

Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation
Landowner and Stakeholder Workshop
Workshop Summary

Tuesday, August 27, 2013

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lakehead Lions Club, 20814 Mammoth Drive, Lakehead, CA 96051

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducted a Landowner and Stakeholder Workshop on August 27, 2013 in Lakehead, California to provide interested parties an overview of the purpose and need for the Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation, and to describe the upcoming habitat surveys. The goal of the workshop was to solicit feedback from landowners and stakeholders to address any key issues and concerns regarding the development of the Shasta Dam Fish Passage Pilot Study as well as solicit information regarding any known areas of potentially suitable or significantly unsuitable habitat for Chinook salmon.

There were 42 stakeholders in attendance (excluding the project team members). Attendees included 2 Federal government representatives, 6 State government representatives, 2 counties with 4 representatives, 8 environmental/recreational groups with 9 representatives, 4 timber companies with 6 representatives, 2 power companies with 2 representatives, 5 California Native Americans, 1 local community public benefit non-profit group with 3 representatives, and 5 residents or locally interested stakeholders. The list of attendees is presented on page 6.

Summary

Craig Moyle introduced the program and the speakers, and described the purpose of the outreach program. The overarching need for the outreach program is to get feedback from the stakeholders and landowners because they often have more detailed and/or historic knowledge of the study area than the study team. Craig also explained the structure of the workshop, and that following each speaker, there would be a brief question/answer period, and at the end of the presentation, there would be an opportunity for the stakeholders and landowners to talk with any and all of the Shasta Fish Passage Evaluation Project Team Members. Team members were then introduced to the stakeholders and landowners (the team member list is presented on page 5).

Study Background, Regulatory Requirement, and Permitting Process Speaker: Alice Berg, NMFS

Alice Berg presented the need for the recovery of Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Central Valley of California. She described how the fish became at risk, the continued risk via climate change, and that recovery criteria cannot be met without access to historic habitat. About 80 to 90 percent of the historic spring-run Chinook salmon habitat and nearly 100 percent of the historic winter-run Chinook salmon habitat has been lost. Alice briefly explained how Chinook and steelhead in the Central Valley require at least 2 viable populations to work towards recovery, with Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon requiring 3 viable populations. She described the issues with reintroductions in the Central Valley, including potential system reoperations, costs, donor populations, and Endangered Species Act liabilities. Regulatory components to reintroduce Chinook salmon such as a 10(a)1(A) permit and Experimental Population designation were described.

General Topics of Questions/Comments*	General Responses*
Have programs on other systems been researched to see if there are suitable examples to follow? (example of Detroit Lake in Oregon was mentioned)	Other systems have been evaluated, but not the one on Detroit Lake (in Oregon on the Santiam River). This one will be checked into as a potential source of additional information
Will there be protective measures for landowners with respect to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and will these assurances be in place prior to the Pilot Reintroduction?	NMFS is considering tools under the ESA to address stakeholder concerns with ESA liability including 10(a)1(A) permits and 10(j) experimental population designations and will choose the most appropriate tool once Reclamation puts forth a project description. Such tools would need to be in place prior to the release of any Chinook salmon. NMFS is still evaluating the most appropriate means of landowner protective assurances, whether it is to designate the Chinook salmon an Experimental Population (10(j) rule), and/or to issue a Safe Harbor Agreement with the landowners prior to release of winter-run Chinook salmon.
Is this study connected to the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation (Shasta Dam Raise project)?	This study is not connected to the dam raise project, however there will be direct connections if the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation is approved and constructed. The two projects are coordinating activities.

*Comments and responses have been paraphrased.

Introduction of the Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation and Pilot Implementation Plan Speaker: John Hannon, Reclamation

John Hannon provided an overview of the Shasta Dam Fish Passage Evaluation currently underway. He described near-term components of Action V of the Reasonable and Prudent Alternative provided in the Biological Opinion from NMFS, in particular, establishing a steering committee, evaluating spawning and rearing habitat above the dam, and developing a Fish Passage Pilot Plan for a 3-year study. The target watersheds for this initial Pilot Plan were identified as the Upper Sacramento and McCloud rivers, and the intent is to have the initial pilot study permitted and ready for implementation contingent upon funding by 2015. Once the Plan and all permitting is completed, the next near-term component of Action V, the actual Pilot Reintroduction Program, would be implemented, and questions regarding fish health, disease, transportation survival, in-river/lake survival, life stage timing, juvenile to adult return rates, and juvenile collections will be addressed.

General Topics of Questions/Comments*	General Responses*
How and where will the success of the study be measured?	There will be multiple factors that will measure success of the project, potentially including reaching targets for lifestage survival, particularly during handling and achieving a positive cohort replacement rate. This project will not be held responsible for what happens downstream from Shasta Dam – that is, impacts that could occur to winter-run Chinook salmon downstream from Shasta will not be held against the potential success of the reintroduction
What is the estimated cost for the study and the program?	At this stage, the cost is identified for developing the pilot implementation plan. Costs for pilot studies can vary, depending on the types of studies and monitoring programs established, and the cost of long-term reintroduction is also unknown because the types of structures that may be used are unknown.
Will eyed egg injection be part of this study?	The use of eyed eggs, as well as any other life stage will be evaluated during the pilot implementation plan development. The ideal study is to transport adults and see how the fish react to the system in all life stages. However, eggs have less disease transmission risk, so it is an option.

*Comments and responses have been paraphrased.

Habitat

Speaker: Keith Marine, North State Resources

Keith Marine guided the stakeholders and landowners through the purpose and approach of the upcoming habitat surveys. He described the intent of the surveys which would be to identify habitat that will support spawning and rearing salmon as well as estimate the number of salmon that could be supported by the suitable habitat, identify migratory barriers, and to ultimately provide information to Reclamation and NMFS to select the target river or reach of river(s) for the pilot reintroduction. Keith stressed that the habitat assessment will augment existing information, and will include limited on-ground surveys at representative sites and aerial photogrammetry/videography.

General Topics of Questions/Comments*	General Responses*
Historic landslide has resulted in excessive silt upstream from Pollard Flat	
There are 20 to 30 feet deep holes in the river, similar to those in the Trinity River. Can the Trinity River be studied to determine what might work in the upper Sacramento River, since they are so similar?	

*Comments have been paraphrased.

Additional Comments, Questions, and Statements

At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened up to the stakeholders for questions, comments and statements.

Statement: Chief Caleen Sisk of the Winnemem Wintu discussed the Winnemem Wintu’s history with the Chinook salmon, and indicated that they would like to be involved with the reintroduction program. Sisk advocated for the use of Chinook salmon from New Zealand as the root stock for re-introduction. She stated that these fish were originally sourced from the McCloud River in the late 1800s and are, therefore, genetic matches to the water shed. She also advocated for construction of an 11 or 12 mile pipeline from the McCloud River to Cow Creek for volitional fish passage. Sisk also notified the audience of the film “Surviving Shasta Dam: Dancing Salmon Home and Over Troubled Water” being shown on September 15, 2013 in Shasta Lake City.

Additional questions were then posed to the Project Team members:

General Topics of Questions/Comments*	General Responses*
Have the economic effects to Dunsmuir following the construction of Shasta Dam been taken into account?	
Have other fisheries from other countries been studied as potential examples for this program?	
Can we get Westlands Water District to pay for this project?	
Is this project to save the species or to just increase the number of fish in the population?	This project and other recovery actions are designed to help recover the species so that they can be delisted first, then if populations can rebound other opportunities open up such as sport and commercial fishing.
What will constitute a low risk of extinction, because 2,500 fish will not be enough to benefit other factors, such as commercial fishing?	There are several viability criteria that need to be met to recover the species (e.g, abundance, distribution and productivity).Populations with a low risk of extinction represent the minimum target population size for a reintroduction project. NMFS has defined a low risk of extinction as a minimum total escapement of 2,500 spawners in 3 consecutive years. These fish are expected to contribute to the larger ESU and recovery criteria will be assessed on this scale.
Is there information on these winter-run Chinook salmon in other river systems that can be used to provide information for the Sacramento River?	Winter-run Chinook salmon are exclusive to the Sacramento River

*Comments and responses have been paraphrased.

Shasta Fish Passage Evaluation Project Team Members

John Hannon	Reclamation
Alice Berg	National Marine Fisheries Service
Louis Moore	Reclamation
Ben Nelson	Reclamation
Fernando Ponce	Reclamation
Jim Smith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Berry	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
Michael Harris	CDFW
Andrew Hughan	CDFW
Bill Brock	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Joe Zustak	USFS
Stephanie Theis	MWH
Craig Moyle	MWH
Keith Marine	North State Resources

Workshop Attendees

Doug Ginno	
Leslie Ginno	
Nikki Blum	
John Handel	
Kim Baxter	
Mark Adkison	CDFW
Tricia Bratcher	CDFW
Scott McReynolds	California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Teresa Connor	DWR
Curtis Knight	CalTrout
Paul Ederer	Campbell Timberland Management
Paul Chapman	Campbell Timberland Management
Ben Letton	Central Valley Water Board
Jim Wolter	HFM (Hancock Forest Management)
Jack Trout	Jack Trout Guide Service
Vic Voss	LCDA (Lakehead Community public benefit corporation)
Joe Myers	LDCA
Robert Telles	LCDA
Tom Hesseldenz	McCloud River Club
Angelina Cook	McCloud Watershed Council
John Sanguinetti	MSBEC (Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center)
John Klobas	Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
Ed Cheslak	PG&E
Tom Kisanuki	Reclamation
Arne Hultgren	Roseburg Resources Co.
Rick Klug	Roseburg Resources Co.
Guy Chetelat	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Bill Schappell	Shasta County Board of Supervisors
David Webb	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Kara Baylog	Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District
Herb Baldwin	Sierra Pacific
Randy Akana	Siskiyou County
Michael Kobseff	Siskiyou County
Ric Costales	Siskiyou County
Scott Wilcox	Stillwater Sciences
Todd Johnson	USFS
Stan Kulak	WCFT (West Coast Fishing Tournaments)
Chief Caleen Sisk	Winnemem Wintu Tribe
Misa Joo	Winnemem Wintu Tribe
Helene Sisk	Winnemem Wintu Tribe
Jill War	Winnemem Wintu Tribe
Michael Preston	Winnemem Wintu Tribe

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation