

IPTDS Quarterly Subcommittee Online Meeting

July 21, 2020

Attendees: Brian Knoth, Ben Truscott, Derrek Faber, Randy Johnson, Gabriel Brooks, Brady Allen, Chris Beasley, Brian Davis, Rick Orme, Nick Yaniw, Jeff Fryer, John Tenney, Nicole Tancreto

Introductions and Updates

Gabriel Brooks, NOAA: NWFSC still in phase 0 and no travel allowed. Working remotely.

Brian Davis, USFWS: limited field work starting 1 month ago. Some sites damaged in spring flows and just starting to get a handle on what needs to be done. Lots of forms to fill out to go out, must take separate vehicles, maintain social distancing and wear masks.

Ben Truscott, WDFW: Full field activities resumed since April or so, but working from home if not in the field. Massive flooding in SE Washington, so working on repairing sites. Able to travel and stay in hotels.

Derrek Faber, ODFW: Resumed field work with social distancing protocols and working alone and camping. Rebuilding sites on the John Day, Grande Ronde, Wenaha. Working a new site on Dairy Creek that goes into Sturgeon Lake.

Randy Johnson, CCT: Been in partial shutdown and working from home. Technician who handles downloads and battery swaps 2 days/week. No big flood events and no installs planned.

Brady Allen, BPA: Working on contract modifications to replace work that can't be done now with work that can be done. Working with Chris Beasley on getting some new sites up and running and in the O&M contract.

Chris Beasley, Biomark: More or less business as usual. Had a second fabrication facility come on line so able keep production going with social distance protocols in place. Working on adding some sites to the O&M project.

Brian Knoth, IDFG: Work in Potlach River Basin. Primarily working from home, starting to work in shifts at the office, but field work has been ongoing with social distancing, etc. Minor upgrades planned for the fall. Planning to move a site because the stream has moved.

Rick Orme, NPT: Business as usual with social distancing, etc. Not too much damage with spring runoff. Planning some new installs this fall.

Nick Yaniw, ONA: Some spring work got cut (missed tagging 15k sockeye), but summer work has been continuing pretty much as normal. No installs planned.

Jeff Fryer, CRITFC: CRITFC is still getting out for field work under COVID protocols including one person per vehicle. We were unable to sample or PIT tag spring Chinook at Bonneville due to last-minute USACE requirements regarding anesthesia, ending a dataset that goes back 34 years. Zosel Dam PIT improvements were installed in March, though high flows have meant no detections of adults. We're working with the ONA on instream sites in the Okanogan. Cancelled projects due to COVID may free up funds for additional PIT tag work in the Okanogan.

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

Gabriel suggested a quarterly meeting schedule held online while the subcommittee gets up and running. All attendees agreed.

PIT Tag Workshop Update

John Tenney reported that the workshop has been postponed to January 2022. He is currently working with the venue and BPA to reschedule.

Gabriel thought the subcommittee should continue to work on lining up presenters and topics for the workshop, considering community input is not likely to change. Most mentioned topics from the survey were troubleshooting, antenna strategies and analytical methods. Thinks the session would be two hours long with a couple of presentations on O&M and a couple on analytical methods.

Ben Truscott volunteered one or two people to sit on a panel or present on troubleshooting/antenna strategies.

Chris Beasley volunteered Kevin See for a presentation on analytical methods.

PTAGIS will work with the Subcommittee to make sure there isn't overlap between main presentations and instream presentations.

Site Diagram Standards

Gabriel proposed putting together a small working group to draft standards to be presented back to the Subcommittee for the next quarterly meeting, to be held sometime late October to early December. Once approved, the subcommittee would commit to upgrading all diagrams to new standards in calendar year 2021, and work with other site stewards to get all sites upgraded by end of 2022.

He proposes building a template that would have images or icons to represent standard pieces of equipment that a user could just drop into a new diagram. Could be done with Word or Powerpoint.

Gabriel asked the group if including stream survey that shows antenna layout along stream bed topography and water depth would be too much of a burden. The group agreed that this might be too much to start out with, but would be worth considering in the future if stage data becomes available for sites.

Derrek Faber suggested that a subjective assessment might be helpful, something like at this site 95% of the water column is covered 95% of the year.

Ben suggested capturing high and low water marks on the diagram.

Derrek Faber, Brian Knoth, and Rick Orme agreed to be on the working group for site diagram standards.

NOAA R&D Update

Gabriel gave an update on recent activity under the NOAA R&D project, including updates on the Lower Granite Spillway project, flexible antenna design and testing and PIT Barge design and testing.