CENWP-OD 15 July 2015

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 15 July 2015 Willamette HMT meeting.

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last** | **First** | **Agency** | **Email** |
| Boyd | Brett | ODFW – South Santiam | [Brett.h.boyd@state.or.us](mailto:Brett.h.boyd@state.or.us) |
| Graham-Hudson | Bernadette | ODFW | [Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us](mailto:Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us) |
| Grenbemer | Greg | ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto | [Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us](mailto:Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us) |
| Kremers | Kurt | ODFW - McKenzie | [Kurt.kremers@state.or.us](mailto:Kurt.kremers@state.or.us) |
| Kruzic | Lance | NOAA Fisheries | Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov |
| McLaughlin | Lisa | EWEB | [Lisa.mclaughlin@ewb.org](mailto:Lisa.mclaughlin@ewb.org) |
| Peck | Dan | ODFW - Willamette | [dan.peck@state.or.us](mailto:dan.peck@state.or.us) |
| Piaskowski | Rich | NWP-PM-E | [Richard.M.Piaskowski@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.M.Piaskowski@usace.army.mil) |
| Sharpe | Cameron | ODFW | [cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu](mailto:cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu) |
| Thorpe | John | ODFW | [john.thorpe@state.or.us](mailto:john.thorpe@state.or.us) |
| Traylor | Andy | NWP-OD-TF | [Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil](mailto:Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil) |
| Walker | Chris | NWP-OD-TF | [Christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil) |
| Walker | Ricardo | NWP-PM-E | [Ricardo.Walker@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ricardo.Walker@usace.army.mil) |
| Ziller | Jeff | ODFW | [jeffrey.s.ziller@state.or.us](mailto:jeffrey.s.ziller@state.or.us) |

Boyd, Grenbemer, Kremers, Kruzic, McLaughlin, and Ziller called in.

1. **Finalized results from this meeting.**
   1. June minutes approved.
   2. HMT agrees that an early outplanting group of 200 females and 100 males above Cougar from McKenzie Hatchery is beneficial.
2. All documents may be found at <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20HMT/>
3. **Action Items.**
   1. **[May 15] North Santiam pedigree study. STATUS*:* Completed*.***
   2. **[May 15] Leaburg Dam repairs. ACTION:** Traylor will draft up a MOC regarding this issue and send it to HMT for comment. **STATUS: Completed. Comments are due by 24 July. NEW ACTION:** McLaughlin will check on possibility of locking the left bank roll gate at a small opening for some additional attraction to the ladder and trap.

*McLaughlin called in to answer questions regarding the MOC and give an update.*

* + 1. Sharpe asked about the left roll gate and stated its importance in passage and monitoring. McLaughlin reported that next year the left bank roll gate will be repaired. It should be fully replaced by fall of 2016. The middle gate is currently the only operating gate. EWEB is very concerned about operating left bank roll gate given the past failures of the other gates. Sharpe asked if construction can be avoided in June and July, to avoid conflicts with fish moving through the system. McLaughlin stated that fish should not be affected by construction unless it’s related to noise. No in water work is expected.
    2. As a side note, Sharpe reported that this past week was the first week equal numbers of hatchery and wild fish were counted at Leaburg. Sharpe estimates that next week they will begin trapping operations at Leaburg.
    3. Traylor asked if the left bank roll gate could be fixed at a small opening for some additional attraction to left bank and trap. McLaughlin said this might be possible and would check on the options.
    4. McLaughlin also reported that with extremely low flows there is a possibility that the Leaburg Powerhouse may need to be shut down due to lack of flow. If this occurs, the canal that feeds McKenzie Hatchery may to subject to warmer water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen. There is no precedence for this, so EWEB is unsure of how the details of this may play out. EWEB would still make their best effort to keep some recirculation flow in the canal to improve water quality for the hatchery and for residence trout in canal.
  1. **[Apr 15]Delayed outplanting.** HMT generally agreed that the study would be acceptable given the expected conditions in 2015. **ACTION:** Sharpe and Caudill will continue to develop their study plan and coordinate with the Region to get further approval. ***STATUS:*** *The study plan is not yet available.* 
     1. Sharpe stated that the study has basically been forced upon them. Temperatures have risen above 63 degrees at the Gordon Road outplant site, which necessitates a halt in outplanting above Foster in the South Santiam. Long term holding of fish to be outplanted started on 10 July. 30 June was the last outplanting day. Every fish to be outplanted has been PIT and some have been RT tagged. It is expected that ~200 fish will be captured in this long-term holding group. About 400 fish have been outplanted already. Fish held will be injected to help stave off disease and infection. Sharpe asked if a diel temperature profile is known for the holding pond. Boyd will check if this info is available via the HMI panel and if not UI researchers will use a HOBO to monitor temperature.
  2. **[Mar 15]Alternate out-plant strategies based on temp/flow.** Implementing a similar plan in the Willamette would require a multi-disciplinary team*.* **ACTION:** Walker will check with Kathryn Tackley and look into possibilities of utilizing USGS for further investigation.
     1. Piaskowski suggested checking in with USGS as they have several models that may help look at various situations. Walker said that Kathryn Tackley works closely with USGS on flow and temperature issues.
     2. Sharpe asked about the time it takes for water to travel from Detroit to Minto. Piaskowski said he remembered it was about a day. The concern is that if in September the warm epilimnetic water hits the penstock intake, it will send a slug of warm water down to Minto. Kruzic stated that the faster the fish return to Minto the better.

1. **Updates.**
   1. **Marion Forks/Minto.** Marion Forks is most of the way through marking the Chinook. Fish are way ahead of size. They might hit 9 fpp for the first time ever. If Marion Forks starts running out of water they may need to move some juveniles to Minto. Collection at Minto is still fairly slow. Using the new Dry Creek site on the North Santiam for non-marked fish. No mortality so far. About 600 brood stock.
   2. **South Santiam/Foster.** Boyd reported that adult fish are moving a little better than last year. Varying the entrance flow does not seem to have any large effect so far. Total of 5683 adults returned to the trap right now. Summer Steelhead are really low. 411 for brood so far. Other facilities are collecting extra brood just in case.
   3. **McKenzie.** Kremers reported that 5457 adults have been collected so far. Juveniles have had some treatment for furunculosis and are recovering well. Marking and CWT’ing has just been completed.
   4. **Cougar Trap.** No update.
   5. **Willamette/Dexter.** Starting marking today. Rainbows have CWD and the hatchery has been losing thousands a day. Adults are showing some *C. shasta* but holding relatively well. Dexter has worked 7500 adults as of yesterday. They will attempt to move some next week. Juveniles are showing some costia . Water temps are averaging 62 at Willamette and 64 at Dexter. This will likely only increase as the season progresses. Sharpe asked if moving the fish somewhere else could help, perhaps at McKenzie. Thorpe /Peck said there is likely not enough room anywhere else and that the temperatures may not be any better either.
   6. **Leaburg.** Business as usual. Summer Steelhead returns are very low, similar to the rest of the basin.
   7. **Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg.** Counts are dramatically decreasing at the Bennetts. At Leaburg, pHOS is currently estimated at 30%, but this is biased high. Trap at Leaburg is ready to go and will likely start next week. Usually there are large numbers of hatchery fish moving through Leaburg in September, which will hopefully allow for a large removal of those hatchery fish with the trap. Ziller asked why the trap hasn’t been operated earlier in the season. Sharpe stated he proposed a conservative plan with trapping beginning only when there were less wild fish than hatchery fish and absolute numbers of wild fish were low. Kruzic stated we need to stick to the plan.
2. **Funding status of Cougar pedigree samples from 2014 & 2015**
   1. Piaskowski said they are processing funding for 2014 and 2015 currently. Rousing cheers from the table ensued.
3. **Early transfer of HOR above Cougar**
   1. Ziller stated he would like to see hatchery outplants above Cougar begin now, as temperatures at McKenzie hatchery are warming and fish may fare better above the dam. Kremers asked if the outplant site is still agreed to be the Frissell Crossing Bridge. The concern is that the water level may be dangerously low and dropping fish off the Frissell Crossing Bridge may be hard on fish survival. Kremers is going to check on the water level and see if it is suitable for outplanting. The campground at Frissell Crossing may be an option for outplanting fish but some work would be needed.
   2. Ziller is proposing to transport and release 200 females and 100 males during the next week or two. Piaskowski stated that this year we might see ~50 NOR females above Cougar. Piaskowski suggested the total number of hatchery outplants be reduced this year (to about 300 females and 200 males), to reduce genetic impacts from hatchery outplanting. He explained the concern is that most spawners above Cougar will be hatchery origin, since few of the wild Chinook recycled downstream from Cougar Trap under the new protocol are returning to the trap. Therefore, returns will be primarily F1 hatchery fish, and when they return some will spawn with the primary wild Chinook population below Cougar Dam. Hatchery outplants have lower fitness than wild Chinook, based on the Cougar pedigree work. Kruzic’s concern is demographic risk over genetic risk. Sharpe expressed concern over lowering the total outplant numbers. The group agreed that the total outplant numbers should remain unchanged.
   3. Sharpe compared to the situation at Detroit, where we see greater juvenile production at higher outplant levels. With lower numbers of outplants at McKenzie, there would be lower numbers of juveniles leaving the system and even less adults coming back. Kruzic reminded the group the returns of unmarked females have been declining over the past few years. Ziller stated that bull trout numbers have increased in the past few years and predation on spring Chinook juveniles has likely increased. **HMT agrees that an early outplanting group of 200 females and 100 males above Cougar from McKenzie Hatchery is beneficial.** Kremers stated that he could facilitate this starting next week.
4. **Radiotelemetry on unclipped fish above Detroit**
   1. A receiver will be placed at Marion Forks, as they have a line of sight to the river. With USFS tied up with local fires, permitting to get other RT sites in place has been difficult.
5. **MOC: 15CGR02 Fish Facility Recycling**
   1. Walker spoke to the purpose of MOCs and how those interplay with the WFOP. Traylor suggested that an agreed upon operation regarding recycling at the Cougar FCF should be finalized in the WFOP. Sharpe expressed concern on having to write up an MOC for every in-season adjustment in operations, citing the decision to locate unmarked fish at Dexter to Little Fall Creek. He suggested that the HMT minutes can serve the purpose of recording minor, in-season changes in operations that are not reflected in the WFOP.
6. **MOC: 15LEA01 Spillway Gate Repair** 
   1. Discussed above.
7. **Other**
   1. Traylor asked about who should be official designated agency representatives for HMT. He will put together a draft list of primes and alternates and distribute to the group for edits.
   2. Kruzic stated that a public poster describing the importance of outplanting fish above the dams has been circulated among the various agencies and will be distributed to the group in the next week.
   3. The next HMT is scheduled during AFS. As such, 12 August will serve as a place holder if pressing items need to be discussed.