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: September 19, 2014

RE: Action Notes from September 16, 2014, FPAC face-to-face meeting

On September 16, 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), Dave Statler (Nez Perce, via phone), Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC, via phone), Sherri Sears (Colville, via phone), Tom Iverson (Yakima, via phone), Russ Kiefer (IDFG, via phone), Tom Skiles (CRITFC, via phone), Margaret Filardo (FPC), Erin Cooper (FPC), Brandon Chockley (FPC), and Tommy Garrison (FPC).

Agenda Items

Water Supply/Flood Control

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

Project	*Current Elevation (feet)*	*Change in Elevation (feet over past week)*	*Last Week's Outflows (Kcfs)*
GCL	1280.9	Refilled 0.2	52 – 62.2
LIB	2449.6	Drafted 0.8	9.0
HH	3552.6	Drafted 0.9	2.7
DWOR	1526.4	Drafted 6.6	8.3 – 8.8
BRNLE	2055.1	Drafted 0.6	8.1 – 8.6 (inflows)

- Spill at Dworshak has ranged from 3.6 to 4.1 Kcfs. Below Dworshak, TDG has been 114.4%–116%.
- The Summer Biological Opinion flow period began on June 21st in the lower Snake River and ended on August 31st. The flow objective this summer was 52 Kcfs at Lower Granite. Actual flows at Lower Granite averaged 40.4 over the summer season.
- The summer flow objective was 200 Kcfs at McNary Dam. Flows at McNary averaged 189.8 Kcfs over the summer period.

Weather

- Kyle Dittmer provided an update of current weather conditions. There is still a 50%-60% chance of a late threshold El Niño.

Juvenile Fish Passage

- Subyearling Chinook passage continues at all projects.
- Over the last week at John Day, several samples were missed due to high temperatures. The end of sampling at John Day was September 15th.
- Descaling at Lower Granite was 9.4% on September 15th. Although relatively high, this rate is lower than this time of year in past seasons.
- Mortality rates have been elevated at LMN over last couple of weeks. This is typical for this time of year when temperatures are high and *Columnaris* loads are elevated. Elevated mortality was discussed at FPOM on Sept. 11th, at which time it was decided that LMN sampling will change to every-other-day, with primary bypass (i.e., return to river) on non-sample days. Sampled fish will still be treated with salt and trucked.
    - WFDW does not support this operation and would like to discuss alternatives for future years.
    - WDFW and NOAA will inquire about effectiveness of salt treatment on *Columnaris* and will come back to FPAC with information for future discussions.
- FPOM requested that FPAC develop a long-term strategy for late season mortality/*Columnaris* and submit a change form for the 2015 Fish Passage Plan.

Adult Fish Passage

- Fall Chinook counts at Bonneville are at 86% of 2013 counts and 191% of the 10-year average. At Granite, counts are 123% of 2013 counts and 214% of the 10-year average.
- Steelhead counts at Bonneville are at 129% of 2013 counts and 88% of the 10-year average. At Lower Granite, counts are 132% of 2013 counts and 67% of the 10-year average.

Project Operations

- The pumps for the adult trap at Lower Granite have been shut down since September 11th due to cooler temperatures.
- Dworshak will be reducing flows through September.
- The spill test at John Day has ended for the season.

Smolt Monitoring Program Review

- FPAC recommends that sampling at Little Goose and Lower Monumental move to sampling every other day with a 24 hour sample, starting on April 1st. Paul Wagner (NOAA) will take this proposal to the COE.
- Fish condition data collected for the COE at Ice Harbor should be made available to FPAC members. Once the data are made available, FPAC can review the sampling protocol and whether this is sufficient under BiOp RPA requirement.

Adult Delay at Little Goose Dam

- Spilling to the gas cap at night at Little Goose Dam has been proposed, but some parties will ask for a reduction of daytime spill to 20% to make the change in operations closer to flow-neutral.
- Margaret Filardo (FPC) informed FPAC that issues with adult delay at Little Goose occurred in the summer, and may not accurately reflect adult passage conditions in the spring and under differing flows. FPC reviews of spill at Little Goose Dam and adult delay were e-mailed to FPAC following the meeting.

Coordination

- The next FPAC face-to-face meeting will be on October 21st, at 9:00 AM.