



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: December 18, 2014

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

On December 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), Tom Lorz (FPAC Co-Chair, CRITFC), Dave Wills (USFWS), Charlie Morrill (WDFW), Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC), Russ Kiefer (IDFG, via phone), Joe Skalicky (USFWS), Tom Iverson (Yakima, via phone), Tom Skiles (CRITFC), 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	1,286.9	Refilled 1.2	90.2 – 114.5
LIB	2,424.0	Drafted 4.6	20.0 – 23.3
HH	3,549.3	Refilled 0.3	2.5
DWOR	1,528.0	Refilled 2.3	1.6
BRNLE	2,073.8	Drafted 1.2	9.2 (Hells Canyon Outflows)
Albeni Falls	2,051.3	No Change	15.1 – 22.3

- Average tailwater at Bonneville over the month of December has ranged from 14.7 – 15.2 feet, with a minimum tailwater of 12.6 and a maximum of 18.6.
- Snowpack estimates from Natural Resource Conservation Service were provided by Margaret Filadro.

Basin	Snow Water Equivalent (% Avg) December 15, 2014
Columbia above Snake confluence	77
Snake River	90
Lower Columbia, between Bonneville and McNary	28

- ESP runoff volume estimates as of December 15, 2014.

Location	% Average (1981–2010)	Runoff Volume (Kaf)
The Dalles (Jan–July)	99	100,102
Libby Res. Inflow, MT (Apr–Aug)	110 117*	6,454 6,903*
Lower Granite Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	96	19,054
Dworshak Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	97 98*	2,352 2,398*

*COE December forecast

Weather

- Kyle Dittmer provided an update of current weather conditions. Precipitation was as follows:

Location	Seasonal (Oct 1–Now)
Portland	105%
Upper Columbia	83%
Middle Columbia	104%
Lower Snake	111%
Upper and Mid-Snake	86%

- Temperatures were as follows (temperature departures):

Location	Pro-rated Monthly
Portland	3.1
Upper Columbia	4.3
Middle Columbia	4.6
Lower Snake	8.6
Upper and Mid-Snake	12.4

Chum

- Charlie Morrill will provide data on redd locations to FPAC.
- FPAC will propose a minimum tailwater elevation of 13.5, which will be reevaluated when redd location data are available.

Transportation Configuration and Operation Plan (COP)

- NOAA has proposed a transportation start date of May 1, or the alternative of a later start date with modified RSW operations to increase the proportion of steelhead transported.
- FPAC discussed uncertainty of what to do about transportation from LMN:
 - Little data on LMN transport means that it is difficult to make an informed decision. NOAA/RIOG would like to increase transport from LMN in order to improve data on LMN transport and, thus, better inform the decision.
 - NOAA is proposing to use fish from CSS to increase the proportion of fish transported from LMN. This would involve increasing the portion of PIT tags assigned to “monitor mode” in future years, at least at LMN. This would require the approval of the CSS oversight committee. NOAA was encouraged to submit a written proposal for this modification to the CSS to the CSS Oversight Committee for their review.
- Russ Kiefer and Tom Lorz have provided their comments on the previous Transportation COP. These comments should be reviewed by FPAC members for discussion at the January 6, 2015, FPAC meeting. If there is agreement, joint comments will be submitted.

Spill Priority

- Current spill priority is bottom up. FPAC will not request any changes to that in December.

Zero Nighttime Flow

- The criteria for zero nighttime flow have not been met.

Coordination

- The next FPAC meeting will be on January 6, 2015. FPAC meetings scheduled for December 23 and December 30 have been cancelled.
- The next FPAC face to face meeting is on January 20, at 9:00 AM at the FPC office.
- Comments on the Transportation COP are due on January 15th.