

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
March 26, 2020
CONFERENCE CALL/WEBEX**

http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette_RME/RME.html

FINAL Facilitator’s Summary

[Edits provided by Corps]

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Convene subgroup (Anne, Fenton, Jim and Dave) to draft a process for requesting surplus surrogates for non-Corps RM&E efforts.	Anne	May 28
Send the updated sub-basin planning tables to the group.	Fenton	March 26 [sent out following RME meeting]
Forward the updated presentation on Middle Fork uncertainties to team members.	Rachel	March 26 [sent out following RME meeting]
Review and provide input on the sub-basin planning tables; send edits to DS Consulting.	RM&E Team Members	COB April 1
Consolidate sub-basin planning tables and send them to the RM&E and Steering Teams.	DS Consulting	April 2
Schedule sub-basin planning update meeting with RM&E Team.	DS Consulting	April 2 @ 12:15

Present for all of part of the meeting: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Melissa Jundt (NMFS), Fenton Kahn (Corps), Jim Meyers (NMFS), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Rachel Neuenhoff (Corps), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Ida Royer (Corps), Lawrence Schwabe (CTGR);

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

Welcome and Housekeeping

Emily welcomed the group and conducted a round of introductions. The group approved the February 27, 2020 RM&E Team meeting summary; ODFW submitted edits that the team will review and respond to the group with any concerns. If there are concerns, the group will revisit the February meeting summary at the May meeting.

Update on FY20 Studies

Fenton provided a status update on the following studies:

1. JPL-20-01-SYS (*Copepod gill damage in wild juvenile Chinook*): The Corps is currently working on funding;
2. JPL 19-03-SYS (*Copepods in UWR Chinook program*): The Corps is currently working on funding;
3. JPL-20-01-LOP (*Sources of reservoir mortality in juvenile Chinook rearing in Lookout Point dam*): Because this study is a modeling exercise and does not require field work, it is on hold for funding while the Corps determines other funding needs. The intent is fund it later this year (possibly summer) with FY20 funds.
4. APH-19-02-FC (*Post-effectiveness evaluation of Fall Creek Adult Collection Facility and PSM*): The Corps is in the process of contracting with OSU to conduct the study.

Fenton will also be circulating a proposal to RM&E team members for year-two of a PDT study regarding High Head Bypass (JPL-18-03-HHB *High Head Bypass Fish Passage Investigations*); fish health (stress and survival) evaluation via two conveyance methods- truck transport vs pipe bypass. Secondly, Fenton noted that the Willamette Valley System EIS Team is contemplating a second year of Supported Decision Making (SDM) workshops for the Middle Fork and other sub basins and will be having discussions with cooperating agencies regarding this. Finally, he noted that the Corps is planning to fund genetic pedigree studies in South Santiam, McKenzie, and Fall Creek basins, however the execution of the contract is on hold while the Corps determine

funding needs over the next few months. A decision to execute the contract for the pedigree studies is expected this summer and would likely use FY20 funds. Because of the time needed to get contracts in place, it is unlikely that study results would be available in 2020.

Fenton noted that the Portland District, including the projects (dams), is under social distancing restrictions. Field work is slowing down or has stopped. Researchers' access is limited and researchers are also implementing their own social distancing protocols. Fenton noted that the FY 20 studies have not been impacted, as they do not currently require field work; however, the copepod studies will require field work in the near future. Christine updated the group that Governor Brown closed the recreational fishing season on the Columbia River.

Discussion on Use of Surplus Surrogate Fish for Studies

At the January meeting, Anne wanted to discuss the possibility of using surplus surrogate fish for additional studies or evaluations. A full discussion was deferred until the March meeting when all WATER representatives were present.

Fenton reviewed the current process regarding use of surplus surrogate fish:

1. OSU develops fish for Corps' funded studies in the Willamette Basin. Broodstock is collected from the sub-basin in which the study will be implemented.
2. If the study does not go forward, the first priority is to see if there is another study in the same sub-basin that could use the fish. The fish are not transferred to different sub-basins for study or release.
3. If no study is identified, OSU, the Corps and ODFW coordinate regarding the release of fish downstream of the dams in the basin where they originated. When possible, OSU tags the fish before release.

Anne noted that there are times where the surplus fish could be used to answer questions that contribute to a formal RM&E study, or to gather information on alternative operations. She suggested study examples such as spawning upstream of Green Peter, TDG range due to natural events at Big Cliff; spill-related operations due to planned/unplanned repairs, etc. Fenton noted that it is possible that the fish could be used for non-Corps study; however, because that study would not be WATER RM&E-related, the Corps is not able to fund the study or tagging.

The process for determining whether and how to utilize extra surrogate fish will need to be efficient and responsive, as the lead time is unpredictable and varies in-season. Another factor for the group to consider is how long OSU can hold the fish to allow preparations for release. This will depend on the life-stage of the fish, size, and tank availability.

As a next step, team members agreed to form a subgroup that will work to identify a process for surrogate requests and a list of potential projects/proposals that could move forward when and if surplus fish become available. Subgroup members will include Anne (Lead), Fenton, Jim and Dave. It was suggested that the subgroup include additional ODFW staff (Luke Whitman, Elise Kelly, Jeff Ziller). Anne will coordinate the subgroup meeting and will provide updates to the RM&E team as they are warranted.

- **Action:** Anne will coordinate and convene a subgroup (Anne, Fenton, Jim Meyers and Dave, and other ODFW staff) to identify a process and develop a list of proposals concerning the use of surplus fish.

Preparation for 4/7 Joint Steering & RM&E Team Meeting

In preparation for the Joint meeting the Steering Team requested that the RM&E Team review and update the 2019 sub-basin planning tables and identify data gaps.

The Steering Team asked that the RM&E team consider and provide feedback regarding:

- **Middle Fork:** Maintain the path to a 2021 decision point.
 - What next steps are needed?
 - Are there additional RM&E needs to support the RM&E Plan?
 - Is there anything outside of the Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshops on which we need to remain focused? If so, what?
 - Are there assumptions in the SDM that need validating and can be tested via research, literature review, etc.?

- **North Santiam:** There currently is an effort to implement a new spill pattern to spread the spill and monitor TDG with existing gauges. Is there any additional monitoring needed?
- **South Santiam:** What is currently known about the potential for spawning, production, etc. upstream of Green Peter? What do we still need to know and by when?
- **McKenzie:** Given HHB, COU 2.0, and trap and hauls: is there anything we are/can be doing to inform passage decisions?
- **Systemwide:** Where is SWIFT and what needs to, or can be done next to provide information about mainstem flow and adaptive management?

Prior to the RM&E Team meeting, the Corps updated the sub-basin planning tables to reflect studies conducted in FY19 and those planned for FY20; these updates are noted in Column H of the sub-basin planning tables. At the RM&E team meeting, Fenton reviewed those updates with the team via WebEx. He added comments/edits by the group to Column H in real-time. As next steps, Fenton will send the updated planning tables to team members for their review and input; specifically, the RM&E team will identify any FY21 study needs.

Team members will send their planning table additions/edits to DS Consulting by COB, April 2nd. DS Consulting will compile edits and send them to the RM&E and Steering Teams ahead of the April 7th Joint meeting. The RM&E Team will meet, as needed, for a conference call on April 2nd to check-in on the planning tables and address any outstanding issues.

Additionally, Rachel has updated the SDM presentation regarding Middle Fork uncertainties to reflect RM&E team input from the February RM&E meeting; Rachel will forward the updated presentation to team members. The group thought that this information would be helpful to share with the Steering Team on April 7th.

- **Action:** Fenton will send the updated sub-basin planning tables to the group.
- **Action:** Rachel will forward the updated presentation on Middle Fork uncertainties to team members.
- **Actions:** RM&E Team members will:
 1. Review the sub-basin planning tables to make sure they are comprehensive and accurate.
 2. Insert any additional updates/comments regarding FY20 RM&E to **Column H**. Any additions should be highlighted/marked in a different color so they can be tracked.
 3. Consider questions posed by Steering Team (see above) and identify any FY21 study needs in **Column I**.
 4. Send the edited tables to DS Consulting by COB on 4/1/2020.
- **Action:** DS Consulting will consolidate the responses and send them to the RM&E and Steering Teams on 4/2/2020.
- **Action:** The RM&E Team will meet for a conference call on 4/2/20 at 12:15 – 1:00 PM to check-in on the planning tables and address any outstanding issues.

Closing

Emily noted that the Joint Steering and RM&E meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2020 from 12:30-4:30pm and will be held remotely via Conference Call/WebEx. Due to the Joint meeting, there will not be an April RM&E Team meeting. The next regularly scheduled RM&E Team meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2020. With that, Emily thanked the group and adjourned the meeting.

The next RM&E Team meeting is Check-in Call on April 2, 2020 from 12:15 – 1:00 PM
The RM&E and Steering Teams will meet on April 7, 2020 from 12:30-4:30PM
The next full RM&E meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2020

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