



# FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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## MEMORANDUM

To: Fish Passage Advisory Committee (FPAC)

From: FPC Staff

Date: August 29, 2017

Subject: Action Notes from August 29, 2017, FPAC meeting

On August 29, 2017, FPAC met via conference call for its weekly meeting. The following people participated in the meeting:

Paul Wagner (FPAC Co-Chair NOAA)  
Alex Saint (FPC)  
Brandon Chockley (FPC)  
Charlie Morrill (WDFW)  
Dave Benner (FPC)  
Dave Swank (USFWS)  
Erin Cooper (FPC)  
Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe)

Jennifer Graham (Warm Springs Tribe)  
Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC)  
Sheri Sears (Colville Tribes)  
Steve Williams (PSMFC)  
Tom Iverson (Yakima Nation)  
Trevor Conder (NOAA)

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### ***Approval of Notes***

- In corrections to the August 15<sup>th</sup> notes, the elevation for Brownlee should be 2059' instead of 1529'.

### ***Water Supply/Flood Control***

- 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.

### ***Weather***

- Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC) provided a summary of weather conditions and water year status.

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

- For passage indices on August 29, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated indices, use the FPC website.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) pointed out that passage index at LMN and LGS has been less than 100 fish per day for last week. Also noted that because of low fish numbers, there was no GBT sample at Bonneville or McNary. Little Goose only sampled 18 fish for GBT on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Noted that GBT sampling has basically ended for all sites due to low fish numbers.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) Noted that SMP sampling will end at Rock Island on August 31<sup>st</sup>. High temperature protocols are still in effect at McNary, John Day, and Bonneville.

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

- For adult counts on August 29, 2017, please see the attached document. For updated counts, use the FPC website.

### ***Spill Update***

- For spill and TDG from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>, please see the attached document. For updated information, please use the FPC website.

### ***Project Temp Status***

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) received a call from Bonneville stating that an emergency may be declared due to high temperatures. Will cut spill as necessary.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) noted that temperatures are within the same range of what has been seen before, but above the ten-year average.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) stated that looking at Ice Harbor, it may be a good idea to watch the fall Chinook conversion rate.

### ***End of MOP Operations***

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated that MOP Operations end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) asked if LGR was held at MOP until the end of cooling operations for Dworshak. Paul responded that he will have to look at the water management plan for specifics. He noted that for a time it had stated that lower projects would be relieved of MOP and then return to MOP Dworshak operations had ceased.

### ***Dworshak Operations***

- Dave Swank (USFWS) stated that the expectation, given current temperatures, is that Dworshak is going to remain at 9 Kcfs. It was also noted that spill will be dropping during the first week of September.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) stated that starting Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, plans are to drop to 7 or 8 Kcfs. When the elevation has reached 1535' they will drop to 6 Kcfs. The plan has been sent to Paul Wagner, but not fully forwarded to FPAC at the time of the meeting.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked if FPAC was interested in seeing the OP. Noted it was attached to the TMT agenda.

#### ***New Adult Reascension Procedure Introduced by DART***

- Paul Wagner (NOAA) stated that DART received the FPC critique and came up with a new procedure that has been posted. He also noted that the old procedure is still available. The new methodology is outlined on the DART website.
- Dave Swank (USFWS) asked if DART will be using the procedure going forward, and if the previous years will make use of the old algorithm. Paul responded that previous year's data will be revised using the new methodology.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) noted that according to the website, Bonneville and McNary go back to 2006 and Lower Granite is only 2016 to present.
- Trevor Conder noted that the new methodology does not work if there are fewer than three antennae at any project, so those projects/years are not displayed. Charlie Morrill (WDFW) asked if FPC could take a look the new methodology and track the changes that have been made. Brandon responded that the FPC could do that.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) noted that DART offered to give a presentation regarding the new changes. Charlie (WDFW) expressed his support.
- Trevor Condor (NOAA) noted that DART is still looking for comments.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) asked how far back the temperature average was. Trevor responded that the temperature was real time.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) noted that the DART discussion would be placed on an upcoming face-to-face agenda.

#### ***March Project Sampling Questions Raised by FPOM***

- Erin Kovalchuk (COE) and Ann Setter (COE) attended this portion of the meeting.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) noted that this agenda item was in the interest of discussing the questions posed by the COE in regards to the recent letter drafted.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) stated that FPAC was comfortable substituting LGS in place of LGR for the upcoming year. Asked Ann what the final deadline for that decision was. Ann responded that the end of September would be the ideal deadline.
- Ann Setter noted that they were in the process of securing funding for an extra early month of operation, noting that this case wasn't unique, and could be applied to any project starting early operation. She also requested information on what out years would look like for this operation.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) stated that while LGR is preferred, FPAC is willing to work with LGS.

- Ann Setter noted that the upcoming FFDRWG meeting along with FPOM could be used at more frequent check-ins to determine whether or not LGR is able to be used for sampling.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce) noted that table 1 in the memo already acknowledges that this may need to be addressed.
- Ann Setter noted that FPOM discussed that the FPAC memo may need to be updated with concrete decisions. There is potential uncertainty around the LGR schedule.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce) asked FPAC if there was the need to weigh-in with a decision. Stated main priority is that there is monitoring taking place. Brandon responded that by the end of September it will still be uncertain whether or not LGR is possible. Suggested that switching to LGS is the most reasonable choice at this point.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) reminded FPAC of the agreement to push for sampling at LGR in 2019 if sampling is moved to LGS in 2018.
- Ann Setter noted that the type of winter and water year are also unknown factors. A lot of freezing will push the schedule back.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce) asked if an altered table one would be useful. Ann responded that an altered table for out years would be helpful.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) Noted that FPAC would be fine substituting JDA for MCN in 2018.
- Erin Kovalchuk (COE) responded that JDA can be ready for early sampling in 2018. Asked if they would be switching with MCN for required out years. Brandon replied the table would need to be updated.
- Ann Setter asked Erin if she would have a problem implementing or unstated needs for years that aren't captured. Erin responded that she wanted confirmation of what exactly was needed.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) noted that if JDA can't implement a full screen, that FPAC would be alright with a partial powerhouse screen detection. Erin stated that focus was on priority units.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) provided an outline for the planned sampling in 2018.
- Paul Wagner (NOAA) asked if there would be a revised memo. Tom Lorz asked Ann if the COE would prefer a revised memo. Ann responded that a revised memo to FPOM would be useful. Specifically asked for an update to Table 1 along with any relevant any footnotes.
- Ann asked if Jay Hesse felt confident in the current direction. Jay responded that he did. Suggested that the memo be revised and noted as coordination with FPOM.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) stated that the data in March will be collected similarly to the way data are collected in April.
- Brandon Chockley (FPC) asked if the COE would be modifying the anchor contract for earlier condition monitoring Ann responded that it is their intent, dependent on funding.
- Steve Williams (PSMFC) noted that this isn't a "make or break" for March sampling.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce) commented that sampling is 3 weeks early, not a month. Ann reminded him that most sites commonly start in April, not at the end of March.

- Ann asked if funding for Anchor didn't come through, would the SMP still be able to collect the data they needed to collect? Steve Williams responded that it would be possible.

### ***PIT Tag Monitoring at LGS***

- Trevor Condor (NOAA) stated that the purpose of the PIT Tag Monitoring at Little Goose is to understand what the fish are entering under certain conditions. He also noted that it is not likely to put a PIT antenna that has 100% detection efficiency. Noted that antennas may not solve any problems but they may provide detection information.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) stated that they are well aware of the detection efficiency concern and are developing a methodology.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) noted that it is possible to get an aggregate rating real time because of the PIT Tag detectors in the window count, which allows for an aggregate efficiency rating. Noted that if the design of the detectors is similar across all three it will that allow for a an adequate real time management.
- Jay Hesse (Nez Perce Tribe) noted that for real time management, spill and powerhouse patterns must be known and will not be available with radio tags. Pointed out that there was some documentation that showed fish entering one of the entrances and not going up the ladder; having detectors at both entrances would help inform the issue.
- Trevor Condor (NOAA) noted that the radio tag idea was his. Noted that he will discuss in Walla-Walla whether or not radio tags will be helpful. Noted that he still has concerns with the equal design of antenna. Noted that when you have a source of interference, the tag detections could be wildly different.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) asked that everyone present review the proposal so that a much more informed discussion can take place.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) noted that radio tagged fish can be used to calibrate detections.
- Charlie Morrill (WDFW) asked who the RT data collection will be done by, and if FPAC will have access to the raw data. Tom Lorz responded that it will be most likely done by the University of Idaho.
- Dave Swank (USFWS) asked what the ability to test ladder efficiency was. Tom Lorz responded that the data can be compared in RT vs. PIT Tag detection.
- Tom Lorz (CRITFC) asked if logistics have been considered placing antennas at the ladder entrance. Charlie Morrill responded yes. Tom Lorz suggested the information be presented to the Army COE.

### ***Coordination***

- Next week's FPAC will be at 10:00 AM.
- SRWG will be in Walla Walla on August 28 and 29.
- FFDRWG will be in Walla Walla on August 29, following SRWG.
- TMT face-to-face next Wednesday, September 6.
- FPAC conference call on Tuesday, September 5 at 9:00 AM.

- The next FPAC face-to-face meeting will be on XX, 2016, at 9:00 AM.

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