

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
January 24, 2019 Conference Call**

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

**FINAL Facilitator’s Summary
(Edits provided by Corps, ODFW)**

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Brief Donna regarding elevation of JPL-19-01-LOP to the Steering Team	Emily	2/7 Steering Team meeting
Review the Annual WATER Workplan and add milestones requested by ODFW; provide to Emily for distribution to WATER Teams	Fenton and Rich	2/4/2019

Document Review Tracking (Click here for [Master “tracking” Spreadsheet](#))

Document Name	Document Type	Comments Due By	Comments received / forthcoming from
Cougar RO fish injury and survival study (Sensor Fish and Balloon Tag)	Final Reports	October 15	NMFS & ODFW provided comments
	Status: Final report provided to RM&E Team 11/28/18.		
Evaluation of Foster Adult Fish Trap Performance, 2019 (APH-15-05-FOS)	Pre-Proposal	November 2	CTGR & ODFW provided comments
	Status: On hold; PDT considering design fix & reviewing for data gaps.		
Evaluation of Chinook Salmon Fry Survival at Lookout Point Reservoir, Oregon, 2017 (USGS)	Draft report	November 2	CTGR, ODFW & NMFS provided comments
Evaluate interim management strategies for adult UWR Chinook Salmon at Big Cliff/Detroit Dams (APH-19-03)	Pre-Proposal	TBD	
	Status: NOAA & Corps reworking concept; on hold due to furlough.		
Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport (APH -19-XX-FOS)	Concept Paper	November 30	
	Status: Comments suggested revising concept to a “synthesis”; Corps is revising and then will present to the Steering Team for ranking.		
Copepods In UWR Reservoirs (JPL-19-03-SYS)	Pre-Proposal	TBD - pending more info	CTGR & ODFW provided comments
FY19 Wild Fish Surrogate Proposal	Proposal	December 10	ODFW: no comments
Evaluation of a spring and summer spill at LOP (JPL-19-01-LOP)	Concept Paper	TBD – pending more info	COE provided comments

	Status: Ian bringing policy question to the Steering Team.		
Fall Creek Prespawn Mortality Pilot 2017	Draft report	December 21	ODFW provided comments

Participants on the phone: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Fenton Kahn (USACE): **Facilitation Team:** Emily Stranz and Nancy Pionk (DS Consulting)

Welcome, Housekeeping, and Updates

Emily welcomed those present and noted that several team members were absent due to the furlough or meeting conflicts. Thus, the review of the 11/26/18 meeting summary was deferred to the February 28, 2019 meeting.

Furlough impacts - The group noted the impact of agency partners not being able to participate in the WATER process. Fenton shared that there are no immediate study impacts from the furlough; however, if the furlough continues, studies are likely to be impacted. The first two studies that could be impacted are the wild fish surrogate proposal (see discussion below) and the Copepod study (USGS is leading this study through OSU). Fenton thought that these studies would be impacted if the furlough continues into March.

Discussion Items

Fenton and Leslie conducted a check-in on the following discussion items:

APH-19-XX-FOS (*Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport*) - At the November RM&E team meeting, RM&E team members expressed that they did not see a need for additional study, as there is already sufficient data. Instead, the Corps is looking to move forward with Objective 1, which aims to synthesize the existing data. Fenton noted that the synthesis concept still needs to be elevated to the Steering Team for ranking.

APH-19-03 (*Evaluate interim management strategies for adult UWR Chinook Salmon at Big Cliff and Detroit dam*) - Rachel and Diana were working together to revise the concept. After their meeting in December 2018, Diana was going to take the lead on revising the concept; however, due to the shutdown, this concept is on hold.

APH 15-05-FOS (*Evaluation of Foster Adult Fish Trap Performance*) - Fenton reported that this study is also on hold while the PDT reviews design fixes and determines whether there are any additional data needs. The PDT is working on design changes to improve the trap performance and will discuss any design ideas with the Willamette Fish Facility Design Work Group (“WFFDWG”). Fenton and Ida will keep the RM&E Team updated and to the extent any additional data needs are identified, will bring those back to the RM&E Team.

JPL-19-01-LOP (*Evaluation of a spring and summer spill operation at Lookout Point Dam for improving juvenile spring Chinook Salmon dam passage*) - Prior to today’s call, Fenton shared a summary of the Corps’ current thinking on the concept for the spill test (provided from Emily via email on 1/23/19). In his summary, he noted:

“Benefits of the spill operation for downstream passage of juvenile Chinook salmon would be unpredictable and driven by annual variability in hydrology outside of the control of the Action Agencies. Additionally, the period of providing such spill is limited in nature, and not adequate as a long term solution for a self-sustaining population above Lookout Point Dam. Although the idea of a combined operation/structural solution is a novel idea, it would not be a feasible or functional solution. Therefore additional spill testing is not necessary for Middle Fork Willamette RM&E as it does not address the goal of determining the feasibility nor of refining the long term solution for downstream fish passage.”

Fenton noted that the Corps did not see the need for another field study, as spill is not feasible as a long-term downstream passage solution. The Corps' perspective is that whether the study should be pursued for a potential interim operation is a policy question for the Steering Team. Leslie noted that other WATER partners would likely have different perspectives on this study and agreed that a discussion and opportunity for input is needed at the Steering Team. Fenton noted that Ian intends to raise this issue with the Steering Team. Leslie clarified that the Steering Team needs to distinctly discuss whether the concept should be pursued as 1) a long-term solution or 2) an interim operation. Emily noted that she will brief Donna on the issue to ensure that the Steering Team considers both the long-term and interim passage operations.

→ **Action:** Emily will brief Donna regarding elevation of JPL-19-01-LOP to the Steering Team.

OSU Wild Fish Surrogate FY19 Proposal

[Facilitator's Note: ODFW was not present to provide input during the 1-24-19 RM&E Meeting, however, noted, after review of the summary, that it had responded to proposal as follows: ODFW did not have any additional comments; however, it would like to kept informed of proposed studies regarding the use of surrogates.]

No comments were received from NMFS or FWS due to the furlough; however, NMFS signaled support for the proposal prior to the furlough. There is a concern that, if the furlough continues, the researchers will not be able to obtain the take permits needed to collect eggs from the wild steelhead. Fenton is following up with the researcher to determine when the take permits will be needed.

Update Annual WATER Workplan

Emily shared ODFW's request for additional specificity in the Annual Water Workplan regarding RM&E milestones. ODFW asked the team to add: the final month(s) that proposals are accepted/discussed, ranked, and approved/funded. Fenton agreed to review the Workplan and add more detail where feasible; however, noted that the timelines will be added for a normal (read: not furlough) year. Additionally, some milestones may have a broad timeline (i.e. a range of months or a season), as the process is often fluid.

→ **Action:** Fenton will review the Annual WATER Workplan and add milestones (from ODFW's request) by 2/4/2019. He will provide the revised workplan to Emily for distribution to the team (and Steering Team).

Science Review Update

Fenton reported that the Willamette Science Review was rescheduled to March 12-14, 2019, due to the furlough.

With that, Emily thanked Fenton and Leslie and concluded the call.

The next RM&E Meeting is scheduled for 2/28/2019 from 9 AM to 1 PM

This summary is provided by DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be provided to Nancy Pionk (nancy@dsconsult.co).