

**Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)
Research, Monitoring and Evaluation (RM&E)
April 2, 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 ODFW]

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
Let Ian know of RM&E Team members’ interest in a budget update at the Joint Steering/RM&E Team meeting.	Fenton	4/7/2020
Send ST and RME teams the updated sub-basin planning tables and the Middle Fork SDM workshop presentation on uncertainties.	Emily	4/2/2020 [Completed]
Coordinate internally w/ ST representatives for the Joint Steering/RM&E Team.	RM&E Team	4/7/2020

Present for all of part of the meeting: Leslie Bach (NPCC), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Fenton Kahn (Corps), Anne Mullan (NMFS), Rachel Neuenhoff (Corps), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), 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. She reviewed the purpose of the meeting which was to provide RM&E Team members an opportunity to discuss any concerns and/or raise topics for RM&E members awareness, in preparation for the 4/7 Joint Steering & RM&E Team meeting.

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

As part of the preparation for the Joint meeting, RM&E Team members were asked to review and provide edits to the FY20 sub-basin planning tables and provide any edits or comments to DS Consulting for consolidation. Prior to this meeting, DS Consulting consolidated responses received from CTGR, USFWS, NMFS and ODFW and sent them out to the team on April 2, 2020. Emily noted that the sub-basin planning tables will not be reviewed during the Joint meeting; however, the tables will provide helpful background information to support the conversation. She noted that the Joint conversation will focus on the questions previously posed by Steering Team at their March 3, 2020 meeting (see Joint meeting agenda for details).

RM&E Team members provided the following process suggestions for the meeting:

- Ensure that that there are opportunities for caucuses among group members.
- Check-in on any overarching concerns in addition to the Steering Team’s list of questions.
- With regard to the Middle Fork, there are additional materials that agencies may wish to review including the Middle Fork RM&E Plan, the Middle Fork Monitoring Plan and the Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshop presentation regarding uncertainties. Rachel noted that she has cross-walked the SDM presentation with the Middle Fork RM&E Plan and has updated it to reflect RM&E team input from their February meeting.
- It will be helpful for RM&E team members to brief their Steering Team representatives on these materials.

The group also highlighted specific topics of interest relating to the Joint meeting discussion, for RM&E Team awareness:

- Kelly highlighted an interest by ODFW in the opportunity and need to consider and evaluate interim operations to inform future fish passage decisions.
- ODFW would like to better understand BPA’s decision-making process regarding requests to go into the power pool and explore ways to craft proposals for BPA consideration that could lead to beneficial outcomes for fish. It would be helpful to understand what the constraints are and where there may be

flexibility or a need for RME in advance of a request. Christine noted that any proposals would need to go through BPA's decision-making process.

- Kelly would like the teams to consider how to integrate the groups considering Cougar passage options and the Willamette EIS process. These groups include those considering: 1) High Head Bypass at Cougar; 2) Cougar 2.0; and 3) Trap and Haul. It was noted that this is a good conversation to bring to the Steering Team.
- Mike noted that he plans to raise the comments made by USFWS in the sub-basin planning tables at the Joint meeting. Some of those comments are overarching thematic comments, whereas, other comments seek to ensure that the research is on track. USFWS has also included comments (highlighted in yellow) that refer to interim operations, including court-mandated interim operations or other interim operations (for example, relating to Flood Risk Management or a given water year). USFWS is interested in utilizing interim operations to fill data gaps where they exist.
- Leslie noted that RM&E planning for the future is very budget-dependent and it would be helpful to have a quick update on the budget. Anne noted that it would be helpful to know timing of funding for pedigree studies.
- Anne noted that the flow targets for the first 15 days of April were unlikely to be met. She is interested in the group's ideas on how to count out-migrating juvenile steelhead and appreciated any information regarding counts.

Next Steps and Actions:

- **Action:** Fenton will circle back to Ian and let him know there is interest in a budget update at the Joint meeting.
- **Action:** Emily will send out the updated sub-basin planning tables and the Middle Fork SDM workshop presentation on uncertainties to the RM&E and Steering Teams.
- **Action:** RM&E Team members will coordinate with their Steering Team members for the Joint meeting conversation.

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

The RM&E and Steering Teams will meet on April 7, 2002 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).