

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
March 28, 2019**

http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette%20RME/RME.html

FINAL Facilitator’s Summary

Edits provided by: Corps, NMFS]

Document Review Tracking ([Click here for Master “tracking” Spreadsheet](#))

Document Name	Document Type	Comments Due By	Comments received / forthcoming from
Investigation of spring Chinook salmon fish passage alternatives for the Middle Fork (APH 19-01 MF)	Status: Request for proposal has been sent out.		
Evaluation of Foster Adult Fish Trap Performance, 2019 (APH-15-05-FOS)	Pre-Proposal	November 2	CTGR, ODFW and NMFS provided comments
	Status: On hold; PDT presented on design fixes at 3/5/19 WFFDWG meeting.		
Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport (APH -19-XX-FOS)	Concept Paper	November 30	NMFS provided comments
	Status: Comments suggested revising concept to a “synthesis”; Corps is identifying researcher to conduct syntheses. Revised concept needs ranking by Steering Team.		
Evaluation of a spring and summer spill at LOP (JPL-19-01-LOP)	Concept Paper	TBD	COE provided comments
	Status: RM&E and Steering Team will hold joint meeting to discuss management purpose and information needs.		
Passage and Survival of Chinook Salmon at Lookout Point Dam, Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 (PNNL)	Draft Final Report	March 22	ODFW and NMFS provided comments
2018 Pilot Copepodid Field Sampling Update and Associated Data Collections (OSU)	Draft Report	March 22	ODFW provided comments; NMFS reviewed/no comments
"Effectiveness of a Trap and Transport Program to Boost a Threatened Population of Steelhead (U of I)	Draft Final Manuscript	March 22	ODFW and NMFS provided comments
Spring Chinook Salmon Spawning Surveys in the Upper Willamette River Basin in 2018 (Normandeau)	Draft Report	March 25	ODFW provided comments
Fall Creek adult trap post-construction evaluation (APH-19-02-FC)	Proposal	April 4	ODFW reviewed/no comments; NMFS and USFW provided comments

Participants (in the room or on the phone): Leslie Bach (NPCC), Diana Dishman (NMFS), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Dave Jepsen (ODFW), Fenton Kahn (USACE), Rachel Neuenhoff (Corps), Christine Peterson (BPA), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR);

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz and Nancy Pionk (DS Consulting).

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Review edits to the 2/7/19 and 2/28/19 meeting summaries for approval at April meeting.	RM&E Team	4/25/19
Send out the proposal for the additional sampling request to support the Copepod Study and email Diana when the permit is submitted.	Rachel	ASAP
Provide a draft written description for the Middle Fork workshop series concept to the RM&E team.	Fenton and Rachel	ASAP
Draft an email to the Steering Team that outlines the suggested path forward for the FY19 Middle Fork check-in; send to the RM&E team for input.	Mike	[<i>Completed 3/29/19</i>]
Send RM&E suggested path forward for FY19 Middle Fork check-in to the Steering Team for input.	Emily	[<i>Completed 3/29/19</i>]
Update the Middle Fork Gantt chart in preparation for the Managers Forum meeting.	Diana and Fenton	4/22/19
Prepare an outline clarifying the Corps' plan for the Middle Fork check-in workshops and path forward.	Rachel	4/22/19
Send out a link to the FY19 Sub-basin RM&E Planning Charts	DS Consulting	[<i>Completed 3/28/19</i>]
Update FY19 Sub-basin RM&E Planning Charts	RM&E Team	4/8/19
Update the Middle Fork RM&E Sub-basin Planning Chart	Diana, Fenton & Leslie	4/8/19

Welcome, Housekeeping, and Updates

Emily welcomed the group and conducted a round of introductions. The team approved the 11/26/18 and 1/24/19 meeting summaries. The team deferred approval of the 2/7/19 and 2/28/19 meeting summaries to allow time for team members to review and provide additional edits.

→ **Action:** RM&E team members will respond with any additional edits or comments for the 2/7/19 and 2/28/19 meeting summaries by 4/25/19.

RM&E Proposal and Study Updates from Corps

- **Reports out for Review:** Fenton reminded team members of the reports that are out for review (see Document Review Tracking Table above).
- **Revetment Report:** Fenton recently sent out a link to the final Revetment Report; he noted that some information related to funding has been redacted. [*Note: This report is titled Revetment Alternatives Concepts – Willamette River Bank Protection Program*] Team members asked Fenton to send the link out again; Fenton asked RM&E team members to remind their Steering Team representatives that the report has been sent out.
- **Foster Fish Weir Interim Operations for Spring Passage:** Fenton noted that the spillway is currently being used for fish passage (per the Special Spill Operation). The weir is not in operation until the design improvements are complete. The PDT is working on design improvements and will vet the improvements with Willamette Fish Facility Design Work Group (WFFDWG) and Fenton will keep the RM&E Team informed. [*Facilitator's Note: Via summary edits, Fenton explained that the PDT is working to create a plunge pool to cushion fish when they land on the spillway and continue work on improvements to the spillway surface to reduce injuries.*] RM&E Team members appreciated the PDT's sharing of design ideas for the Foster Weir and also the Foster Ladder improvements at the March WFFDWG meeting.
- **Evaluation of Foster Adult Holding and Transport (APH-19-XX-FOS):** The Corps is in the process of determining the funding situation is before moving forward with this study. [Note: per Document Review Tracking table, the revised concept needs ranking by the Steering Team].

- **Evaluate interim management strategies for adult UWR Chinook Salmon at Big Cliff/Detroit Dams (APH-19-03):** The Corps will provide the proposal to the RM&E for review.
- **OSU Wild Fish Surrogate FY19 Proposal:** The Corps is waiting for fish to arrive at Minto in order to collect broodstock for eggs.
- **Additional Sampling Request to Support Copepod Study (JPL-18-03-SYS and JPL-19-03-SYS):** The researchers have developed a mini-proposal for the additional sampling request; the proposal will be sent out to the RM&E Team shortly. The Corps is working to identify the funding vehicle for the sampling. Rachel noted that the researchers have started a draft permit; Diana asked that Rachel provide a heads-up to her by email when the permitting request is submitted to ensure she has notice of it.

Action: Rachel will send out the proposal to the RM&E team, and send an email to Diana when the researchers have submitted the permit.

Prep for the Managers FY 19 Middle Fork Check-In

The RM&E Team discussed how best to provide a "check-in" to the Managers on the Middle Fork Willamette as specified in the sub-basin RM&E plan. Fenton noted that the Corps is planning a series of workshops in the late spring/early summer to identify data gaps and provide decision support for future actions in the Middle Fork Willamette. He suggested that the Managers check-in would be better suited after the teams are able to coordinate via the workshop series.

Rachel is leading the development of this iterative workshop series; she described the Corps' thinking and intention. Rachel noted that the Corps will be seeking a neutral, external contractor who has skills and experience in the structured decision-making model. She clarified that the intent of the workshops is not to make decisions regarding the Middle Fork; rather, the workshops will help to identify data gaps, prioritize remaining data needs, assess risk, and provide decision support. Fenton noted that the Corps is contracting the workshops; however, all WATER partners are invited and will provide input that shapes the outcomes. Ideally, both policy and technical representatives would participate.

Diana raised a concern that these workshops not delay planning for FY20 research priorities or other identified timelines (aka the 2021 decision point); she noted that NMFS cannot agree to anything that would slow the process down. Diana cautioned that the Middle Fork RM&E plan was previously approved by leadership, and thus, the RM&E Team is not the right team to decide what studies should be prioritized or delayed. Additionally, the FY21 check-in would be the appropriate point to prioritize actions, versus the FY19 check-in, which is focused on identifying data gaps and study needs for FY20 and FY21.

Mike supported the idea of using the workshop to support the FY 19 check-in, however, also cautioned it is not appropriate to use it as a decision-making process. Leslie suggested renaming the workshops (from structured decision making) or altering how the RFP is written to allay concerns that decision-making will be part of the workshops. She noted that how the workshop is scoped will be a determining factor in how the workshop will proceed and suggested that the RM&E Team is involved in the scoping, noting that there will be more buy-in through a collective approach.

Rachel noted that the contractor can help the group identify priorities, uncertainties, and alternatives, for example around survival. Leslie raised a concern that the Corps has made a policy decision that survival rate is the priority metric. Fenton and Rachel clarified that the Corps has not made any decisions yet on the path forward for the Middle Fork or what is most important in the Middle Fork; survival is one of many metrics that can be used to evaluate alternatives.

Emily suggested that the Corps provide a written description of the workshops so that the team can have a better understanding of the workshops' scope and how they fit into the FY19 and future check-ins. Mike supported identifying workshop dates as soon as possible to insure participation by RM&E and Steering Team members.

Given the upcoming workshop series, the group discussed how to best utilize the time with the Managers at the April 30, 2019 Managers Forum. The team agreed to recommend the following to the Steering Team as a way to inform the Managers for a later FY19 check-in.

1. Recap the information needs identified in the Middle Fork RM&E Plan;
2. Identify those information needs that have been addressed and those known information gaps that remain;
3. Outline the plan for the series of workshops and their intent; and
4. Report the results of first workshop back to Managers in fall, including any recommendations for changes to proposed FY20 RM&E.

The group agreed that the next step was to seek the Steering Team's approval to move forward with this approach. Mike will take the lead in drafting an email to the Steering Team explaining the RM&E team's approach. Pending the Steering Team's approval of the RM&E teams' suggested approach, Fenton and Diana will update the Middle Fork RM&E Plan Gantt chart and Rachel will prepare an outline that clarifies the Corps' plan for the workshops and intended outcomes.

- **Action:** Fenton and Rachel will provide RM&E with a draft written description for Middle Fork workshop series concept asap; RM&E members will review and provide input.
- **Action:** Mike will draft an email to the Steering Team that outlines the suggested path forward for the FY19 Middle Fork Check-In, and provide it to the RM&E team by 3/29/19 for input. Emily will send the outline to the Steering team by 4/2/19 and request a decision from the Steering Team by 4/5/19.
- **Action:** Upon approval by the Steering Team, Fenton and Diana will update the Middle Fork Gantt chart; Rachel will prepare an outline clarifying the Corps' plan for the workshops and path forward. Handouts for the Managers Forum will be provided to Emily by April 22, 2019.

Preparation for the April 9 Joint RM&E/Steering Team Meeting

The group discussed how best to identify the RM&E needs for FY20 in preparation for the April 9 Joint RM&E/Steering Team Meeting. Emily shared Donna's request that the group update the sub-basin charts prepared in 2019. The group agreed that updating the sub-basin charts was a good starting point to help identify FY20 RM&E study needs.

- **Action:** RM&E Team members will edit the sub-basin charts; Diana, Fenton, and Leslie specifically, will update the Middle Fork chart by 4/8/19.

Next Steps and Closing

Rachel reminded team members that OSU/Jim Peterson is hosting a Copepod/High Head Bypass workshop on April 10-11, 2019. Diana shared that the Science Center is starting the process for the 5-year Status Review and updating the Life-Cycle Model; she offered to share details if there is interest from the RM&E Team.

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

A RM&E and Steering Team meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2019 from 10:15 AM to 1PM; the next RM&E Team meeting is April 5, 2019 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.

This summary is provided by DS Consulting. Suggested edits are welcome and can be provided to Nancy Pionk (nancy@dsconsult.co).