



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

847 NE 19th Avenue, #250, Portland, OR 97232

Phone: (503) 833-3900 Fax: (503) 232-1259

www.fpc.org/

e-mail us at fpcstaff@fpc.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: FPAC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: August 20, 2014

RE: Action Notes from August 19, 2014 FPAC face-to-face meeting

On August 19, 2014, FPAC met at the FPC offices in Portland, Oregon, for its monthly face-to-face meeting. Present for the meeting were: Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair, NOAA), Dave Wills (USFWS), Charlie Morrill (WDFW), Trevor Conder (NOAA, via phone), Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), Kathryn Kostow (ODFW, via phone), Steve Williams (PSMFC), Dave Statler (Nez Perce, via phone), Sherri Sears (Colville, via phone), Tom Iverson (Yakima), Rick Martinson (SMP-BON/JDA), Russ Kiefer (IDFG, via phone), Tom Skiles (CRITFC), Dave Benner (FPC), Margaret Filardo (FPC), Erin Cooper (FPC), Brandon Chockley (FPC), and Tommy Garrison (FPC).

Agenda Items

Water Supply/Flood Control

- Dave Benner (FPC) provided a summary of the current reservoir operations and water supply forecasts. Below is an overview.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Elevation (feet)</i>	<i>Change in Elevation (feet over past week)</i>	<i>Last Week's Outflows (Kcfs)</i>
GCL	1285.3	Drafted 0.8	93.7 – 124.6
LIB	2452.3	Drafted 0.4	9.0
HH	3556.7	Drafted 0.7	2.5 – 3.1
DWOR	1553.7	Drafted 6.2	6.6 – 12.1
BRNLE	2057.8	Drafted 0.9	9.0 – 10.2 (inflows)

- Projects at Libby Dam show outflows of 9 Kcfs through August and a decrease to 6 Kcfs in September.
- The Summer Biological Opinion flow period began on June 21st in the lower Snake River. The flow objective this summer is 52 Kcfs at Lower Granite. Flows at Lower Granite have averaged 26.8 Kcfs over the last week and 44.6 Kcfs over the summer season.
- The summer flow objective is 200 Kcfs at McNary Dam. Flows at McNary have averaged 159.4 Kcfs over the past week and 201.8 Kcfs over the summer period.

Weather

- Kyle Dittmer provided an update of current weather conditions that was e-mailed to FPAC. Monthly precipitation totals are 10% – 130% of August normal rainfall.

Juvenile Fish Passage

- Subyearling Chinook passage continues at all projects. At Lower Granite, no collections have been less than 300.
- Barging ended and trucking began on August 17th. Due to the trucking timing, there are two batches from Lower Granite SMP every other day.

Adult Fish Passage

- Fall Chinook counts are increasing at Bonneville and daily counts have ranged between 960 and 4,300 over the past week. Steelhead counts at Bonneville have decreased over the past week.
- Sockeye counts at Bonneville over the last week have ranged from 7 to 21. The Sockeye total so far is 614,000.
- The total lamprey count at Bonneville so far, including window, night, and LAPS counts, is 107,912. Lamprey mortality at Bonneville due to bacterial disease has increased with increasing temperatures.

Biological Opinion Spill

- Spill at Lower Granite, Lower Monumental, and Ice Harbor have been below FOP levels due to low flows and powerhouse minimums.
- Spill at Little Goose has been a flat spill to maintain compatibility with Lower Granite and Lower Monumental operations.
- Powerhouse minimums at Lower Monumental should be 10.8 – 12.3 (priority units 2 or 3). The current operating powerhouse minimum is 14 Kcfs. This is due to a change in unit priority due to repairs on the transmission lines and will be completed by August 27th.

Sockeye Fallback

- Trevor Conder's (NOAA) analysis indicates that 30% of sockeye fall back at Lower Granite. The DART analysis calculates a fallback rate of 25%.
- BPA has expressed an interested in determining the cause of fallback. They expect that high temperatures or spill levels are the cause.

Dworshak Operations

- Due to a turbine outage at Dworshak, overall flows have been reduced by approximately 3 Kcfs.
- A TDG waiver could allow more spill beyond the current 110% gas cap. No FPAC members would object to this waiver.

Smolt Monitoring Program Review

- In May, the FPC provided an outline of the information collected from each SMP site and some of the ways these data are used. At the July face-to-face meeting, NOAA provided a proposal of potential changes to the SMP to accomplish data needs, as NOAA sees them, and reduce handling.
- FPC provided review and comments on the NOAA proposal in an August 7, 2014, memo that was sent to FPAC for discussion at this face-to-face meeting.
- FPAC members discussed the NOAA proposal and FPC comments, and will continue to carefully review the SMP program. Each agency and tribe will come to the next FPAC meeting (Aug. 26th) with an outline of their data needs for the program.
- Margaret Filardo (FPC) suggested that due to the low risk of GBT during July and August, GBT sampling in the lower river could be reduced to once per week during those months. GBT sampling in the Snake River could be modified to once per week in July and eliminated in August or when smolts are too few for a full sample in July. Modification to GBT sampling protocol would need to be approved by water quality agencies. FPC is to circulate a draft letter for GBT modifications to FPAC for discussion at the next FPAC meeting.

Coordination

- The next FPAC meeting on August 26th, at 9:00 A.M., will include a review of the SMP program. A Go-To meeting can be arranged if needed.
- The next FPAC face-to-face will occur on September 16, 2014, at the FPC office at 9:00 A.M.