

**OFFICIAL COORDINATION REQUEST FOR
NON-ROUTINE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

COORDINATION TITLE - 17WVP01 Hatchery Baseline Monitoring and Evaluation

COORDINATION DATE - 27 June 2017

PROJECT - Willamette River Basin

RESPONSE DATE - No response required, however all responses are welcome.

Description of the problem – The Fish and Wildlife Operations and Maintenance (F&W O&M) budget had a significant shortfall for FY17. This budget encompasses not only Willamette Valley activities but also the Columbia River and the Rogue River Basins.

Due to activities at other hydropower projects, NWP had limited ability to assist in funding Unfunded Requirements (UFRs). F&W had to balance the budget within the program, without the assistance of additional funds. To accomplish this F&W discussed cutting M&E or production at the hatcheries. It was determined that reducing/eliminating Baseline M&E would be the best option given: the amount of funding needed to balance the F&W program budget, M&E objectives were still being vetted through the RM&E process, and that the contract documents for M&E had not yet been drafted and were a lower priority than the production contract documents.

Type of outage required – There will be no funding for baseline M&E activities in 2017, including typical abundance estimates, spawn timing, distribution and success, hatchery fish effects (pHOS, straying), CWT-based smolt-to-adult return rates, and life-history characteristic monitoring. Corps-funded fish counts from Bennett and Leaburg count stations will cease after 30 June.

Impact on facility operation – M&E provides information documenting annual hatchery activities (e.g. hatchery brood fish collection, reproduction, liberations, adult returns, and disease occurrence), and potential impacts of hatcheries on natural origin ESA-listed UWR Chinook salmon and steelhead (e.g. proportion of hatchery origin spawners, or pHOS). Little to no impact from this change on facility operations or meeting hatchery production or Biop goals are expected. Hatchery release levels are anticipated to remain stable for the foreseeable future, and hatchery effects (pHOS) levels will remain high, while actions to improve fish passage at Willamette Project dams continue.

Dates of impacts – When we receive funding for FY18, we can begin drafting a contract for baseline M&E. This contract can line up better with the timing of the work needed (Jan – Dec instead of Jul – Jun) and we can capture information that would normally be collected in the spring (starting spring of 2018)

Length of time for repairs – NA

Expected impacts on fish passage – There are no expected impacts to fish passage or on production due to the lack of baseline monitoring in FY17. There will be a one year gap in the data set for spawning surveys and a gap in the fish count record. Basic information (brood collection numbers, outplant numbers and locations) should not be impacted.

Comments from agencies

NMFS comments, Attachment 1

Final results - Pending

Please email or call with questions or concerns.

Thank you,

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