

Willamette Action Team for Ecosystem Restoration (WATER)

RM&E Team Meeting

July 5, 2020

Meeting Summary

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

[Edits provided by NOAA, Corps, ODFW]

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & Nancy Pionk, DS Consulting.

Participants – Leslie Bach (NPCC), Fenton Kahn (Corps), Rachel Laird (Corps), Mike Hudson (USFWS), Anne Mullan (NOAA), Jim Myers (NOAA), Christine Peterson (BPA), Kelly Reis (ODFW), Greg Taylor (Corps), Luke Whitman (ODFW).

6/7/22 RM&E Meeting Summary: The team approved the summary with no additional edits.

WATER Partner Updates

- **BPA:** Christine noted that Leah Sullivan will be moving into the position formerly occupied by Jason Sweet, who is now the Fish and Wildlife director at BPA.
- **ODFW:** Luke noted that many spring Chinook salmon are coming over Willamette Falls with a total count of 22,000 fish as of the last week in June. Per Anne, the 10-year average for adults is 31,538. *[Facilitator's Note: In summary edits, Anne and Luke noted that the spring Chinook salmon run count totalled 37,057 total adults, as of Aug 15, which is higher than the 10-year average of 31,538.]* Fishing has also picked up in the tributaries. ODFW will be doing a redd survey in the McKenzie River Basin next week. Kelly Reis will be on leave mid-July through early August. Luke will attend the WATER meetings on ODFW's behalf during that time.
- There were no updates from **NOAA, NPCC, or USFWS.**

FY21/FY22 Studies, & Screwtrapping Updates: Fenton noted that the Foster Spring Spill ended June 15. PNNL released the last group of tagged fish at the beginning of June; however, during tagging, PNNL observed that many Chinook salmon and steelhead were not looking healthy and were starting to get fin rot. Fenton noted that, under the injunction requirements, the pool was not refilled until May 15, which then pushed the second group of fish releases for the full pool study into early June (as opposed to previous years), which may have affected fish health. The Foster Spring Spill study will be repeated next year, and Fenton is considering having future discussions internally with the Corps and with the Injunction technical team and plaintiffs regarding the possibility of refilling to pool sooner, as in the past (end of April), to avoid negative impacts to fish health during the full pool study when temperatures are getting warmer. Fenton noted that the number of steelhead used to replace unhealthy Chinook salmon for the full pool study was less than 50 and within the buffer for the research permit. Screwtrapping work is ongoing and there were no updates.

Surrogate Program: Fenton noted that a surplus of 500 surrogate steelhead remained after the Foster spring study ended. ODFW was not able to use the fish for any studies and Elise Kelly, ODFW, advised the Corps and OSU to release the fish in the North Santiam below the dams. However, due to the poor health of the fish, OSU is now waiting to get authorization from ODFW to euthanize the fish. *[Facilitator's Note: Fenton provided the following update in summary edits: Since the RM&E meeting, an ODFW pathologist and OSU determined the fish were healthy enough to be released into the river instead of euthanizing them. OSU released the fish in the North Santiam, below the dams per ODFW.]*

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Fenton noted that sub-yearling Chinook salmon are being reared for a Fall spill study at Foster. These fish are reared separately from the Spring spill surrogates and are healthy. *[Facilitator's Note: In summary edits, Fenton noted that OSU is also rearing surrogate steelhead and Chinook salmon for the Foster (steelhead and Chinook salmon) and Green Peter (Chinook salmon) studies in 2023.*

Anne noted that, given the good returns of spring Chinook salmon over Willamette Falls, outplanting of adult fish above Green Peter is expected to move forward in July. This will include study of spawners' success and locations and temperature measurements. Greg noted that the contract with ODFW is in place and the Corps is now working with private landowners to gain access to the sites.

Reminder: The deadline for comments on the draft technical report from USGS entitled "Assessing the Efficacy of Using a Parentage-Based Tagging Survival Model to Evaluate Two Sources of Mortality for Juvenile Chinook Salmon Survival in Lookout Point Reservoir, Oregon" is August 1, 2022. Comments can be provided to Rachel Laird at Rachel.D.Laird@usace.army.mil

The next RM&E Team Session is scheduled for August 2, 2022 at 2 PM, after the Steering Team session.