

# Interdisciplinary Team Meeting

2026-06-03 (Wednesday) 0900 – 1600

Location: Virtual

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## Note Takers:

1. Microsoft Teams transcript processed by AI and edited by Eric Peterson.

**Attendance:** Eric Peterson (TRRP/USBR), Daniele Tonina (SAB), Josh Boyce (USFWS), Oliver Rogers (TRRP/USBR), Kurt Fausch (SAB), Ken Lindke (CDFW), , Patrick Flynn (TC), Morgan Knechtle (CDFW), Chris Laskodi (TRRP/YT), Steve Gaugh (USFWS), Brad Nissen (USFWS), Trevor Morgan (CDWR), John Hayes (SAB), Karl Seitz (HVT), James Lee (TRRP/USBR), Kyle De Juilio (YT), Jeanne McSloy (TRRP/USBR),. Not all participated for the full meeting.

## Action Items:

1. Peterson: prepare materials for FY27 science decision block, including clear justifications and cost implications.
2. Workgroups (Fish, Physical, RAE): continue to work on targets noted as needing work.
3. Peterson: Develop a web presentation of the objectives/targets table and link supporting memos; maintain PDF table for internal use.
4. General: Defer final FY28 prioritization to the September IDT meeting.

## Agenda: Updates

- **Sediment & wood augmentation (Steel Bridge):** ~2000 yd<sup>3</sup> of gravel and ~13 logs were placed; dry-year spring flows moved a fraction downstream about a hundred of meters. Augmentation site design seeks both ecological function and recreational compatibility; first use of “wood augmentation” under the sediment & wood EA (wood allowed to redistribute via flows rather than engineered placement).
- **Near-term implementation:** Mobilization for the Sawmill project (~late June) to complete remediation and repair a high-quality side channel; wood lay-down/storage area at Lowden Meadows planned upstream to reduce hauling distances. Evans Bar is targeted for next construction season; Sky Ranch and other sites depend on pending land transfers and compliance steps.

- **Watershed items:** East Weaver Creek culvert replacement is imminent; design added to address a fish passage barrier at Oregon Gulch on a county road, to be coordinated with the county given easements and funding constraints.
  - **Weirs & fish presence:** Junction City weir installed and operating; early catches included resident species with low spring Chinook presence to date; observed rare sealion occurrence far upstream prompted discussion about frequency and ecological context.
  - **River conditions & algae:** Widespread algal growth has been observed with an abundance of BMI (especially Chironomids). The algae appear to be diatoms and filamentous greens, possibly including *Didymosphenia geminata*) observed from upper to mid-river; patterns align with recent inundation history and velocity contrasts. Hypothesis raised that earlier elevated baseflows (Feb–Mar) could time algal productivity, and corresponding Chironomids, to coincide with higher juvenile salmonid abundance.
  - **FYLF observations:** Multiple egg masses and recent hatch (tadpoles) documented at Lorenz Gulch; suggestive of success with shifting flow releases earlier.
  - **Klamath juvenile mortality event:** Screw traps this week recorded ~80% mortality at I-5 and ~60% at Iron Gate among largely hatchery-origin juveniles released ~2 weeks prior; photos showed limited external disease signs, though prior lab memos reported high *Ceratonova shasta* infection prevalence upstream. Specimens are being submitted for diagnostics; additional reconnaissance underway.
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## Agenda: TMC Agenda

- **Day 1 (June 17):** Executive Director report; program/Workgroup updates; Central Valley operations; long-term reconsultation status; hatchery status and integration concepts; safety-of-dams flow considerations; watershed compliance.
- **Day 2 (June 18):** Weaver Creek floodplain restoration briefing; FY27 science proposals (major decision block); riparian vegetation mapping report; FY27 budget priorities discussion and decision; setting September topics; adjourn.

## **Action items / decisions**

- Peterson to prepare materials for FY27 science decision block, including clear justifications and cost implications.
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## Agenda: Workgroup Summaries

Workgroup quarterly reports reviewed/supplemented.

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## Agenda: Objectives and Targets

Group reviewed a table of Objectives and Targets, supplemented with notes on status.

- **Unquantified objectives:** Several fish objectives currently lack measurable targets due to limited monitoring, raising the question of whether such objectives should remain until quantification and monitoring pathways exist. Group is generally comfortable retaining objectives that cannot be measured (e.g., “do no harm”)
- **Targets requiring revision:**
  - Outmigration temperature targets: plan to modernize using updated RBM10 outputs (including 7-day moving averages across river miles).
  - Spawning habitat targets: future refinement anticipated following development of stratification, hyporheic, and high-resolution hydraulic data (attention to bank-adjacent complexities and shear stress reversals across flows).
  - Rearing habitat target: draft proposal exists; requires final clarification and adoption.
- **Completed/added:** FYLF temperature/flow-related target language finalized previously and is active.
- **Presentation format:** Preference for a public-facing table on the website linked to underlying memos, with an internally maintained PDF for program staff.

### **Action items / decisions**

- Proceed with revising outmigration temperature targets once RBM10 outputs are fully available; confirm associated DSS integration.

- Physical and Fish Workgroups to propose workable quantification pathways for spawning and rearing targets (post-topography/model updates).
  - Develop a web presentation of the objectives/targets table and link supporting memos; maintain PDF table for internal use.
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## Agenda: Monitoring and DSS Reviews

The IDT went over the Monitoring & DSS reviews completed earlier in the year. Many recommendations require little or no funding but are essential for program consistency, such as timely reporting. Several monitoring elements were recommended for either removal (e.g., Burnt Ranch gauge) or enhancement (e.g., turbidity sensors). FY27 topographic data collection will rely on green LiDAR instead of multibeam sonar so will be unable to provide the test of substrate mapping previously discussed; the switch to green Lidar was discussed and supported by the Physical Workgroup.

### **Specifics**

- Need for clear, formal documentation of TARGETS-1D modeling.
  - Removal of the Burnt Ranch gauge to reduce costs and avoid redundant data.
  - Addition of turbidity monitoring at three sites; temperature monitoring needs can be met with low-cost loggers.
  - Physical workgroup funding for sediment augmentation support.
  - Potential FY28 revisit of tracer-rock studies as staffing allows.
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## Agenda: FY27 Science Proposal

The IDT finalized FY27 proposal rankings in anticipation of TMC balancing budget needs. Highest-priority items include essential spawning surveys, sediment-augmentation monitoring, and environmental-flow evaluation studies such as tributary synchronization, macroinvertebrates, and sediment-routing studies at tributary junctions and deltas. Lower-priority proposals include groundwater dynamics, additional temperature monitoring, and an S3 sensitivity analysis—expected to be partially addressed by reconsultation work.

### **Specifics**

- Decision to retain carcass/spawning surveys above the North Fork and below the weir as top priority for run-reconstruction. Middle river is not required for run-construction, providing little information beyond the redd locations themselves, but is also turning out to be a small fraction of the cost.
- Decision to drop the Burnt Ranch gauge for cost savings.
- Prioritization of tributary synchronization, BMI studies, and sediment-transport hypotheses.
- Merganser study proceeding outside the ranked process because it carries no cost.

#### **Action items**

- Present ranked FY27 proposals and cut-line scenarios to the TMC.
- Include detailed justification for prioritization, especially where tradeoffs affect flow-evaluation studies.

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### Agenda: Memo on Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Model

The group reviewed the memo proposing formal incorporation of FYFAM (Foothill Yellow-legged Frog model) into annual technical-assistance funding and to fund model calibration/validation. Although FYFAM is critical to flow planning, it is not formally funded and depends on ad-hoc support, posing risks if staffing changes. The memo recommends undertaking a model-validation effort in FY28, potentially revisiting older frog occupancy datasets.

There was also recognition that other DSS components (e.g., TARGETS) may benefit from similar formalization.

#### **Action items / decisions**

- **Revise memo recommending that FYFAM become a recurring annual task to include TARGETS as well.**

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### Agenda: FY28 Science Proposal Kick-off Discussion

The meeting concluded with an initial discussion about FY28 planning. Because the environmental-flow evaluation will require analyzing roughly forty hypotheses, FY28 will be

heavily consumed by modeling and synthesis work. Additional tasks—such as the updated hydraulic model, topographic datasets, DSS refinements, and limiting-factors analysis—will also demand significant attention. The group agreed that issuing a broad FY28 RFP may be unrealistic and counterproductive given the workload.

#### **Sub-topics discussed**

- Recognition that many environmental-flow studies will transition to analysis and reporting phases in FY28.
- Anticipation that the limiting-factors analysis and lifecycle model will influence FY28 priorities.
- Potential need to include additional social-science data streams as part of future decision support.

#### **Action items / decisions**

1. Defer final FY28 prioritization to the September IDT meeting.

Adjourned 2:35 PM (early)