

January 25, 2011

TO: Snake River Recovery Planning Coordination Group

FROM: Rick Mogren

SUBJECT: Coordination Group Meeting Notes: December 20, 2010

Introduction:

A meeting of the Snake River Recovery Planning Coordination Group (Coordination Group) convened at 11:00 am (Mountain Time) at the Airport Holiday Inn in Boise, Idaho on Monday, December 20, 2010.

Group participants consisted of representatives from five tribes, three states, and five federal agencies. Attachment 1 lists participants and their contact information. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northwest Region's Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources (Donna Darm) served as convening lead.

Opening Comments: (Darm)

Key points from Donna's comments:

- Looking forward to re-engaging on Columbia Basin recovery efforts.
- Supports completion of locally developed recovery plans and their implementation.
- Noted ICTRT represents the best available science – will rely on them as species experts.
- NOAA and its regional partners have completed a number of plans; none presented as complicated an array of issues as the Snake River plan.
- Looks forward to working with the Coordination Group to pull the plan together.

Table of Issues and Interdependencies:

- Table reviewed, explained and discussed.
- Discussion centered primarily on participation in discussions over reintroduction:
 - Oregon (Knapp) requested they be included in reintroduction discussions. Noted importance of reintroduction of chinook as well as steelhead for Oregon's broad-sense recovery goals.
 - Burns Paiute (Kesling) also requested to be included in reintroduction discussions.
- Final comments on table requested by January 14; please submit to Rick.

Status of Roll-Up and MU plans:

- SE Washington (Martin):
 - Status of plan outlined in handout tables distributed at meeting (enclosed with these notes). The Board intends to update every chapter in the 2006 plan. The link for the Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan is <http://www.snakeriverboard.org/index.html>.
- NE Oregon (Furfey):
 - Draft NE OR MU plan completed and sent to NE OR technical team for review and comment.
 - See slides; no discussion.
- Idaho (Mabe):
 - Plans to include a module of effects for each “H” in plan.
 - The chapter for each population will reference and refer to each module, as appropriate.
 - The Boise NOAA office is currently working on the habitat part of the plan for spring/summer chinook and steelhead.
 - SS chinook: chapters written for each population; plan to post on the web by the end of December.
 - Steelhead: Salmon River population completed. Currently working on Clearwater MPG.
 - Will solicit comments once posted on web page.
 - Following completion of habitat portions, will work with NOAA and NE Oregon MU to complete the rest of the modules and incorporate into the Idaho plan.
 - Idaho planning website is at <http://www.idahosalmonrecovery.net/>.
- Roll-up Plan (Gaar):
 - Elizabeth provided overview of roll-up completion plan. See outline in handout packet.
 - Discussion:
 - Q (Eddy): What are “benchmarks” and how do they link to delisting criteria? A (Gaar): Example would be measurable benchmarks for habitat *implementation* (not benchmarks for *biological* effects).

- Q (Kesling): Where does reintroduction fit in? Should a separate MU or two be established for watersheds above the blocked areas? Why not a section in the Roll-up? Should look at historic conditions and distribution. A (Gaar): Not an MU because there are no fish there and because there was no active citizen participation offered from above Hells Canyon (most MUs are locally led). Recommended review of ICTRT reintroduction information.
- Comment (Yost/Knapp): It is premature to jump to reintroduction as a recovery action. Noted sensitivity to issue of reintroduction and interests in doing so on the parts of Oregon and some of the tribes. Also noted the degree of uncertainty as to whether it is a practical objective. Encouraged a focused and systematic discussion to explore the issue as it pertains to all Snake River salmon species.
- Comment (Hassemer): Recommended discussion of blocked area sooner rather than later and include in plan. Noted that reintroduction transcended individual species and/or management units.
- Comment (Darm): Noted need for long-term strategies in a number of Snake River areas. There are many long-term strategic issues that will require a regional dialogue.

- Next step: set up reintroduction discussions meetings.

Draft Fishery Module:

- Enrique presented an overview of the draft harvest module (Patino).
- Discussion:
 - Q (Hassemer): How does this module relate to the recovery plan? What is the relationship of Snake Basin harvest strategies to existing agreements, BiOps, and treaties? Should harvest levels outside the Snake basin be considered unchangeable? Or will there be opportunities to influence those levels based on their impact on Snake River fish? A (Darm): Outside basin agreements may be another long-term issue that will not be resolved before the draft recovery plan is complete. Will need to include this in the needed long-term discussion for all Hs.
 - Comment (Mendel): Add language to exempt clipped hatchery fish from take.
 - Comment (Bagdovitz): On a philosophical level, the recovery plan should address what the fish need to achieve recovery. For harvest, the operative question should be, “what level of escapement is needed to meet recovery goals?” If the plan identified needed escapement levels, then actions could be identified throughout the Basin to meet those escapement targets.

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- Comment (Gaar): Will need an analysis-of-effects chapter in order to demonstrate the gap between the current status and what is needed.
- Next steps:
 - Provide comments on the draft module to Enrique Patino by COB January 31.
 - Need to ensure this module is vetted through US v. Oregon parties (**POST MEETING NOTE: Module subsequently scheduled for discussion at the February US v. OR meeting**).
 - Follow up with parties to US v. OR not present at meeting.

Delisting Criteria:

- Presentation on general approach to delisting (Gaar).
- See slides distributed for meeting.
- Next Steps:
 - Provide species-specific language for SS chinook and steelhead.
 - Coordinate with Burns Paiute on delisting goals.

Next steps:

- Comments on Issues Table due to Rick by COB Friday, January 14 (ACTION: Coordination Group members and Mogren).
- Set up discussion forums for reintroduction (ACTION: Mogren and Furfey).
- Comments on harvest module due to Enrique by COB January 31 (ACTION: Coordination Group members and Patino).
- NMFS to follow up with US v. OR participants not in attendance (ACTION: Furfey).
- Provide species-specific delisting language for next Coordination Group meeting. Coordinate with Burns Paiute (and any other interested team members) prior to meeting (ACTION: Gaar and Kesling).
- Plan for next meeting on / about early March, 2011.

Attachments:

1. Participants and Contact Information

ATTACHMENT 1

Participants and Contact Information

Name	Email	Office / Organization
Averett, Adrienne	Adrienne.w.averett@state.or.us	ODFW
Bagdovitz, Mark	mark_bagdovitz@fws.gov	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Bowler, Bert	29bbowler@snakeriversalmonsolutions.org	Snake River Salmon Solutions
Darm, Donna	Donna.darm@noaa.gov	NOAA
Eddy, Bruce	bruce.r.eddy@state.or.us	ODFW
Furfey, Rosemary	rosemary.furfey@noaa.gov	NOAA
Gaar, Elizabeth	Elizabeth.gaar@noaa.gov	NOAA
Hassemer, Peter	phassemmer@idfg.idaho.gov	IDFG
Hatcher, Lynn (phone)	Lynn.hatcher@noaa.gov	NOAA
Kesling, Jason	jason.kesling@burnspaiute-nsn.gov	Burns Paiute Tribe
Knapp, Sue	suzanne.knapp@state.or.us	Oregon Governor's Office
Mabe, David	david.mabe@noaa.gov	NOAA
Mahz, Erica	mahzem@burnspaiute-nsn.gov	
Martin, Steve (phone)	steve@snakeriverboard.org	Washington Lower Snake Recovery Board
Mendel, Glen (phone)	Glen.Mendel@dfw.wa.gov	WDFW
Miller, Phil (phone)	phil.miller@esa.wa.gov	WA Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Patino, Enrique	Enrique.patino@noaa.gov	NOAA
Perugini, Carol	perugini.carol@shopai.org	Shoshone Paiute Tribe
Pevin, Chuck (phone)		
Stahl, Tom (phone)	thomas.stahl@state.or.us	ODFW
Stall, Greg	grstall@gmail.com	Idaho Rivers United
Yost, Jim	jyost@nwcouncil.org	Idaho Governor's Office
Mogren, Rick	Rick.mogren@noaa.gov	Federal Caucus - facilitator

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Not Present: USACE (Greg Graham), Shoshone Bannock (Claudio Broncho), Warm Springs (Brad Houslet), Nez Perce (Dave Johnson), Umatilla (Gary James), USRT (Heather Ray), EPA (Leigh Woodruff), and UFSF (Linda Ulmer).