

ROC ON LTO
TIGER TEAM KICKOFF MEETING
May 20, 2019

Talking Points/Opening Remarks

- We appreciate Reclamation's continued commitment to work through the challenging parts of this consultation and look forward to working closely with you to work through comments and complete some important work that we both feel is necessary before going to peer review.
- Last week we had some productive meetings focused on Delta performance measures and Reclamation's general comments on the Effects Analyses for the Shasta and Delta Division. NMFS has been working on performance measures for Shasta and we should have something to share later this week.
- Here are the main 5 things related to the Effect Sections that we understand Reclamation would like to work on:
 1. Characterization of the Proposed Action
 2. Clarification on actions in the effects analyses that are not in the PA
 3. Managing Uncertainty
 4. Analytical components: modeling, science
 5. Areas where Reclamation believes there are factual errors
- We have looked through your comments and think that we have a pretty good understanding of where Reclamation is coming from with these 5 categories and we think that we can lump these into 3 main bins:
 1. Content and Clarification of the Proposed Action (Building Storage, temperature management, etc...). ***We want to go through these topics first and believe that this is the most important item to spend the most time on in a Tiger Team setting.***
 2. Comparative Analyses and Actions Not Included in the PA (Water Contracts, role of the COA, etc...). ***We are interested in discussing this topic and feel that some of the comparative elements may need some more explanation or consideration of how they fit into the broader context of how different sections of a BiOp thread together from the Analytical Approach through the Baseline, Effects and Integration and Synthesis.***
 3. Analytical Areas, including how we factored in uncertainty and assumptions. ***Clearly it's very important for the analytics to be tight and we are open to conversations about this and want to hear Reclamations thoughts about the modeling and analysis and most importantly, we want to fix any undisputable factual errors that you may have discovered.***
- There are **a lot** of comments to work through (over 500 comments/edits on Shasta and nearly 200 on the Delta), so we really want to hear Reclamation's priorities so that we can stay focused over the next week and a half.

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- We also have done some work, both together and separately, on developing Delta and Shasta Performance Measures, and we want to make some progress and reach agreement on how to incorporate those into the consultation in a workable and efficient way.
- On Friday, we shared other sections of the Draft BiOp, including the (1) Environmental Baseline, (2) the Status of the Species and, (3) the Effects Analyses for Clear Creek, the American River and the East-side Division. We want to make sure we have an opportunity to work through Reclamation's comments and concerns with these sections.
- We want to share the draft Integration and Synthesis sections with you this week. We are thinking that we will have Winter-run ready either tomorrow or Wednesday and the other sections ready to share by Thursday or Friday and would like to work through your comments on these sections early next week.
- One last thought is that we would like to share the Shasta and Delta sections with you before releasing to peer review and would like to preserve some time over the next 2 weeks give our staff some time to work internally.
- Other closing comments:
 1. We are definitely open to new ideas and science, and want to consider that in a way that works for both agencies.
 2. We are committed to working with Reclamation to find a workable solution to a project that has water supply gain within bounds that doesn't result in appreciable impact on species.
 3. We also recognize that it is important to stay within our own lanes: Reclamation wants to operate the project with more autonomy and we respect that but we see clear opportunities to integrate our biological knowledge of the system and the depth of our science center.
 4. We want to find workable solutions with the limited amount of time that we have left and believe that some of the solutions can be managed in a more programmatic context after a final biological opinion is issued.
 5. We want to keep workable non-flow measures and adaptive management out on the table to help us get through some of the more significant impacts that might still be evident even as we work through comments on the Effects of the Action.

Other Items to Track

- **Peer Review: *Rescheduled.*** NMFS has reschedule to start on June 3.
- **WIIN Action Review of Effects: *Rescheduled.*** NMFS/Reclamation have reschedule to start on June 4. We can distribute on June 3, but holding meeting on June 4.
- **Reclamation Comments on Shasta and Delta Effects: *Received.*** NMFS reviewed comments and ready to work on them. Need priorities from Reclamation.
- **Delta and Shasta Performance Measures: *In Development, Good Progress.*** Delta: Reclamation/NMFS meeting last Monday with exchange of concepts over the week.

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Good progress. Shasta: NMFS/SWFSC met to discuss Temp Dep Egg Mortality and Total Mortality metrics on Thursday. Should have something to share by Wednesday.

- **Delta Cross Channel Operations Plan: *Pending*.** Reclamation said this should be easy to address. Need to see a plan from Reclamation this week.
- **Adaptive Management: *Unresolved*.** This has been a high priority element but not sure where we are with this and where/how it fits in.
- **SJ Steelhead protections: *Unresolved*.** Reclamation has ideas about predator programs, NMFS has ideas about habitat mitigation and experiment flow concepts.
- **Fall Flow Analysis: *Pending*.** Reclamation to provide NMFS information on historical fall flow performance over the past 10 years and how it compares to the PA.
- **Summer/fall Delta Flow Actions (X2-like action): *Pending*.** Reclamation to provide language about flow priorities/heirarchy.
- **CVPIA Appropriations History and Future Commitments: *Received*:** Reclamation to provide NMFS with CVPIA appropriations history and patterns to inform certainty of actions. Need to frame up a commitment in the T&C to annually discuss the actions and prepare projects for consideration of funding.
- **Collaborative Planning Strategy: *Pending, in development*:** NMFS to draft framework proposal for Collaborative Planning Strategy based on previous CVPIA bullet
- **American River Planning Minimum: *Pending*.** Reclamation to describe the differences between the COS and PA for the American River planning minimum.
- **Delta Salvage versus Loss Calculation: *In progress*.** NMFS editing analysis to correct salvage vs loss
- **Hockey Stick: *Pending*.** NMFS to consider "hockey stick" in discussion of OMR changes and Reclamation to look at changes from positive to negative.
- **Non-Flow Mitigation Actions: *Ongoing*.** NMFS developing a list of non-flow mitigation actions. Actions include: Delta Barriers, SJ restoration actions to offset I:E loss, lower Sacramento River Floodplain actions, Battle Creek, other...