



FISH PASSAGE CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

TO: FPAC

FROM: FPC Staff

DATE: February 19, 2015

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

On February 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, via phone), Tom Iverson (Yakima, via phone), Joe Skalicky (USFWS), Sherrie Sears (Colville Tribe, via phone), Tom Skiles (CRITFC), Trevor Conder (NOAA, via phone), Jay Hesse (Nez Perce), Kathryn Kostow (ODFW, via phone), Steve Williams (PSMFC, via phone), Dave Statler (Nez Perce), Erick Van Dyke (ODFW), Margaret Filardo (FPC), Erin Cooper (FPC), Dave Benner (FPC), Brandon Chockley (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.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Current Elevation (feet)</i>	<i>Change in Elevation (feet over past week)</i>	<i>Last Week's Outflows (Kcfs)</i>	<i>End of February Flood Control (ft)</i>
GCL	1271.4	Refilled 1.7	109.8 – 149.0	2435.0
LIB	2412.2	Refilled 1.1	4.0	2435.0
HH	3539.1	No Change	5.0 – 5.2	3535.5
DWOR	1566.4	Refilled 9.1	4.5 – 9.7	1560.0
BRNLE	2057.3	No Change	19.3 – 23.7 (Hells Canyon Outflows = 9.2)	2051.0

- FPAC may consider writing an SOR to exceed flood control levels at Dworshak, since current projections are for low water year. This will be discussed at TMT on February 18, 2015. If necessary, a draft SOR will be discussed at next week's FPAC meeting.
- Snowpack estimates from Natural Resource Conservation Service, provided by Dave Benner.

<i>Basin</i>	<i>Snow Water Equivalent (% Avg) Feb 17, 2015</i>
Columbia above Snake confluence	80
Snake River	86
Lower Columbia, between Bonneville and McNary	23

- ESP runoff volume estimates as of February 16, 2014.

Location	February 16, 2015, 5-day QPF ESP	
	% Average (1981–2010)	Runoff Volume (Kaf)
The Dalles (Jan–July)	100	101,042
Grand Coulee (Jan–July)	104	61,921
Libby Res. Inflow, MT (Apr–Aug)	92	5,420 5,523*
Hungry Horse Res. Inflow, MT (Jan–July)	105	2,206
Lower Granite Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	87	17,284
Brownlee Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	78	4,272
Dworshak Res. Inflow (Apr–July)	85	2,060 1,922*

*COE February Forecast

Weather

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

Location	Seasonal (Oct. 1-Now)
Upper Columbia	138%
Middle Columbia	127%
Lower Snake	185%
Upper and Mid-Snake	136%

- Temperatures were as follows (temperature departures):

Location	Pro-rated Monthly
Upper Columbia	8.9
Middle Columbia	9.7
Lower Snake	12.2
Upper and Mid-Snake	14.5

Sort-by-Code (SbyC) Requests

- Jason Vogel’s request will be considered next week, pending more information on the total number of tags used for the study.
- Randy Absolon’s request for SbyC at Bonneville was approved.
- Charlie Morrill and Brandon Chockley will work with Nicole Tancreto to update the SbyC request form to incorporate more detailed information that FPAC often considers (i.e., what proportion of total tags are being returned to river, if at all)

Smolt Monitoring Program

- FPC provided a memo (dated February 17, 2015) that summarizes a number of problems with the request for proposal (RFP) published by the USACE. There is significant concern among FPAC members that the RFP does not correctly reflect the joint nature of the Smolt Monitoring Program and the USACE Transportation Contract. Therefore, the RFP, as written, will likely result in conflicts in data collection and reporting, potentially affecting the managers’ ability to use data from the SMP and/or Condition Monitoring Program for management decisions in 2015.
- In addition to potential conflicts between regional protocols, reporting requirements, and the needs of managers, the appropriate permits for handling may not be obtainable in the timeframe required for sampling.
- A meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18th to discuss these issues.

Dworshak Operations

A discussion of Dworshak flood control levels, and a possible exemption, will occur at TMT on Wednesday, February 18th. If required, an SOR will be discussed at next week’s FPAC meeting.

John Day Performance Testing JTSM

- FPAC members agreed to sign onto a joint technical staff memo requesting more information for the final report on performance testing at John Day Dam in 2014. The request includes (1) rejection rates based on size, (2) route-specific survivals, (3) details of dead fish releases and detection, and (4) that an inability to compare operations is specifically stated.

Facilitation Services

- Emily Plummer and Donna Silverberg conducted a short session to receive feedback on the TMT process. Most FPAC members feel that DS Consulting does a sufficient job at the facilitation process.

Coordination

- The next FPAC face to face meeting will be on March 17, 2015, at 9:00 AM.
- There will be a FFDRWG meeting next Thursday, February 26th, in Walla Walla.