

Steering Team & RM&E Team Meetings

December 6, 2022

Meetings Summary

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Steering_team/WST.html
https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html

[Edits provided by Corps]

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

Steering Team Meeting

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brett Blundon (USFS), Amy Gibbons (Corps), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Khan (Corps), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Alyssa Mucken (OWRD), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Greg Taylor (Corps), Kate Wells (NOAA), Luke Whitman (ODFW).

10/4/22 Meeting Summary: The Steering Team approved the October meeting summary with no additional edits.

Budget Updates: Ida noted that FY23 is still under a continuing resolution through mid-December 2022. If Congress does not pass a budget by the time the resolution expires, it is then expected the new Congressional delegation will take up the FY23 budget. The Corps currently has CRFM funding for 50% of the expressed capacity for FY23; the Corps has communicated its concern about the shortage in funding as part of the budgeting process. Ida is drafting the proposed budget for FY25; the budget will express capacity for items identified in the Draft EIS preferred alternative and will include a short justification for each budget object. In February/March, the budget will be submitted to Division offices and then HQ for review. The final budget will then be sent to OMB. OMB is expected to release the FY25 President's Budget in February 2024. Congress will then take up the President's Budget and add to or subtract funding.

November 30, 2022 Managers Forum Report Back: The Managers met on November 30, 2022; the discussion focused primarily on the Draft Willamette Valley System EIS (DEIS), [public comment period and public meetings](#). Several WATER partners expressed the intent to attend the public meetings and provide comments on the DEIS. The next Managers Forum will be scheduled after the DEIS public comment period concludes (January 19, 2023).

The next Steering Team Session is on February 7, 2022

Steering & RM&E Joint Session

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brett Blundon (USFS), Amy Gibbons (Corps), Nancy Gramlich (ODEQ), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Khan (Corps), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Alyssa Mucken (OWRD), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Dan Spear (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Greg Taylor (Corps), Kate Wells (NOAA), Luke Whitman (ODFW).

WATER Partner Updates

- **ODFW:** Kelly noted that ODFW will attend the Willamette DEIS virtual public meeting and intends to provide comments on the DEIS. She reported that this evening, EWEB staff will present a recommendation to the Eugene Water and Electric Board of Commissioners to decommission the Leaburg Canal and Dam. This will affect the water supply for the Leaburg and McKenzie hatcheries. ODFW is not taking a position on the recommendation but will need to take action concerning the hatcheries if the recommendation is approved and implemented. A decision is not expected at tonight's meeting. Luke reported that ODFW is finalizing data from the 2022 spring Chinook salmon season. He is also working with Anne to plan a small study using surplus fry in the South Santiam basin (see RM&E Meeting notes below).
- **NOAA:** Kate noted that NOAA is focusing on reviewing the DEIS and associated Biological Assessment.
- **USFWS:** Mike reported that the Lamprey Summit and 6th Annual Lamprey Information Exchange will take place December 13-14, 2022 at the World Forestry Center in Portland. In-person and virtual options are available: <https://www.pacificlamprey.org/>.
- **ODEQ:** Nancy noted that ODEQ will be attending the public meetings for the DEIS and providing comments. Also, ODEQ intends to update the Temperature TMDLs for the Willamette in FY2023.
- **USFS:** Brett reported that 2022 was another big fire year in the region with the Cedar Creek Fire covering over 100,000 acres. USFS is moving forward with a fire recovery team; Brett noted that some of this effort, such as work on roads and culverts, may overlap with fisheries' efforts.
- **OWRD:** Alyssa noted that Water Resources is reviewing the DEIS. Additionally, she reported that the Willamette Basin Review Reallocation Study is an OWRD priority. OWRD is forming an implementation work group that will include state and federal agencies and other stakeholders. Topics anticipated for discussion by the work group include: reliability of stored water for future irrigation or municipal use, decision criteria for dry/deficit years, and how the state plans to protect instream flows. Alyssa will reach out to WATER partners to explore their interest in participating. OWRD is working with the Corps and Reclamation to convene meetings to discuss the application process and timeline for water rights storage certificates.
- **Corps:** Greg reported that the Corps' efforts to implement injunction operations at all the major sub-basins are going well. Amy Gibbons, Chief of the Environmental Resources Branch at the Corps has returned to the region after 3-years with the Corps' Europe District in Germany. Fenton reported that Lebanon Dam recently experienced a high-water event, South Santiam River flows were high from rain events; as a result, the conduit and wiring for the northside PIT antennas were damaged and the north fish ladder and north spillway PIT antennas are not operational (no data is being collected) until the contractor can fix the conduits and wiring. Additionally, one of the PIT antennas on the south side ladder is failing. The Corps is unable to get PIT-tag data from Lebanon Dam until these antennas are repaired. He noted that the PNNL researchers are able to get active tag data as there was no damage to the radio telemetry equipment in the reach and at Lebanon Dam (Chinook salmon and steelhead were released at Foster with both active tags and PIT tags in the spring of 2022 and Chinook salmon were released with both PIT tags and active tags this fall). The injunction spill operations at Foster and Green Peter will continue in 2023. PNNL will release active tag and PIT tag Chinook salmon and age 1 steelhead in Spring and Fall 2023 at Foster, and Chinook salmon at Green Peter in spring 2023 to evaluate the spill operations. Additionally, the Willamette Fisheries Science Review is scheduled for April 5-6, 2023.
- There were no updates from BPA, CTGR, or NPCC.

WATER Team Updates

- **WATER Teams:** There were no updates from the Flow Team or HTT.
 - **EIS Schedule Updates:** Updates can be found here:
<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/System-Evaluation-EIS/>
 - **Injunction Updates:** Public information about the Willamette Valley Injunction is available here:
[https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/..](https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Locations/Willamette-Valley/Injunction/)
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RM&E Team Meeting

Participants: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brett Blundon (USFS), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Khan (Corps), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Luke Whitman (ODFW).

Meeting Summaries: The RM&E Team approved the November 1, 2022 RM&E Team Meeting Summary pending additional edits by Greg Walker regarding his update on drawdown operations in the Middle Fork.

Study Updates: Fenton requested that NOAA watch for permit requests from PNNL for operations at Foster and Green Peter. The Foster nighttime spill study will start on February 1, 2023. The Green Peter study will not start until the pool is full. Anne noted that NOAA has begun discussing permit information for screwtrap contractors for 2023.

Anne and Luke noted that surplus fry might be available in February 2023 for a small study in the North Santiam regarding trap efficiency. The fry will be too small to be tagged but could be marked with dye and released between Minto and Big Cliff to see what proportion is caught in the screwtraps. Anne and Luke will prepare a brief 1-page proposal for the team to review at the January RM&E meeting.

- **Action:** Anne will track permit requests from PNNL for 2023 studies.
- **Action:** Anne and Luke will prepare a proposal for use of surplus fry in the North Santiam for discussion at the January RM&E Team meeting.

Team Updates and Coordination: There were no additional updates from team members.

January RM&E Meeting Date: The team agreed to reschedule the team meeting later in January.

- **Action:** DS Consulting will send out a Doodle Poll to reschedule the January meeting.

The next RM&E Team Session is TBD.

The DS Consulting Facilitation Team drafts Steering and RME Team meeting summaries; suggested edits are welcome. Please send suggested edits to Nancy Pionk at nancy@dsconsult.co