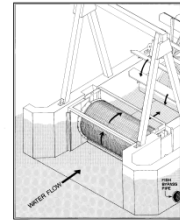




Fish Screening Task Force (FSTF)

Date: June 24, 2022
Time: 8:30 am to 12:10 pm
Location: ODFW Salem Headquarters and Teams Virtual Meeting



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 (virtual) Alexis Vaivoda Marc Thalacker William Freeland Judith Barkstedt Kristin Bishop (virtual)
Absent	Darin Olson
ODFW Staff:	Katherine Nordholm, Fish Screen and Passage Coordinator, Salem Josh Hanson, ODOT Fish Passage Liaison, Salem Marty Olson, Screen Shop Manager, The Dalles Chuck Simpson, Screen Shop Manager, Enterprise (virtual)
Public:	James Fraser – Trout Unlimited

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 Meeting Agenda (*Chair Thalacker*)**
- ~8:50 **Task Force Member Round Table (*all*)**
- ~9:10 **ODFW Budget and Funding Update (*Nordholm*)**
- ~9:10 **ODOT Passage and Screening Information (*Hanson*)**
- ~9:40 **Barrier Database and Unscreened Diversion Inventory (*Nordholm*)**
- ~10:00 **Public Comments (*if requested*)**
- ~10:15 **BREAK**
- ~10:30 **Fish Screens Program Overview (*Olson*)**
- ~10:50 **Screen Project Stats (*Nordholm*)**
- ~11:10 **Screens Shop Update (*Simpson*)**
- ~11:30 **Fish Screen Task Force**
 - **FSTF Operating Guidelines**
 - **New chair and vice chair**
 - **Meeting Schedule**
- ~11:50 **NOAs**
- ~12:00 pm **Review Action Items**
- ~12:10 **Adjourn**

Meeting Summary

Motions:

Meeting Minutes

Marc Thalacker asked for any comments on the October 22nd meeting minutes. No comments provided. Thalacker requested a motion to approve which was provided by Freeland, seconded by Vaivoda, and the Task Force approved 6-0.

Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions

Katherine Nordholm called the meeting to order at 8:38am as Chair Thalacker was running late. Task force members and ODFW staff introduced themselves.

Review and Approve October Meeting Minutes

Handouts:

Fish Screening Task Force October 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

Chair Thalacker requested comment on October 22nd meeting minutes, none were provided.

Motion:

Thalacker requested a motion to approve which was provided by Freeland, seconded by Vaivoda, and the Task Force approved 6-0.

Public Comments

Nordholm opened the meeting to public comment at 10:00am.

James Fraser, Oregon Policy Advisor Trout Unlimited, introduced himself and declined public comment.

Public comment period was closed at approximately 10:02am.

Task Force Member Round Table

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

Vaivoda – Shared that because of the high quantity of water, Farmers Irrigation District was still generating power which is unusual for this time of year. Also, all the rain and snow has resulted in an increase in sediment creating a challenge for operation of fish screens.

Barkstedt – Commented on the large volume of water in the Columbia River and associated increased spill that is a predictor of high juvenile survival. She also commented on the higher-

than-expected spring Chinook run for the Columbia, while the Willamette was near the predicted return size.

Freeland – Indicated that the Willamette Valley, like other areas, was seeing a lot of water. But had not heard of any flooding issues and further commented on his observation that a variety of vegetation was growing rapidly.

Thalacker – Indicated that Central Oregon was experiencing its worst drought in history. While the late rain has delayed shut offs for most irrigation districts, COID would be percentaging water for the first time in history. To modernization Three Sisters Irrigation District would be able to hold off percentaging water until the end of July. He further commented on the late turn around in water supply for the Rouge Basin leading to delays in shut offs, but supplies were still low and there was zero allocation for some districts in the Klamath.

Bishop – Commented that fishing had been good this year, the bigger than usual springer run allowed for extended fishing, she discussed upcoming fishing plans, and her disappointment in hatchery only harvest for the first 24 days ruling.

Harris – Shared that they had already hit the average annual rainfall for June and the Umatilla River was running 150% of average allowing for the use of live flows for one irrigation district. However, the rain has presented challenges including alfalfa getting rained on prior to completion of harvest, shorting of the season for dairy, and delays in potato planting and blueberry harvest.

ODFW Budget and Funding Update

Nordholm presented information on traditional ODFW biennium and annual funding sources and amounts including PCSRF, General Funds, Fish Screen Surcharge, and BPA funds. She also discussed additional legislative funding including Drought Funds, ARPA, and IJJA.

Nordholm indicated that no field positions were cut during this biennium, and none were planned for next biennium, which was consistent with the Task Force letter provided to the Director. Also, there was a request in the budget for two additional program positions. An assistant fish passage coordinator that would likely reduce her tasks associated with passage projects and an archeologist to help with cultural compliance for federally funded projects.

Nordholm and Olson provided details on changes with PCSRF funding requiring cultural surveys.

Thalacker asked if cultural surveys were only being done for BPA funded projects. Olson indicated that it had only been applied to BPA funded work in the past but moving forward it would need to be done for PCSRF funded projects.

Thalacker commented on the significant increase in time it was taking SHPO to review and issue concurrence letters.

ODOT Passage and Screening Information

Hanson presented information on the ODFW/ODOT Culvert Repair Programmatic Agreement (CRPA) and associated Fish Compensation Fund. General CRPA background information was covered, key metrics associated with both the CRPA and Compensation Fund were provided, and Compensation Fund projects involving ODFW screen shops were highlighted.

Nordholm also discussed fish screens as part of the temporary water management required for isolation of ODOT projects and Olson provided details associated with the mitigation project on Evans Creek that ODOT has contracted ODFW for design and implementation.

Barrier Database and Unscreened Diversion Inventory

Nordholm presented information on the ODFW Barrier Database, Statewide Barrier Priority List, Unscreened Diversion Inventory, and associated upcoming prioritization work.

Freeland asked what ODFW had for site specific data and what percentage of the barriers had a passage rating. Nordholm provided some examples of the types of data we had for ODOT culverts (size, length, number, etc.), indicated that the type and amount of data we had for other barriers was highly variable, ODFW had a passage ranking for about 1/3rd of the culverts, and there were efforts being made to update the database as new information was obtained.

Nordholm discussed the statutory language associated with the Statewide Barrier Priority List and upcoming update starting in 2023. Nordholm also commented on the use of the list to help direct/prioritize the funding and implementation of fish passage projects.

Freeland asked about the use of the list for enforcement and penalties. Nordholm provided additional details on enforcement as written in statute, the priority list being for existing artificial obstructions, and enforcement/penalty associated with an illegal structure.

Freeland asked how many barriers from the Statewide Barrier Priority List have been removed. Nordholm referenced the white paper for the 2019 list and indicated that determining the number removed from the current list would be part of the updating process.

Nordholm discussed statutory language associated with the Priority Unscreened Diversion list, indicated that changes could be made for any reason but there was not a statutory requirement for updating like the barrier list, provided details on the 2013 screen inventory, outlined the need for updating the screen inventory, and discussed the value of updating the screen inventory in conjunction with the barrier list.

Freeland asked if ownership of the unscreened diversions was known, if public outreach had been done, and commented on possible challenges associated with change in ownership. Thalacker commented on rules being different based on the volume of water being diverted, large diversion owners being aware of the need to address screening, the process to screen smaller diversions being longer, and new owners generally being more environmentally conscientious. Olson discussed prior and continued outreach being done by ODFW, including advertising, attending watershed council meetings, and sending letters to owners. And Nordholm added that statute required the first 250 unscreened diversion owners from the list to be notified. Thalacker further commented on the involvement of tribes and local groups in addressing screening and passage projects and the importance of prioritization for focusing local efforts.

Nordholm also discussed possible variables to use, and challenges associated with prioritizing screens and involvement of Task Force in the process. Thalacker recommended reaching out to local groups for help with the process and to avoid duplicating prioritization efforts. And further commented that the Task Force could review the information/data from the local groups.

Thalacker asked about ODFW funding for the prioritization processes. Nordholm indicated funding would be for her time to complete the processes.

Public Comments

Nordholm opened the meeting to public comment at 10:00am.

James Fraser, Oregon Policy Advisor Trout Unlimited, introduced himself and declined public comment.

Public comment period was closed at approximately 10:02am.

Fish Screens Program Overview

Olson presented information on the ODFW Fish Screening Program, including details on the cost share program, screen shop locations, funding sources, screening program evolution, importance of fish screens, incentives to screen, screening criteria, screen types, and their applications, including benefits and drawbacks.

Screen Project Stats

This topic was skipped to keep meeting on schedule and will be presented at the next meeting.

Screen Shop Update

Simpson presented information on Wallowa Dam passage restoration, the existing Kokanee fishery, Sockeye reintroduction, and associated screening and passage issues downstream of Wallow Dam that need to be addressed prior to Sockeye reintroduction. Simpson also discussed recently implemented screening and passage projects, maintenance actions, successes, challenges, and upcoming maintenance activities.

Fish Screen Task Force Issues

Nordholm discussed her proposal for updating the **FSTF Operating Guidelines** to incorporate virtual meetings and better aligning it with operating guidelines currently being utilized. And requested Task Force members to read and provide comments/recommendations prior to the next meeting.

Nordholm further discussed guidelines as they relate to election of a **New chair and vice chair** and asked Thalacker when he was elected chair and if a vice chair had been elected. Thalacker indicated it was sometime between 2016 to 2018 and was unsure on the election of a vice chair. Nordholm suggested electing a new chair and vice chair at the next meeting. Thalacker added that this was the last year of his term asked if member term limits were in statue. Nordholm indicated that she would email term limit language from statue to Task Force members.

Meeting Schedule to be determined by doddle poll. Polling to be done in mid-August for an October meeting date.

NOAs

Nordholm provided a brief update on the status and timeline for ODFW's fish passage rule revisions.

Review Action Items

Action:

Nordholm will distribute FSTF Operating Guidelines and members can provide proposed updates and or changes.

Nordholm will distribute statues associated with FSTF term limits.

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

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm