CENWP-OD 17 August 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 17 August 2016 Willamette HMT meeting.

The meeting was held as a conference call. In attendance:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Last** | **First** | **Agency** | **Email** |
| Couture | Ryan | ODFW | [Ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us](mailto:Ryan.b.Couture@state.or.us) |
| Grenbemer | Greg | ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto | [Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us](mailto:Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us) |
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| Kruzic | Lance | NMFS | [Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov](mailto:Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov) |
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1. **Finalized results from this meeting.**
   1. July minutes approved.
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.**
4. **[August 17]** *Funding for Cougar 2016 Genetic Samples*. Traylor will follow up with Rich Piaskowski on funding for analysis of 2016 genetic samples from adults returning to Cougar.
5. **[August 17]** *Foster Ladder Attraction.* Couture will follow up with Brett Boyd. Sharpe will follow up with Chris Caudill to daylight any potential conflicts with current monitoring and studies being conducted by the University of Idaho
6. **Updates.**
   1. **Marion Forks/Minto.** Staff finished up marking fish about a week and a half ago. Fish health is good. Minto collection is typical thus far. The water quality this year has been generally favorable to holding adults and only 4 mortalities have occurred. Outplanting in the Breitenbush started this week and will continue next week. Broodstock collection is near 95% of the target goal. Kruzic asked about the age class of the run thus far. Grenbemer reported that he has seen more 4 year olds than 5 year olds this year. Also of note, marked returns so far are about 60% females and 40% male, while the non-marked returns are showing opposite proportions.

Pump #4 had the bearings replaced and the other pumps are being scheduled for rehab.

* 1. **South Santiam/Foster.** Couture reported no major issues for either facility. While staff have seen less than 100 adult spring Chinook enter the trap last week, a large collection of adults remain below the dam and ladder entrance. There are on-going efforts to experiment with attraction flow and ladder entrance gate levels. IHN continues to persist at low levels but has generally stabilized compared to last month.
  2. **McKenzie.** Staff have collected270 pairs for outplanting above Cougar thus far. They hope to collect another 200 females in September. Sharpe reported that after discussions with Kurt Kremers, they plan to outplant hatchery adults as late as possible and as high in the watershed as possible. Outplanting is tentatively scheduled to begin the first week of September. The hatchery is currently on target to hit brood needs.
  3. **Cougar Trap.** Helms reported that they have collected 204 spring Chinook adults at Cougar thus far: 199 non-marked adults and 5 marked adults. All non-marked fish have been recycled and, of those, 40 adults have returned and were transported above the dam. All the marked adults (5 so far) were also transported above the dam. Kruzic asked if genetic samples were being taken and Helms confirmed that all standard scales and samples have been taken. Kruzic also asked if discussions have occurred regarding in-season modifications to the outplanting strategy. No discussions have taken place at recent HMT meetings. Most agency representatives have been simply monitoring the returns and numbers outplanted above Cougar. As the September 1st date is quickly approaching, the group felt like any changes at this point would be moot. Kruzic asked about funding for processing genetic samples taken from adult returns in 2016. Traylor stated that he would follow up with Piaskowski and report back to the group.

7 bull trout have been collected at Cougar so far and have been outplanted above the dam.

* 1. **Fall Creek.** Helms reported that they have collected 387 non-marked and 28 marked spring Chinook adults at Fall Creek thus far. 50 summer steelhead have also been collected.
  2. **Willamette/Dexter.** No update from Peck. Couture reported that so far, PSM is in the 30-35% range. Staff have collected about 280 adults, most of which are females. They plan to collect additional brood this week. Outplants above Hills Creek will commence shortly.
  3. **Leaburg.** No update.
  4. **Fish Counts**
     1. **Bennett.** Sharpe reminded the group that in 2011 about 150 adult spring Chinook were outplanted above Detroit. In 2012, about 250 adults were outplanted. If outplanted adults above the dam are the predominant driver of natural productivity, then it is not surprising that the non-marked run size is down a bit. So far, 749 non-marked fish have passed the Bennett Dams. This run size is lower than previous years but is not immediately concerning given the low 2011 and 2012 outplanting numbers. Grenbemer reported that he has collected 395 non-marked adults at Minto this year, which is about 50% of normal. Typically, Minto will see about 70% of all non-marked fish over Bennet. Current Bennett counts and Minto collection show a 53% conversion rate.
     2. **Leaburg.** Sharpe reported that current calculations for the area above Leaburg Dam show roughly 30% pHOS. He suspected that this might not change much throughout the rest of the year. Counts so far show 1,591 non-marked spring Chinook above Leaburg. It appears that there is a decent sized non-marked adult run and a slightly lower than normal marked adult run. However, counts showed that many more marked adults passed above Leaburg early in the season, contributing to higher pHOS. This may have been due to the construction that occurred at McKenzie Hatchery early in the season. The hatchery’s water supply was shut off, necessitating the move of all juvenile fish upstream to Leaburg Hatchery, and temporarily closing McKenzie Hatchery’s ladder. Leaburg saw elevated levels of adult spring Chinook in the hatchery ladder trap during this time. After the construction was completed and the juveniles were moved back to McKenzie, adult collection sharply increased at McKenzie and decreased at Leaburg. This coincided with decreases in the number of marked spring Chinook adults passing Leaburg.

Sharpe reminded the group that fallbacks over Leaburg do occur and are likely to influence the final pHOS value.

Sharpe stated that this is the first year that adult hatchery returns are affected by decreased juvenile releases. In the following years, this effect will be magnified by even greater decreases in previous release levels.

Ziller asked about the possibility of shutting down the right bank ladder and only running the left bank ladder (trapping side) as a way to capture all the adults moving past Leaburg and remove all hatchery adults. Kruzic responded that he doubted this would be a viable option.

1. After the updates, the group discussed the lack of adult entrance into the Foster ladder despite the large number of fish congregating below the dam. Several ideas were discussed but the group was generally in favor of pursuing the idea to hold juvenile fish in some portion of the ladder (possibly the pre-sort pool) to introduce a juvenile fish scent into the attraction water for the ladder. After recent experimentation with entrance gate adjustments and attraction flow producing no notable change to entrance rate, and the recent behavior of adult fish in the McKenzie river that may be related to the location that juveniles fish are held, the group agreed to investigate this idea further. Couture will follow up with Brett Boyd. Sharpe will follow up with Chris Caudill to daylight any potential conflicts with current monitoring and studies being conducted by the University of Idaho.
2. The group also discussed the need for more permanent weirs at Marion and Horn Creeks to facilitate the reintroduction of winter Steelhead above Detroit Dam without compromising the Marion Forks hatchery to IHN transfer from adult fish migrating around and above the hatchery intake. Both electrical and structural weirs were considered with their respective pros and cons discussed. Resident fish passage would need to be considered and the Forest Service will need to be included in further discussions. The group agreed to research other locations and instances where this type of issue exists and report back next month. Kruzic asked about whether adult winter Steelhead would even be attracted to the hatchery if no juvenile steelhead are being raised there, or if adults could be outplanted into the Breitenbush, naïve to the existence of the North Santiam proper and the hatchery. This may be a reasonable approach if reintroduction occurs before a permeant biosecurity measure is in place.
3. The next HMT is scheduled for 21 September.