

**RM&E Team Meeting**  
**June 6, 2023**  
**Facilitator's Summary**  
**[Edits provided by Corps, ODFW]**

[http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\\_Coordination/Steering\\_team/WST.html](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](https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html)

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

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**Participants for all or part of the meeting:** Brad Eppard (Corps), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Jason Karnezis (BPA), Fenton Khan (Corps), Cathy Kellon (NPCC), Jim Myers (NOAA), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Alyssa Mucken (OWRD), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Kate Self (NPCC), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR), Greg Taylor (Corps), Josie Thompson (NOAA), Dave Trachtenbarg (Corps), Bob Wertheimer (Corps).

**5/2/23 Meeting Summary:** The RM&E Team approved the May RM&E Team Meeting Summary with no additional edits.

**Study Updates:** Fenton noted that the Foster spring spill evaluation is ongoing and will end on June 15. PNNL released the last group of yearling steelhead last week; many fish were still too small to tag. Green Peter spill ended 6/5; however, the operation could not be evaluated with the active tag study as the diseased yearling Chinook salmon could not be released. The Green Peter operation was supposed to end May 10; however, it was extended to June 5 to evaluate the spill with bulk marked fish released in the reservoir and the screw trap below the dam, especially because the active tag study could not be completed.. Information on those bulk marked fish releases are in the biweekly screw trap reports. USGS and PNNL are preparing for deep drawdown operations at Green Peter and Lookout Point dams and active tagged fish releases that will be occurring this fall to evaluate the operations. There was interest in being able to review the researcher's proposals; Fenton will check with legal counsel to see if the proposals can be shared.

→ **Action:** Fenton will check with legal counsel to see if the researchers' proposals can be shared with the RM&E Team.

**Screwtrap Update:** Fenton noted that the screwtrap contractors, Cramer Fish Sciences (Cramer) and EAS will be working concurrently with each other until this fall when Cramer fully takes over all screw trapping efforts. David noted that Cramer has completed bulk releases of fish at Green Peter, above Lookout Point, Hills Creek and are working on releases for Fall Creek, Detroit and Cougar.

David invited RM&E team members to provide input and comments regarding data and formatting for the biweekly reports. There was a request to have the contractors translate raw counts into trap efficiency data for the biweekly reports. David noted that now that contractors have more data, this will be included in future reports. Anne reminded David that USGS, who will be seeking permits for the fall drawdown, needs to coordinate with NMFS for permits.

→ **Action:** RM&E Team members will send any input on the screwtrap reports to David by June 15.

**Surrogate Program Update:** The Corps is waiting to hear if ODFW/OSU were able to get steelhead eggs for surrogates for next year. Adult run numbers are low and surrogates may not be available for 2024; Anne noted that just 1 or 2 fish are needed to retrieve eggs.

Fenton added that 1 year-old steelhead were available for the spring 2023 study at Foster, 1.5 year-old steelhead will be available for the Fall Foster study, and 2-year olds for the 2024 Foster study; however, if eggs are not obtained this spring, there will not be 1 year-olds in 2024 or 2 years-olds available for studies in 2025.

**Update on Parentage Based Tagging (PBT) - Discussion regarding results and applying these data in**

**Outplanting/Reintroductions:** Fenton and Bob reported that there had been a request at the Willamette Fish Passage Operations and Maintenance (WFPOM) meeting to discuss NOR outplanting in the North Santiam above Detroit Dam in connection with the PBT results. The Corps has since determined that WFPOM is the appropriate group to have this conversation. The Corps will coordinate with Dr. Kathleen O'Malley to have her attend the next WFPOM meeting. It was noted that there may be an RM&E component to future actions that are taken regarding reintroduction of fish above the dams which will require discussion by the WATER RM&E Team. Kelly noted Minto keeps track of which locations each individual pedigreed fish is released at; this information can be combined with Kathleen's pedigree analysis to determine what systems those fish were released into.

Fenton noted that the North Santiam and McKenzie pedigree reports were finalized in 2023. The South Santiam report is scheduled to be completed Fall, 2023 and the Fall Creek report is scheduled to be completed in early 2024. Anne noted that it would be helpful to have a rolling start to the next contracts for the pedigree reports. Fenton noted that Rich is the study lead and will be attending the WFPOM meeting.

→ **Action: RM&E members who want more information on the WFPOM meeting should reach out to Bob Wertheimer at [Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil)**

**PIT Tag Infrastructure Willamette Falls:** Team members reported on follow-up actions from the April RM&E Team meeting regarding PIT Tag Infrastructure needs at Willamette Falls:

- Kelly briefed Luke on the April RME discussion and information needs; Luke agreed to prepare a draft budget description regarding the infrastructure improvements for review at the July RM&E meeting. He will also provide more information to the RM&E team regarding Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission's (PSMFC) concerns regarding data collection at the Falls.
- Mike reported on his conversation with his colleague, Will Simpson, who sits on the Pit Tag Information Systems (PTAGIS) Steering Committee. It is Mike's understanding from the conversation the PTAGIS data standards are focused on the physical tag itself to ensure that the right kind of tags are being used to prevent problems in data management and analysis. While it is best to have the most efficient antenna possible, having an antenna that is 30-50% percent efficient is not an issue. The data can still be uploaded into the database, although the quality and usefulness of the data may be limited, depending on the efficiency level or how long the antenna is on or offline. Mike will connect with Luke to compare their understandings regarding PTAGIS standards.
- HTT Grants: The 2024 HTT projects are currently being reviewed and the team recommended funding all four projects proposed. So, if there is interest in applying for HTT funds, the application period will be for 2025 funds.

→ **Action: Mike will connect with Luke to compare their understandings regarding PTAGIS standards.**

→ **Action: Luke will provide an update on PSMFC conversations and prepare a budget description for review at the July RM&E meeting.**

**Screwtrap and Spring Operations:** Anne presented a comparison of Willamette Valley system operations with EAS screwtrap reports. David clarified that there is a powerhouse trap and a regulating outlet (RO) trap at Hills Creek; the RO trap is downstream of both the RO and the powerhouse, so fish can be collected from both routes. The RM&E Team appreciated Anne's summary and asked that she provides similar reviews on a bimonthly basis.

→ **Action: Anne will send her PowerPoint presentation to the team and prepare a report for the September RM&E Team meeting.**

**Next Meeting Scheduling:** Emily will send out a Doodle Poll to re-schedule the July RM&E Meeting due to July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

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

*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](mailto:nancy@dsconsult.co).*