

April 20, 2012

TO: Snake River Recovery Planning Coordination Group

FROM: Rick Mogren

SUBJECT: REVISED Coordination Group Meeting Notes: February 16, 2012

Introduction:

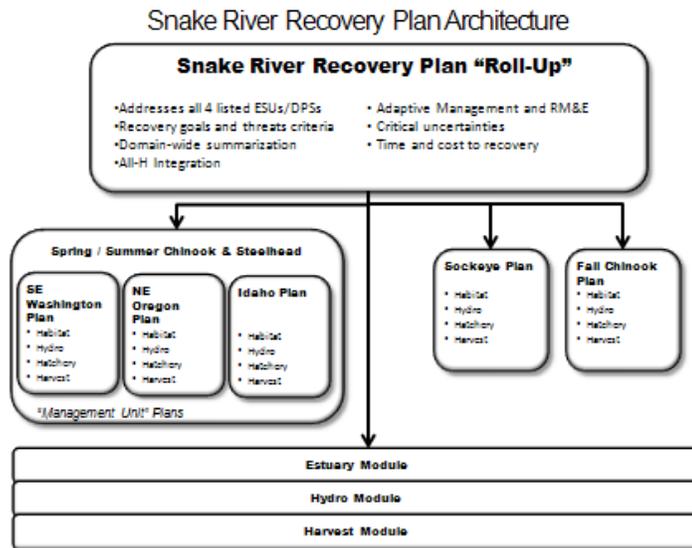
A meeting of the Snake River Recovery Planning Coordination Group (Coordination Group) convened at 9:30 am (Pacific Time) at CRITFC’s Celilo conference room in Portland, Oregon on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

Group participants consisted of representatives from tribes, states, and federal agencies. Attachment 1 lists participants and their contact information.

These notes present the general nature of the topics presented and discussed and next steps. They do not represent a verbatim transcript of the conversation nor do they replicate information provided on presentation slides.¹

Opening Comments: (Rumsey)

- Welcome.
- The proposed recovery plan “architecture” looks like this:



¹ Meeting slides will be posted on NMFS’s Snake River recovery plan web site. Until then they are available upon request from Gina at gina.schroeder@noaa.gov.

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- NOAA's intent is to have the proposed Snake River Recovery Plan completed by 2014, with a final adoption in 2015.
- A longer-term recovery strategy will be identified through an open process including Coordination Group members, as interested, after 2015. The intent is to have this longer-term strategy completed in time to inform the 2018 FCRPS BiOp and other agreements.

Roll-Up and MU plans:

- Key roll-up completion milestones (Furfey):
 - By Dec 2012:
 - Complete draft management unit (MU) recovery plans for NE OR, ID, and SE WA.
 - Complete draft harvest and hydro modules.
 - Begin Sockeye and Fall Chinook draft recovery plans.
 - By January 2014: Complete draft ESU / DPS roll-up plan for all four species
 - NMFS will share draft products with the Coordination Group through periodic meetings to keep members informed about the status of different products.
 - By Dec 2014: post draft recovery plan for all four Snake River species to the federal register for public review and comment.
 - By Dec 2015: complete final Recovery Plan, including specific near-term actions and a strategy for developing long-term actions & individual plan components and modules.
 - In 2018: Complete specific long-term All-H strategy, including critical uncertainties, decision points, specific actions, and synergistic analysis.
- Idaho (Mabe):
 - NOAA completed draft chapters 1-5 pertaining to the Idaho MU Plan proposed habitat recovery actions for spring/summer Chinook and steelhead in January and posted them for review and comment at www.idahosalmonrecovery.net. Comments are requested by April 15.
 - Edmond Murrell indicated that the ShoPai would need additional time beyond April 15.
 - Please provide comments to the URL indicated in the web site or directly to David Mabe at david.mabe@noaa.gov.
 - NMFS will add yet-to-be-completed proposed hatchery and harvest components in 2012.

- Discussion followed regarding the adequacy of regulatory processes for periods of low flow in Idaho. The Shoshone Paiute tribe (Murrell) noted that water withdrawal is a common limiting factor in rivers and streams throughout the upper Salmon River and Snake Basin. He further recommended a description of the regulatory risk be included in the plan.
- Idaho (Yost) noted that Idaho has established processes for obtaining water and “reconnects” in accordance with existing state regulatory regimes.
- SE Washington (Martin):
 - The SE Washington MU plan is essentially done and the SE WA Snake River Recovery Board is proceeding to implementation. The Washington MU plan may be found at http://www.snakeriverboard.org/recovery_plan/plandec11.html.
 - Key point: the process for pulling the final MU plan together rested on development of constructive relationships between planners and local landowners. Maintaining those relationships will be critical to recovery implementation.
- NE Oregon (Furfey):
 - The NE Oregon MU Plan is consistent with both the ESA and ODFW’s native fish conservation policy. NMFS will work with ODFW as it reviews this draft Plan for consistency with Oregon’s Native Fish Conservation Plan requirements.
 - The draft NE Oregon MU Plan is almost finished and will be completed in the next few months. It includes “broad sense” goals in addition to those required to meet ESA requirements.
 - Once complete, NMFS plans to endorse the draft NE Oregon MU Plan as an interim recovery plan in order to encourage implementation actions while the roll-up plan is being completed.
- Discussion points / issues:
 - All plans focus on the biological goals for recovery. The plans need an equal focus on threats. As populations recover, demonstrating that designated actions properly address threats will take on greater importance - especially in the face of climate change.
 - How should emerging threats (such as zebra and quagga mussels, and/or climate change) be addressed in the plans? What is the general strategy for emerging threats?
 - Several meeting participants pointed out that much of the recovery plans deals with stream habitat improvements. However, like past subbasin plans, a key missing component that greatly constrains addressing habitat limiting factors

is improvement to regulatory processes and requirements regarding water and floodplain land management.

- Several participants identified instream flow quantity /quality and channelization (stream disconnected from the floodplain) as common limiting factors that are not being adequately addressed. They requested a process to ensure that threats at all levels of jurisdiction are addressed and that all needed activities take place. Suggestions included a change to more restrictive developmental regulations/ordnances or changes that better allow for floodplain recovery by state, county and federal water and land managers.
- Also suggested was acknowledgement of the circumstances in which previous land use and local regulatory decisions, water allocations, and federal projects have placed the region with regard to salmon recovery. These legacy decisions constrain the recovery opportunities available through habitat restoration.

Estuary Module (Furfey):

- NMFS adopted the Estuary Module in 2011. It is, in effect, a recovery plan for the estuary and addresses all listed Columbia River salmonid species as all spend some portion of their life history there.
- All Columbia Basin recovery plans include the Estuary Module by reference.
- A copy of the module may be found at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/estuary-module.cfm>.

Harvest Module (Furfey):

- The draft Harvest Module describes the harvest practices throughout the mainstem Columbia River, Snake River, estuary and ocean for the four Snake River species.
- NMFS shared the draft Harvest Module with the Snake River Coordination Group in December 2010. It was also shared with the US v. OR policy group in May 2011.
- NOAA is currently incorporating the comments received and expects to wrap up module by the end of March 2012.
- A copy of the module may be obtained from NMFS by contacting Enrique Patino at enrique.patino@noaa.gov or downloaded from NMFS' Snake River Recovery Plan web page.

Proposed Hatchery Approach (Rumsey):

- The MU plans discuss hatchery actions as appropriate to specific populations and watersheds.

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- NMFS decided that production of a “Hatchery Module” at this point would be redundant to other negotiations and processes underway in the Basin (such as consultations on HGMPs, Mitchell Act EIS, US v. OR). Rather than complicate those processes, NMFS will wait until they are completed before deciding if an overarching hatchery approach that incorporates those process is needed or appropriate.
- Long-term hatchery strategies, critical uncertainties, research gaps, and other issues not addressed in these other hatchery venues will be included in the long-term strategy.
- Discussion topics:
 - Group discussed whether a broadly defined hatchery strategy can help inform those other processes or if it is more appropriate to leave at the MU and local planning levels for now.
 - Concern over whether these other venues will leave some populations affected by hatcheries unaddressed.
 - Group discussed the the practical effect of trying to apply a one-size-fits-all hatchery strategy in the face of the diverse purpose and nature of Basin hatchery programs.
 - Group discussed funding for tribal participation in expert and technical teams and panels.
 - The role of hatcheries in returning fish to blocked areas.

Hydro Module (Graves):

- The 2012 Hydro Module is a supplement to the 2008 draft Hydro Module. The 2008 Module addressed mainstem hydrosystem limiting factors and strategies.
- This newer version is oriented specifically on the four Snake River species. It updates the 2008 Hydro Module information for Snake River species (significant passage improvements and recent survival rates) and provides discussion of latent and delayed mortality.
- The draft Hydro Module is complete and available for Coordination Group comment. NOAA requests that comments be submitted to Ritchie Graves by April 30. This draft will also be posted and available for review on the new Snake River Recovery Plan web posting.
- Discussion and issues:
 - Impact of the hydrosystem on returning adults, especially sockeye to Redfish Lake.

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- The impact of non-federal dams, specifically the Hells Canyon complex and the ongoing FERC relicensing process.
 - The ShoPai (Murrell) and Umatilla (James) raised concern that the draft plan does not identify fish passage above the Hells Canyon Complex as a “vision” or potential future action that may be necessary for full recovery of some Snake River species.
- Inclusion of some discussion of straying and bypassing in the Module.
- Note impact of predation.
- Discuss how to sort results obtained from spill and flow increases with increased results due to dam passage improvements.
- Comments:
 - Create a mechanism for tracking all the various documents and schedules related to recovery planning.
 - What is the role of each H with regard to Snake River species’ recovery? What is the synergy between the results from each module and each MU plan on the species as a whole? [NOTE: NMFS will incorporate the synergistic effects from all plan elements into the long-range strategy document scheduled for completion by 2018.]
 - Are Coordination Group members encouraged to provide ideas and figures to incorporate into the plan documents?

Proposed Sockeye Approach (Furfey):

- NMFS will begin the planning process for approach to Sockeye this spring. NMFS’ intent is to form a Technical Advisory Committee to work with NMFS to write draft recovery chapters. This advisory committee will invite participation from the co-managers and stakeholders.
- NMFS expects to hold a planning meeting for technical Advisory Committee members in Boise within the next few months.
- Coordination Group members are invited to participate in these efforts.
- Discussion:
 - Include experimental populations in the plan (e.g. Wallowa Lake) as part of a reintroduction effort.
 - Take into account full historical range for sockeye and chinook in the recovery plan.

Proposed Fall Chinook Approach (Gaar):

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- Fall Chinook planning will begin in the autumn of 2012 and will build on work already underway. Coordination Group members were asked how they would like to structure and participate in product development.
- Discussion points and issues:
 - Number of populations and conditions necessary to achieve recovery.
 - Reintroduction above the Hells Canyon complex and the status of FERC relicensing negotiations.

Other Discussion Points:

- Several tribal stated that they were not sufficiently staffed or funded to fully participate in the anticipated plan review process. They requested that NOAA look in to funding for tribal participation.

Attachments:

1. Participants and Contact Information

ATTACHMENT 1

Participants and Contact Information

Name	Affiliation	Email
Averett, Adrienne (phone)	ODFW	Adrienne.W.Averett@state.or.us
Bagdovitz, Mark	Fish and Wildlife Service	mark_bagdovitz@fws.gov
Carter, Julie	CRITFC	
Denney, Lytle (phone)	Shoshone Bannock Tribe	
Duffy, Megan (phone)	WA Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	Megan.Duffy@rco.wa.gov
Eddy, Bruce (phone)	ODFW	bruce.r.eddy@state.or.us
Edwards, Rick	Shoshone Paiute	edwards.richard@shopai.org
Furfey, Rosemary	NOAA	rosemary.furfey@noaa.gov
Gaar, Elizabeth	NOAA	elizabeth.gaar@noaa.gov
Graves, Ritchie	NOAA	ritchie.graves@noaa.gov
Griswold, Bob	Shoshone Bannock Tribe	robertgriswold@gmail.com
Grover, Tony	NPCC	tgrover@nwcouncil.org
Hallar, Greg (phone)	Nez Perce Tribe	
Hassemer, Pete	IDFG/Idaho Governor's Office	phassemmer@idfg.idaho.gov
Hatcher, Lynn (phone)	NOAA	lynn.hatcher@noaa.gov
James, Gary	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	GaryJames@ctuir.com
Johnson, Dave	Nez Perce Tribe	davej@nezperce.org
Kesling, Jason	Burns Paiute Tribe	Jason.kesling@burnspaiute-nsn.gov
Kostow, Katherine (phone)	ODFW	
Kraker, Joe	Fish and Wildlife Service	Joe_Kraker@fws.gov
Lothrop, Rob	CRITFC	robl@critfc.gov

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Name	Affiliation	Email
Mabe, David	NOAA	david.mabe@noaa.gov
Maltz, Erica	Burns Paiute Tribe	maltzem@burnspaiute-nsn.gov
Martin, Steve	Washington Lower Snake Recovery Board	steve@snakeriverboard.org
McIntosh, Bruce	Representing Oregon Governor's Office (with ODFW)	bruce.mcintosh@oregonstate.edu
Mendel, Glen (Phone)	WDFW	glen.mendel@dfw.wa.gov
Mogren, Rick	Federal Caucus / meeting facilitator	rick.mogren@noaa.gov
MuCulloch, Dale	CRITFC	
Murrell, Ed	Shoshone Paiute	murrell.edmond@shopai.org
Nigro, Tony	ODFW	
Peters, Rock	Corps of Engineers	rock.d.peters@usace.army.mil
Ray, Heather	Upper Snake River Tribes	rayh@onid.orst.edu
Roger, Phil	CRITFC	rogp@critfc.org
Rumsey, Scott	NOAA	Scott.Rumsey@noaa.gov
Schroeder, Gina	Federal Caucus / meeting facilitator	gina.schroeder@noaa.gov
Shutters, Marvin	Corps of Engineers	marvin.k.shutters@usace.army.mil
Stark, Lesa (phone)	Bureau of Reclamation	lstark@usbr.gov
Taylor, Emmett (phone)	Nez Perce Tribe	
Ulmer, Linda	Forest Service	lulmer@fs.fed.us
Yost, Jim (phone)	Idaho Governor's Office	jyost@nwcouncil.org

Not Present: Yakama Tribe, Warm Springs (Brad Houslet), EPA (Leigh Woodruff) and WDFW (Steve Pozzenghera).