

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

Steering Team & RM&E Team Meetings

December 7, 2021

Meeting Summary

[Edited by ODFW, CTGR]

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

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

Steering Team Session

Participants: Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kate Wells (NOAA).

- **10/27 Meeting Summary:** The team approved the summary with no additional edits.
- **Budget Updates:** Ida noted that the Corps continues to operate under a continuing resolution. Some CRFM funding was included in the 2021 infrastructure bill; however, it is not yet clear how that will be distributed. The Corps is moving forward with the known budget and Ida will continue to provide updates at the Steering Team meetings.
- **Updates/Coordination on Ad Hoc Process:** The federal family ad hoc team met last week and is moving forward to schedule a meeting that will include other regional partners. At this point, they are anticipating that Steering Team/policy -level staff will be asked to participate in the process; with the potential to bring leadership in later when appropriate.
- **Other Updates:** Kate is taking on additional management duties with the Oregon Coast branch, which could impact her meeting availability.

Next Steering Team Session: February 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Joint Steering & RM&E Session

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Fenton Khan (Corps), Rachel Laird (Corps), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kate Wells (NOAA).

WATER Partner Updates

- **ODFW:** Kelly reported that ODFW is standing up a Habitat Division led by Sara Reif; the Water Quantity and Quality program will be shifting to the Habitat Division. ODFW is planning to open offices to the public beginning January 1, 2022.

Regarding ODFW's evaluation of the Cougar Drawdown measure, out-migrating fish have been detected all the way to Willamette Falls. Currently about 60% of flow is going through Walterville Canal (and passing the PIT tag detector), leaving 40% in the main McKenzie River. Flow proportions vary

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depending on conditions. If folks have additional questions, please contact Jeff Ziller and Jeremy Romer.

- **NOAA:** Kate noted that NOAA continues work related to the injunction measures and engaging in the Willamette EIS process. Anne is tracking screwtrap data and has noted that large numbers of fish came out of Cougar reservoir during the drawdown in October, as well as the Detroit reservoir.
- **CTGR:** Lawrence noted that CTGR is doing a lot of restoration work on the Tribe's upland conservation properties and is working on culvert replacement/channel reconnection projects at the Chahalpam property. Anne noted that from NOAA's perspective, the culvert work will be evaluated under their programmatic BiOp and so should move through the process relatively quickly.
- **USFWS:** Mike reported that USFWS expects to return to offices within the first three months of 2022.

The annual lamprey information exchange is occurring this week. The lamprey information exchange is an opportunity for those working on lamprey conservation activities to meet for policy-level meetings and technical-level presentations.

The agency's work on the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report is progressing and the plan is to submit a draft to the Corps on March 1, 2022. The report team has reached out to partners and are looking for review and feedback.

- **ODEQ:** Nancy noted that ODEQ will also return to work January 1, 2022. A hybrid plan will be in place for all workers who do not work directly with the public.

Additionally, Nancy reported that ODFW and ODEQ management are continuing to work together on the Willamette EIS efforts on behalf of the state.

- **NPCC:** Cathy noted that NPCC has invited the Corps to present to NPCC the Fish and Wildlife Committee on February 15, 2022; the presentation will include information on the BiOp and publicly available information concerning the injunction. The Independent Scientific Advisory Board is reviewing lifecycle models for the Willamette EIS; the point of contact is Eric Merrill.

NPCC is also identifying Strategy Performance Indicators for the Fish and Wildlife Program. They are hosting the "Ocean and Plume Science and Management Forum" on January 19th (more information is provided at this link: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/meeting/ocean-forum-january-19-2022>). Lastly, Cathy noted that the NPCC hopes to have an in-person meeting in the Willamette Valley later in 2022.

- **BPA:** There were no additional updates from BPA.

WATER Team Updates

- **HTT:** BPA funds have been allocated to restoration projects; Eric will be working with Sponsors for contracting. Slides from the December 2nd HTT meeting were forwarded to the ST and RM&E Teams following the meeting; the slides summarize the projects that were awarded.
- **Flow Team:** Anne encouraged the teams to track the inflow and weather outlooks, noting that they are of course subject to change, however, interesting to watch.
- **EIS Schedule Updates:** Ida noted that Willamette EIS public meetings are scheduled for the week of January 17, 2022. The public virtual room is now live and can be accessed via: <https://gather.cdmsmith.com/v/V6zaxVGM1eZ>.

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- **Injunction Updates:** Public information about the Willamette Valley Injunction can be accessed via: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/>.

RM&E Team Session

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Fenton Khan (Corps), Rachel Laird (Corps), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR).

- **10/27 Meeting Summary:** The team approved the summary with no additional edits.
- **FY21/FY22 Studies:** Fenton reported that the FY22 Foster spill operation and the Green Peter spill operation will take place as part of the Injunction RM&E. The Injunction team is still working through Injunction RM&E for other projects.
- **Screwtrapping Updates:** Screwtraps have been distributed in multiple locations throughout the basin. The new contractor, EAS, is actively working the traps and Fenton will continue to provide the bi-weekly reports to the RM&E team as they are available.
- **Pedigree Analysis Update:** Anne inquired as to when results from the pedigree analysis would be available. Fenton noted that the schedule is tentative at this point and agreed to follow-up once he had a chance to check with Rich Piaskowski (Corps lead on the effort) for updated information. Following the meeting, Fenton reported that preliminary results would be presented as they are available, which *could* be as early as Spring 2022. He provided the following schedule for preliminary reports (noting that the schedule is subject to change):
 - North Santiam – February 2022
 - McKenzie – July 2022
 - South Santiam – September 2022.
- **Surrogate Program:** Fenton noted that OSU is rearing surrogates for injunction RM&E; these will be active tag/focused studies. The Corps intends to use hatchery fish to determine screwtrap efficiencies and for any additional Injunction RM&E PIT-tag needs. Fenton noted that the Corps has repurposed approximately 1,500–2,000 surrogates that were originally reared for testing screwtrap efficiencies. These fish were recently released in the Detroit reservoir below the tailrace to test the regulatory outlet as part of the Injunction requirements; the fish were double-clipped to allow for identification.

Via email, Luke Whitman, ODFW, reported that ODFW released approximately 2,500 surrogate Chinook smolts in the Molalla last week to help inform ODFW's reintroduction efforts in that basin. Luke thanked Fenton and the OSU surrogate team for their support with the effort and noted that they are raising Chinook for ODFW from brood year '21 to release next spring.

- **Sub-Basin Planning Spreadsheet Updates:** Team members provided updates for the spreadsheet; DS Consulting will add the updates to the spreadsheet and circulate to the team for any additional inputs or edits.

The next RM&E Team session is on January 4th, 2022 at 3:00 PM.