

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

February 28, 2019

[http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html](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 and NMFS)

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>BY WHOM?</b>	<b>BY WHEN?</b>
Update past meeting summaries and send out to the group for review	Nancy	<b>[Completed 2/28/19]</b>
Provide additional edits or comments on past meeting summaries.	RM&E Team	3/7/19
Send information about sampling methods (from fry survival study) to Christy.	Jeff	3/28 meeting
Work with researchers to formalize the proposal for the additional sampling request for JPL-18-03-SYS and JPL-19-03-SYS and begin the permitting process.	Rachel	3/28 meeting
Send the proposal for APH 19-02-FC to the RM&E team.	Ricardo	3/28 meeting
Schedule a joint meeting between the RM&E and Steering Teams to discuss JPL-19-01-LOP	Emily	3/28 meeting
Send out ResSim results shared by Mary Karen Scullion at the 9/27/18 RME Team meeting	Fenton	3/28 meeting
Prepare agency responses to the Steering Team’s questions 1, 2, and 4 regarding JPL-19-01-LOP	RM&E Team	Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting
Follow-up with Mary Karen and arrange for her to call into the joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting.	Fenton	Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting

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

<b>Document Name</b>	<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Comments Due By</b>	<b>Comments received / forthcoming from</b>
Evaluation of Foster Adult Fish Trap Performance, 2019 (APH-15-05-FOS)	Pre-Proposal	November 2	CTGR, ODFW and NMFS provided comments
	<b>Status:</b> On hold; PDT presentation on design fixes scheduled for 3/5/19 WFFDWG meeting.		
FY19 Wild Fish Surrogate Proposal	Proposal	December 10	ODFW: no comments. NMFS approves and is working with Corps and OSU to permit
Evaluate interim management strategies for adult UWR Chinook Salmon at Big Cliff/Detroit Dams (APH-19-03)	Pre-Proposal	<b>TBD</b>	
	<b>Status:</b> Concept revised; Final proposal requested.		
	Concept Paper	November 30	NMFS provided comments

Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport (APH -19-XX-FOS)	<b>Status:</b> Comments suggested revising concept to a “synthesis”; Corps is identifying researcher to conduct syntheses. Revised concept needs ranking by Steering Team.		
Evaluation of a spring and summer spill at LOP (JPL-19-01-LOP)	Concept Paper	TBD – pending more info	COE provided comments
	<b>Status:</b> RM&E and Steering Team will hold joint meeting to discuss management purpose and information needs.		
Passage and Survival of Chinook Salmon at Lookout Point Dam, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (PNNL)	Draft Final Report	March 22	
2018 Pilot Copepodid Field Sampling Update and Associated Data Collections (OSU)	Draft Report	March 22	
"Effectiveness of a Trap and Transport Program to Boost a Threatened Population of Steelhead (U of I)	Draft Final Manuscript	March 22	
Spring Chinook Salmon Spawning Surveys in the Upper Willamette River Basin in 2018 (Normandeau)	Draft Report	March 25	
Fall Creek adult trap post-construction evaluation) APH-19-02-FC)	Proposal	April 4	

**Participants:** Leslie Bach (NPCC), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Kahn (USACE), Rachel Neuenhoff (Corps), Dave Jepsen (ODFW), Christine Peterson (BPA), Jeremy Romer (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Ricardo Walker (Corps), Jeff Ziller (ODFW);

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

**Welcome, Housekeeping, and Updates**

Emily welcomed the group and conducted a round of introductions. The team agreed to defer approval of the 11/26/18, 1/24/19 and 2/7/19 meeting summaries, to allow time for team members to review and provide additional edits.

- **Action:** Nancy will update the meeting summaries and resend them to the group for review. RM&E team members will respond with any additional edits or comments by 3/7/19. Nancy will follow-up with tracked changes to the team and the team will approve the summaries by email.

The team also agreed to adjust the monthly meeting time, as needed, to reflect agenda needs. The four-hour meeting block will be reserved on calendars, however, DS Consulting will highlight the actual expected time needed on the agenda (i.e. this will be a two-hour meeting).

**Foster Fish Weir Interim Operation for Spring Passage**

Fenton reported that the Corps worked internally and with BPA to have a Special Spill Operation approved for fish passage this spring while the PDT is working on design improvements to the new fish weir. . He noted that the operation was approved on the condition that it is limited to the spring season (March 1 through April 26) and only until the weir is redesigned to reduce fish injury. The operation is to spill at night for fish passage from 7 PM to 7 AM and operate the turbines during the day for power generation from 7 AM to 7 PM with no spill. There will be no turbine generation during the spill period,

except for station service, which is needed to generate power for the facility. Fenton noted that previous studies indicate fish do not pass via the turbine when only generating for station service. The special spill operation will need to be revisited for May and later months, due to the refill of the lake to summer elevation and concern about high TDG levels and water temperatures downstream in the summer months.

Normally, this type of operation should be vetted through FPOM as it is an operation for fish passage, rather than an operation for an RM&E study. Fenton will continue to update the team on the operation.

### **OSU Wild Fish Surrogate FY19 Proposal**

Diana reported that NMFS approved the permit to allow take to collect eggs for generating surrogates. She noted a concern regarding inter-basin transfer of stocks (using North Santiam fish to rear surrogates that will be released as juveniles at Foster and potentially return as adults or residualize in the South Santiam). NMFS feels comfortable moving forward with the inter-basin transfer, as the numbers of North Santiam fish used (6-8) is below the previously set limits for how many surrogates from prior studies returning to the South Santiam as adults would be passed above Foster. Fenton suggested that this item be removed from the regular monthly RM&E agenda; he will continue to provide updates to the team when appropriate.

### **Additional Sampling Request from OSU to Support Copepod Study (JPL-18-03-SYS and JPL-19-03-SYS)**

Rachel reviewed the additional sampling request from OSU with the team (additional sampling request was provided by email to the team on 2/20). She noted that OSU had observed a lot of copepod damage to fish in pre-adult stages in the lab that was not being reflected in the sampling from the screw traps. To validate what was being observed in the lab, OSU proposed sampling 15-28 juvenile fish at Lookout Point using gillnetting. The additional sampling will help inform the infection risk modeling.

The original study proposal has tasks and objectives to support the added field sampling and the Corps would like to support the additional sampling if funding is available. Rachel asked the RM&E team if there are any concerns or inconsistencies with the added sampling as it relates to the original intent of the study.

Jeff noted there were no concerns with using gillnets at Lookout Point. He raised a concern that sampling via night gillnet in the Cougar Reservoir could potentially kill other listed species, such as the bull trout. He suggested live-trapping efforts or having researchers “sit on” the gillnets and pull out any non-targeted species, while they are alive. Other sampling methods suggested included hook and line, mini-traps, or methods used in the fry survival study.

Diana noted that an application for take must also be submitted. As part of the permitting process, NMFS must show that the WATER partners have reviewed the study. RM&E team members present (USFWS, Grand Ronde, BPA, NMFS, COE, ODFW) agreed that the sampling was consistent with the study objectives [Note: NPCC deferred to the biologists]. NMFS noted that the researchers have demonstrated that there is additional need for the sampling and the additional sampling is consistent with the need.

To move forward, Rachel will work with the researchers to prepare a more formal proposal and start the permitting process. The Corps will be pursuing funding for the additional sampling as it is not in the original study budget.

Rachel also noted that she will coordinate internally to follow-up on planning and permitting needs to operate the screw trap below Cougar. It was noted that this will be a separate permitting process.

- **Actions:** Jeff will send information about sampling methods (from fry survival study) to Christina Murphy. Rachel will work with researchers to formalize the proposal and begin the permitting process.

**APH-19-XX-FOS** (*Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport*)

The Corps is moving forward with identifying someone (internally or a contractor) to conduct a synthesis of existing information and to determine whether there are any gaps in the data. Diana noted for the record that NMFS does not anticipate any data gaps. Fenton will update the team regarding this concept at the April meeting.

**[Note: Following the meeting, Fenton clarified that the Corps is determining whether funding is available for this synthesis report and that the revised concept for the synthesis report still needs to be ranked for funding by the Steering team before work on the report can move forward.]**

**APH-19-03** (*Evaluate interim management strategies for adult UWR Chinook Salmon at Big Cliff and Detroit dams*)

Fenton noted that the Corps anticipates funding a pedigree analysis, modeling of TDG and spawning surveys; the modeling structure has not changed from what was originally proposed. Diana asked for confirmation that fin clip collection (genetic sampling) is continuing so that there are no gaps in clip collection; the Corps is working on a mechanism to ensure that there are no gaps in collection, however, under a separate task. The Corps will send the final proposal to RM&E team for review when it is received.

**APH 15-05-FOS** (*Evaluation of Foster Adult Fish Trap Performance*)

Fenton reported that the Project Delivery Team (PDT) has been working on design alternatives. The PDTs for both the ladder and weir will make presentations at the 3/5/19 meeting of the Willamette Fish Facility Design Work Group (WFFDWG). The meeting will be hosted by NMFS and RM&E Team members are invited to attend. Fenton noted that no RM&E needs have been identified by the PDT at this point and suggested taking the concept off of the RM&E agenda. Fenton will provide updates at monthly meetings and circle back if a study need is identified.

**JPL-19-01-LOP** (*Evaluation of a spring and summer spill operation at Lookout Point Dam for improving juvenile spring Chinook Salmon dam passage*)

Mike brought forward the discussion from the Steering Team's meetings in February regarding this concept. He noted that the RM&E team had previously agreed that there was enough information regarding smolt size fish, and the discussion is now focused on what information is needed concerning fry and whether a study should be pursued to inform a long-term solution and/or an interim operation. Additionally, both Mike and Diana noted their understanding that it was too late to implement a study for this spring. Lawrence noted that the Steering Team wanted to understand more about the requested operation.

Mike indicated that the Steering Team was in support of the RM&E Team convening a researchers' group or workshop to determine how best to study fry in connection with spill operations. Specifically, the Steering Team requested 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." The Steering Team noted that "questions for the RM&E Team to answer include, but are not limited to:

1. What is the requested operation?
2. 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)?)

3. How could the Dexter screw trap study be used to inform results this Spring?
4. What are the biological and/or research benefits expected from this operation?

Fenton shared the Corps' perspective that the management purpose for the study was not clear and needed to be identified. Mike noted that the need for this information regarding fry was identified in the Middle Fork RM&E plan and it could inform potential interim operations. Dave noted that there was a need to understand how to increase fry survival through this system. Dave also raised the question of whether, under the BiOp agreement, survival of fry through Lookout Point and Dexter was critical to avoid jeopardy? He noted that if this is critical, there is not a lot of information on that life stage and what could be done to improve survival. Diana noted that the BiOp requires long-term and interim improvements to passage; this study could inform how to do an interim operation more effectively and an interim solution could inform a long-term solution.

The RM&E team agreed that it would be helpful to have a joint meeting with the Steering Team so that the teams could clearly identify the management purpose and information needs together. Team members agreed that individual agencies would prepare, in advance, to answer the Steering Team's questions 1, 2, and 4 (Question number 3 was not considered relevant to answer the question about management purpose and information needs). Team members agreed that it would be helpful to see the summary of Mary Karen Scullion's analysis provided at the 9/27/19 RM&E Team meeting and to have Mary Karen available to call in to the joint meeting to answer questions about what is hydrologically possible.

**Actions:**

- Emily will work to schedule a joint meeting between the RM&E and Steering Teams.
- RM&E members will prepare their agencies' responses to the Steering Team's questions 1, 2, and 4 in advance of the joint meeting.
- Fenton will send out the summary of the Corps' LOP spill analysis from the 9/27/19 RM&E team meeting and follow-up with Mary Karen to see whether she can call into the joint meeting.

**APH 19-01 MF** (*Investigation of spring Chinook salmon fish passage alternatives for the Middle Fork Willamette River*)

Rachel reported that a request for a proposal has gone out.

**APH 19-02-FC** (*Fall Creek adult trap post-construction evaluation*)

Ricardo reported that OSU has provided a proposal; he will send out the proposal to the team.

**Proposed Annual WATER Workplan Revisions**

The team reviewed the revised Annual WATER Workplan that was provided by the Corps. Fenton noted that the workplan reflects a typical year's schedule; this year is not typical due to the furlough which has shifted many of the milestones by one month. The goal will be to get back on track by September, so that studies for 2020 can be identified on a timely basis. Emily noted that a typical year only has two joint meetings with the Steering team and this workplan identifies four joint meetings and will need to be refined. Additionally, the review of research needs for individual sub-basins is scheduled for March and April; the order in which sub-basins are reviewed may need to be shifted depending on the timing priority of research needs.

**Next Steps and Closing**

Fenton reminded the group that the Willamette Science Review is scheduled for March 12-14, 2019; the Corps will send out a draft agenda by the week of 3/4/19. With that, Emily thanked the group and concluded the meeting.

**The next RM&E team meeting is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00.**

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