



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: FPAC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: March 26, 2015

RE: Action Notes from March 17, 2015, FPAC face-to-face meeting

On March 17, 2015, 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), Charlie Morrill (WDFW), Russ Kiefer (IDFG), Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC), Joe Skalicky (USFWS), Sherrie Sears (Colville Tribe, via phone), Tom Skiles (CRITFC), Trevor Conder (NOAA, via phone), Dave Statler (Nez Perce), Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), Erin Cooper (FPC), Brandon Chockley (FPC), Michele DeHart (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.

Project	Current Elevation (feet)	Change in Elevation (feet over past week)	Last Week's Outflows (Kcfs)	End of March Flood Control (feet)
GCL	1253.2	Drafted 3.7	95.9 – 127.6	1283.3
LIB	2413.6	Refilled 0.9	4.1	2433.8
HH	3536.1	Refilled 2.2	2.5 – 3.0	3540.4
DWOR	1572.8	Refilled 5.8	1.5	1579.2
BRNLE	2052.5	No Change	19.5 – 19.4 (Hells Canyon Outflows = 9.2)	2071.8

- Snowpack estimates from Natural Resource Conservation Service were provided by Dave Benner.

Basin	Snow Water Equivalent (% Avg) February 17, 2015
Columbia above Snake confluence	65
Snake River	65
Lower Columbia, between Bonneville and McNary	15

- ESP runoff volume estimates as of March 16, 2015.

Location	% Average (1981–2010)	Runoff Volume (Kaf)
The Dalles (Jan–July)	82	71,733
Grand Coulee (Jan–July)	88	49,974
Libby Res. Inflow, MT (Apr–Aug)	90 97*	5,285 5,683*
Hungry Horse Res. Inflow, MT (Jan–July)	87	1,692
Lower Granite Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	73	14,454
Brownlee Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	64	3,526
Dworshak Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	72 74*	1,740 1,815*

*COE March forecast

Weather

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

Location	Seasonal (Oct 1-Now)
Upper Columbia	94%
Middle Columbia	96%
Lower Snake	106%
Upper and Mid-Snake	86%

- Temperatures were as follows (temperature departures):

Location	Pro-rated Monthly
Upper Columbia	1.4
Middle Columbia	5.8
Lower Snake	5.5
Upper and Mid-Snake	7.9

- NOAA current predictions are that there is a 50% to 60% probability that current El Niño conditions will continue through this summer.

Juvenile Fish Passage Status

- Few smolts have been sampled at the traps, but numbers are expected to rise over the next week as upstream hatcheries start releases.
- Counts at Bonneville were low on Tuesday, March 17th, due to a shut-down of the sampling system on at 9:00 AM Monday. Counts represent only two hours of data.
- The passage index for subyearling Chinook at Bonneville has been approximately 1,000 per day over the past week, the vast majority of which are fry.
- A few Coho and lamprey have been observed at Bonneville.
- Sampling at Lower Granite Dam SMP will begin next week. Other sites will start sampling between April 1st and 7th. The Imnaha trap will be providing data starting on March 15th.

Adult Fish Passage Status

- The year-to-date Spring Chinook count at Bonneville Dam is 247, with daily counts of 13–35. There have been two jacks counted so far.
- The year-to-date steelhead count at Bonneville Dam is 2,149, of which 1,125 have been unclipped. Daily counts of steelhead have ranged from 27 to 150.
- At Lower Granite, the steelhead year-to-date count is 2,777, of which 945 have been unclipped. Daily counts have increased over the past week from 51 to 887.

Sort-by-Code Requests

- Lance Clarke's request for Sort-by-Code for Wallowa stock steelhead has been coordinated with CSS. Paul Wagner will approve this request on Friday, March 20, if objections are not submitted to him before then. There may have been a second request from Lance Clarke. Paul will look into this and circulate a second request to FPAC for consideration.
- There were no objections to Todd Miller's request for Sort-By-Code (SbyC) for Lyon's Ferry Hatchery.
- FPAC discussed what criteria are used to reject or accept a SbyC Request.
 - Primary concern is to make sure fish intended for a particular study are not unknowingly handled due to SbyC action (for example, resampling of study fish as adults for radio tagging, which could impact estimation of SARs).
 - Other concerns include SbyC actions that necessitate changing operations such as increasing sampling rates.
 - If SbyC request conflicts with other research, groups should be able to coordinate with each other to mitigate and minimize impacts.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) will write up a draft of FPAC criteria for approving SbyC requests. This will be sent to FPAC members to review.

FPOM Condition Monitoring Subcommittee

- There is an FPOM subcommittee charged with identifying a minimum level of condition monitoring needed at FCRPS bypass facilities in the absence of the SMP.
- Brandon will prepare a draft JTSM outlining FPAC recommendations for sampling requirements, as developed by FPAC in the fall of 2014. This draft JTSM will be circulated to FPAC for comments and discussed at next week's FPAC meeting. Final JTSM will be submitted to Tom Lorz, the chair of the FPOM Condition Monitoring subcommittee.

Smolt Monitoring Program

- Managers submitted a requested to the COE for a withdrawal of the RFP due to inaccuracies in the description of monitoring work. However, the RFP went forward and the contract was awarded to Blue Leaf for 2015 sampling.
- Agency proposal for division of duties being discussed with COE. Proposal is only SMP personnel employees will handle fish and data will be provided to Blue Leaf contractor to fulfill their deliverables to the COE. Proposal also states that contractors will carry out all monitoring tasks that do not require the handling of fish, as outlined in the RFP.
- This proposal was discussed Monday, March 16th, with agencies and the COE. There will be further discussion with FPOM on March 17th to discuss the award to Blue Leaf.

Spill Priority List

- Spill priority is upstream to downstream, top to bottom starting April 1st. FPAC has no objections.

Ice Harbor Status of Spillway

- Spill is scheduled to start on April 3rd. The footer will remain in place for the time being. Discussion about potential removal during the next water work window will occur at a future date.

Dworshak Operations

- The COE has proposed an increase in flood control elevation at Dworshak and to reduce flows until April. This will be discussed at tomorrow's TMT meeting and will be included in next week's STP report.

Chum

- At TMT on March 18th, BPA will request 12-hour "excursions" from chum protection tailwater elevations. Current tailwater elevations are expected to be held at 13' until spring flows start.

Coordination

- The next FPAC face to face meeting will be on April 21, 2015, at 9:00 AM, unless otherwise scheduled.