Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Fish Passage Task Force
MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2010
Prairie Creek Center, Conference Room
Enterprise, Oregon

Attending:
The following attended all, or part of, the meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FPTF Representing</th>
<th>ODFW Title</th>
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<td>Borden, John</td>
<td>Apke, Greg State Passage Coordinator, Salem</td>
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<td>DeHart, Doug</td>
<td>Eddy, Bruce Watershed District Manager, La Grande</td>
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<td>Heller, David</td>
<td>Kingsley, Lisa Program Assistant, Salem</td>
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<td>Kambak, Kim</td>
<td>Loffink, Ken Assistant Fish Passage Coordinator, Salem</td>
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<td>Mouser, Mark</td>
<td>Simpson, Chuck Screen Shop Manager, Enterprise</td>
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<td>Newton, David</td>
<td>Yanke, Jeff District Biologist, Enterprise</td>
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<td>Nilson, Dawn</td>
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<td>Schab, Rob</td>
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Public Representing:

| Menton, Coby     | Grande Ronde Model Watershed                  |
| Oveson, Jeff     | Grande Ronde Model Watershed                  |

Not Attending:

| Rectenwald, Harry |                                              |

1. Call to Order – Mouser
The meeting was called to order at 9:14 a.m. New members, Doug DeHart and David Newton were welcomed, and the members introduced themselves.

John Borden
John Borden represents fishing & conservation. Borden is a former Oregon Water Resources Department employee who currently works as a water rights consultant.

Borden explained he was skeptical about working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on the Fish Passage Task Force (FPTF) after past experiences working with
ODFW on water rights issues. Borden noted his experiences with the Task Force have been valuable and he appreciates the relationships formed during his tenure.

**Douglas DeHart**
Douglas DeHart represents fishing and conservation. DeHart is a sixth generation Oregonian and a career fishery biologist who worked for the Army Corps of Engineers on Columbia River fish passage, US Fish and Wildlife Service Fish Screening and Passage Program, and ODFW’s Fish Division. While working for ODFW, DeHart held several positions including oversight of the Fish Passage Program and Chief of Fisheries.

**Rob Schab**
Rob Schab represents water users and is the General Manager for the Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board. Schab served on the two Legislative Task Forces that created Oregon’s current fish passage laws and established the FPTF.

Schab explained the importance of the FPTF’s role in moving the process forward to enhance fish passage in Oregon. The Task Force works to help the Fish Passage Program with funding, mechanisms, and staff.

**David Newton**
David Newton represents water users. Newton is a member of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, Columbia Basin Foundation Board, Fisheries Restoration and Irrigation Mitigation Act Review Team, and the Deschutes Water Basin Council. The Deschutes Water Basin Council partners with cities and irrigators and has been able to complete several water planning studies. They are seeking funding for development of a water resource plan to deal with water issues basin wide.

Newton worked in Arizona and California for approximately 20 years before returning to his hometown of Redmond, Oregon to continue engineering work associated with water issues.

Newton worked with Grants Pass Irrigation District on an evaluation of fish passage opportunities at Savage Rapids Dam, on the Rogue River. The controversial project included installation of a pumping station and removal of the dam, which was completed in 2009.

Newton expressed a desire to see proactive outreach regarding fish passage. Newton commented a large number of diversion structures throughout the state are aging and will need major maintenance in the near future.

**Dawn Nilson**
Dawn Nilson, an Environmental Resources Consultant, represents the public-at-large. Nilson comes from the East Coast where she worked on the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Project. Planning for the project included land exchanges, zoning changes, and a large amount of work in wetlands and streams.

After spending some time in Southern California, Nilson moved to Oregon. Since coming to Oregon, Nilson has worked on a variety of water issues including dams in the Portland and Coos Bay areas.
Nilson was involved with the Legislative Task Force that developed the existing fish passage laws. She felt it was important the law be developed and implemented emphasizing fair and just use of resources.

**Mark Mouser**
Mark Mouser represents the public-at-large, with an emphasis is on transportation. Clackamas County Department of Transportation has employed Mouser for 23 years. For the past 13 years, Mouser has worked to remove fish passage barriers at road crossings throughout the county. This year, the county will complete their 90th improvement project; these projects have re-opened more than 200 miles of stream to fish.

Mouser also has a private business that works with watershed councils and others to address fish passage barrier removal.

Mouser commented while transportation interests were not represented on the Legislative Task Force that developed the current law, he has been pleased to work with ODFW through the FPTF.

Schab explained the Legislative Task Forces did not include transportation representatives because culverts were not initially addressed in the draft language for the passage laws. Schab has appreciated the work done by counties and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to provide fish passage. Schab noted as funding decreases, fish passage projects become more difficult to complete.

**David Heller**
David Heller represents the public-at-large. Heller recently retired after more than 30 years service as a biologist for US Forest Service (USFS). Heller’s work focused on restoration and protection at a watershed scale. As budgets decreased, collaboration became very important and included strategic prioritizing of work.

One major project Heller was involved with included an inventory of 92,000 miles of road in the USFS’s Northwest Region. The inventory identified 3,500 road-stream crossings that did not pass all species and life stages of fish. Once identified, USFS began working to address those crossings.

Heller noted the FPTF has provided their perspective on conflicts as they arise, but he would like to see them take a proactive approach to help ODFW address fish passage strategically.

**Kim Kambak**
Kim Kambak represents water users. Kambak is a retired school administrator who is interested in ensuring the latest science is applied when making decisions about water availability and fish passage. Kambak an organic farmer in Prineville, Oregon irrigating 7 acres.

Kambak has served on the Task Force for just over a year and brings a unique perspective representing small water users and Eastern Oregonians.
2. Agenda Approval – Members
The meeting agenda was presented.

Motion:
Dawn Nilson moved to approve the agenda as written. John Borden seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 8-0.

3. Task Force New Member Appointments – Welcome David and Doug
The Task Force discussed the upcoming Task Force vacancies. Borden, Mouser, and Schab’s terms will expire in February 2011, and they are not eligible for reappointment. Greg Apke will begin solicitation early so new members can be appointed prior to the February Task Force meeting.

Action:
Greg Apke will start the recruitment process for new Task Force members in time for appointment prior to the February meeting. Apke will provide an update on the selection process at the Task Force’s November meeting.

4. Round-table Discussions & New Business
Member Reports
Dawn Nilson
Nilson suggested ODFW work with Oregon Field Guide to provide information about fish passage issues in Oregon.

Joint FSTF Meeting
The Task Force discussed holding a joint meeting with the Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF) in 2011.

Action:
Lisa Kingsley will provide the FPTF with the FSTF’s 2011 schedule at the November meeting.

5. Review and Approve May 21, 2010 Meeting Minutes
The May 21, 2010 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion:
Kim Kambak moved to approve the May 21, 2010 minutes as written. John Borden seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 8-0.

6. Review Action Items from May 21, 2010
The following action item from the February 26, 2010 meeting remains to be completed:
• Greg Apke will provide an update of funding coming into the Fish Passage Program and how it is used.

The following action item remains from the May 21, 2010 meeting remains to be completed:
• Greg Apke will have Fish Passage Progress Reports posted on ODFW’s Fish Passage website.
All other action items were completed.

7. **Member Handbook Overview**
Lisa Kingsley distributed electronic copies of the handbook prior to the meeting and hard copies at the meeting. The handbook provides resources for members including Task Force and Program contacts, passage laws, an overview of fish passage in Oregon, and information on travel.

8. **Fish Passage Program Updates & General Discussion**
**Ken Loffink, ODFW Program Assistant Introduction**
Apke introduced Ken Loffink, ODFW’s new Assistant Fish Passage Coordinator. Loffink worked for ODFW for nearly four years at Lookingglass Hatchery, a trap on the Imnaha River, and as a Passage Biologist in the Umatilla District.

Loffink will initially be working on updating the ODFW statewide prioritization list, training, and an evaluation of ODFW owned and managed fish passage facilities and potential artificial obstructions.

**Approved and Pending Approvals, Waivers, and Exemptions**

Handout: 
*ODFW Fish Passage Program Approvals, Waivers & Exemptions Updates (May 20th, 2010 thru August 11th, 2010)*

The following waiver was approved:
- City of Portland – Bull Run Watershed HCP – Waiver – Processed and Approved

The following exemptions are pending review:
- Oregon Department of Transportation – Whiskey Creek – Passage Exemption – Pending Public Comment
- Private Ranch – Pony Creek, Tributary to Trout Creek – Passage Exemption – Initial site visit completed; options being presented to owners

**ODOT Whiskey Creek Fish Passage Exemption Request**
ODOT requested a fish passage exemption for a site near Beatty, Oregon in Klamath County at milepost 36.8 where Highway 140 crosses an un-named tributary to Whiskey Creek.

Historically, there was connectivity between Whiskey Creek and the tributary, but there is no connection at this time. The tributary consists of approximately 4,450 feet of channel upstream and 650 feet of channel downstream from the culvert. Both ends of the channel end in pasture land. The channel has poor habitat and water quality and is dry for periods of the year. While fish were historically present, native fish are not currently present.

ODFW expects to improve fish habitat and fish passage on Whiskey Creek in the future. If land use practices change so that the channel is reconnected with Whiskey Creek as part of a habitat improvement project, ODFW would revoke the exemption and require ODOT to replace the culvert with a fish friendly solution.
The Task Force discussed the project, and expressed concern about the cost of a culvert replacement at this time and the cost of future work needed if the exemption is granted and later revoked. The Task Force recommended ODOT consider the long-term cost of culvert installation and maintenance versus installation of a bridge or other fish passage compliant option at this time. They also questioned whether the proposed project would meet, as presently designed, fish passage requirements. If the proposed exemption is granted, Mark Mouser suggested ODOT consider sliplining the culvert to reduce the cost of the repair.

**Motion:**
Rob Schab motioned to support the staff recommendation to approve the exemption. Dave Heller seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 6-2 with discussion. Kim Kambak and John Borden voted no.

Before “Other Business”, the Task Force continued discussion on this item. The Task Force discussed their advisory role in exemption requests, especially when the requestor is another state agency.

The Task Force expressed concern that this site is located in an area where restoration work is potential. The ODOT project manager should be aware of concerns when requesting an exemption in areas of active restoration, or where restoration is likely. The Task Force especially was concerned about the use of public funds to complete the road repairs with a non-fish friendly alternative when there is potential for the exemption to be revoked requiring additional costs to be incurred in the future, again using public funds.

The Task Force reviewed their previous motion and did not make any additional motions.

**Legislative Reports**
Apke is in the process of preparing a Legislative Report for July 1, 2008 thru present. Apke will provide the draft report to the Task Force for review.

**Gold Ray Dam Status Report & Update**
Gold Ray Dam, located at river mile 125.7, is the fourth major dam removal project on the mainstem Rogue River since 2008. Apke explained the history of the project and described the site the native fish species present.

The dam is approximately 38 feet high and 360 feet long; it’s Oregon’s fifth highest priority for fish passage. It can be difficult for fish to pass over the dam through the existing fishway due to lack of attraction flows and problematic water velocities, jump heights, and pool depths.

The dam’s removal began on June 15, 2010, and is scheduled for completion in October 2010. A cofferdam was placed and dam removal has begun on one half of the dam. Once complete, the flow of the river will be redirected through the recently removed section, and the other half of the dam will be removed.

**9. Fish Screening & Passage Overview**
Chuck Simpson, Enterprise Screen Shop Manager, presented information on screening and passage in Northeast Oregon. Simpson described several types of screens utilized in the area, and
explained the importance of proper maintenance for structures to continue to protect fish. Simpson explained some challenges faced including extreme temperatures and large quantities of sediment deposition.

10. Wallowa District Overview
Jeff Yanke, District Fish Biologist, presented information on the fish present in the Wallowa District. He explained the district includes a wide range of habitat and management challenges.

Yanke highlighted Wallowa Lake, which is a glacially formed lake with cold clear water. The lake is an important revenue source for the surrounding communities. Fishing, water skiing, camping, canoeing, and irrigation are key uses for the lake.

Sockeye salmon historically utilized Wallowa Lake’s habitat during certain life stages. A variety of factors lead to sockeye’s extinction in the lake including over fishing, unscreened irrigation diversions, hatchery practices, and passage barriers.

While kokanee remained in the lake after sockeye became extinct, their populations declined. Mysis shrimp was introduced in the lake in 1965 as a food source for the Kokanee, and the population began to rebound. Three state record fish have been caught from Wallowa Lake since July 2009. In other areas, when numbers of fish decrease and the size increases, the population of fish has not rebounded well. There is concern that with larger fish now present the kokanee population in Wallowa Lake may be at risk.

Sockeye salmon are unable to migrate into and out of the lake at this time. Reintroduction of sockeye has been considered in the past, but was not completed. The reintroduction is again under consideration at state, tribal and federal levels. For the reintroduction to be successful, both upstream and downstream passage would need to be addressed. Discussion centered on what would be needed to provide passage over or around the existing artificial obstruction (dam) owned and managed by the Associated Ditch Company located at the outfall of the lake.

11. Public Comment Period
There was no public comment.

12. ODFW Grande Ronde District Overview
Bruce Eddy, Watershed District Manager, presented information on the Grande Ronde District for Tim Bailey, District Fish Biologist. Bailey was unable to attend due to illness. Eddy explained the district has a variety of fish species and habitats. Salmon and steelhead recovery is a focus for the District. Eddy identified large diversions without fish passage as a major concern. The District office is located in LaGrande with a field office in Baker City.

13. Grande Ronde Watershed Overview & Update(s)
Bruce Eddy discussed the important partnership with Grande Ronde Model Watershed to complete fish passage, habitat restoration, and other important projects throughout the watershed.

14. Grande Ronde Model Watershed Overview Partnership with ODFW
Jeff Oveson, Grande Ronde Model Watershed Executive Director, presented information on Grande Ronde Model Watershed’s partnership with ODFW. Coby Menton, Monitoring
Coordinator, was available to answer questions. Oveson highlighted several fish passage projects completed including the Swackhammer, City of Union Intake, State, Godley and Townley-Dobbin Diversions on Catherine Creek; the Poley-Allen and Miles Ditch Diversions on the Lostine River; and several projects where culverts were replaced with bridges.

Oveson also discussed projects at Upper and Lower Davis Dams that are in the planning stages. There has been a series of delays as the projects have worked their way through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) consultation process.

15. Other Business

2010 Meeting Dates & Locations
The Task Force is scheduled to meet next on November 17, 2010 in Salem.

16. Review Meeting Action Items
Lisa Kingsley reviewed the action items for the meeting.

17. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.