

Columbia River Regional Forum
SYSTEM CONFIGURATION TEAM
July 16, 2015
Final Meeting Notes

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, Idaho, Warm Springs Tribe, BPA, Yakama Tribe, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon and others participated in today's SCT meeting. Bill Hevlin, NOAA, served as chair and facilitator. Draft and final SCT notes are available on the TMT website under the FPOM link. For copies of documents discussed in the meeting, contact NOAA at 503-230-5420.

2. FY16 CRFM Spreadsheet Line Item Priority Process

SCT continued scoring projects for FY 2016 funding priority. The final May meeting minutes capture the first ranking session (SCT did not meet in June). Since May, SCT members have received project updates to inform the ranking process.

Randy Chong, COE, distributed copies of the latest FY16 CRFM spreadsheet with scores to date, including scores recently provided by USFWS (not present at either meeting). Today's session focused on items with changed status since May, including an extended discussion of lamprey funding (line #2 on the spreadsheet):

#2. FCRPS Various Projects, Lamprey, \$3.5 million – The President's budget allocates \$2.5 million for lamprey, but the COE raised the amount by an extra \$800,000 in order to prepare for construction that needs to occur in FY17-18 in time to meet Accord requirements, Chong said. Much of that money will go for tag development and the rest to construction contracts in FY17-18.

Bob Rose, Yakama, wondered whether there will be funding for lamprey passage studies after FY18, when tags are finally available. Tribal representatives expressed concern that due to COE policy, additional CRFM funding (beyond the accord cap) could not be directed to lamprey passage studies, even if it is available. There was general agreement that funding shouldn't end just when tag development finally makes it possible to monitor lamprey passage. Perhaps the best way to address funding beyond FY18 will be a second generation of lamprey accords with the 2018 BiOp.

#3. B2 Fish Guidance Efficiency, \$3 million – The estimated cost went down based on the latest budget estimate. This investment should improve the survival of Spring Creek fish and permit full 1% operation of the turbine units. It will to reduce gateway turbulence and improve guidance efficiency. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- COE – 5

- Idaho – 4
- Yakama – Defer
- Oregon – Defer
- Umatilla – 3
- Nez Perce – 4
- Warm Springs – Defer
- BPA – 5

#4. Bonneville Sluiceway Pit Tag Detection Facility – Chong will add a placeholder of \$100,000 to reflect the importance of this line item to the region. PIT detection capability at the BON sluiceway will improve juvenile survival estimates in the lower river and at Bonneville because the sluiceway is the primary passage route when powerhouse one is operating. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 5
- Idaho – 5
- BPA – 5
- Yakama – defer
- Oregon – defer
- Nez Perce – 4
- Warm Springs – 5
- NOAA – 5
- USFWS – 5
- COE – 1 (low score due to priority is now on the development of PIT detection feasibility on spillways and not yet on sluiceways)

#5. Avian Predation, \$2.9 million – The line item will fund studies, monitoring and implementation related to the cormorant EIS. Scores were:

- Idaho – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez P – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – 4
- Umatilla – 4 (score will go up or down depending on effectiveness of the actions)
- NOAA – 5
- USFWS – 3
- BPA – 4
- COE – 5

#6. Estuary Habitat Studies, \$2.6 million – This covers the evaluation & monitoring of benefits from the habitat restoration actions funded by the COE and BPA in the estuary. Clarity is needed on whether the monitoring activities are effectively addressing BiOp issues in the estuary, said Tom Lorz, CRITFC/Umatilla. This item drew a wide range of scores:

- COE – 5
- BPA – 5
- USFWS – Defer
- NOAA – 4
- Umatilla – 2 (until proposals are reviewed)
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – Defer
- Nez Perce – 2 – (more information is needed on how removal of dikes might impact rearing areas for lamprey and listed salmonids)

#7. ICR Performance Verification Monitoring, \$8.2 million – Because this line item is essentially on hold until the Region decides on one spill plan to evaluate, SCT was reluctant to score it. Scott Bettin, BPA, suggested it be scored as a placeholder so the funds will be reserved, even if the work doesn't get done in FY16; in a sense, it's mandatory. The cost estimate for the study covers only one treatment. Scores were:

- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- Defer for all others present today

#8. ICR Turbine Runner Replacement Evaluation, \$500,000 – This covers research, evaluation and monitoring of the new turbine design that will restore unit 3 to the adjustable Kaplan status. The research won't actually happen until 2017, so this item can be deferred, Gary Fredricks, NOAA, said. Testing of this “fish friendlier” unit should include lamprey, Statler said. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 4
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – Defer
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 4
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5

#10. JDA Adult PIT Detection, \$600,000 – Having PIT detection capability in the John Day adult ladder would help identify where adult sockeye are being lost between BON and MCN, Fredricks said. Scores were:

- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – 5
- Nez Perce – 4

- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 3
- COE – 4

#11. Little Goose Adjustable Spillway Weir, \$7 million – Comments on the 90% plans and specifications are due next week. Completion of this item will allow the LGS weir to be quickly opened or closed, or adjusted from the low- to the high-crest position and anywhere in between. The effect on the project’s ability to meet juvenile performance standards needs to be looked at, Lorz said. Scores were:

- COE – 5
- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- Warm Springs – 4
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 5 (because the current LGS weir that is being replace could serve as a spare in the event of RSW failure at another project on the lower Snake)

#12. Little Goose Powerhouse: Evaluate Data/Alternatives for Meeting Summer Operation Goals, \$50,000 – The goal is to identify alternatives for increasing survival rates at LGS so the project can meet its performance standards. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- USFWS – 5
- BPA – 5
- Warm Springs – 5
- Yakama – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 5
- COE – 5

#13. Little Goose Spillway Weir Boat Barrier, \$0 – This is essentially mandatory although it can be postponed beyond FY16.

#14. Lower Granite Spillway PIT Tag Detection, \$100,000 – Testing of the transceiver and cable concluded this spring; now designers are working on antenna configurations, Chong reported. The COE is collaborating with BPA and NOAA on the electronics

design. Assuming this design is used, construction will begin in 2017 and by the spring of 2018 the RSW will have a PIT detection system. Scores were:

- BPA – 5
- COE – 4 (not a 5 because PIT detection won't increase the likelihood of LGR meeting the juvenile performance standards)
- Umatilla – 5
- Warm Springs – 5
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 5
- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – 5
- NOAA – 5

#15. Lower Granite Performance Verification Monitoring, \$100,000 – This line item covers preparation for BiOp performance monitoring after the LGR outfall and the bypass system are renovated. The survival study probably won't take place until 2017-18. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 4

#17. Lower Granite Juvenile Bypass Facility, Phase 1B, \$10.4 million – This is really mandatory to complete due to large investment that has already been committed to renovation of LGR juvenile collection channel. Scores were:

- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – 5
- BPA – 5
- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- COE – 5

#18. Lower Granite Surface Passage Addition/Modification, \$250,000 – This item will address alternatives for stowing the RSW in a controlled manner with confidence that it can be raised again. The fix is expected to be relatively simple. Scores were:

- BPA – 4
- COE – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Umatilla – 4
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 3
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 1 (because it would only need to be stowed in a flood)

#19. Lower Granite Adult Ladder Temperature Measures, \$150,000 – There was no scoring because this line item is mandatory. Russ Kiefer suggested deleting “interim” from the title; Chong agreed.

#20. Lower Granite Post-Construction Evaluation, \$75,000 – This covers monitoring of noise and temperature impacts during construction of the juvenile bypass, as well as monitoring temperatures and adult behavior after remedies for high temperatures in the ladder are installed. There will be more discussion of this at the August 27 Walla Walla FFDRWG meeting. Statler pointed out that additional funds might be needed to validate the design strategy, and Chong said he will note this on the spreadsheet. Some of the funding is from the FY15 CRFM budget. Scores were:

- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – 5
- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – 4
- Umatilla – 4 (until it’s clearer how the design strategy will be monitored)
- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5

#23. McNary Performance Verification Monitoring, \$150,000 – A meeting is being planned to identify specific passage routes for this study. Scores were:

- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- COE – 5
- Idaho – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – 4

- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – Defer
- Umatilla – 5

#24. McNary Adult Fallback Study, \$25,000 – SCT agreed this item is mandatory.

#25. McNary Spillway Weir Boat Barrier, \$2 million – This is mandatory, but like other boat barriers, it can be deferred for another year. There was agreement the boat barriers are difficult to rank because the safety aspect makes the work mandatory. Scores were:

- NOAA – 3
- BPA – 5
- COE – 4
- Umatilla – 3
- Warm Springs – 2
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – Defer
- Idaho – 2
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – 1

#26. Lower River BIOP Performance Testing, \$7.6 million – This will cover a performance standards evaluation at Bonneville in FY16 for all species. Further discussion will take place at a July 29 meeting in Portland. BPA and the COE both gave this a score of 5, while others deferred scoring until after the meeting.

#27. Avian Island PIT Detection, \$300,000 – This could be mandatory under the cormorant FEIS. Scores were:

- Umatilla – 5
- USFWS – 5
- Nez Perce – 5
- Warm Springs – 5
- Yakama – Defer (will be 5)
- Idaho – 5
- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 5
- Oregon – Defer
- COE – 5

#28. Turbine Passage Survival Program, \$300,000 – Scoring was deferred until Ian Chane, COE, emails the latest TSP report to SCT and FFDRWG members.

#29. Snake River Intake Gate Closure, \$1 million – These funds will be used to investigate an alternative storage position for the gates at Little Goose that will meet the

10-minute closure criteria for dam safety. The 10 minute closure capability was lost when the gates were stored in a raised position to improve the guidance efficiency of intake screens. It's an important step to protect the investment of \$6-7 million for performance testing in FY16, Chong said. Scores were:

- COE – 5
- BPA – 5
- NOAA – 3 (lower priority because it has less fish benefit than other projects)
- Umatilla – 3 (more information is needed on the effect of lowering the gates on screens and on guidance efficiency; the findings will apply to MCN also)
- Warm springs – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 2
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 2

#30. COP Updates, \$50,000 – Scores today were:

- Idaho – 2
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez P – 2
- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Spring – 3
- Umatilla – 2
- NOAA – 3
- BPA – 4
- COE – 5

#32. Snake River Fall Chinook System Survival Study, \$50,000 – There was consensus that finishing this study is mandatory.

#33. Inland Avian Predation, \$925,000 – The estimate will probably come down, Chong said. This item will fund new tern habitat islands, including Don Edwards in the Delta, to move the birds away from East Sand Island in the Columbia estuary. Scores were:

- Warm Springs – 5
- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 5
- Yakama – Defer
- Nez Perce – 4
- Oregon – Defer
- Idaho – 4
- USFWS – 3
- COE – 5

#34. MCN and Snake River Adult Migration Studies, \$50,000 – This was not scored because there are no plans for adult radio-tagging studies in the lower river in FY16.

#36. The Dalles Sluiceway PIT Tag Detection Feasibility, \$0 – Scores were:

- COE – 1
- BPA – 2
- NOAA – 4 (not a 5 because it's a lower priority than PIT detection at BON)
- Umatilla – 5
- Idaho – 5
- Oregon – Defer
- Nez Perce – Defer
- Yakama – Defer
- Warm Springs – Defer

SCT also discussed whether to add a separate line item to the spreadsheet, #37. Low Flow Modeling for the Lower Snake projects, because the COE is working on a plan to utilize the general models at ERDC to look at alternative low flow operations (25 kcfs and less) at Lower Granite, Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental. As an alternative, this low flow modeling project could just be included in the line items funding performance testing at individual projects. Noting that LGR unit 1 will be out of service in FY16 for restoration of its Kaplan status, which leaves unit 2 as priority over that time period, SCT decided that modeling of alternative operations to better understand low flow tailrace hydraulic conditions at Lower Granite was a sufficient priority to score as a separate line item today:

- Idaho – 5
- Ore – Defer
- Umatilla – 5
- NOAA – 5
- BPA – 4
- COE – 5
- Warm Springs – 5
- Yakama – 5
- Nez Perce – 5

2. Upcoming FFDRWG and SRWG Meetings

- **August 7** – SRWG preliminary proposal review meeting in Walla Walla; final comments on proposals due August 21.
- **August 27**– Walla Walla FFDRWG

3. Next SCT Meeting

SCT will wrap up final scoring of line items on the FY16 CRFM spreadsheet at the next SCT meeting on September 17. Ian Chane, COE, will send SCT members information on the only FY16 line item not yet scored, #28, Turbine Survival Program.

These notes prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Bill Hevlin	NOAA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Trevor Conder	NOAA
Jen Graham	Warm Springs Tribe
Ian Chane	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Bob Rose	Yakama Tribe
Gary Fredericks	NOAA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Randy Chong	COE
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe
Agnes Lut	BPA

Phone:

Tom Iverson	Yakama
Kathryn Kostow	ODFW
Derek Fryer	COE Walla Walla