz and Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting

Welcome & Housekeeping

The group approved the meeting summary from the 4/27 meeting with team member edits. Regarding the April meeting Action Items, Rich reported that he and Greg have initiated internal USACE discussions on TDG and ramping rates. Stephanie reported that she spoke to Lance regarding pHOS and hatchery management and will provide a report at a subsequent meeting.

Updates

Middle Fork RM&E Plan Review

Comments on the Middle Fork Sub-basin RM&E Plan are due to Stephanie and Rich by COB, Friday, May 26, 2017. No comments have been received to date. If comments are received, the next steps are for Rich and Stephanie to provide a response to the comments, incorporate the comments and move ahead with finalizing the plan.

LOP Operational Fish Passage Planning Update

Fenton reported that the Corps is moving forward with the Environmental Assessment and Archeology review and hope to start the 30 day NEPA public review soon. ResSim models were re-run because the gates were repaired and had not yet been when ResSim was previously done. Fenton is preparing a summary of the sediment model outputs and will send it as soon as it is available. Dan Spear is leading coordination efforts with BPA. Fenton noted that they will not be able to generate power from October through January and that draw down needs to begin on August 1.

Presentation on Evaluation of Introduction Strategies Using Genetic Pedigree Analysis

The University of Idaho/ODFW Research Team, (Chris Caudill, Sarah Hanchett, Ilana Koch, Shawn Narum, and Cameron Sharpe), presented preliminary results of the Santiam River Winter Steelhead Parentage Analysis. The objective of the study was to estimate the proportion of winter steelhead smolts and adults that are progeny of adults outplanted above Foster Dam. Preliminary conclusions included the following:

- Approximately half of individuals used in parentage analysis positively assigned to at least one parent.
- Parents had approximately 1.57 returning adult offspring and 4.99 juvenile offspring, on average.
- The majority of individuals produced 0 offspring.

Future directions for the research included the addition of 2017 adult and juvenile samples and incorporation of age data from ODFW. The RM&E Team thanked the researchers for sharing the findings, noting that the information is timely and helpful.

Additional information is provided as a separate document titled *Preliminary Results of The Santiam Winter Steelhead Parentage Analysis* and the PowerPoint presentation titled *Santiam Steelhead 2017 V2 Final*; both of which were provided to the RM&E team and will be posted on the website.

Discussion on FY 18 Concept Papers

Team members presented and discussed the FY18 concept papers. The concept papers, relevant questions and comments provided from RM&E Team members will be submitted through the formal comment process and incorporated by the concept authors.

It was noted that the Corps needs to coordinate with researchers to make sure that there are no conflicts with conducting JPL-15-04-LOP and JPL-17-04-LOP, as both of these studies would be conducted fall 2018 and have some potentially conflicting objectives.

- **ACTION:** Fenton and Scott will coordinate operations and timing and update concept paper to explicitly state how fall operations will proceed.

Also, it was noted that the previously discussed workshop on Middle Fork HOR passage could inform an approach for JPL-15-02-SYS. The group suggested holding the workshop sooner rather than later. Mike and Stephanie agreed to work together to further develop this concept.

- **ACTION:** Rich will explore whether the workshop can be held earlier this summer. Mike and Stephanie will connect to further develop this concept.

Next steps & Process

Team member comments on the concept papers are due into the concept paper authors by COB June 2nd.

The group discussed the prioritization process for the FY 18 concepts and reviewed the FY17 prioritization exercise and take-aways. Previously, the group ranked projects from 0-3, with '0' meaning 'do not fund' and '3' being high priority. In reflecting on this process, the RM&E Team noted that the '0' value skews the ranking; additionally, funding decisions are more appropriately made at the Steering Team level. They also wondered whether the Steering Team would prioritize concepts for management and policy purposes before or after the RM&E Team prioritizes for technical and biological purposes.

The RM&E team discussed the need for guidance from the Steering Team regarding funding viability and resolution of policy issues. One of the interests that RM&E Team members noted was minimizing efforts to further develop concepts that have a low chance of being funded. The RM&E Team agreed that if all

RM&E Team members feel that a project is low priority for the year, the concept does not need to be further developed. The group then discussed the need for the Steering Team to provide guidance on what decisions need to be made to address the RPA, the information needed to make those decisions, and the time frame. Rich pointed out that this is a reframe of the way the teams have worked in the past, and focuses on the Steering Team providing guidance to the RM&E Team so that the RM&E team can provide the decision makers with the information they need in time for decisions. This reframing approach could help resolved previously raised issues to the Steering Team.

The group explored whether the most effective method might be to have a joint meeting between the Steering Team and the RM&E team to prioritize the concepts together. As a next step, Rich will develop a prototype document focused on summarizing the concepts and providing context for the Steering Team to use to provide guidance on funding and policy priorities for FY18. The prototype will focus on the purpose, objective, and timing of the concept. This document and the RM&E needs for guidance can be discussed further at the June 8th Steering Team meeting. The RM&E Team suggested that if the Steering Team is interested, they could join the June 22nd RM&E Team meeting for a joint prioritization session.

→ **Action:** Rich will develop prototype document for the Steering Team to consider as they determine how to best move forward with prioritizing FY18 concepts. Leslie and Mike will review and provide feedback in order to finalize the prototype for the Steering Team's June 8th meeting.

The next RM&E Team meeting is scheduled for June 22nd, meeting time and place TBD.

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