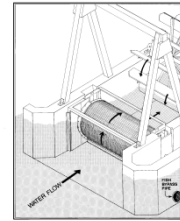




# Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

**Date:** August 5, 2020  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
 Skype Virtual Meeting



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| <b>Type of Meeting:</b>  | Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)   |
| <b>The following attended (in person or via phone) all or part of the meeting:</b> |  |
| <b>Fish Screening Task Force Members:</b>  | Kristin Bishop<br>Barry DelCurto (absent)<br>Greg Harris<br>Nathaniel Olken<br>Les Perkins<br>Theodore Taylor<br>Marc Thalacker  |
| <b>ODFW Staff:</b>   | Alan Ritchey, Fish Screening and Passage Program Manager, Salem<br>Pete Baki, ODFW-ODOT Fish Passage Liaison, Salem<br>Hillary Doulos, Fish Screen Coordinator, The Dalles<br>Nathaniel Ashley, Fish Screen Coordinator, John Day<br>Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director |
| <b>Public:</b>   |  |

## Agenda

- Initial agenda items included:
- ~9:00am **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions** (*Chair Thalacker*)
  - ~9:05 **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Review and Approve Meeting Agenda** (*Chair Thalacker*)
  - ~9:15 **Task Force Member Round Table** (*all*)
  - ~9:45 **Public Comments** (*if requested*)
  - ~10:00 **Amity Creek Screen Recommendation** (*Doulos*)
  - ~10:20 **Fields Creek Screens** (*Ashley*)
  - ~10:40 **Fish Screening Program Update and Funding Update** (*Ritchey*)
    - **Budget**
    - **Project Development**
    - **Bowman**
    - **Other**

- ~11:00 Fish Screen Task Force**
- Meeting Schedule
  - Membership Cycle
  - Officer election status

**~11:20 Review Action Items**

**~11:30 Adjourn**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Motions:**

**Meeting Minutes**

Les Perkins moved to approve the June 5, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Nathaniel Olken seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 5-0.

**Amity fish screen pipe.**

Perkins makes a motion to include the piping in the cost share project. Bishop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

### **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**

Marc Thalacker, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

### **Review and Approve June 2020 Meeting Minutes**

#### **Review and Approve Meeting Agenda**

**Meeting Minutes**

Handout:

*Fish Screening Task Force June 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes*

The Task Force reviewed the minutes from the June 5, 2020 meeting. Alan mentioned that he corrected spelling of Kristin's name.

**Motion:**

Les Perkins moved to approve the June 5, 2020 meeting minutes as written. Nathaniel Olken seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 6-0. Barry DelCurto was not present for the vote.

**Agenda**

The Task Force reviewed the meeting agenda. Perkins moved to recommend including cost of pipe in the cost share project. Bishop seconded. Motion passed unanimously (6-0)

### **Task Force Member Round Table and Public Comments**

Task Force members discussed fish and water related activities in their respective areas.

Thalacker discussed that drought has been an issue. Wickiup will be empty for the second year in a row. Needs a good snow pack next winter to handle water needs. Farms are using their supplemental wells. Their diversions will be shut down soon. This is an issue going into the

future and they need to modernize their infrastructure. Having piped water have made improvements for conservation. The streams still have flow in them. The Runco diversion, the last barrier on Whychus Creek, will have fish passage restored (120 year old log crib dam) and installing a fish screen. Thalacker discussed the Planview Ditch Company, which had 800 acres, now has 150 acres. He wants them down to 50-60 acres of groundwater. They have a bad ditch that is prone to flooding and high maintenance needs. Thalacker wants them to switch to groundwater. Alan will follow up with local staff and water program to look at the issue.

Perkins discussed low stream flows but that his area has been okay. Growers are at peak water demand. They are looking at increasing capacity at Kingsley Reservoir. He is working on getting approval on two fish screens before they can be installed. There will be a passage component with one of the diversions being taken off channel. They keep flow in Hood River at a minimum of 250 cfs. They will have to curtail their water diversion this week.

Taylor described that they have had several COVID cases in his area.

Harris discussed McKay Reservoir, which has sufficient water still. Big irrigation projects have been completed this year. Hermiston completed a pipeline project. His farm is getting 5,000 GPM. East Irrigation District is putting in a 70" pipeline from the Columbia this summer. Will take pressure off of well extraction. This are looking up for irrigation in his area. The Three Mile Project pump station is moving forward, they have started the easement project and engaging NMFS. Now that the easement is there, they will reengage the permitting process hopefully to begin construction in 2022. He will reach out to the screen shop to reconfirm the screen design.

Bishop relocated to the Kalama area. She is one mile from the boat launch now. She is running the Lipstick Salmon Slayers tournament. She is looking forward to Buoy 10 opening on August 14.

Olken discussed working on Cougar Reservoir Passage and Round Butte. He is working on an east coast project to protect Atlantic Sturgeon using sound deterrents. Typically 2 to 3 year old sturgeon that are getting caught up in the trash rack. Excited for Buoy 10 opening. He is not excited to see gillnets going into the river this year.

There were no requests for public comments.

### **Amity Creek Screen Recommendation**

Doulos discussed the Amity Creek Screen project to get a recommendation from the task force. This is a small screen project on the Nye Ranch on Amity Creek, tributary of Trout Creek (Deschutes Basin). This is an unscreened ditch that they intend to install a small panel screen on. This would be a voluntary project with in-kind contributions. Doulos requested a task force recommendation regarding piping in the cost share application, which is not typical. This would decrease the chances of entrainment and would provide stability to the screen box. It will be about \$3,500 more expensive to include the piping. The piping is recommended by Scott Janssen to avoid high water entrainment of fish. Tom Nelson (ODFW) also wants the piping to avoid entrainment and considers this essential.

Ritchey discussed that typically the applicant covers things below the screen. This is in a gray area for our funding. We are not funded for water conservation but this pipe is intimately attached to the screen structure. This piping is to prevent fish entrainment, not primarily focused on water conservation.

Olken viewed this as part of the fish screen. Perkins said it was a small expense for an essential component of the screen. Harris asked if anyone knew how many fish this was effecting. Doulos was not sure how many fish were being entrained.

Motion: Perkins makes a motion to include the piping in the cost share project. Bishop seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

### **Fields Creek Screens**

Ashley described the Fields Creek screen. They recently did two replacement screens on Fields Creek between Dayville and Mt. Vernon. Charrette described Fields Creek as a productive steelhead creek. Lots of private land before entering forest service land. The Redd surveys show 40-75 redds in the lower 2.5-mile reach. Fields is a tributary to the John Day River and is rated as a high priority in essential salmonid habitat. There are 12 screened and 1 unscreened diversion on Fields Creek. There is a history of a strained relationship with the landowner. They recently replaced screen #2 and screen #3. There had been no updates to the screens since 1976. The old screens had woven mesh with larger openings. The landowner allowed ODFW to replace the upper two screens as a test run. They were able to shock the ditch and show that fish were getting behind the old screen and the rancher's son is more open to working with ODFW. The unscreened diversion has had flooding issues over the last couple of years. They are hoping that working on these two screens will allow the landowner to let them work on the rest. They lowered the screen 3" to alleviate issues from the bottom seal. So far, the screens have been working well and there has not been negative interactions with the landowner. The landowner did not want a head gate so the shop used a larger diameter drum to avoid entrainment during high flows. The number 3 screen was moved above Fields Creek road so the bypass is closer to the creek. Ashley sees this project as a highlight for the shop and public relations and they hope to replace a couple of screens a year.

Ritchey expressed his appreciation of their work to improve relations with the public and showing the improvements of the new criteria versus the old mesh style drum.

Perkins asked if there is less O&M with the new screen style versus the wire mesh. Ashley confirmed that there is less maintenance needed. They are observing many fish in front of the #2 screen. Thalacker asked about vandalism on the solar panels. Ashley said no, but they have had some gearboxes taken off of screens on forest service land. Ritchey said that most of the issue involve ODFW vehicles.

### **Fish Screening Program Update**

#### **Budget**

Ritchey described budgetary impacts from COVID. It is unknown what funding issues will occur the next biennium. He had to provide a 10% budget cut list this biennium, which included two screen techs. These cuts will not necessarily happen. Kingsley's position was cut but was able to move to another position. The surcharge amounts are the same as they were in 2009. The

purchasing power is reduced over time. The Program is currently looking at budget supplies going forward.

### **Project Development**

We currently lack the funds to implement projects compared to historically. The Springhill Exemption request goes the Commission Friday. Loffink is presenting it. The task force can watch online if interested.

### **Bowman**

The proposal to install hydro at Bowman is still being processed. The fish passage task force recommended not approving the waiver due to mitigation proposal not providing a net benefit. That will go to the commission in September. This will likely come before the task force if it proceeds.

### **Other**

The Wallowa Bear Creek Screen between La Grande and Joseph that may be impacted. It was installed in 1995 and takes over 20 cfs. Sediment is a regular issue here. ODOT is preparing to replace their bridge near this site, which will affect the screen by reducing access to maintain the screen. ODOT may fund replacing the screen at this site. ODOT is looking at constructing the screen in 2022. We are waiting on ODOT for the final designs to clearly understand the impacts.

Olken asked if the components can be salvaged if the screen is replaced. Ritchey explained that it would depend on whether the components are salvageable.

## **Fish Screen Task Force Issues**

### **Meeting Schedule**

Thalacker suggested looking at Sisters area projects, such as Runco passage and screen project during late summer as a field trip in the Sisters and Bend area. Ritchey suggested an early spring meeting. Ritchey will send out some dates by email. Mid-April is likely for the first meeting.

### **Membership Cycle**

Perkins will be termed out this year. ODFW will be looking on recruiting a new task force member. Members thanked Les for his contribution. 2021, Barry, Nate and Ted will term out.

### **Officer Election Status**

Thalacker is currently chair, Taylor is Vice Chair. Ritchey discussed the Task Force guidelines on the chairs. Taylor suggested Thalacker continue to chair the Task Force.

Motion: Harris made motion to keep Thalacker as chair, Perkins seconded the motion. It passed 6-0.

Motion: Bishop moved that Harris is the vice chair, Perkins seconded. It passed 6-0.

**Review Action Items**

**Action:**

Ritchey: Follow up on the Plainview project

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.