

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
 Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
 October 22, 2020
 CONFERENCE CALL/WEBEX**

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette_RME/RME.html

**FINAL Facilitator’s Summary
 [Edits provided by Corps]**

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Check internally regarding impacts of reduction to station service power on turbines and options to reduce impact (JPL-XX-21 Detroit Dam juvenile passage (IM#5).	Christine	November RM&E Meeting
Send the team the ODFW outmigration reports/links to reports.	Kelly and Fenton	[Done]
Contact Kelly and Lawrence to discuss needs for additional monitoring (JPL-XX-21 Foster Dam Juvenile Passage Spill Ops IM#9),	Mike	November RM&E Meeting
Meet to discuss links/strategy regarding sampling upstream and monitoring needs downstream.	Mike and Anne	November RM&E Meeting
Ask Luke and Derek Faber to coordinate on retrieving data from antennas at Lebanon Dam.	Dave	ASAP

Present for all or part of the meeting: Fenton Kahn (COE), Michael Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Dave Jepsen (ODFW), Jim Myers (NMFS), Rachel Neuenhoff (COE), Christine Petersen (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Karl Weist (NPCC);

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

Welcome and Housekeeping

Emily welcomed the group and conducted a round of introductions. Team members approved the September 24, 2020 RM&E meeting summary.

Update on FY20 Studies

Fenton noted that the year 1 Fall Creek study has been funded and the Corps will be working on the year 2 contract for FY21. The High Head Bypass study is underway. OSU was successful in infecting juvenile salmon with copepods for the High Head Bypass study. The PNNL researchers have been in the field conducting the tests for the last two weeks. As noted at September’s meeting, the Corps is working on a new contracting mechanism for the pedigree analysis; Fenton will update the group by email if the contract is approved before next meeting, however he cautioned that contract finalization may take months as it must go through several steps.

In regard to fish sampling for copepod studies, Rachel noted that the OSU team had to pull team members out of field for safety during the recent fires. The team is sampling gills from wild fish in Lookout Point and is also sampling copepodids in several reservoirs.

FY21 Concept Follow-up

Update on Interim Measures screwtrapping contract - Fenton updated the group that the Corps is working with its contracting office to set up the initial screwtrapping contract for FY21 (starting in the fall of 2020). They are seeking proposals from five contractors. The goal had been to get the screwtraps in place by

October 1; however, that was not possible as this is the beginning of the fiscal year and a busy time for the contracting office. Once a contractor is selected and a proposal is received, Fenton will share it with the group.

Currently, the plan is to put screwtraps below Big Cliff (1), Cougar (3), Hills Creek (1), and Lookout Point. There are also few other options for placement above Hills Creek. Fenton noted that the contract will be written as task order. While the current task order cannot be modified, if the team wishes to make future modifications, these could be proposed and vetted through the RM&E process for the next task order.

JPL-XX-21 Detroit Dam juvenile passage (IM#5) - Christine reported back on the use of turbines during station service power (SSP) during interim operations, noting that fish can pass through the turbines, however, attraction flow is limited and survival may be poor. Fenton noted that under the interim measures developed, DET will pass all flow through the upper ROs and only operate the turbines at SSP as needed from 6 AM - 10 AM and 6 PM to 10 PM during approximately November 1, 2020 through February 1, 2021. Fenton reminded the team of the purpose of this operation, which is to use the ROs as a safe fish passage route instead of the turbines. These time periods were developed based on salmon migration periods (dusk/dawn). It was noted that to go from normal operations to SSP can be hard on the turbines, and it was questioned whether it would be preferable to leave the turbines off overnight instead of turning them on and off. Anne noted that it could be helpful to review data from existing screwtrap operations in order to adaptively manage this operation. She noted that data may show fish passage timing at certain times of the year/elevations. Additionally, it would be helpful to understand what passage looks like during normal turbine operation and if operations varied over the years, how did that impact passage timing?

As next steps, Christine offered to get more information internally regarding turbine impacts and to see if it would be better on the turbines to remain off overnight. Fenton noted that the prescriptions regarding the operations were developed by the interim measures team and any changes in the schedule would need to be discussed further with management. Fenton offered to send out the most recent outmigration monitoring reports. Kelly offered to send the group the website link for ODFW reports on outmigration monitoring.

- **Actions:** Christine will check internally regarding what the impacts to the project might be for this operation and if there is a more preferable duration for turning turbines on and off.
- **Actions:** Fenton will send out the most recent outmigration monitoring reports.
- **Actions:** Kelly will send the group the website link for ODFW reports on outmigration monitoring.

JPL-XX-21 Foster Dam Juvenile Passage_Spill Ops_IM#9 - The group discussed monitoring abundance and survival of juveniles moving downstream and different monitoring approaches to understand survival with spill operations. Fenton noted, based on ODFW screw trapping efforts in past years, that the tailrace is very shallow and there are no good locations to put a screwtrap below FOS, except for close to the shore below one turbine unit. Dave suggested that a PIT Tag detector could be put further downstream where it is logistically and physically feasible. Fenton noted that the Corps has determined there is enough data from RME studies that informed this operation and no additional studies are needed. If the fish managers would like to see additional monitoring of this interim measure, he encouraged them to provide a draft concept paper that identifies what the needs are so that it can go through the planning/prioritization process with the Steering Team. Mike indicated that he would like to talk to the other RM&E fish managers offline and determine next steps.

- **Action:** Mike will reach out to co-managers to discuss needs for additional monitoring and next steps.

JPL-XX-SYS Interim Measures Passage and Survival - Anne reviewed the revised concept with the group. She noted that NMFS' interest is in looking at survival further downstream. She suggested that

tagging of fish above projects and at screwtraps should be considered. Fenton noted that the Corps will review revised concept and provide NMFS with any further comments.

Mike noted that the group has been considering monitoring needs through discrete concept papers. He encouraged the group to think more strategically about sampling upstream and monitoring needs downstream. He suggested that the sub-basin RM&E Plans could provide guidance on how sampling upstream and monitoring downstream are linked. As a next step, Anne and Mike agreed to discuss this further offline. Fenton noted that work on the sub-basin RM&E plans was deferred in order to focus on the interim measures. He can provide an update on the plans at the next meeting, after which the team can discuss how best to update and complete the plans.

→ **Action:** Mike and Anne will meet to consider and discuss links between sampling upstream and monitoring needs downstream. Fenton will provide an update on RM&E plans at the next meeting.

Follow-up from October Steering Team Meeting

As follow-up to the October 6, 2020 Steering Team meeting, the RM&E Team had an agenda item to consider how to reconnect the Cougar and HHB passage efforts planning efforts in the future, given that the PDT work is being shelved due to lack of funding. The RM&E Team was confused by the request and could not recall the need for discussion. A question was raised at the RM&E as to whether there was an impetus to get funding in FY22 for these efforts and if so, what the priorities are? It was noted that questions on future funding should be directed to the Steering Team.

Fenton also noted that he had updated the Steering Team on monitoring equipment at Lebanon Dam that the Corps is planning to remove. It was suggested that the RM&E Team consider whether there might be data gathering needs and opportunities to use the existing equipment at Lebanon Dam. Fenton noted that the Corps installed PIT antennas and radio telemetry antennas at Lebanon Dam in 2014 and 2015 for the fish passage studies at Foster dam; and had agreed that when the studies were over, the Corps would remove the equipment. Lebanon Dam is owned by the City of Albany and the Corps had an agreement with the City to remove all equipment at the end of the Foster studies. Fenton noted that the equipment includes several PIT antennas across the dam spillway were damaged during high river flows in 2018 and need to be removed or replaced. The Corps is planning to remove all the equipment from the dam during summer of 2021 when river flows are low. The two PIT antennas in the adult fish ladder are still working, however, no one has checked on the systems in the last year or so nor any PIT data downloaded because there were no studies at Foster.

It was noted that the antennas across the spillway, if repaired, could be a good interrogation site for the monitoring study at Foster. Additionally, the antennas in the ladder are still collecting data; however, this data has not been collected. Anne expressed interest in understanding what data was available and the data potential for future studies. Dave indicated that ODFW may be able to retrieve the data.

→ **Action:** Dave will coordinate internally to see if ODFW can retrieve data from antennas at Lebanon Dam.

Closing

It was noted that the November meeting will be rescheduled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. DSC will send the group a Doodle Poll with potential meeting dates.

With that, Emily thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.

The next RM&E meeting is TBD

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

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

Document Name	Document Type	Comments Due By	Comments Provided By
DET Pedigree Analysis	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20; RM&E discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg. Fish managers to provide write-up regarding information needs.		
FY19 APH-19-02-FC - Fall Creek_AFF_yr2.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20; Moving forward		
FY20 JPL-20-01 - Spatiotemporal sources of mortality in juvenile reservoir-reared Chinook salmon.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20		
FY21 APH-21-01 - Rapid Genetic Sorting.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20		
FY21 JPL-XX-21 - Detroit Dam Juvenile Passage_IM#5.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20; RM&E discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg. Proposal being requested.		
FY21 WQFM-XX-21-BCL - Big Cliff TDG_IM#6.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20; RM&E discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg		
FY20 JPL-XX-SYS - Interim Passage and Delayed Mortality.	Concept Paper	7/29/2020	
	Status: Ranked 8/27/20; RM&E discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg. Revised concept provided 10/22/20.		
FY21 JPL-XX-21 - Foster Dam Juvenile Passage Spill Ops_IM#9.	Research Summary	7/29/2020	
	Status: No Ranking; RM&E to discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg		
FY21 JPL-XX-21 - Foster Dam Adult Passage Operations_TDG_IM #10.	Research Summary	7/29/2020	
	Status: No Ranking; RM&E discussed further at 9/24/20 mtg		