

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
March 25, 2021**

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?
Share the team's input on the use of the Cougar screwtraps with the PDT.	Fenton	ASAP
Set up a meeting between the Corps, ODFW, and USFW to discuss PIT tagging the 2000 surrogate steelhead before release, as well as resources for tagging and monitoring.	Anne	ASAP
Check with Pacific States regarding the ability to reuse the closed study PIT tags.	Jim	ASAP
Provide comments on the concepts.	RM&E Team members	Prior to 4/6/21 Joint Steering/RM&E Team meeting
Discuss the concepts/ranking with their Steering Team representatives.	RM&E Team members	Prior to 4/6/21 Joint Steering/RM&E Team meeting
Prepare a short table of the Interim Measures for the Steering Team.	Fenton	[Completed]
Add discussion of monitoring infrastructure to Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting agenda.	DS Consulting	[Completed]
Add the updating of the sub-basin planning spreadsheets to the May RM&E Team meeting agenda.	DS Consulting	5/13 RM&E Team meeting
Review the final SDM report.	RM&E Team members	5/13 RM&E Team meeting
Reach out to the PI to schedule a presentation on the SDM report for the May RM&E Team meeting.	Rachel	[Completed]
Re-schedule the May RM&E Team meeting.	DS Consulting	[Completed]

Present for all or part of the meeting: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Brad Eppard (COE), Fenton Kahn (COE), Michael Hudson (USFWS), Rachel Laird (COE), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Jim Myers (NMFS), Christine Petersen (BPA), Jon Rerecich (COE);

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 February 25, 2021 meeting summary. Fenton noted that he has sent out several draft reports to the group for review and final reports for file, including the final report on the Middle Fork Structured Decision-making (SDM) study. He asked that the group not to distribute the SDM report widely as the researchers are planning to submit it for publication. Deadlines for comments on draft reports are listed in the Document Tracking Table at the end of this document and on meeting agendas.

FY21 Study Updates

Fenton reported that the contracts for the pedigree analysis and for the Fall Creek study FY19 APH-19-02-FC (*Fall Creek_AFF_yr2*) are in the approval process with USGS. Additionally, the contract for the LOP desktop modeling exercise, JPL-19-01-LOP (*Estimating survival of juvenile Chinook salmon fry in LOP reservoir*), has been approved by USGS; the period of performance for this contract will begin in June as it is based on the researchers' availability. Fenton noted that the contract approval process with USGS is taking longer due to process adjustments and delays due to Covid-19.

Wild Fish Surrogate Program

Fenton reported that the FY21 contract for the Wild Fish Surrogate Program was sent to USGS for acceptance. Once USGS accept the contract, they will send it to OSU. For FY22, OSU is planning to rear yearling and subyearling Chinook and steelhead surrogates for the FOS study, and Chinook surrogates for the DET study. [*Facilitator's Note: In summary edits, Fenton noted that he is also coordinating with the OSU Surrogate Program to rear fish for the screw trap efficiency tests during FY22.*]

Interim Measures Implementation

The PDT began implementing the FOS night-time spill interim operation on 3/1/2021. [*Facilitator's Note: In summary edits, Fenton noted that the PDT is starting to plan for the fish weir summer spill interim measure at FOS to warm up the river temperatures below FOS to aid in returning adult salmon back to the fish facility.*]

The PDT is currently planning for implementation of the summer spill interim measures at LOP and seeking to determine whether there are any additional processes needed. As noted at the February meeting, an Environmental Assessment/NEPA coverage is needed before the COU measures can be implemented.

Willamette Fisheries Science Review Update

The Willamette Fisheries Science Review is planned for April 28 and 29, 2021 from 8:30 AM -12:30 PM and will take place virtually. Fenton recently sent out an email regarding the planned review and asked that team members circulate the information about the review within their agencies.

Screwtrapping Contract Update

Fenton reported that the contractor has submitted an almost final draft of the workplan he expects a final draft will be ready for review by the RM&E team within the next week.

He noted that the screwtraps have been installed and all the permits are in place at COU. He expressed appreciation to Mike Hudson for assistance with getting the USFWS permit issued. As noted above, due to the NEPA coverage needs, the Corps is not able to implement either one of the IMs operation this year.

NOAA and USFWS expressed a desire to see the screwtraps at COU operated this year as this could provide baseline information on the standard operation as well as trap efficiency. NPCC also supported operating the traps this year if information of value could be obtained. Fenton indicated that the PDT is discussing the next steps regarding the screwtraps and he will bring the RM&E team's ideas forward to them.

Team members then identified ideas for the PDT to consider on a spreadsheet table (see Attachment A below). It was noted that operating the screwtraps this year could provide helpful baseline information on how the changes that occur affect passage. Additionally, running the screwtraps this year provides an opportunity for the contractor to work out any bugs and provides learning for the next year. Anne noted that operating the screwtraps may provide some helpful information to inform "Table 1. Hypothetical operations of Cougar Dam regulating outlet and powerhouse for juvenile fish passage." With regard to trap efficiency, the screw traps could be operated in different conditions/flows. Additionally, as traps are tested, hatchery

fish that came through the regulating outlet could be clipped and potentially be recaptured downstream to gain more information. It was also suggested that if screwtraps were not operated at Cougar this year, the Corps consider redirecting resources elsewhere in the basin. Christine noted that BPA has some contractors (Rebecca Buchanan, John Skalski at University of Washington) who are available to consult on PIT Tag study design.

Brad appreciated the ideas from the team and noted that the PDT is currently considering pros, cons and costs of next steps.

→ **Action:** Fenton will share the team's input on the use of the Cougar screwtraps with the PDT for consideration.

Options for Use of Surrogate Winter Steelhead

Fenton reported on conversations with Ryan Couture regarding ODFW/OSU's plans for the 2,000 winter steelhead that are available due to the Foster Fish Weir study not going forward (see February 2, 2021 Meeting Summary). Fenton indicated that Ryan expressed that absent a study plan for these fish, ODFW and OSU plan to release the fish in the North Santiam downstream of Minto and are not planning on tagging the fish. Fenton noted previous discussions by the RME Team to potentially use the steelhead to test trap efficiency in N. Santiam, however, he reminded the group that there are no steelhead upstream of Detroit and there is no expectation that steelhead will be caught in the traps. Any potential studies and associated funding would need to be in place with the ability to implement within the next two weeks.

Anne noted that per conversations she had with ODFW staff, they may have interest in PIT tagging the fish when released to allow recapture by the Geren Island detector downstream to test the PIT tag detector. Jim noted that he has some PIT tags from a closed system study that could be used; he will verify with Pacific States that the tags are still valid for use. Fenton noted that the group will need to identify resources for tagging and retrieving the information. As a next step, Anne will coordinate a meeting between the Corps, ODFW, and USFWS to discuss the feasibility of PIT tagging the fish before release and resources for tagging and monitoring.

→ **Action:** Anne will set up a meeting within the next week between the Corps (Fenton), ODFW (Elise, Kelly, Dave, Ryan Couture), USFWS (Mike) to discuss PIT tagging the excess steelhead fish before release and resources for tagging and monitoring.

→ **Action:** Jim will check with Pacific States regarding the ability to use the PIT tags in his possession.

FY22 Concept Planning - Next Steps for Prioritization

The group discussed the next steps for prioritization/ranking of the three concepts previously reviewed by the RM&E:

1. **FY21 JPL-XX-21** (*Detroit Dam Juvenile Fish Passage Interim Operations*)
2. **FY21 JPL-XX-XX-FOS** (*Foster Dam Juvenile Passage Spill Operations*)
3. **FY20-xx** (*Evaluation of Interim Measure for 2022 Operational Passage in South Fork McKenzie*)

Fenton noted that Jon addressed comments related to the DET concept and sent a revised concept paper to the team. The DET and FOS concepts were put forward earlier than the RM&E's typical annual timeframe because the tags must be ordered earlier than usual due to Covid-19 delays.

Emily reviewed the draft agenda for the Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting scheduled for April 6, 2021. With regard to discussion and prioritization of the concepts, she asked that agencies provide any comments ahead of the joint meeting so that the drafters can be prepared to address them at the meeting. Fenton will prepare a short table of the Interim Measures as an information tool for the Steering Team. Finally, RM&E

team members were encouraged to connect with their Steering Team representatives to discuss the concepts and their agency's ranking considerations.

- **Action:** RM&E Team members will provide comments on the concepts ahead of the Joint Meeting and discuss the concepts/ranking with their Steering Team representatives. Fenton will prepare a table of the Interim Measures for the Steering Team.

There was also a request that the April 29, 2021 Managers Forum agenda include a discussion regarding the long-term needs for monitoring in the Willamette. It was suggested that direction is needed from the managers regarding the need for basin-wide monitoring infrastructure. It was noted that the Managers Forum includes several new managers and that any discussion with the Managers would need to identify more specifically what the request is. This topic will be added to the Joint meeting agenda for further discussion among the Steering and RM&E teams.

- **Action:** DS Consulting will add this topic to the April 6, 2021 Joint RM&E/Steering Team meeting agenda.

Emily recapped the annual process for review of concepts. She noted that the group previously discussed updating the sub-basin planning spreadsheets to identify information gaps; however, no updates have been provided in 2020 or 2021 so far. Emily suggested that sub-basin planning spreadsheets could be updated by the team at the May meeting if time allows. Fenton noted that the Corps is considering additional study needs for later Spring/Summer and will bring draft concepts to the group when ready.

- **Action:** DS Consulting will add the updating of the sub-basin planning spreadsheets to the May RM&E Team meeting agenda (as time allows).

Planning for FY21 Middle Fork Check-in

The RM&E team was asked by the Steering Team to consider timing/planning for an FY21 Middle Fork update/check-in. Emily noted that during their March meeting, the Steering Team clarified that the check-in would not involve a decision point on downstream passage and instead would summarize what information is available and the remaining data gaps (much like the 2019 check-in). As a first step for planning the check-in, it was suggested that the team review the final SDM report and that the Principal Investigator (PI) provide a presentation to the team at the May meeting. The researchers will also be doing a presentation at the Willamette Basin Fisheries Science Review. Additionally, it was noted that in October 2019, prior to the SDM workshops, the RM&E team considered reviewing the data comprehensively as a team; however, those conversations were deferred in light of the SDM workshops. It was suggested that it may be worthwhile to revisit that conversation, now that the SDM work is complete.

- **Action:** RM&E Team members will review the final SDM report. Rachel will reach out to the PI to schedule a presentation with the RM&E Team for the May meeting.

Next Steps and Closing

It was suggested that the team reschedule the May meeting as the May 27 date is close to the Memorial Day holiday and will impact attendance.

- **Action:** DS Consulting will work to re-schedule the May meeting for earlier in the month.

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

The next meeting is a Joint Meeting between the RM&E and Steering Team on April 6, 2021; following that the next regular meeting of the RM&E Team is May 13, 2021.

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](#))

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Document Name	Document Type	Comments Due By	Comments Provided By
FY21 JPL-XX-21 (<i>Detroit Dam Juvenile Fish Passage Interim Operations</i>)	FY22 Concept	3/22/21	
	2/25/21 – Reviewed at RM&E Team meeting		
FY21 JPL-XX-XX-FOS (<i>Foster Dam Juvenile Passage Spill Operations</i>)	FY22 Concept	3/22/21	
	2/25/21 – Reviewed at RM&E Team meeting		
FY20-xx (<i>Evaluation of Interim Measure Evaluation for 2022 Operational Passage in South Fork McKenzie</i>)	FY22 Concept	3/22/21	Corps
	2/25/21 – Reviewed at RM&E Team meeting		
Development of Continuous Bathymetry and Two-Dimensional Hydraulic Models for the Willamette River, Oregon	Draft Report	4/8/2021	
	3/15/21: Draft report sent by Corps; provide comments to Rich Piaskowski at richard.m.piaskowski@usace.army.mil		
Tracking Heat in the Willamette River System, Oregon	Draft Report	4/21/2021	
	3/24/21: Draft report sent by Corps; provide comments to Norman.L.Buccola@usace.army.mil		
Willamette Valley Project Downstream Fish Monitoring Work Plan	Draft Work Plan	4/30/201	
	3/31/21: Draft work plan sent by Corps; provide any written comments to fenton.o.khan@usace.army.mil		

Attachment A

Operating screwtraps below COU in Spring 2021 - without implementing IMs

What are we evaluating?	How is the data going to be used/what could it inform?	Other thoughts to share w/ PDT?
Fish passage through the RO and the turbines during the baseline operations in FY21	Evaluating the IM operations in the future years (FY22-?) will benefit from the comparison with current conditions	
"migration timing and size of naturally-produced juvenile salmonids exiting downstream of the dam' as stated in the IMs 16, 17	Future operations for RO and turbines may be modified on the basis of this information, since the table guiding the day/night percent in the 2 passage routes is still to be described fully	We would like to see some work on "Table 1. Hypothetical operations of Cougar Dam regulating outlet and powerhouse for juvenile fish passage."
baseline operations since no IM will be in place this year	compare to the IM operations when implemented	
Efficiency for the flow levels running throughout the remainder of FY21	If the efficiencies are varying in each year, we can see how that is affected by ops.	
Possible RO night vs day operations	Marked fish from efficiency studies (e.g. finclips to distinguish RO vs turbine) could be recaptured d/s in the work that others are doing in FY21	This will inform future studies regarding the ability to track the fish that are caught/ released in screwtraps in areas downstream of the tailrace;
		JMH- Contract in place
		JMH - STs in place
		JMH - Allows contractors to "get feet wet" and provides opportunity to establish continuity of data [collectors]
		JMH - Provides "baseline"
		JMH - Where would these three STs be redirected?
		JMH - If limited resources are not used for this effort, where would those be redirected toward other RME?