

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Final minutes for the 15 April 2015 Willamette HMT meeting.

The meeting was held at ODFW Headquarters, Steelhead Room. Salem Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Boyd	Brett	ODFW – South Santiam	
Caudill	Chris	University of Idaho	
Graham-Hudson	Bernadette	ODFW	Bernadette.n.graham-hudson@state.or.us
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Kremers	Kurt	ODFW	
Kruzic	Lance	NOAA Fisheries	Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov
Leonhardt	David	NWP-PM-E	David.S.Leonhardt@usace.army.mil
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-OD-TF	Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil
Peck	Dan	ODFW - Willamette	
Peven	Chuck		
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Taylor	Greg	NWP-WVP	
Thorpe	John	ODFW	john.thorpe@state.or.us
Traylor	Andy	NWP-OD-TF	Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil
Walker	Chris	NWP-OD-TF	Christopher.e.walker@usace.army.mil

Boyd, Caudill, Graham-Hudson, Grenbemer, Kremers, Kruzic, Leonhardt, Peck, and Walker called in.

1. Finalized results from this meeting.

1.1. March minutes approved with edits.

1.2. HMT agreed that release site funds should be redirected to the lower log deck pool in the North Santiam. The Upper Bridge liberation site will still be used and Hard Rock will be the back-up.

1.3. CWT sampling at the hatcheries. HMT generally agreed that the studies shouldn't be compromised but would like to balance those study needs with outplanting needs.

1.4. Delayed outplanting strategy. HMT generally agreed that the study would be acceptable given the expected conditions in 2015. Caudill and Sharpe will coordinate with the rest of the Region.

2. The following documents were provided or discussed. All documents may be found at www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/documents/FPOM/2010/Willamette_Coordination/Willamette_HMT.html

2.1. 150415 HMT agenda (Traylor).

2.2. 140318 HMT draft meeting minutes (NWP).

2.3. UWR Summer Steelhead DRAFT HGMP_01-27-2015 (Peven)

3. Action Items.

- 3.1. [Apr 15]Delayed outplanting.** HMT generally agreed that the study would be acceptable given the expected conditions in 2015. **ACTION:** Sharpe and Caudill will continue to develop their study plan and coordinate with the Region to get further approval.
- 3.2. [Apr 15]Delayed outplanting. ACTION:** Traylor will check on Green Peter operations for this summer.
- 3.3. [Mar 15] Dexter releases to Little Fall Creek. ACTION:** ODFW will find a truck and coordinate the release. **STATUS:** *ODFW will try to get volunteers. Essentially this action item is completed.*
- 3.3.1.***Leonhardt asked if there is a study plan available for review. Sharpe said there is nothing more than the monitoring plan. These fish are outplants from Dexter Trap. Sharpe said these are typically hatchery fish. ODFW does surveys for redds. Peck said in the past there were about 150 – 200 outplanted in one load. This year is different. Peck wasn't sure if there was a target number. Sharpe said the outplant pre-spawn mortality in Little Fall Creek is lower than for out-plants in the North Fork Middle Fork. Leonhardt asked if people are comfortable with the outplanting. Sharpe said ODFW isn't completely comfortable with the outplanting. ODFW would rather use them as broodstock. Once the HGMPs are approved, these fish will likely go back to broodstock.*
- 3.3.2.***Fish are placed above the natural barrier and tend to stay up there. Peck suggested ODFW floy tag the outplants so they may be more easily monitored. Kruzic said there likely isn't a need for a special permit for floy tagging. Leonhardt asked if there is a concern since these are natural origin fish. Kruzic said the handling of these fish falls under the normal handling at the base of the dam. Wild fish haven't been outplanted above Detroit and Lookout Point because it was determined the survival would be too low, not because there wasn't an approved HGMP.*
- 3.4. [Mar 15] South Fork McKenzie adult release site.** HMT would like to further explore this potential site. **ACTION:** Traylor will talk with the Forest Service to get their thoughts. **STATUS:** *completed. Traylor found that this site may not be worth the effort. While it would improve the release of hatchery fish, there isn't much benefit for wild fish. The upper bridge release site is superior to the "improved" site, which is no longer usable. The two sites on the North Santiam may be more valuable and worth the time and energy to improve.*
- 3.4.1.***Sharpe said when hatchery fish are outplanted higher in the system they tend to stay there. He said when outplanting occurs lower, there is a loss of pre-spawn mortality because the crews cannot recovery carcasses that have been washed out to the reservoir. Sharpe said he believes the pre-spawn mortality is between the boat and foot surveys.*
- 3.4.2.***HMT discussed the benefits of higher system outplanting. The benefits are better distribution and better survival.*
- 3.4.3.***The Hard Rock site is suitable for WVP releases. Taylor suggested ODFW get four wheel drive on their release trucks.*
- 3.4.4.***HMT agreed that funds should be redirected to the lower log deck pool in the North Santiam. The Upper Bridge liberation site will still be used and Hard Rock will be the back-up.*
- 3.5. [Mar 15] Steelhead HGMP work group.** Meeting needs to be rescheduled from 25 March nad draft HMGP needs to be provided for HMT review. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will provide the draft HGMP to HMT and reschedule the meeting. **STATUS:** *To be discussed later in the agenda.*
- 3.6. [Mar 15]Foster pre-sort jumping.** Foster has a jumping issue at the pre-sort pool. Mortalities have been found. **ACTION:** Garletts will send Boyd photos of their cover. **STATUS:** *Boyd checked out Minto and found that the set up there will not work for Foster. This is still an issue.*

- 3.7. [Mar 15] Lookout Point Tainter Gate rehab.** This project has not been coordinated with the Region. **ACTION:** Traylor will draft a MOC explaining the schedule and impacts to temperature control. **STATUS:** *Traylor sent an MOC allowing for a two week comment period. Traylor explained the purpose of the MOCs. These will be part of the administrative record and posted to the website. They are an opportunity for Agencies to make their opinion and position known on an issue. Taylor said the early summer will be cooler because water is not being held. Taylor predicts water temps around 65F in late October and stressed that we typically see warmer water in fall during low water years and prior to temperature control measures were implemented. Peck said the first release out of Dexter is in November so the ponds are full all through summer and fall. Releases are generally timed with any storm events.*
- 3.8. [Mar 15] Alternate out-plant strategies based on temp/flow.** **ACTION:** Caudill will be asked to speak to HMT in April about a potential study. Sharpe will work internally to figure out triggers for making management decisions. Sharpe requested the Rogue plan. **ACTION:** Kruzic will send a link to the reports from the Rogue. **STATUS:** *Kruzic didn't get the links sent. Taylor said he could discuss this. This will be discussed later in the agenda.*
- 3.8.1.** *Taylor said the Willamette doesn't have fish flow targets. In the Rogue the temperatures are controlled at Agnes (150 miles from Lost Creek). By managing the temperature, the pre-spawning mortality has been kept in check. It is managed in real-time. There are water volume caps to help balance needs throughout the year. Taylor said this operation works really well. The cap is about 3800cfs and has been hit. Sharpe asked if the cap is high enough to meet the needs. Taylor said there is still some pre-spawn mortality in the Rogue but what you have are fewer large-scale mortality events in the canyon since this operation has been in place. Taylor said in the Willamette there are fewer large-scale mortality events. The mortality in the Willamette tends to be more of a drip. He advocated for temperature and flow targets for the Willamette. He didn't think it would be too difficult to implement. Sharpe asked if this is something for the Flow Team to adopt. Taylor said we could take the existing main stem flow targets and focusing them while including temperature targets as well. Targeting releases based on real-time data could improve the effectiveness. Sharpe asked if the scope is the sub-basins or the upper watersheds. Taylor said he was thinking about a single point lower in the basin, like Willamette Falls. Sharpe and Taylor discussed the ease of coordinating the releases from the dams to control at a site downstream.*
- 3.8.2.** *HMT would make the recommendation to Flow Management to include this type of strategic thinking. Kruzic said this is an issue that needs a lot more attention. He said some of the flows are not as beneficial for spring Chinook. He said we need to see more proactive management rather than reactive because once an issue arises, it's too late. ACTION: Taylor, Kruzic, Traylor, and Sharpe will draft a proposal to send to Flow Management.*
- 3.9. [Feb 15] McKenzie HGMP.** **ACTION:** USACE to provide an update on current status. **STATUS:** *Joyce Casey is working with Rob Jones this week to find resolution. STATUS: Casey and Jones have been communicating. This is above the technical arena and will be taken off the agenda.*
- 3.10. [Feb 15] Leaburg trapping.** **ACTION:** Sharpe will write up the operation and submit to the Region for review by the April HMT. **STATUS:** *Sharpe did not get this completed but will. He said this will need to be real-time implementation. Leaburg will need to be managed day to day rather than month by month. He said he's modeled the trap data back to 2009 and found there tends to be a decrease in wild fish moving upstream followed by an equal number of hatchery fish followed by a pulse of wild fish. This makes it more difficult to operate the trap based on that data.*

3.10.1. *EWEB said they will open the left spill gate to a fixed amount but they need to operate the middle gate as part of the warranty for that gate. They will not operate the right spill gate.*

3.11. [Feb 15] Dexter releases into Little Fall Creek. **ACTION:** Thorpe said he will remind Marx a decision is needed. **ACTION:** *ODFW will find a truck and coordinate the release.* *The 1000 gallon truck may be problematic if it requires a CDL. Garletts said NWP has a tank on a trailer if a truck can be found.* **STATUS: completed.**

3.12. [Jul 14] Steelhead Work group. **ACTION:** Leonhardt will put BPA in contact with Johnson to discuss the summer steelhead HMGP. **ACTION:** HMT will form a steelhead work group. **STATUS:** *pending until a draft HGMP is available for review.* Steelhead Work Group scheduled as a break-out session after today's (4/15) HMT meeting. **STATUS: discussed later in the agenda.**

4. Updates.

4.1. Marion Forks/Minto Grenbemer reported that everything is going well at Marion Forks. Got some snow earlier this week. Marking will begin in mid-June.

4.1.1.Minto. Spawned the 10 pair steelhead for the surrogate program. Saw similar steelhead runs as last year. Conditions are worse this year. A lot of bruising, fungus, etc. Last volitional smolt release occurred and went really well. The smolts were taken off feed to increase their desire to move out. This is normal.

4.2. South Santiam/Foster. Boyd reported all is well at South Santiam. Wrapping up volitional release of summer steelhead yearlings.

4.2.1.Foster trap is checked daily. 73 winter steelhead taken to River Bend Campground. 11 summer steelhead are being recycled. Looking at options for covering the pond. NWP is looking at the crowders and the mod-list items.

4.2.2. Boyd asked if numbered floy tags are being inserted in unmarked winter steelhead. Grenbemer said they had tagged fish last year. Boyd will send the info to Sharpe. Sharpe said Paul Olmsted is the adult tagging tracker.

4.3. McKenzie. Kremers reported that fish health is good. Low mortality. Feeding well. EWEB has had the canal down for 11 days so the hatchery is operating solely on Cogswell Creek. The canal should be back within the next three days. Leonhardt asked if fish salvage activities occur when outages such as this occur. Kremers said he wasn't sure if any salvage took place. Lots of hatchery maintenance going on. A couple of wooden panels broke over the winter. They are replacing them with longer lasting plastic panels. Looking at the intake and not having the ability to shutdown the intake. There is a valve but on each side of the valve are areas for dam boards. Steel panels were installed so in the event of an emergency, the intake can be closed. Sharpe asked about any movement on Cogswell Creek improvements. Traylor said funding has been received for the Cogswell Creek mixing and reimbursement for the EWEB pipe repair. This money will be handled in a separate task order to ODFW.

4.4. Cougar Trap. Taylor opened in mid-March and four Bull Trout have been moved so far. No salmon yet. A new bellows and gate valve system will be installed at the end of the season.

4.5. Willamette/Dexter. Peck reported that everything is good. Releasing last group of fish at Dexter. Will start disinfecting. Willamette is ahead of schedule with the fry, due to warmer water.

4.6. Leaburg. Thorpe reported that the thefts should be under control now that neighbors have been caught. ODFW is working with Dept. Homeland Security to apply for an agricultural exemption to deal with hydrogen peroxide and other chemical use.

4.7. Fish counts at Bennett and Leaburg. Leaburg counts will start on 6 May. Bennett counts are up and running. First spring Chinook went through Upper Bennett. Taylor said he caught a spring Chinook at Fall Creek.

5. **Leaburg trapping operations.** Moved to May.

6. **PIT and CWT monitoring at traps.**

6.1. PIT tag detection. Sharpe said 100% scanning at Foster and Minto. 75% scanned Chinook at Dexter. Unmarked and outplanted fish were scanned at McKenzie. No broodstock were scanned at McKenzie. Sharpe said he would like to see 100% PIT tag scanning at all facilities. There are many studies utilizing PIT tags and fish are starting to return. Hand scanning 100% of the fish entering the facilities would be valuable. This includes marked and unmarked fish. McKenzie can possibly just scan unmarked fish. Peck said moving from 75% to 100% would take one other person to scan fish, especially when taking brood. He said achieving 100% scanning should be doable this year. Leonhardt asked if Friesen's budget included funds for scanning. Sharpe said the studies were mainly concerned with fish returning to Willamette Falls, where there is 100% interrogation. There likely wasn't consideration of outfitting the hatcheries however, ODFW would like to collect the information since it can provide a lot of data.

6.2. CWT detection. Sharpe said he is torn on this. Last year ODFW the model was that if the fish sets off the CWT detector then the hatchery keeps it. The problem was that if all CWT fish were kept and killed so the tag could be read, there were not enough fish for outplanting. Sharpe would prefer to stick with the model and accept that there may not be enough fish for outplanting. Moving away from that could result in compromising several studies that were started years ago. Traylor said his concern is if the numbers reduce the outplanting too much. Leonhardt asked what percent of the fish would be CWT. Sharpe said the average is about 20%. Every significant release group has a representative proportion with tags. The percentage of fish with CWTs was dramatically increased for two hatchery X wild experiments and three size at time of release studies. After these studies, the tagging percentage should drop back to the more normal 20%. **HMT generally agreed that the studies shouldn't be compromised but would like to balance those study needs with outplanting needs.** Sharpe suggested we may be able to make in-season decisions based on the number of fish with CWTs, estimated run size, outplant needs, etc. Sharpe said he will need to do some algebra and come back with a proposal. Thorpe asked if the outplanting is fixed or an "up to" number. Graham-Hudson said it is a target number, not a range.

6.2.1. Kruzic said that going into the future he can't think of any ESA mandates for CWT marking. For fisheries management, CWTs may not be used as much as genetics nowadays. SARs may be figured using other methods. Sharpe said blank tags have been suggested at the South Santiam to help reduce the movement of hatchery fish upstream.

7. **Funding for Cougar pedigree study (2014 samples).** Traylor reported no funding for this year. The funding was prioritized by RM&E. Graham-Hudson recommended this study be funded because it impacts the ongoing management decisions. Traylor stated that we had complete cohort results from 2007 and 2008, three and four year olds from 2009, and three olds from 2010. The years that were processed had similar results so another year was not deemed necessary. Sharpe said there is only one decent year of data illustrating the importance of separating fish up and down stream. ODFW believes the Cougar trap will operate normally this year. Having one more year of uninterrupted trap operation data will help support the 1 September free passage date. Without it, the date may move to mid-July and that has impacts on the survival of fish coming to Cougar that want to pass upstream. Traylor asked for some details about trap operation. Sharpe said the trap operated 24/7 in 2014. In the previous two years the trap didn't operate continuously due to equipment failures. Without funding, we have a sample size of one year. Traylor asked if we had continuous trap operation and subsequent data surrounding the date of 1 September. He believed we did, but

needed to confirm. The costs are not very much, Graham-Hudson said it would be about 216 samples, or two trays, which is about \$30K. Samples are going to be collected in 2015.

7.1. 1 September was deemed an appropriate date to stop immediately passing NOR fish upstream. Without an additional year of genetic results, ODFW has proposed 1 July as a conservative operation. To run the 2014 samples, it will cost \$30K. The results of those samples will help guide making a science based decision as to when NOR fish will be recycled downstream.

7.2. Leonhardt said there is no way NWP can find funding or have a contract in place to have samples analyzed in time to make a decision. Kruzic stressed that this information is very important and he would like to see NWP continue to fund collecting and analyzing genetic samples. Kruzic asked if there is the opportunity to fund this work out of the Hatchery RM&E funding. This is not an option. NWP is interested in analyzing the samples but there is just no money at this time.

8. Little Fall Creek Outplanting. Covered in action items.

9. Delayed outplanting strategies. Sharpe noted that both Minto and Foster were designed with holding ponds for delayed outplanting. Given the water year we have, ODFW would like to use the ponds to delay outplanting. The concern is that at Foster, the held fish would be natural origin fish. Hatchery fish have successfully been held and outplanted late. Caudill said there had been a study at the Willamette Hatchery. There were no issues seen but Caudill noted the study was conducted during low temperature years. Thermal exposure of fish is associated with pre-spawn mortality, especially above 17 – 18 C. Caudill said he can have crews at either facility and implement a study this year. Traylor said it sounds like a good idea but to spread the risk by holding a small percentage of the unclipped fish and outplanting the rest like normal. Caudill said the proposal would be to hold up to 25%. Sharpe said ODFW and NOAA still need to approve the study. Caudill said this study could be rolled into his existing study and tagging design. Caudill said the effect may not be seen the first year of the study. Kruzic supported holding a small percentage of fish. Kruzic asked if anything unusually will happen with Green Peter this year. **ACTION: Traylor will check on Green Peter operations.** Caudill said he had heard concerns from NWP bios about running Foster so low that we run out of cold water. Caudill said the fish for the study would be held until normal spawning or when temperatures decreased in the fall. **HMT was onboard with the proposed study given the expected conditions for 2015. Caudill and Sharpe will coordinate with the rest of the Region.** Taylor expressed his concerns with delayed outplanting strategies but noted that in conditions expected this year, it would make sense to test it. Grenbemer expressed some concerns about conducting this at Minto. Sharpe clarified that Foster is really the focus but Minto is a newer facility with the space so it was lumped in.

Subject: DRAFT minutes for the 15 April 2015 Willamette HMT Steelhead Work Group meeting.

The meeting was held at ODFW Headquarters, Steelhead Room. Salem Oregon. In attendance:

Last	First	Agency	Email
Boyd	Brett	ODFW – South Santiam	
Grenbemer	Greg	ODFW- Marion Forks/ Minto	Greg.A.Grenbemer@state.or.us
Kelley	Elise	ODFW	
Kruzic	Lance	NOAA Fisheries	Lance.Kruzic@noaa.gov
Leonhardt	David	NWP-PM-E	David.S.Leonhardt@usace.army.mil
Mackey	Tammy	NWP-OD-TF	Tammy.m.mackey@usace.army.mil
Peck	Dan	ODFW - Willamette	
Peven	Chuck		
Sharpe	Cameron	ODFW	cameron.sharpe@oregonstate.edu
Taylor	Greg	NWP-WVP	Gregory.A.Taylor@usace.army.mil
Thorpe	John	ODFW	john.thorpe@state.or.us
Traylor	Andy	NWP-OD-TF	Andrew.Traylor@usace.army.mil

Boyd, Grenbemer, Kelley, Kruzic, Leonhardt, and Peck called in.

10. Leonhardt noted that had the Action Agencies known ODFW was working on an HGMP, BPA may not have hired a consultant to do the work. Leonhardt said he thought that the Peven HGMP would be handed to ODFW to fill in information and then having a meeting to discuss the document. Kelly said she felt that was a reasonable action.
11. Peven walked through his version of the UWR Summer Steelhead DRAFT HGMP. Highlighted areas require additional input from ODFW.
 - 11.1. Most of the information is taken from previous HGMPs. This information is several years old and will need to be updated.
 - 11.2. Peven explained that there is a table with the objectives, performance indicators, benchmarks, and comments. This helps clarify the objectives for everyone and organizes the information in a way that is easily understood and accessible.
 - 11.3. Table 5 classifies each performance indicator as a benefit or a risk. Peven recommends everyone take a look at that table and make sure they agree with the classifications.
 - 11.4. 1.12.1 is where the updated HGMP diverges from the older versions. Peven tried to clearly show how he came up with the estimates for SARs.
 - 11.5. Harvest data was taken from the website. Peven said the website didn't say whether the numbers were expanded or now. Thorpe noted that ODFW doesn't always have a lot of confidence in the catch record card data. Sharpe said the catch record card data can be used for trends but shouldn't be used for mathematical declarations. Peven noted that he expects ODFW to challenge those numbers due to the low confidence in the catch record card data.
 - 11.6. 1.16 is where BiOp proposed actions are listed. Status is provided where available.
 - 11.7. Sharpe had concerns with Table 29. He noted that reality isn't as neat and tidy as the table and by putting these items in the HGMP, he is concerned it sets up unrealistic expectations. Leonhardt asked what the alternative would be. The table needs to be looked at and then prioritized. Leonhardt said there needs to be a monitoring and

evaluation plan included in the HGMP. That plan should be well thought out. Sharpe said the funding needs to be considered as well.

12. Sharpe asked about language stating if there is a disagreement then there will be a re-initiation of consultation. Kruzic said that is typical when new information becomes available. Kelly suggested the language in the BiOp doesn't necessarily belong in the HGMP and ODFW may want to change the language in the HGMP.

12.1. Peven said this language below came directly from the BiOp.

Strive to develop a reform implementation plan that all funding entities agree to implement. If the entities cannot agree, then the USACE would propose reform actions for its portion of the production and reinitiate consultation.

13. Traylor wrapped up the meeting by reiterating that it sounds like ODFW and the Action Agencies can move forward on one document. Kelly said she will review the two documents but there are items that will require additional discussion. The Summer Steelhead Working Group will review the document and check in at each HMT meeting. Kelly said she is unable to give a date for when she will be done with her review. Kruzic asked if Peven still has time to work on the HGMP. Peven said he has time but it will need to go through BPA. He will check with Dan Spear to confirm he can address any questions or comments. Kruzic asked what the Action Agencies desire to have happen with this HGMP. Leonhardt noted that an approved HGMP is a requirement of the BiOp and the existing HGMP is outdated. Kruzic said the existing program has coverage, unlike the Chinook programs. Leonhardt said there have been changes in production levels and release locations. Those should trigger re-consultation. Kelley said ODFW will be looking to have this as a separately approved document. Kruzic said a lot of the changes to the steelhead program were a result of BiOp requirements. If we want to update the HGMP that's fine or if you want it as a separate document that is ok too. Kelley said ODFW wants it as a separate document that gets it out from under the BiOp.