

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

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

Facilitator's Summary

| ACTION | BY WHOM? | BY WHEN? |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Provide edits to 8/24/17 Meeting Summary | NMFS | 10/3/17 |
| Consult with Brad Eppard regarding the timeline proposed by the Steering Team for the sub-basin development plan process; clarify timeline for region. | Rich, Scott, Fenton, Jonathan | 10/3/17 |
| Follow-up with Bernadette Graham-Hudson for more detailed information regarding the meaning of “comprehensive impacts” for the sub-basin plans. <i>[Complete, see note below.]</i> | Emily | 10/3/17 |
| Remind Ian to add the O&M concept section to the FY18 prioritization spreadsheet. <i>[In the works, see note below]</i> | Emily & Rich | 10/3/17 |
| Update the Corps ranking for FMWQ-18-03. | Rich | 10/3/17 |
| Consult with Steering Team representatives prior to the 10/3/17 Steering Team meeting to discuss any concepts with ‘defers’ rankings. | All | 10/3/17 |
| Send reference for ISAB Report regarding delayed mortality to RM&E Team. | Rich | 10/3/17 |
| Seek clarification from Tammy Mackey regarding potential O&M funding for juvenile out-migration studies. | Rich | 10/26/17 |
| Send request to OR, NPCC, and USFWS to individually prioritize screwtrap locations prior to the 10/3 ST meeting. <i>[ES emailed 10/2/17]</i> | Emily | 10/3/17 |
| Add check-in on FY18 concepts to October RM&E Team meeting agenda. | Emily | 10/26/17 |
| Provide summary notes from LOP HOR Workshop. | Rich | 10/2/17 |
| Provide input on summary notes from LOP HOR Workshop. | All | 10/6/17 |
| Follow-up with ODFW & USFWS regarding their participation in the RM&E team. <i>[ES emailed on 9/26/17]</i> | Emily | 10/26/17 |
| Follow-up with Bernadette regarding regional check-ins on the Reintroduction Plans. | Stephanie | 10/26/17 |

Participants in the room: Stephanie Burchfield (NMFS), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Scott Fielding (USACE), Fenton Kahn (USACE), Rich Piaskowski (USACE), Ricardo Walker (USACE), Christine Peterson (BPA);

Participants on the phone: Jake McDonald (USACE), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR);

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz and Nancy Pionk (DS Consulting).

Welcome and Housekeeping

Emily welcomed the group and conducted a round of introductions. The team discussed 8/24/17 meeting summary. Stephanie will provide her edits to the team by 10/3/17 and team members will respond with any changes or concerns by 10/5/17. DS Consulting will seek approval of the final summary via email.

→ **Action:** NMFS will send their edits to the August meeting summary by 10/3/17.

Updates Regarding the Sub-Basin RM&E Development Plan Process

Emily reported that the Steering Team reviewed the outline for sub-basin RM&E plans at their 9/5/17 meeting. The Steering Team agreed with the RM&E Team's outline and offered the following recommendations:

- Keep the document succinct and short; incorporate resources by reference only.
- Briefly summarize what information is already available for each sub-basin.
- Summarize new information since the 2008 BiOp.
- Focus on the questions, information gaps, and methods to fill gaps.
- Provide a "comprehensive impacts" piece to section 8.
- Provide more clarity on when the various pieces are expected to be complete.
- Consider an annotated bibliography.

The Steering Team requested an 'RM&E sub-basin plans update' at their monthly meeting; the next Steering Team meeting is 10/3/17 and Rich will provide the update. Additionally, they requested more in-depth updates at 10%, 50%, and 80% completion points and created a preliminary schedule for moving forward:

- October: Steering and RM&E Teams joint technical check-in
- November: 50% draft Steering Team review and input
- January(ish): 80% draft Steering Team review and input
- February/March(ish): Final review

Rich indicated that he will need to consult with Brad Eppard and the technical team regarding the timeline and whether it is feasible to have a joint technical check-in in October. It was noted that the RM&E Team set the 10%/50%/80% updates so that they could provide feedback and recommendations to the lead planners as the plan is being developed. The RM&E Team also needs information from the Steering Team to ensure that the plans meet the Steering Team's needs as decision-makers. The RM&E Team requested more specificity regarding the meaning of the terms "comprehensive impacts"; they were curious if comprehensive impacts is synonymous with cumulative impacts. Emily agreed to reach out to the Steering Team representative to clarify. *[Facilitator's Note: Via email, Bernadette clarified that her request is for the sub-basin plans to look at the overall impact on the fish populations in Section 8.]*

It was suggested that the following documents be added to the 'Willamette Sub-basin RM&E Development Plan Process' document for the sub-basin technical team to consider:

- USGS Downstream Passage RM&E Review for the Willamette Project; and
- NOAA Adult Reintroduction Assessment.

→ **Action:** Rich, Scott, and Fenton will consult with Brad Eppard (and touch base with Jonathan) regarding the timeline proposed by the Steering Team. They will clarify the schedule for the region at the 10/3/17 Steering Team meeting.

→ **Action:** Emily will ask Bernadette Graham-Hudson for more detailed information regarding the meaning of "comprehensive impacts".

Update and Check in on FY18 Concepts

Emily reported that the Steering Team ranked the recent RM&E concept papers: *FMWQ-18-04-SYS* (TDG study below Big Cliff) and *FMWQ-18-03* (“SWIFT” Flow). *FMWQ-18-04-SYS* was ranked high by all agencies. The Corps deferred its ranking of *FMWQ-18-03*. Rich will follow up with Ian Chane and update the Corps’ ranking for this concept paper.

The Steering Team plans to resolve any concepts marked as “defer” during their October 3 meeting. The RM&E Team discussed whether there are any information needs/technical clarifications for the team to address in preparation for the Steering Team’s discussion. Team members indicated a need for clarification regarding which concepts are definitely funded, which concepts were decided not to be funded, which are undecided and which need to be elevated for FY18. Emily indicated that Ian Chane will be adding a column to the FY18 prioritization spreadsheet that denotes what is fundable under CRFM; this should be provided to the region later this week. The group reminded the Corps that they also agreed to add a separate section to the FY18 prioritization spreadsheet that indicated the concepts that would fall under O&M funding instead of CRFM funding. This has not yet been done and Emily and Rich will remind Ian of the ask. *[Facilitator’s Note: Via email, Ian noted that this will not be ready in time for the 10/3 ST meeting, as the Corps also committed to prioritizing the hatchery baseline monitoring studies; he will need to coordinate with Tammy Mackey and Greg Taylor regarding O&M funds and their use.]*

→ **Action:** Rich and Emily will remind Ian to add the O&M concept section to the FY18 prioritization spreadsheet; ideally prior to the 10/3 Steering Team meeting.

It was requested that if there is a technical question that comes up during the Steering Team’s conversations regarding prioritization, these questions be flagged for a technical person to respond to so that decisions can be made with correct technical information in a timely manner.

RM&E Team members were asked to consult with their Steering Team representative prior to the 10/3/17 Steering Team meeting to discuss technical aspects of any concepts marked “defer”. RM&E Team members discussed specific concepts which were marked “defer” by one or more agencies:

- *APH-18-02-SYS (Effectiveness of near-term actions to reduce pHOS below Willamette Project dams in the Santiam):* During joint RM&E/ Steering Team ranking, the Corp mentioned that they were not aware of any collection issues at Minto. In reflecting on this, the RM&E Team clarified that the issue is a conversion issue, not a collection issue, and that they need to study what can be done to improve conversion. Rich will follow up with Ian to identify what technical information would help the Corps resolve the “defer” for this concept.
- *JPL-17-08-CGR (Evaluation of nets to influence the behavior and distribution of juvenile spring Chinook in Cougar Reservoir cul-de-sac):* Scott Fielding indicated that the PDT is designing the structure to allow for nets. **Given this information, NMFS indicated that they would be agreeable to not doing the JPL-17-08-CGR study in FY18.**
- *JPL-18-02-SYS (Willamette project dam passage delayed mortality):* The Corps’ opinion is that it is not feasible to study survival at the project, citing an Independent Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) report. NMFS does not agree with this assertion. Rich will send the ISAB report to team members for further review and Stephanie will respond with NMFS’ thinking.
- *JPL-10-02-SYS (Juvenile salmonid outmigration monitoring above and below WVP reservoirs):* This concept paper proposed juvenile salmonid outmigration monitoring above and below project reservoirs. All agencies marked this concept as “defer”, noting that the monitoring sites should be ranked individually. During the RM&E Team’s discussion, the Corps did not want to rank the sites until the region was clear on whether or not these projects could be funded.

In contrast, NMFS was eager to rank the sites in order to provide the Corps with a regionally prioritized list of sites before any monitoring is implemented. Stephanie pointed to the Fall Creek screw trapping conflict earlier in the year, where the Corps funded a screw trap that the region was not consulted on and did not feel was high priority. However, Stephanie noted, the Corps did not fund other screw traps that ranked higher priority by regional partners. It was noted that from the Corps' perspective, there are funding/policy issues regarding the funding of screw trap studies. Team members agreed that there will be a need to prioritize the sites if funding is available, either through CRFM or O&M. Rich will seek clarification from Tammy Mackey regarding O&M funding potential of out-migration monitoring (i.e. could the O&M funding include out-migration, spawning surveys, or genetic pedigree studies and if so, can those studies be prioritized by the RM&E Team?). Team members indicated that the RM&E and Steering Teams will need to have further discussions if these studies are not funded and it was important that the teams do not let this concept fall through the cracks.

- ***JPL-15-02-SYS (Evaluate the feasibility of in-stream juvenile fish trap and haul above WVP dams)***: The Corps deferred on this concept until after the workshop, which took place in September. All other regional partners ranked this concept high. The region awaits the Corps ranking.

→ **Action:** Rich will coordinate with Ian to update the Corps' ranking for FMWQ-18-03 prior to the 10/3/17 Steering Team meeting.

→ **Action:** Team members will consult with their Steering Team representative prior to the 10/3/17 Steering Team meeting to discuss any concepts marked 'defer'.

→ **Action:** Rich will send the ISAB Report to the RM&E Team members.

→ **Action:** Rich will seek clarification from Tammy Mackey regarding potential O&M funding for out-migration monitoring.

→ **Action:** Emily will add this issue to the agenda for the next RM&E team meeting. Emily will follow-up with ODFW, USFWS, and NPCC regarding site-specific rankings for screw traps.

Plan for FY18 Study Proposal Review

The group discussed the schedule for reviewing FY18 concept proposals. Rich noted that he does not know which concepts will move forward into proposals at this point, however, the information should be provided to the region following the Managers Forum and Steering Team meetings this and next week. Once the concept list is finalized, the Corps will seek proposals and provide those to the RM&E Team in advance of their October and/or November meetings. Researchers will be invited to present their proposals and respond to questions at those meetings. RM&E Team members will have 30 days to respond to the proposals with comments.

The RM&E Team looked at the prioritized list and noted concepts that are likely to move into proposals due to regional consensus, those include:

- ***JPL-11-05-FOS*** - Evaluation of Foster Dam Juvenile Passage
- ***JPL-15-04-LOP*** – Lookout Point Active tagging/Behavioral passage
- ***JPL-17-04-LOP*** - Estimating survival of juvenile Chinook salmon fry in LOP reservoir
- ***APH-18-03*** – North Santiam temperature survival
- Fall Creek Pedigree Study
- ***FMWQ-18-04-SYS*** - TDG Study Below Big Cliff
- ***FMWQ-18-03*** - "SWIFT" Flow
- ***APH-17-01-MF*** – Pre-spawn mortality of Middle Fork Willamette Chinook salmon. It was noted that this was not considered a high priority need by NMFS.

In looking at the proposals, Rich noted that NMFS ranked the Middle Fork pre-spawn mortality study low, despite the fact that it was agreed on in the Middle Fork RM&E Sub-basin Plan. NMFS responded that they gave the study a low ranking on technical merit because they do not think the data collected are a high priority for the region in FY18 compared to other needs, but confirm that they agreed to support moving forward with the study which is why NMFS agreed to include it in the MF RM&E Plan.

Lookout Point Head of Reservoir Workshop Next Steps

Rich reported on the LOP HOR Workshop. He indicated that the workshop reviewed the information available since the 2011 report and discussed the remaining key questions and how to address them. The summary notes from the workshop will be sent to the RM&E Team for input by the end of the week or early the following week (9/29 or week of 10/2). Rich anticipates that the final summary will be provided to the Steering Team for further refinement of the Middle Fork RM&E Sub-basin Plan. Ideally, the Steering Team will provide clear priorities on specific investigations at their November meeting. After which, the revisions can be plugged into the Middle Fork RM&E Sub-basin Plan.

It was noted that the Bureau of Reclamation in California is currently working on developing a fish trap but they have had delays in installing and testing it. LOP HOR workshop participants suggested that maybe the Bureau would be willing to test the trap in the Middle Fork. The Corps had indicated at the workshop that they would talk with the Bureau about this idea.

→ **Action:** Rich will provide summary notes from LOP HOR Workshop by the week of October 2nd. Team members will provide input to the summary by October 6.

LOP Downstream Passage Issues

A question was raised as to whether the issues related to Lookout Point (deep drawdown and proposed study for this fall) had been elevated? Stephanie raised concern that there wasn't enough clarity about what would be discussed at the policy level on this issue, and whether the managers were going to get into technical discussion about the need for an active tag study this fall under normal operating conditions rather than a deep drawdown. Emily noted that Lookout Point is on the agenda for the Manager's Forum Meeting on September 29. The managers will be briefed on Lookout Point; however, the issues relating to LOP have not been identified for formal elevation.

ODFW & USFWS Participation

A request was made to determine who will be representing ODFW now that Bernadette has been promoted, as well as USFWS. *[Facilitator's Note: Mike Hudson responded to the inquiry, noting that he will continue to be the USFWS WATER representative for the foreseeable future. Tom Friesen responded noting that he will continue to represent ODFW at the RM&E team meetings through the end of 2017, after which point whoever fills Bernadette's old position will likely step in.]*

→ **Action:** Emily will follow-up with ODFW regarding their participation in the RM&E team.

ODFW/NMFS Reintroduction Plans

Diana and Stephanie briefed the group on a recent meeting between ODFW and NMFS to review an initial outline for Reintroduction Plans for the sub-basins. The group suggested that the Reintroduction Plans could inform other sub-basin planning and Rich asked if ODFW/NMFS would be willing to share the outline for the plan and further development of the plans. Rich suggested that they could follow a similar share-out schedule as the RM&E Sub-basin plans, with regional updates at the 10%/50%/80% points. This will allow for better integration between the plans.

→ **Action:** Stephanie will follow-up with Bernadette regarding sharing of information regarding the Reintroduction Plans.

Emily thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.

The next RM&E team meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2017. The November RM&E Team meeting will be rescheduled as it falls on the Thanksgiving holiday.

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