

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: FINAL minutes for the 20 May 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
Evans	Melissa	OSU	
Friesen	Tom	ODFW	Tom.friesen@oregonstate.edu
Graham-Hudson	Bernadette	ODFW	Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Johnson	Marc	OSU	Marc.johnson@oregonstate.edu
Kelley	Elise	ODFW	Elise.X.Kelley@coho2.dfw.state.or.us
Kremers	Kurt	ODFW - 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
O'Malley	Kathleen	OSU	
Piaskowski	Rich	NWP-PM-E	Richard.M.Piaskowski@usace.army.mil
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Taylor	Greg	NWP-WVP	Gregory.a.taylor@usace.army.mil
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	jeffrey.s.ziller@state.or.us

Boyd, Kelley, Leonhardt, Grenbemer, and Ziller called in.

2. Finalized results from this meeting.

2.1. April minutes approved with edits.

2.2. HMT recommends analyzing 2014 (and future) samples to help inform management decisions. In addition, a decision framework to provide RM&E will need to be drafted, which the understanding that real time management decisions could be made when the data provide unexpected results.

3. All documents may be found at http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20HMT/

4. Action Items.

4.1. [May 15] North Santiam pedigree study. **ACTION:** Kelley will get back to Piaskowski about planning a meeting to discuss out-planting above Detroit.

4.2. [May 15] Leaburg Dam repairs. **ACTION:** Traylor will draft up a MOC regarding this issue and send it to HMT for comment. Once completed, this MOC could be sent to EWEB as a recommendation from HMT, as a Regional Coordination body.

- 4.3. [May 15] Leaburg trapping plan. ACTION:** Sharpe will make edits to articulate how to address pre-spawn mortality of unclipped fish, including past data, and then re-submit to HMT.
- 4.4. [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:** *Sharpe said a soft plan would be available for the June HMT meeting. Taylor asked if that would be too late. Sharpe said he didn't think so since collection wouldn't occur until July. There is a fixed number of unclipped fish that may be tagged at Foster. Kruzic said this would be just an experimental trial to see how it works and would be a small percentage of the run. Sharpe said Gordon Road will be the only out-plant site because River Bend will be dewatered by then.*
- 4.5. [Apr 15]Delayed outplanting. ACTION:** Traylor will check on Green Peter operations for this summer. **STATUS:** *Traylor said operations will be the same as normal, just with less water. Walker said we typically use Green Peter to fill Foster and that will still be the plan but we have less water.*
- 4.6. [Mar 15]Foster pre-sort jumping.** Foster has a jumping issue at the pre-sort pool. Mortalities have been found. **ACTION:** Garletts will send Boyd photos of their cover. **STATUS:** *Fish have not jumped out recently. Acquiring a cover has been problematic due to the lack of personnel access on one side. Traylor asked if anyone knows of covers that are deployable from only one side. Taylor said he is looking at that at Fall Creek. Kevin Hayes is working on a design that would be motorized. Sharpe asked if it would be possible to add a walkway to the other side. Traylor said that is part of the follow-on mods but those could still be a year or so out. HMT is still exploring options.*
- 4.7. [Mar 15]Alternate out-plant strategies based on temp/flow. ACTION:** Sharpe requested the Rogue plan. **ACTION:** Taylor will send HMT the Rogue plan. Taylor, Kruzic, Traylor, and Sharpe will draft a proposal to send to Flow Management. **STATUS:** *Taylor explained what they are doing at Agnes and then decided he is just going to send the Rogue plan to HMT. Kruzic said the point was that managing temperatures and flows on the Rogue for fish is important but the Willamette hasn't quite gotten to that level of management yet. Sharpe asked if the temperature/flow model works in the extreme conditions because if it doesn't, then we will still be scrambling in extreme years. Taylor said the Rogue is managed for the extremes and that is where it has been most successful; in keeping those extreme years in check. Piaskowski suggested talking with USGS as well.*
- 4.8. [Feb 15] Leaburg trapping. ACTION:** Sharpe will write up the operation and submit to the Region for review by the May HMT. **STATUS:** *discussed later in the agenda.*

5. Updates.

- 5.1. Marion Forks/Minto** Grenbemer reported that everything is going well at Marion Forks. The weirs (except Horn Creek) are in so outplanting will begin once fish arrive. Sharpe said some of the sunburn might be related to the paint color of the ponds. Painting is expected to occur next year and will be detailed in a separate Task Order on 1 July.
- 5.1.1.**Minto collections are slow. 170 winter steelhead, 17 summers, 22 Chinook. 46F and 1000 cfs. Likely won't see fish until June or July, possibly into August due to temperature control. Catching up on maintenance items.
- 5.2. South Santiam/Foster** Boyd reported that South Santiam is on track and will be ready for marking in July.
- 5.2.1.**Foster has collected 1200 hatchery Chinook and 129 wild Chinook. Summer steelhead numbers are low. Winter steelhead numbers are low at 121, compared to 214 in 2014. However, winters are still coming in. Larger numbers of fish seem to be holding below the juvenile bypass weir spill and jumping at the dam, as well as holding at the ladder entrance. Working with Fenton Khan and UI to develop a plan to get fish

moving up the ladder. Boyd suggested that having two pumps on may not be needed. Sharpe asked if any operation would be changing the temperature of the water. Boyd said no, they do not have that capability. Traylor asked if entrance differential has been tracked. He said he thought the gate submergence at 2' and the differential was close to 2'. Traylor said he didn't know the design criteria for that entrance but his experience is that entrance gates are usually deeper. Sharpe asked if a valve could be repaired. Traylor said when he looked at the PLC a month ago, the read-out indicated a four degree difference. Boyd said there is also a juvenile study that will impact how flow moves through Foster. The study will move flow between turbine flow and spillway flow. This study is expected to continue through the middle of June.

5.3. McKenzie Kremers reported that fish health is very good. Lots of room at McKenzie. Trap opened 30 April, about two weeks early. Fish ladder mods occurred in August 2014 and 400 fish were collected during a time when only 100 fish were normally collected. Kremers said that conditions now are similar to August and the mods appear to work. Kremers said the flow from the entrance is equal with the river and it would be interesting to see how the entrance works under higher flows. 950 fish have been given to the county and tribes. Fish have been set aside for out-planting, including 40 CWT fish. Sharpe said CWT fish are being separated and sub-sampled. This has resulted in good estimates of CWT fish returning to the hatchery. Kruzic asked about Cougar fish. Kremers said he is going to do what he did last year; banking fish for Cougar out-plants.

5.4. Cougar Trap Taylor reported that in early May there was a log in a turbine unit, which is concerning since there are trash racks. While that is getting sorted out, flow has been diverted through the RO. An ROV inspection of the tower is expected to occur in the next week. Without unit flow, this limits attraction to the ladder. Taylor noted that this issue could have been a catastrophic event but was found during annual maintenance. No Chinook and 10 bull trout had been collected prior to the outage. Kruzic asked what the plan is if fish need to be moved. Taylor said his crew is looking into options. He is concerned if this condition continues beyond the end of May. Sharpe asked about seining. Taylor said the stilling basin is over 50' so seining would not be highly successful. Flows are very low and storage is limited. Taylor also reported that temperature control capabilities are expected to be lost in July, which will impact collection efforts. The trap can operate but isn't likely to be effective if all of the flow is going through the RO. One option is to block the RO and put water through the units at speed no load. A weir was suggested as well. Piaskowski said we want to respond and get fish before we lose temperature control. Taylor said the reservoir is 25% full. The South Fork is currently running at about minimum flows in efforts to try to fill the reservoir but there just isn't any water. Kruzic asked if there are any opportunities to enhance juvenile passage at Cougar. Taylor said putting flow through the RO is likely better. With a lower river, there is more of a channel to direct fish through the RO. Fish are being transported as well. Taylor suggested the one other option to get fish out of the reservoir is to push more flow out but that is a delicate balancing act given the water elevations and temperatures.

5.4.1. Fall Creek. Taylor reported 135 fish have been collected. This is about double for this time in 2014. Not sure if this is a sign of a better return or an early return. Sharpe said it appears we have early runs everywhere we have reasonable temperatures. Taylor said the peak at Fall Creek tends to be in May anyway but they seem even earlier.

5.5. Willamette/Dexter Thorpe reported Willamette is marking fish and will be completed in June. Zero unmarked fish were collected in the first truckload of 60 fish. 120 marked fish will be out-planted to the North Fork Middle Fork.

5.5.1. Dexter. Dexter trap hasn't been opened yet but fish have been seen holding downstream. Taylor said the 300 gallon portable would be available for releasing fish into Little Fall Creek. It has a 12" release. Taylor said he does not have people.

Sharpe has people available for moving fish. Taylor's crew is busy moving UI fish, as they did last year.

5.6. Leaburg Thorpe and Kremers reported that Leaburg is collecting fish. 34 fish were collected from Leaburg.

5.7. Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg. Upper Bennett has fish. Lower Bennett hasn't had many fish. Fish counts are available on the ODFW website.

5.7.1. Leaburg. Sharpe stressed that total pHOS cannot be determined by real time counts at Leaburg dam.

5.7.2. Traylor noted that the entire Willamette fish counts have been sent out and posted to the HMT website. Willamette Falls counts are not included. Taylor suggested adding a "year to date" column. Sharpe said he might be able to get real time clipped and unclipped data from Willamette Falls.

6. Leaburg trapping operations – Sharpe asked for comments on the plan (which is available on the website). Kremers reported that EWEB has been informed they must repair Leaburg Dam. They will be working on the roll gates and moving water during repairs. Sharpe said he was told by Lisa McLaughlin that the right gate is broken and would not be operated this year. Kremers said the instruction to repair is recent so Lisa may not have been aware when letting Sharpe know the right gate wouldn't operate. Kremers said it's his understanding that the lake level should remain normal but flows may be moved between gates, depending on how EWEB proceeds with repairs. Taylor suggested that FERC has stepped in and directed EWEB. **ACTION: Traylor will draft up a MOC regarding this issue and send it to HMT for comment. Once completed, this MOC could be sent to EWEB as a recommendation from HMT, as a Regional Coordination body.**

6.1. The trapping operations are meant to remove 100 hatchery fish. Trapping will be conducted based on the percentage of clipped and unclipped fish. Starting date is expected to be in late July but could begin as soon as 1 July.

6.2. Piaskowski suggested that pre-spawn mortality be discussed in the trapping operations plan.

6.3. Kruzic clarified that NOAA is comfortable with this operation because it is limited in scope. This action is covered under the HGMPs. Kruzic said this action is one that was agreed to in lieu of building a sorter.

6.4. Taylor said we have a trade off between pre-spawn mortality and pHOS. He felt it was good to document the concerns about pre-spawn mortality in the document.

6.5. Traylor asked if trapping will cease once 100 hatchery fish have been removed. Sharpe said he plans to continue to pull hatchery fish out if the trapping is successful with minimal impact.

ACTION: Sharpe will make edits to articulate how to address pre-spawn mortality of unclipped fish, including past data, and then re-submit to HMT.

7. Cougar pedigree analysis for future years. Piaskowski explained that the pedigree work has been funded by the RM&E group, with CRFM funding. He had some questions about the current data set to better understand the data need, followed by how new data will be applied to management decisions.

7.1. Kruzic provided written comments (available on the website) and voiced the desire of NOAA to have the 2014 and future samples analyzed. Kruzic said the first objective was to monitor natural production above the dam; second was to evaluate the success of hatchery and wild fish on the spawning grounds. Right now, we are just getting to the point where we could address the second objective.

7.2. Johnson said the second objective is an RPA in the BiOp. He said it helps us in informing strategies for developing self-sustaining populations above Cougar such as how many of each should be out-planted upstream. Taylor said the information would be valuable for evaluating downstream passage.

- 7.3. Piaskowski said the RM&E team hasn't funded the analysis this year because not all members understood the immediate need. He said the additional analysis right now would not address an immediate management need. Future years may be funded. Kruzic said that data is looked at every year and informs management strategies at the trap. Johnson added that while the data is looked at, it is also very difficult to predict what information we will see by analyzing the samples. Piaskowski noted that there are many studies in the Willamette where we are learning as we go to inform designs and provide baseline data. He said this is not the case for pedigree studies at Cougar, and appreciates the value of the data set but we are now discussing getting additional pedigree data to change an established management protocol. He asked that a decision framework be defined - thresholds leading to change from current protocols for transport and recycling, for in-season management using any new pedigree data collected.
 - 7.4. Ziller said he has concerns about mining fish out of the mainstem and South Fork. The pedigree data would help inform actions related to moving unclipped fish upstream. Leonhardt said he felt the recycling component of the objectives works very well.
 - 7.5. Piaskowski said RM&E would be willing to fund the analysis but more information is needed about how the data would be used for real time management. Ziller said the other option is to recycle fish downstream and not move unclipped fish upstream unless they come back to the trap more than once. Taylor noted that even if CRFM doesn't pay for the study, O&M ends up paying for the labor of moving more fish. Piaskowski said RM&E would like to see the decision making matrix before funding the study. Kruzic said he didn't feel having a decision framework before funding the study would be necessary. Piaskowski said that is a requirement for NWP. Kruzic said that should be applied to all RM&E studies, not just the pedigree study. Piaskowski said some studies are starting points for gathering information however the pedigree analysis has two years' worth of data. ODFW stressed that we are just gathering data and two data points are not sufficient to make management decisions, however, sometimes the data will show in-season trends that can help guide real time management actions.
 - 7.6. Taylor said if we are going to move from disposition tables, he would like to see all of the studies have a decision framework. He noted that he has questions about some of the work at Fall Creek and some of the pre-spawning mortality work because those studies do NOT have management implications.
 - 7.7. \$29,329 would be needed to analyze the 2014 samples.
 - 7.8. Kruzic said this conversation causes some concern about the future of all pedigree studies in the other sub-basins. Piaskowski said he needs a brief write-up on how the data will be applied in a decision framework, then RM&E could recommend funding the additional pedigree analysis.
 - 7.9. **HMT recommends analyzing 2014 (and future) samples to help inform management decisions. In addition, a decision framework to provide RM&E will need to be drafted, which the understanding that real time management decisions could be made when the data provide unexpected results.** Kruzic said that sounds fine but we need to make sure that we are not bound too tightly. Piaskowski asked if NOAA would apply that to pHOS standards in the basin. After further discussion, Piaskowski said he just needs a write up as to how the data will be used to inform management decisions.
 - 7.10. ODFW said if the money was available now, the data could be available in August. Piaskowski said contracting time needs to be considered. In the end, HMT agreed the 2014 data would not be available to inform 2015 decisions.
 - 7.11. Piaskowski recommended NOAA and ODFW would be the primary authors of the decision framework. Kruzic wasn't as convinced he would be the appropriate author.
8. **North Santiam pedigree study** - O'Malley and Evans talked through the report provided in early May. Piaskowski asked which metric is most important. Evans said the females are the limiting factor and when the sex ratio is closer to even, there isn't a number that stands out as being most

important. Kruzic commented that the goal is recovery so we need a higher replacement rate to build the populations. Graham-Hudson recommended a table showing the fish over the season. Piaskowski asked how ODFW and NOAA are viewing this study in terms of out-planting above Detroit. Kelley said she isn't sure if the HGMP covers action at Detroit, but she plans to have some sort of path forward in the next couple of weeks. **ACTION: Kelley will get back to Piaskowski about planning a meeting to discuss out-planting above Detroit. Traylor will work on a Doodle Poll to find a date.** Leonhardt suggested the report showed compelling results for out-planting above Detroit, and given the low water year and poor environmental conditions below the dam, outplanting NOR adults above Detroit Dam is a better alternative than outplanting above Minto Dam. Kelley argued that this is just one year of data and ODFW does not find it compelling; it is interesting and has some potential. Piaskowski said NWP does find the data compelling and if ODFW isn't ready to make a decision, he would like to know that now and also have a decision framework provided by ODFW that would show how management decisions will be made. He further noted that the new Minto trap (like that at Cougar and Foster) was built to support fish reintroduction, and the pedigree data indicate conditions are better at Detroit in comparison to Cougar where wild Chinook are currently transport up, and more like those at Foster.

- 8.1.** Sharpe went back to the HGMP and suggested that now is the time to add out-planting to the HGMP and moving it towards being finalized. Kruzic said the HGMP will not be approved this summer but he recommends ODFW and NWP get the HGMP updated and then submitted to NOAA. Piaskowski asked why the HGMP is the vehicle for addressing take of NOR fish. Kruzic said that is the typical way to address take. It needs to be in the HGMP because it is part of the reintroduction program. If hatchery fish were not used for reintroduction then this outplanting would not need to be included in the HGMP.
- 8.2.** Sharpe asked what does HMT recommend happens to NOR that come in to Minto this year. Kruzic said turn the temperature down. Grenbremer said he is moving NOR fish upstream when they come in. He is not delaying migration. He needs a good out-plant site on the north. He has a place but the road needs to be put in. Sharpe noted the ultimate plan for unclipped fish will likely be to out-plant at head of reservoir so fish could decide where they want to go.
- 8.3.** Piaskowski asked if submitting a draft HGMP would provide enough coverage, even though it isn't approved, to move forward with the out-planting. Kruzic suggested that would be correct. He also noted that this year is a special year due to flow and temperature conditions. Friesen said he sees two issues; this year and then long term. For this year, it seems prudent to out-plant due to the abnormal conditions of this year. For long term, he is deferring to Kelley and ODFW management. Johnson added that there is just very little data to make long term decisions. Next year HMT should be in a better position to make long term decisions based on data.
- 8.4.** Piaskowski said the 2014 pedigree samples have been funded for processing. 2015 samples have not been funded and will be prioritized in June. O'Malley stressed the need to get the funding earlier so that reports could be funded ahead of time rather than funded after the fact. Piaskowski explained the RM&E process: study objectives for the next year are prioritized in June [of the year before the study begins] by the RM&E Team, and proposals developed by October, and said that funding cannot be obligated any sooner than October, the start of the federal fiscal year. Graham-Hudson suggested this is why it would be important to identify long term data needs and get those studies prepped so money can be dropped sooner. Piaskowski explained that NWP can only fund on an annual basis. It may be possible to streamline some paperwork but there can be no commitment to funding out-years.

9. Steelhead Work Group. No update.