CENWP-OD 21 January 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 21 January 2015 Willamette HMT meeting.

The meeting was held at ODFW Headquarters, Steelhead Room. Salem Oregon. In attendance:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last** | **First** | **Agency** | **Email** |
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| Grenbemer | Greg | ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto | Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us |
| Harnish | Ryan | PNNL |  |
| Helms | Chad | NWP-WVP | Chad.k.helms@usace.army.mil |
| Kremers | Kurt | McKenzie | Kurt.kremers@state.or.us |
| Kruzic | Lance | NOAA Fisheries | Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov |
| Leonhardt | David | NWP-PM-E | David.S.Leonhardt@usace.army.mil |
| Mackey | Tammy | NWP-OD-TF | Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil |
| Sharpe | Cameron | ODFW | cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu |
| Thorpe | John | ODFW | john.thorpe@state.or.us |
| Traylor | Andy | NWP-OD-TF | Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil |
| Walker | Chris | NWP-OD-TF | Christopher.E.Walker@usace.army.mil |
| Ziller | Jeff | ODFW |  |

Grenbemer, Harnish, Kremers, Kruzic, Leonhardt, Ziller called in.

1. **Finalized results from this meeting.**
	1. December minutes approved.
	2. Adult disposition in the Middle Fork – Unclipped Spring Chinook returning Dexter. HMT felt Little Fall Creek was the best option for releases at this time. This will be revisited in February.
	3. **Adult Fish Release Sites.** Sharpe asked about the South Fork McKenzie above Homestead. HMT felt it might be worthwhile to take a look at finding another site upstream of Homestead.
2. The following documents were provided or discussed. All documents may be found at [www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette\_Coordination/Willamette HMT.html](http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20HMT.html)
	1. 150121 HMT agenda (Walker).
	2. 141217 HMT draft meeting minutes (NWP).
	3. Preliminary abundance data (Sharpe).
	4. 2015 Adult disposition spreadsheet (Graham-Hudson).
3. **Action Items.**
	1. **Outstanding Action Items.**
		1. [Jul 14] Adult release sites. Homestead site. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will include Kremers on the meeting invite to further discuss this site.
		2. [Jul 14] Steelhead Work group. **ACTION:** HMT will form a steelhead work group. ***STATUS:*** *pending until a draft HGMP is available for review.*
		3. [Oct 14] Summer Steelhead. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will put BPA in contact with Johnson to discuss the summer steelhead HMGP.
		4. [Dec 14] Monthly reporting. **ACTION:** Sharpe and Traylor will look at the proposed database information and see if it meets NWP’s needs.
		5. [Jan 15] **ACTION:** Sharpe will develop a straw man for the February HMT meeting for potential Leaburg Dam operations.
		6. [Jan 15] PNNL wild/hatchery *O. mykiss* interactions. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will send Harnish’s final report on 21 January.
		7. [Jan 15] Adult release sites. **ACTION:** Traylor will report back to HMT about improvements to the adult release sites.
	2. **Completed Action Items.**
		1. [May 14] **Steelhead Workgroup.**  **ACTION*:*** Corps will contact Marx and schedule this to occur at or after the next HMT to look at available data and put together a plan for this workgroup. The Corps will need to do this regardless while developing the summer steelhead HGMP. ***STATUS:***  *University of Idaho is still working up the genetic data for this work group. Preliminary information will be presented in February at the Science Review.*
		2. [May 14] **TDG issue below Big Cliff**. **ACTION**:Greg Grenbemer will follow up with Lance Kruzic and Elise Kelley for concurrence or their recommendations for fish disposition while TDG is high. ***STATUS:*** *Walker noted that this is an ongoing issue. Sharpe said he was contacted by a NWP contractor who wanted to install TDG monitors. Sharpe gave him redd data and put him in contact with Elise (ODFW).*
		3. [Oct 14] Hatchery reports for fish disposition. **ACTION:** HMT will further refine their data needs and present those to ODFW Hatchery Managers. The goal is to develop a standardized reporting form for all of the hatcheries. ***STATUS: data needs have been refined. Sharpe and Traylor will look at the available information and determine if it meets NWP’s needs.***
		4. [Oct 14] Adult out-planting release sites. **ACTION:** Leonhardt and Walker will schedule a time to discuss the release sites with ODFW and WVP. ***STATUS: to be discussed later in the agenda.***
		5. [Dec 14] Adult Release Sites. Leonhardt would like to convene a small group to figure out how to make the sites usable. **ACTION:** Leonhardt and Walker will work on getting a meeting set up in early 2015. Walker said he would like to see if there is agreement on which sites are usable and which aren’t. ***STATUS: to be discussed later in the agenda.***
		6. [Dec 14] South Santiam sampling and PIT tagging. Between now and February, Boyd’s crew will take care of the sampling but if larger numbers of fish show up there needs to be a dedicated crew. This should have been discussed at the RM&E meeting on 16 December. **ACTION:** Leonhardt said he would look into it. ***STATUS:*** *Leonhardt said NWP wasn’t sure what this item was about. Sharpe explained that ODFW had agreed to PIT tag out-planted fish, however, if large numbers of fish returned then ODFW might need assistance with the sampling and tagging. Right now ODFW is getting enough data to know how many fish are being out-planted but Sharpe thought it might be a good idea to collect scales and other physical measurements.*
		7. [Dec 14] Cougar Trap count sheet. **ACTION:** Traylor will send that count sheet to HMT. ***STATUS: completed.***
		8. [Dec 14] South Santiam main water intake valves. **ACTION:** Thorpe will send Walker a cost estimate for replacing the valves. ***STATUS:*** *This is no longer an issue for NWP. ODFW will work on it within their own budget.*
		9. [Dec 14] Adult disposition plans. Kruzic asked for data to help guide the discussion at the next meeting. **ACTION:** Sharpe has that information and will send it to HMT. He will also check on the pedigree analysis for 2014. ***STATUS: completed.***
		10. [Dec 14] McKenzie surplus fish. **ACTION:** ODFW and NWP will develop technical recommendations for what to do with surplus fish and share those ideas with the goal of discussing and agreeing to a plan on 21 January. ***STATUS: discussed later in the agenda.***
4. **Updates.**
	1. **Marion Forks/Minto** (Grenbemer)
		1. **Marion Forks -** Scheduled to pond first group of Chinook on 22 January. This is about a month earlier than in past years. Last groups will be ponded at the end of January. Water quality is good.
		2. **Minto –** about 5000 Chinook. Fish are about 11/lb. This is bigger than normal. Two releases scheduled. Winter steelhead are expected anytime now.
	2. **South Santiam/Foster** (Boyd)Thorpe reported for South Santiam and Foster.
		1. **South Santiam -** New truck on-site. Lid is difficult to maneuver due to the design. NWP and ODFW will work to correct the design deficiency.
		2. **Foster –** Crowder mechanics problems. Pseudomonas outbreak with the recent slug of sediment.
	3. **McKenzie**(Kremers) Canal turned off on 29 December 2014. Only inflow was from side creeks. Directly released fish (216k) to the Row River. 11,000 fish ended up on the highway due to the truck accident. Thorpe said the fish released into the Row were above the mitigation fish for McKenzie River. EWEB is still testing roll gates. They have removed a lot of the sediment in front of the fish ladder. Good fish health right now. Had some gray tail problems but that is in remission. All spring Chinook fry have been ponded (666,000). Kremers noted that ponding has been occurring in January in recent years. Sharpe asked if it would be possible to ask for specific operations from EWEB now that the roll gates are working. Kremers felt that in the past collaboration has occurred but he was reluctant to speak for EWEB. The right bank roll gate is slammed shut still so more flow will pass through the left gate. This was deemed a desirable situation though there was some wonder as to why everything wasn’t fixed while the water was low. Kruzic would like to see a plan for this operation. **ACTION:** Sharpe will develop a straw man for the February HMT meeting.
	4. **Cougar Trap** (WVP/Traylor) No updates.
	5. **Willamette/Dexter** (Peck) Thorpe provided the update. Fish are growing faster than in recent years – fish are about 1 month early, which is the earliest ever. It’s been a mild winter so everything is a wee bit ahead of schedule. Sharpe asked about the Willamette rebuild and the need for brood pond improvement. Thorpe said there is ground and water to increase production at Willamette Hatchery however, necessary increases to the water right permit may ????trigger fish passage above the Salmon Creek diversion dam.
	6. **Leaburg** (Withalm) Thorpe provided the update. Leaburg has pumps to take water from the McKenzie River and have been struggling along with them. The McKenzie Hatchery does not have this same ability due to distance and cost. Kremers said they would consider pumping all of the water out of the canal before considering pumping from the McKenzie. Traylor has talked with water managers about holding levels. He said they will do what they can but if it doesn’t rain, water levels may drop back to passing just inflows by Monday.
	7. **Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg** (Sharpe/Friesen) No updates. Upper Bennett is set up year round. Lower Bennett will be set up in May.
5. **Ecological Interactions between Summer and Winter Steelhead** (PNNL) Leonhardt asked PNNL to provide a presentation about the interactions between wild and hatchery steelhead. The presentation is available on the website. Harnish provided some background on the study. In 2013 200 summer steelhead were radio-tagged at South Santiam hatchery. About 24% did not leave the hatchery volitionally. About 20% made it to Willamette Falls and about 60% remained in the South Santiam. The hatchery fish were using the same habitat as wild winter steelhead. In 2014 PNNL wanted to replicate the radio-tag portion of the 2013 study. A smaller tag was used to try to reduce the percentage of fish remaining at the hatchery. Another component of the study was to remove the hatchery fish in hatchery/wild interactions and observing the response by the wild fish. This was to determine if the hatchery fish were precluding the wild fish from utilizing feeding and holding areas. Conclusions were that 2013 and 2014 results were similar. Minimum residualization rate of tagged fish of about 13%. Hatchery steelhead were typically more aggressive and dominated interactions with wild steelhead. Highest densities of hatchery steelhead were within about 10km of the South Santiam hatchery. There were limitations to the study such as the small scale, lack of observations before and after hatchery releases, almost 18% of RT fish did not volitionally leave compared to about 1% of the untagged population. In summary, there is potential for negative ecological effects of hatchery summer steelhead releases on wild steelhead. Potential future actions could include reduce feed levels during the last month of rearing, re-evaluate the residualization rate, estimate carrying capacity of the South Santiam River below the hatchery to determine the appropriate number of hatchery steelhead to release. Sharpe asked if Harnish felt there were 20,000 hatchery steelhead in the reach. Harnish said that is hard to say. Graham Hudson expressed concern about reporting a minimum residualization rate without acknowledging the tag burden. Harnish said the minimum residualization rate applies only to the tagged fish and only includes the section of river tracked. There may have been more residualized hatchery fish below Waterloo. Graham Hudson also expressed concern about extrapolating the tagged fish residualization rate to the untagged population, due to the difference between tagged and untagged fish behavior. Walker asked if Harnish knew of any studies looking at tag burden. Harnish said he was surprised to not see a correlation between tag-burden and migration. He suggested it could be a handling effect. PNNL has done tag effect studies before on acoustic tags. He said it could be a cumulative effect as fish move downstream or there could be an immediate handling effect that settles out over time. The 2014 tag was smaller than 2013. Sharpe asked if PNNL has considered going with an acoustic tag since the USGS Cook Lab will be installing antennas along the river. Harnish said acoustic telemetry is a bit more difficult to track. Kruzic said he was struck by the size of the fish and the residualization rate. Kruzic said HMT should look more closely at the size of release. Kremers asked about the battery life of the 2014 tags. Harnish said the life was 125 days. Harnish said the tags typically get at least 125 days; the first of the control tags died after 130 days. Leonhardt asked how long until the smaller tag is ready. Harnish said Lotek is working on it and could maybe have something ready for spring 2015 if necessary. Leonhardt asked if carrying capacity and size at release is known. Kruzic said it would be important to look at size at release and residualization rate. Sharpe said it would be good to look at the use of PIT tags and collecting data at the Willamette Falls PIT tag detectors. Leonhardt suggested it would be interesting to look at how fish size can be manipulated to reduce the residualization rate. Kruzic said he agrees and the responsible management action would be to reduce the residualization rate to as low as possible. Harnish said it was difficult to tell if the juveniles were going to be rainbow trout or steelhead but there were a lot of wild *O. mykiss* present. Harnish said it was rare to see a wild fish as large as the hatchery fish. Ziller asked how many wild/hatchery fish were in each pool. HMT discussed whether or not there would be any larger wild *O. mykiss* due to smolting and holdovers for the next year. Traylor said that is why, as Harnish said, it would be interesting to look at the reach prior to the hatchery releases. Sharpe said he feels what is really lacking are good abundance estimates for both wild and hatchery *O. mykiss*. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will send Harnish’s final report on 21 January. Harnish will present his findings at the February Science Review as well.
6. **Coast Fork Releases (preliminary CWT results)** Sharpe presented draft preliminary data. The lab reading CWTs are still working up fish. Based on preliminary results, there was a positive effect from reprogramming fish. Not all of them went back to the McKenzie. Coast Fork released fish had lower survival and therefore were not available to stray. ODFW doesn’t know why survival was low. Thorpe asked if the fish were seen at Dexter. Sharpe said he hasn’t looked at that yet. The spawning ground surveys have not been evaluated yet. Kruzic asked if there was any information about adults coming back to the Coast Fork. Sharpe said the water was muddy and there were poor survey conditions. A full survey would require additional resources. Ziller said there weren’t reports of fishermen catching much in the Coast Fork. Sharpe asked if the catch record cards could be coded with the Coast Fork. Ziller confirmed the Coast Fork data could be on the catch record but there wasn’t any excitement among anglers, which would have been expected if it had been a good fishery. Ziller felt a good count should be attainable in the Coast Fork and that 2014 was an anomaly. Sharpe said he is looking for a reasonable peak redd count and the collection of carcasses. All 2012 releases had CWTs.
7. **Surplus Juveniles at McKenzie Hatchery.**  “Surplus” fish are now known as “unsanctioned” fish. This will be carried over to February with more information about what is needed for each option. Sharpe went through three potential options:
	1. He contacted the Clackamas office to see if they are interested in net-penning the unsanctioned fish in Clackamette Cove. Kruzic said Clackamette Cove was tried and there were issues such as straying and low fishery rate. Kruzic said the concern is McKenzie fish going up the lower Clackamas. He recommended ODFW go back and look at the data from previous attempts in the 1990’s – 2004. Traylor asked if Kruzic had enough concerns that this option should be taken off the table. Kruzic said the data need to be revisited but for now, yes, this is a big concern and this should be on the bottom of the list of options.
	2. Sharpe talked to Kremers about acclimating fish in the Columbia net-pens later (April) in the season. Walker asked if this would require a CA modification since the CA specifies Willamette Basin. Sharpe said he would prefer the fish contribute to a Willamette fishery rather than a Columbia fishery anyway.
	3. A third option is a Coast Fork release. Coast Fork is a good option depending on the 2014 data results.
8. **Adult Fish Disposition discussion (2015).**  Graham-Hudson said ODFW met last week to go over 2014 disposition. Sharpe presented the 2015 disposition table. Sharpe advocated for better weirs in the North Santiam. Breitenbush releases may continue in 2015 and numbers could be increased.
	1. **Minto.** No releases below Minto. All winter steelhead go above Minto. Surveys showed 80 redds above Minto for 800 spring Chinook released upstream. Walker asked about putting fish above the projects. Sharpe said the first round of pedigree assignments for Minto will be available in May 2015. The decision to out-plant above the projects will be a policy decision but the data will be available for HMT to make recommendations prior to the need to implement a plan. Lamprey will be passed upstream. ODFW just needs to know if lamprey will be tagged and data needs to be collected. Kruzic said out-planting above the projects is a desire of NOAA, especially if the pedigree results are positive, but there will need to be a lot more coordination.
	2. **McKenzie.** Third year in a row where integration has not occurred. No wild broodstock. Ziller asked when the switch should be made from transporting unclipped fish to moving them back downstream. This will be on the March or April HMT agenda. Ziller felt the 1 September date isn’t working because there are too many unassigned fish going upstream. Walker asked if there was a new date in mind. ODFW said they will look at the data and propose a new date from that analysis.
	3. **Cougar.** Leonhardt asked about the number of fish out-planted last year. Sharpe said the 400 females is a minimum. Walker and Leonhardt thought the 400 females (200 males) was a target. Sharpe said it is a target but more could be added if needed. In 2014, almost 401 marked females were out-planted above Cougar from McKenzie Hatchery. Kruzic said we need to be mindful of any fish over 400 females going above Cougar. Ziller said ODFW wants to maintain the numbers of Chinook spawning to provide for bull trout production. ODFW also thinks that placing wild fish above Cougar that did not originate above the dam subjects them to unacceptable mortality.
	4. **Middle Fork.** NWP took on the responsibility of out-planting in the North Fork and Middle Fork Willamette. NWP will continue in 2015. Sharpe would like to see juvenile production from fish out-planted above Hills Creek since the construction of a juvenile collection facility appears to be moving forward. Sharpe said the HGMPs need to get approved because right now 100% of naturally produced fish are not surviving. Sharpe asked Kruzic about returning naturally produced fish to the river in the absence of an approved HGMP. Kruzic said the goal is to put the fish in the best scenario. He asked if there is much spawning habitat in Little Fall Creek. Sharpe said there were 25 redds and 24 of those 25 were in Little Fall Creek. One was below Dexter. Helms said WVP biologists saw a lot of fish snagged, and released, by anglers. HMT further discussed the option of releasing fish into Little Fall Creek. Garletts said there is a lot of restoration work going on in the area so the releases would tie in nicely with that work. There is gravel at the old mill dam. Ziller said he would like direction on Little Fall Creek versus the Middle Fork Willamette releases. The third option would be release above Fall Creek. ODFW needs lead time to gear up for these releases so a decision earlier rather than later is preferred. Kruzic said releases above Fall Creek should be on the bottom of the list. Survival in the Middle Fork is very low. That leaves Little Fall Creek. Garletts and Helms believe they could assist but they will need training to access Weyerhaeuser land. Sharpe thought it would be easier if ODFW could just do the releases. Ziller said there may be an opportunity to use Watershed Council volunteers. **HMT felt Little Fall Creek was the best option for releases at this time. This will be revisited in February.**
	5. Kruzic said we should coordinate with USFS about proposed releases on Forest Service property. Sharpe said Grenbemer has been coordinating with Darren Neff (USFS).
9. **Adult Fish Release Sites.** Traylor explained why the release sites are located where they are. At this time we have a number of sites but some are not functional due to changing river conditions or poor design. In most places the sites are usable and provide good coverage. There is a problem area in the North Santiam at Cooper’s Ridge. Traylor met with the PM and they are looking at potentially re-designing the site or starting over completely. Sharpe asked about the South Fork McKenzie above Homestead. Thorpe said there is a release site used that is very close to Homestead. Thorpe thought USFS wanted to keep the sites to very specific locations. **HMT felt it might be worthwhile to take a look at finding another site upstream of Homestead. ACTION:** Traylor will report back to HMT about improvements to the adult release sites.
10. **Hatchery supplementation threshold in the HGMPs.** Kruzic said he put 500 fish in a draft HGMP for the South Santiam. He felt the number was reasonable but acknowledged it hasn’t been discussed with the agencies. NOAA wants that number specified but everyone needs to be comfortable with the final number. Sharpe asked about the North Santiam. Kruzic said he put 500 fish in that one as well. A hatchery supplementation threshold is needed before the HGMPs can be approved. Leonhardt said he and Rich Piaskowski are working on it.