



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: FPAC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: May 28, 2014

RE: Action Notes from May 20, 2014 FPAC face-to-face meeting

On May 20, 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, via phone), Dave Wills (USFWS), Charlie Morrill (WDFW), Trevor Conder (NOAA, via phone), Tom Iverson (Yakama Tribe, via phone), Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC, via phone), Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), Dave Statler (Nez Perce, via phone), Kathryn Kostow (ODFW, via phone), Rosanna Mensik (SMP-MCN), Rick Martinson (SMP-BON/JDA), Michele DeHart (FPC), Erin Cooper (FPC), Dave Benner (FPC), Brandon Chockley (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	1241.5	Refilled 4.6	152.3 – 165.2
LIB	2390.0	Refilled 3.1	16.0 – 24.5
HH	3502.7	Refilled 4.4	6.8 – 8.8
DWOR	1530.1	Refilled 13.4	2.4 – 4.8
BRNLE	2064.9	Refilled 5.3	14.9 – 15.7 (inflows)

- The Spring Biological Opinion flow period began on April 3<sup>rd</sup> in the lower Snake River. The flow objective this spring will be 100 Kcfs at Lower Granite. Flows at Lower Granite have averaged 79.1 Kcfs over the spring season.
- The Spring Biological Opinion flow for the Upper and Lower Columbia began on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The spring flow objective at McNary Dam will be 260 Kcfs (averaged 266.9 Kcfs so far) and 135 Kcfs at Priest Rapids (averaged 174.1 so far).
- Snowpack estimates from Natural Resource Conservation Service, provided by Dave Benner.

<i>Basin</i>	<i>Snow Water Equivalent (% Avg) March 18, 2014</i>
Columbia above Snake confluence	144
Snake River	132
Lower Columbia, between Bonneville and McNary	54

- ESP runoff volume estimates as of May 19, 2014.

<b>Location</b>	<b>% Average (1981–2010)</b>	<b>Runoff Volume (Kaf)</b>
The Dalles (Jan–July)	107	108951
Grand Coulee (Jan–July)	109	65125
Libby Res. Inflow, MT (Apr–Aug)	118	6937 6996*
Hungry Horse Res. Inflow, MT (Jan–July)	122	2568
Lower Granite Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	107	21268
Brownlee Re. Inflow (Apr–July)	62	3382
Dworshak Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	133	3223 3183*

\*COE May Forecast

## **Weather**

- Kyle Dittmer provided a handout of precipitation for season (October 1–current), as well as over the month of May. The handout also provided pro-rated monthly temperatures. Precipitation levels were as follows (% of normal):

<b>Location</b>	<b>Seasonal (Oct. 1–Now)</b>
Portland	86%
Upper Columbia	93%
Middle Columbia	63%
Lower Snake	91%
Upper and Mid-Snake	90%

- Temperatures were as follows (temperature departures):

Location	Pro-rated Monthly
Portland	3.4
Upper Columbia	-1.2
Middle Columbia	2.8
Lower Snake	1.1
Upper and Mid-Snake	1.3

### ***Juvenile Fish Passage***

- Yearling Chinook counts had been decreasing over the last week, but increased as flows increased over the last few days.
- The Snake and Salmon traps are not sampling. The Grande Ronde trap will stop sampling soon due to upstream fall Chinook hatchery releases.
- The Spring Creek Hatchery release has passed Bonneville Dam, indicated by reduced counts of subyearling Chinook.
- There has been elevated descaling at McNary Dam in comparison to this time period over the last five years. The screens have been cleaned, but may not be over the next week. FPAC members will request at TMT that screen cleaning be made a priority.

### ***Adult Fish Passage***

- Counts of spring Chinook at Bonneville averaged about 2000/day over the past week. This is 43% of the 10-year average. Jack counts are at 117% of the 10-year average. Steelhead counts at Bonneville have ranged between 46 and 103 over the last week.
- At Ice Harbor Dam, spring Chinook counts have ranged between 846 and 2,500. Total counts at Ice Harbor are 164% of the 10-year average.
- Counts at Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental Dam indicate minimal delay in migration.
- At Priest Rapids Dam, spring Chinook counts are at 184% of the 10-year average. Jacks are at 230% of the 10-year average.

### ***Biological Opinion Spill***

- Spill has exceeded planned levels at all sites over the past week.
- The Lower Monumental forebay exceeded TDG levels from May 18 to May 22. Little Goose was spilling 30%, as planned, during that time.
- TDG in the forebay at Ice Harbor was exceeded all week.
- The forebay at John Day exceeded TDG from May 19 to May 22.
- The Bonneville forebay exceeded TDG levels on May 16 and again from May 20 to May 22.

### ***John Day Spill Operations***

- BPA has proposed a change in operations at John Day Dam from 2-day alternating blocks of 30% and 40% spill to 30% spill during the day and 40% spill at night. The COE provided a compilation of diel and nighttime passage data from 4 years of acoustic-tag data at John Day.
- The data provided is not distinguished by spill levels. FPAC members will request that these data be made available before management decisions are made.

### ***Wanapum Dam Update***

- No new information to provide to FPAC.

### ***Review of Smolt Monitoring Program***

- FPC provided *2014 Review of Smolt Monitoring Program* memo prior to meeting. The memo describes what data are being collected under the SMP, how those data are used by Fisheries Managers, and the potential impacts to “limited sampling” at SMP sites.
- FPC warned FPAC that, if changes are made to the SMP, it is important to consider the SMP as a whole and not make changes at some sites without considering the program as a whole.
- FPAC to review the memo and develop questions for FPC by the next face-to-face meeting, which is currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- FPAC will provide FPC memo to FPOM in response to request for information on how SMP data are being used by Fisheries Managers.

### ***Coordination***

- The next FPAC face to face will occur on June 17, 2014, at the FPC office at 9:00 AM.