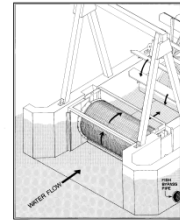




Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

Date: August 27, 2021
Time: 8:30 am to 12 pm
Location: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
 Teams Virtual Meeting



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| Type of Meeting: | Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF) |
| The following attended (in person or via phone) all or part of the meeting: | |
| Fish Screening Task Force Members: | Greg Harris Nathaniel Olken Alexis Vaivoda Marc Thalacker |
| Absent | Kristin Bishop Theodore Taylor Barry DelCurto |
| ODFW Staff: | Alan Ritchey, Fish Screening and Passage Program Manager, Salem Katherine Nordholm, Fish Screen and Passage Coordinator, Salem Bryce Macnab, Fish Screening and Passage Coordinator, The Dalles Rich Kilbane, Fish Screening and Passage Coordinator, Central Point |
| Public: | Mike Britton, General Manger, North Unit Irrigation District |

Agenda

Initial agenda items included:

- ~8:30 am **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~8:40 **Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes, Review and Approve Meeting Agenda (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~8:50 **ODFW Budget and Funding Update (Ritchey)**
- ~9:00 **Task Force Member Round Table (all)**
- ~9:20 **Public Comments (if requested)**
- ~9:40 **Letter to Director (Chair Thalacker)**
- ~10:00 **North Canal Fish Screen Update (Nordholm)**
- ~10:20 **Screen Shop Update (Kilbane)**
- ~10:50 **White River Screens Update (Macnab)**
- ~11:00 **Fish Screen Task Force**
 - **Volunteer Training (Nordholm)**
 - **Meeting Schedule**
 - **Membership Cycle**

(Last meeting for Ted Taylor, Nathaniel Olken, and Barry DelCurto)
- ~11:45 **Review Action Items**
- ~12:00 pm **Adjourn**

Meeting Summary

Motions:

Meeting Minutes

Marc Thalacker moved to approve the April 23rd meeting minutes with changes. Olken seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 4-0.

Review of Draft Letter to Director on Loss of Shop Positions

Thalacker moved to approve letter subject to input from other task force members. Olken seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Marc Thalacker, Chair, called the meeting to order. Task force members introduced themselves.

Review and Approve April 23rd Meeting Minutes

Review and Approve Meeting Agenda

Handouts:

Fish Screening Task Force April 23, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Fish Screening Task Force August 27, 2021, Meeting Agenda

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the April 23rd meeting were reviewed. Alexis Vaivoda pointed out that her last name was spelled wrong throughout. Nathaniel Olken mentioned that the “electric power institute” should be the “electric power research institute.”

Motion:

Marc Thalacker moved to approve the April 23rd meeting minutes with changes. Olken seconded the motion, and the Task Force approved 4-0.

Agenda

The Task Force reviewed the meeting agenda.

Task Force Member Round Table and Public Comments

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

Vaivoda – Gave an update on the water in her area. She is focused on the Hood River basin. They have asked for some voluntary curtailment of water diversions; this has worked well in the past. The area reservoirs are doing well.

Olken- COVID has put a lot of projects and travel on hold. He has helped install fish returns. Is looking forward to seeing new fish passage and screening criteria from NMFS.

Harris – In the Columbia River Boardman area, they have fared better than much of the state. They did have a new irrigation project come online this year. The temperature peaked at 120 degrees in June, it has had a significant impact.

Thalacker – A couple of irrigation districts have been shut off, Three Sisters is at 30%. The new piping has helped. Between the drought and the fires, this year has been tough.

There were no requests for public comments.

Letter to Director

Handouts:

Draft letter to the director

Thalacker asked if there is still a benefit in sending the letter since the program was able to avoid screen shop cuts this biennium.

Ritchey commented that this fall, ODFW starts working on the 2023-2025 budget process, and he thinks the letter will be valuable to submit. He did provide edits to the original edits, and Nordholm shared the edits for the Task Force to review.

The Task Force reviewed the edits. Olken liked the changes and thinks it's worth sending it on with the changes. Harris agreed.

Nordholm asked if the Task Force needed a formal vote. Ritchey pointed out that Kristin Bishop is not at this meeting and has been opposed to any action that would raise the cost of fishing licenses. Any raise in the screening surcharge would likely raise the cost of fishing licenses. He would like to make sure she has a chance to weigh in.

Thalacker suggests approving the letter subject to additional input from the other members of the task force.

Thalacker moves to approve letter as written subject to input from the other members. Olken seconded that and asked for a timeline. He asked if next task force meeting (October) would be too late. Ritchey thinks that October is fine for the timeline. Nordholm mentions that we can send it out for input prior to the meeting.

Task Force voted to pass the motion 4-0.

North Canal Fish Screen Update

Handouts:

Original and Alternative Screen Designs provided by Mike Britton

Mike Britton gave an update on the North Canal Fish Screen. The diversion has a water right of 1,101 cfs. The current fish screens are from the 1940s and are in need of update. In 2013 an agreement was signed with ODFW for upgrading the screen. ODFW provided money to help with a design, and the project is "shovel ready" if funds were available.

Recently, ISI visited the site and provided an alternative concept for the project. The new alternative does not require a fish bypass, and they don't have a cost estimate yet. The initial design was a flat panel screen with an estimated cost of ~\$6.5 million.

The project is space-limited with roads and other infrastructure.

SHPO is completed, they are working to secure funding. It has been difficult to find funding since there are no anadromous fish in the area.

The cost of the proposed new design has not been determined yet, but it seems like it would cost less than the original design because of the smaller amount of civil work that would be required.

Currently, they are working to build on the information from the initial design to complete the ISI design. They currently don't have a quote for that, but they thought they would come to the task force to ask for some assistance to fund the new design.

Britton will follow up to get an estimate and check with ODFW to see the best path forward. Ritchey suggested Britton contact the watershed council. Ritchey let Britton know that the bulk of our funds are for projects within anadromous distribution, so ODFW is unlikely to have money for this during the next biennium. ODFW contributed \$106,000 for cost-share of the original design.

Screen Shop Update

Rich Kilbane gave an update on the current state of screening in the Klamath Basin. He focused his talk on points of diversion (PODs) in historic steelhead habitat.

- In the Klamath River and Tributaries below Link River Dam- There are 24 PODs (that we know of), 10 screened diversions (totaling ~60 cfs) and 14 unscreened diversions (totaling ~ 700 cfs)
- In Upper Klamath and Tribs – There are known 17 PODs, 5 are screened diversions totaling ~ 1,075 cfs, and 12 are unscreened diversions totaling ~ 96 cfs.
- In Agency Lake and Tributaries – There are 30 PODs, 14 screened diversions totaling ~ 228 cfs, and 16 unscreened diversions totaling ~ 220 cfs.
- Williamson/Sprague Rivers and Tribs – have 46 PODs – 26 screened diversions totaling ~ 238 cfs, and 20 unscreened diversions totaling ~ 578 cfs.

Kilbane presented details on many specific screen projects in each area.

White River Screens Update

Bryce Macnab shared an update on two screening projects on White River. These sites are above a natural barrier to anadromy. The screen shop got involved when a couple of landowners transferred their water rights and were unaware that the transfer would trigger a fish screening requirement. The landowners did not feel that a traditional screen would work well with the site constraints in the area. The landowners have filed for two extensions for the screening requirements on their water rights. In 2017 they came to the task force and asked for an exemption from the screening requirements. This exemption was not granted.

The current deadline to screen the sties is October of 2022. Last year, an upstream neighbor installed a River Screen, and this neighbor thought the screen worked well, and the two

landowners are interested in installing a River Screen at their diversions. Both landowners have now applied for a tax credit for River Screens and have ordered the screens.

Fish Screen Task Force Issues

Volunteer Training

Nordholm had sent the link for the volunteer training. Most members have taken the training; she encouraged task force members who have not taken the training to complete it in the next couple of weeks.

Meeting Schedule

Thalacker suggested a meeting in October coupled with a site visit to central Oregon. COVID restrictions may get in the way as cases are on the rise. The task force discussed possible dates that would work for them and decided to send a Doodle poll to all members after the commission meeting. The possible dates for the next meeting are October 21st and 22nd or November 4th and 5th.

Membership Cycle

This is the last task force meeting for DelCurto, Olken, and Taylor. These three members will receive a certificate documenting their participation and time served in the task force. ODFW has been working to recruit new members and has three candidates that will go in front of the commission in September. If the new members are appointed, they will join the task force during the October meeting.

Review Action Items

Action:

Nordholm will update the letter to the direction and circulation to the task force for official review at the next meeting.

Nordholm will send a Doodle poll out after the commission meeting to schedule the next task force meeting.

Adjourn

Thalacker adjourned the meeting around 10:57 am.