



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: March 14, 2017

Subject: Action Notes from March 14, 2017, FPAC meeting

On March 14, 2017, FPAC met via conference call for its weekly meeting. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)
Tom Lorz (FPAC Co-Chair CRITFC)
Brandon Chockley (FPC)
Charlie Morrill (WDFW)
Dave Benner (FPC)
Dave Swank (USFWS)
Erick Van Dyke (ODFW)

Erin Cooper (FPC)
Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe)
Jennifer Graham (Warm Springs Tribe)
Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC)
Margaret Filardo (FPC)
Trevor Conder (NOAA)

AGENDA ITEMS

Approval of Outstanding Notes

- March 7th notes were approved with two modifications:
 - Paul Wagner (NOAA) provided clarification on his statements in the “Dworshak Water Supply...” section from the March 7 notes. Brandon Chockley (FPC) will edit the March 7 notes to correct typo and indicate that a clarification was provided at today’s meeting. Paul clarified by explaining that he asked River Forecast Center whether a current April-July runoff volume should be reduced by large runoff in March. The answer is yes.

- Dave Swank (USFWS) asked for clarification of the start of sampling at Lower Granite. Brandon Chockley clarified that typically collection starts on March 25th, and data are first available on March 26th. Charlie Morrill (WDFW) corrected Brandon by explaining that sample will start on Friday, March 24th, with the data available on March 25th this year.
- Approval of notes from March 2, March 3, and March 14 will be added to next week's agenda.
- Paul approved Sort-by-Code request from Jason Vogel (Nez Perce Tribe) from last week. Russ Kiefer (IDFG) had suggested to Paul that perhaps FPAC should be requesting that these requests be simplified in future. Should be more concise and to the point.

Water Supply and Reservoir Status

- Dave Benner (FPC) provided a summary of the current reservoir operations and water supply forecasts, snowpack estimates, and ESP runoff volumes. See the attached document.
- High inflow (~70 Kcfs) being predicted at DWOR over the next few days is doubtful. COE even indicated that they were skeptical of forecast at yesterday's TMT call. March 14th STP peaking at 55 Kcfs, high but not nearly as high as 70 Kcfs.

Weather Update and Climate Forecast

- Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC) provided a summary of weather conditions and water year status. See attached.
- Not expecting to see any substantial runoff over the next 7-10 days.

Fish Passage Status

- For passage indices on March 14, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated indices, use the FPC website.
- Bonneville is the only bypass facility currently sampling. Salmon and Imnaha river traps are currently collecting. Snake River Trap was pulled on Thursday afternoon due to high flows and debris. Will resume trapping when conditions warrant. Grande Ronde Trap scheduled to be installed on Thursday.
- For adult counts on March 14, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated counts, use the FPC website.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) asked for an update on transfer of adult count data to FPC. FPC and COE have established how data will be transferred to FPC. COE will process data and push data to shared drive that FPC will download data from and populate server for COE website and queries and FPC website and queries. Process will be automated in future. However, currently COE is sending counts via spreadsheet for FPC to hand enter into FPC website.

Dworshak Water Supply, Reservoir Status, and Operation

- FPAC Agenda provided links to 4-10 day and 45-120 day forecasts for Dworshak
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?lid=DWRI1>
<https://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/stp/station/stpplot/stpplot.cgi?DWRI1>
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) presented the COE descriptions of operations if inflows are high and earlier in the season than an average flow year. This scenario would require additional space in the reservoir.
- Margaret Filardo (FPC) pointed out that none of the proposed operations or FPC models have precluded a change in inflow forecasts. The flexibility requested by fisheries managers in Dworshak operations leaves enough space in the reservoir to capture ephemeral events as well as maintaining flexibility. The COE would like to increase outflows to 25 Kcfs which will likely begin on Thursday but TMT will reconvene tomorrow to ultimately determine future outflows. Targeting 1493' elevation for end of March.
- Dave Swank (USFWS) reported that the Dworshak Hatchery is considering an early release (sometime next week). Concern is that spring Chinook are showing signs of Gas Bubble Trauma. Release would be directly from the hatchery.
 - The Clearwater Hatchery would likely coordinate to release early with the Dworshak Hatchery.
 - Erick VanDyke (ODFW) asked whether there have been reports of elevated mortality at the hatchery. No, there have not been reports of mortality at the hatchery. Erick also asked whether there is still a plan to reduce spill at DWOR during the release, as was proposed at last week's TMT. Dave Swank indicated that it is unclear whether this will occur. Reduced spill was mostly out of concern for the release from Clearwater Hatchery, as they do not have a way to release their fish directly into the mainstem.
 - Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked, how unusual would a Dworshak hatchery release in the March 20-30 window be? Not all that unusual. Releases this early have occurred in recent years.
 - Charlie Morrill (WDFW) indicated that he thought travel time from DWOR was about 2-3 days. Dave Swank clarified that travel times they are assuming are closer to 1-2 weeks.
 - Brandon Chockley (FPC) reported that over the last several years, the minimum travel time from Dworshak Hatchery to Lower Granite is 2.8 days, and the median travel time has ranged from 25 to 40 days. This indicates that even with an early hatchery release, screens at LGR are likely to be in place.
- Dave Benner (FPC) has modelled Dworshak outflows under two scenarios (see attached):
 - Scenario 1: March 7 STP used through end of March, 1997 (4.684 MAF) April-July inflows, and April 15th target flood control elevation of 1,445'. Outflows were 22.5 Kcfs through April 15th, reduced to 17 Kcfs for rest of April, and reduced to 12.2 Kcfs for all of May and June.
 - Scenario 2: March 7 STP used through end of March, 1997 April-July inflows, and April 15th target FC elevation of 1,497.7' (Local Flood Control). Outflows were 16 Kcfs through the end of April, increased to 17 Kcfs through May and most of June.

- RFC forecast on March 13th was 2.58 MAF and March final COE forecast was 2.87 MAF. Based on these forecasts, highly unlikely that flows in 2017 will be as high as 1997.
- Modeling efforts demonstrate how much room is available in reservoir for flexibility if chosen.
- Erick VanDyke (ODFW) asked whether there has been any movement on the risk assessment that has been requested in weeks past. Paul Wagner (NOAA) mentioned that the COE was going to have a meeting on flood control with the Nez Perce Tribe but not with entire TMT. Steve Hall would not have the time to have a similar conversation with FPAC now but perhaps at a later date.
- Dave Swank (USFWS) mentioned that COE stressed importance of meeting end of March FC elevation at yesterday's TMT. Why the sudden change in focus to end of March elevation when focus has mostly been on April 15 FC elevation up until now? Desire to meet end of March elevation is what is driving current plan to increase outflows to 24-25 Kcfs. Dave Benner (FPC) suggested that maybe COE is anticipating April 15th elevation will end up at 1,445' (instead of 1,471'). Issue is, if forecast decreases, refill may be in jeopardy. Paul Wagner (NOAA) suggested that this may be in anticipation of early runoff and shape follows what NWRFC currently suggesting, may be able to intersect refill curve earlier and not draft to extreme levels. Could play either way, could lead to continued draft or could lead to early intersect of refill curve.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked why the Gas Bubble Trauma monitoring program at SMP sites does not use lateral line exams. Margaret Filardo (FPC) explained to FPAC that lateral line used to be part of GBT monitoring program. Determined that variation in size of fish in field made applying measurement of severity of lateral line bubbles difficult. In consultation with FPAC and USGS, lateral line exams were dropped because, while it was observed as an early response to TDG supersaturation in the lab, it wasn't a representative measure that could be taken in the field and related to potential mortality from TDG. Similarly, non-lethal gill exams were not reliable and, therefore, were never included in GBT monitoring program. Current GBT monitoring program focuses on fins and eyes. Bubbles tend to show up first on fins, eyes more indicative of more severe exposure. Fins also tend to show signs of progression and this prevalence and severity was what was actually related to mortality in the laboratory experiments.
- Erick VanDyke (ODFW) asked why the hatchery is including gill and lateral line exams in their assessment of GBT. Exams at hatchery are lethal, which allows for excising gill arches. Margaret Filardo explained that in a constant population (like at the hatchery), lateral line bubbles can show the development of GBT over time. This methodology is appropriate for sampling at the hatchery.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked about the emergence timing memo that was mentioned at last week's meeting. Jay is waiting to have edits incorporated. Once edits have been incorporated, will circulate memo to FPAC. Take home is that fish in NF Clearwater (Asaka Island) have emerged and will experience these high TDG levels. Remaining redds that are exposed to mainstem Clearwater temperatures are going to be delayed. 50-70% of those will not emerge until early May.

- Dave Swank (USFWS) briefly covered results from latest GBT exams at the hatchery.
 - TDG at hatchery was 104.8%. River TDG was 125.4%.
 - Steelhead → 3 of 10 fish sampled had bubbles in gills, 1 of those had 3 small bubbles in anal fin
 - Spring Chinook → 7 of 10 fish had bubbles in gills, 1 of which had large bubble. 9 of 10 fish had 1-3 bubbles each in the lateral line.

Sort-by-Code Request

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) approved the Sort-by-Code requests presented at previous FPAC meetings. Paul also mentioned that Russ Kiefer (IDFG) had suggested that perhaps FPAC should be requesting that these requests be simplified in future. Should be more concise and to the point.
- FPAC Agenda provided links to three sort by code requests
<http://www.ptagis.org/services/separation-by-code/RequestDetail/1550/>
<http://www.ptagis.org/services/separation-by-code/RequestDetail/1551/>
<http://www.ptagis.org/services/separation-by-code/RequestDetail/1554/>
- No attending FPAC members had any objections to the Sort-by-Code requests. Paul Wagner will follow up with IDFG.

Coordination

- There will be a TMT on Wednesday, March 15, and likely on Friday, March 17.
- There will be a SCT meeting on Thursday, March 16 at NOAA (St. Helens).
- The next FPAC meeting will be face-to-face on Tuesday, March 21 at 10:00.
- CSS Annual Meeting is April 3rd (8:30 am) at Water Resources Center (Vancouver, WA)
- SRWG to review one-pagers will be on April 6th and 7th in Portland.

