

RESOLVE

Results Through Consensus

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May 23, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: NMFS Willamette/Lower Columbia River TRT Members
FROM: Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE and Paul McElhany, NOAA Fisheries
SUBJECT: Next Steps and Action Items from the May 16, 2003 TRT Meeting

Thanks to everyone for your participation in the TRT meeting last week. This memo includes a brief summary of the items discussed during the meeting including:

- I. Future role of the TRT;
- II. Freshwater habitat research efforts related to the Lewis River Case Study, and
- III. Ex Com interim goals.

In addition, a list of the agreed-upon action items can be found at the end of the memo. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions, concerns, or additional next steps.

Upcoming Meeting/Call Dates	When	Location
• Tuesday, May 27, 2003	11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Conference Call (206-553-1456)
• Monday, June 16, 2003	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	TBA
• Tuesday, June 17, 2003	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	TBA

Given the TRT's goals of simultaneously moving forward with substantive work associated with the population status profiles and better understanding the future role for the TRT regarding salmon recovery efforts, **the group agreed to schedule their next meeting for two days, Monday and Tuesday, June 16-17.** The focus of the first day will be on working through evaluating the current status of the eight populations in the Lewis River. The focus of the second will be on obtaining a better understanding of current salmon recovery efforts and the context within which the TRT will be working, as well as thinking more about the ways in which the TRT can be most relevant to these efforts.

Further, building on some of the discussions around the development of 'interim' goals by the Ex Com's Broad Sense Recovery Goals (BSRG) working group, the TRT agreed to schedule a conference call to discuss the document. This call will take place on **Tuesday, May 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** and the document will be distributed for review by May 21.

I. FUTURE ROLE OF THE TRT

The group began their conversation by reviewing the draft document, “TRT Episode II: Roles After Viability Criteria,” developed by Paul McElhany. This document laid out four possible task areas to focus on and was presented as a starting point for the TRT deliberations. Paul noted that the decisions around the TRT’s future role would need to be made with time commitment realities and NOAA’s needs for advice in mind. Members, building on the document, began to describe their vision of what the TRT would focus on in the future. During the initial discussion, comments focused on: 1) the process of making the decision about the future role; 2) the context within which such decisions will be made; and 3) the types of activities the group could potentially perform in the future (e.g., Implementation, Review, Integration). Comments (but not conclusions) in each of these areas included the following:

1. *Process of making decisions about the future role of the TRT*

- The TRT should have some say in ‘priority’ of documents reviewed;
- Need to define the process after TRT review is completed (e.g., who receives the comments? Will they be publicly available?);
- There should be consistency in what each of the TRTs are being asked to do;
- Consider what can realistically be accomplished within member time constraints;
- The LCFRB is doing work right now that is relevant (e.g., developing actions, prioritizing) and the TRT should be doing similar work; and
- Serving as reviewers only is too narrow, TRT should also be used as technical experts

2. *“Context” within which decisions about the future role of the TRT will be made*

- Analysis of the overarching timeline for salmon recovery is necessary in order to understand how the TRT can be most relevant;
- The TRT, to be relevant, needs to track LCFRB, WRI, Ex-com, etc. efforts; and
- The TRT needs to better understand current status and future expectations of recovery plan development in the subbasins.

3. *Activities the TRT could perform*

Implementation – population profiles, criteria, case study components

- All populations will need ‘status profiles’ to happen soon for subbasin planning to take place ... who will be doing these?
- Lewis River gives the TRT an opportunity to learn how to get going which can then be applied to the rest of the subbasins;
- TRT could do population status profiles for more than Lewis River;
- TRT could help local groups do their tasks or offer them technical advice;
- TRT could define what a recovery plan would look like – content, level of detail, etc.;
- TRT could develop guidance on how to use/implement the Viability document; and
- TRT could incorporate viability criteria into a specific system.

Review – documents, recovery plans, case study components

- Include proposals not just final products so TRT can have influence early and not just at end of process;
- Consider variety of documents but be adaptable to changing situation;
- TRT could review subbasin recovery plans coming out (e.g., LCFRB Document coming out on June 25);
- TRT could review work of local watershed efforts early and often; and
- TRT needs to play an overarching role and stay ahead of the curve not on it (e.g., review all subbasin outlines to assess ‘cross-cutting’ implications early on).

Integration – consider entire ESU across entities, populations, subbasins; develop/use maps

- TRT needs to look beyond Lewis River as a lot more is happening in the WLC;
- TRT needs to better understand/develop relationships with ISRP, other TRTs and local watershed groups;
- TRT role should be integration across ESU and staying aware of all efforts;
- TRT could play role in critical task of integrating across H’s and life cycle;
- Just reviewing management plans is not productive;
- In the next year, the TRT needs to interact with other groups and understand its role related to them – how we can work together and help each other; and
- Effectively integrating across all ESU will be facilitated by development of maps.

After this discussion, the TRT agreed that they needed to proceed on a two-pronged approach with effort on: 1) specific tasks that must be completed in the near future for salmon recovery efforts to proceed (i.e., population status profile development), and 2) understanding the context and strategically thinking about the role the TRT can most effectively and realistically play in the future.

While the group agreed it would be useful to receive some presentations at the next meeting, they asked Patty Dornbusch to begin the context setting process with a brief overview of the timeline and her understanding of subbasin efforts at present. She agreed and went through the timeline developed by the Ex-com last fall, noting that while some of the timing was uncertain, it does lay out the tasks that need to be completed and who needs to complete them. For each of the subbasins, she indicated, a regional body is taking the lead in developing management plans. Some of these are further along than others and as such may need different levels of assistance from the TRT. She agreed to work with Paul and others to have a thorough overview of the context within which salmon recovery efforts are proceeding at the next meeting.

The group agreed that they should go through the exercise of developing populations status profiles for the eight Lewis River populations as quickly as possible. This was seen as valuable as it would mean the eight population status profiles are completed, but also, because it would give the TRT the opportunity to put into action the ‘Expert Panel’ approach described in the Viability document. It was noted that this effort will have implications for whoever needs to develop status profiles for all the other populations in the ESU. Dan Rawding agreed to develop and distribute draft population descriptions, working with Jim Myers and others in the Lewis River, prior to the next meeting.

II. FRESHWATER HABITAT RESEARCH EFFORTS RELATED TO THE LEWIS RIVER

Ashley Steel and Pat Olson, PWI, presented an overview of the research done on freshwater habitat in the Lewis River for the case study. They also distributed an Interim Report on work completed as of March 2003 (261 pages). TRT members raised a number of questions and offered their reactions as well as specific offers of information. In particular, Cleve Steward agreed to send Ashley and Pat information on related work he has been working on that may be of use to the case study. Building on the interim report distributed and the presentations, Ashley indicated she intended to develop a list of specific questions for TRT members to consider and respond to as possible.

III. EX-COM 'INTERIM' GOALS

Craig Busack, Patty Dornbusch, Paul McElhany, and Dan Rawding described the efforts taking place regarding development of the broad sense recovery goals by the Ex-com. They noted that a number of BSRG working group meetings have taken place and the next one is scheduled for Monday, May 17. At that meeting, the BSRG working group members will be finalizing a version of the document for review, and possibly approval, by the Ex-com at their May 28 meeting.

The other TRT members indicated this type of document was exactly what the TRT should be reviewing and as such, they would like an opportunity to review the document prior to the Ex-com meeting. The TRT members on the BSRG working group agreed it made sense and indicated a version would be available for review by Wednesday, May 21. The group also scheduled a conference call to discuss the document and develop some TRT comments to be given to the Ex-com members at their meeting.

IV. AGREED-UPON ACTION ITEMS

Action Items – Review of Ex Com 'Interim Goals	Who	When
1. Set up Conference Call	JJ Westfall	ASAP
2. Participate in BSRG meeting and finalize draft document.	Craig Busack, Paul McElhany, Dan Rawding	Monday, May 19
3. Distribute draft 'interim' goals to TRT members for review.	Paul McElhany	Wednesday, May 21
4. Participate on conference call to review draft 'interim' goals.	All TRT members	Tuesday, May 27
5. Draft TRT comments on document and present to Ex Com.	TBD	Wednesday, May 28
Action Items – Development of Population Profiles	Who	When
6. Develop initial population descriptions.	Dan Rawding (lead) and Jim Myers	Monday, June 9

7. Distribute draft population descriptions for review.	Dan Rawding (lead) and Jim Myers	Monday, June 9
8. Redistribute description of expert panel approach (as described in the TRT Viability report).	Paul McElhany	Wednesday, June 11
9. Review draft descriptions and expert panel approach.	All TRT members	Monday, June 16
Action Items – Future Role of the TRT and Other Tasks	Who	When
10. Develop context setting presentations/discussion items for the next meeting.	Paul McElhany and Patty Dornbusch	Monday, June 9
11. Develop and distribute proposed agenda for next TRT meeting.	Paul De Morgan and Paul McElhany	Monday, June 9
12. Identify questions for TRT members to answer regarding the Freshwater Habitat research efforts.	Ashley Steel	ASAP

TRT Members in Attendance:

- Tom Backman
- Craig Busack
- Selina Heppell
- Steve Kolmes
- Paul McElhany
- Jim Myers
- Dan Rawding
- Ashley Steel
- Cleve Steward
- Tim Whitesel

Others in Attendance:

- Paul De Morgan, RESOLVE
- Patty Dornbusch, NOAA Fisheries
- Pat Olson, PWI
- Phil Trask, LCFRB
- Usha Varanisa, Director of the NWFSC, NOAA Fisheries
- Rob Walton, Assistant Administrator, Salmon Recovery Division, NOAA Fisheries
- J.J. Westfall, NOAA Fisheries