COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN
RESTORATION PROGRAM

EPA

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Toxics Monitoring Subgroup Meeting

JULY 11, 2023 | 12:30 - 2:00 PM PACIFIC

MEETING SUMMARY

ATTENDEES

- Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Jennifer Bayer, U.S. Geological Survey/Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
- Peter Brumm, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Rodney Cawston, Colville Confederated Tribes
- Sam Cimino, U.S. Geological Survey/Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
- Catherine Corbett, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- Tim Counihan, U.S. Geological Survey
- Kelli Daffron, North Coast Watershed Association
- Margaret Drennan, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Sherrie Duncan, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Mary Engels, University of Idaho
- Cindy Fields, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Whitney Fraser, Lodestone LLC
- Cavan Garrish, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- David Gruen, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Nikki Guillot, Washington State Department of Health
- Abby Hendrickson, Chelan County
- Rob Hibbs, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- William Hobbs, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Andy James, University of Washington Tacoma
- Mark Jankowski, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Tamara Knudson, Spokane Tribe
- Alan Kolok, University of Idaho
- Lisa Kusnierz, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Kevin Masterson, Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Patrick Moran, U.S. Geological Survey
- Mason Murphy, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Kris Olinger, City of Vancouver
- Sean Payne, U.S. Geological Survey
- Amy Puls, U.S. Geological Survey/Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
- Karl Rains, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Jalen Ray, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Travis Schmidt, U.S. Geological Survey
- Karen Schumacher, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Laura Shira, Yakama Nation Fisheries
- Nicole Taylor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Yvonne Vallette, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Ian Waite, U.S. Geological Survey
- David Wark, University of Washington Tacoma

MATERIALS

Meeting slide deck: https://gaftp.epa.gov/region10/columbiariver/monitoring-subgroup/2023-07-11/

To request a link to the meeting recording, email gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov

MONITROING MATRIX

Amy Puls (USGS/PNAMP) presented an overview of the Columbia River Basin Toxics Monitoring Project Tracking Matrix (a.k.a. the matrix) including the purpose and content. Currently the matrix contains information for Columbia River Basin Restoration Program funded toxics monitoring projects, but anyone doing toxics monitoring in the Columbia River Basin is welcome to submit their project for inclusion in the matrix; contact us at gs-crbtoxmon@usgs.gov to get started. The first iteration of the matrix will be available soon on the EPA website and linked on the TMS project page on the PNAMP website.

- Question: Did we decide an activity start date for matrix inclusion? I'm assuming it's this field season with goal of updating when we can. Is that right?
    - Answer: Projects in the recent past (last 5 years - especially if they are not otherwise published), ongoing projects, and upcoming projects are all welcome for inclusion. We hope to have project PIs review and update information once a year, but we are open to feedback on the appropriate frequency for updating information in the matrix.

WINTER WORKSHOP PLANNING

Jen Bayer (USGS/PNAMP) provided background and identified preliminary goals and outcomes for the upcoming winter workshop. Input on the date, location, and content of the workshop was gathered via live polling. Additional feedback may be provided via this Slido poll until August 14, 2023.

- Comment: The national AGU meeting is the second week of December; that could be a conflict.

LIGHTNING TALKS

To help support the subgroup's goal to provide a forum to exchange toxics monitoring information, discuss challenges, and coordinate monitoring activities, today's meeting featured five lightning talks from subgroup members. Additional details about their toxics monitoring projects can be found in the meeting slide deck.

River TALC: Toxics Assessment of the Lower Columbia, Kelli Daffron (North Coast Watershed Association)

- Question: Could you do a comparison study in your area between sites with and without bioswales/vegetated strips?
    - Answer: No. We do have photos and spatial data associated with the sites we visit that may allow us to hone in on where they could be and where they are, but that's not something I've specifically coded for in my planning.

- Question: What was your highest concentration detected?
    - Answer: We detected 56 (I believe ng/L is the unit, but it's actually not written on our results spreadsheet) in the Skipanon River at Hwy 101 in November with combined direct runoff and surface water sampled together. There is a vegetative barrier between direct runoff here but still concerning.
- Question: how did you select your sample sites?
    - Answer: Most overlap with our long-term temperature monitoring sites selected for accessibility, so they are along roads/bridges. Others were selected for salmon presence and proximity to roads.
- Question: Did you look at background, pre rain levels of 6PPDQ?
    - Answer: We have not to date, but it may be possible to revise our plan to include sampling during the dry season in the future.

TLC: Tracking Toxics in the Lower Columbia (Phase I), Catherine Corbett (LCEP)

- Question: How did the conversation with Pacific Northwest Power Planning Council go towards the end of your ConHab project?
    - Answer: That was a presentation by Jennifer Morace (USGS) and Lyndal Johnson (NOAA), which synthesized more than just the ConHab study. It included the ecosystem monitoring that NOAA is doing for the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership that is identifying toxics concentrations and where they are coming from. The Council is interested, but Bonneville Power Administration views it as a water quality issue that falls under the purview of EPA.
- Comment: In 2017 The Power Council supported a workgroup that developed a story map of PAH contamination in the Columbia.

Lower Wenatchee River PCB Source Investigation, Abby Hendrickson (Chelan County) & Will Hobbs (WA Ecology)

- No questions

Crayfish as indicators of 6PPD-quinone contamination, Mary Engels (University of Idaho)

- Question: Did you calculate apparent loss of 6PPDQ in your tank study? Looks like maybe 40% loss in 96 hours. Not unusual from what I've been seeing in the literature.
    - Answer: We have not, we just got the data yesterday, and have not done those calculations yet. We are concerned about this and are thinking about redosing tanks during the incubation to maintain the concentrations throughout the experiment.
- Question: Are your Coeur d Alene partners some of my USGS colleagues in the Post Falls/ East Spokane office? I seem to recall them mentioning something about storm sampling to me.
    - Answer: Thanks for the question. No, the stormwater samples came from the University of Idaho Coeur d'Alene water extension program (working with their summer intern), but they

may be collaborating with USGS folks. Not sure. I would be interested in learning more about the USGS stormwater work up there if that is going on.

Transboundary Impacts of Mining on US Waters, Travis Schmidt (US Geological Survey)

- Comment: Yakama Nation and USGS will be sampling fish in the Bonneville pool this summer, it's a long way downstream from the U.S.-Canada border, but we might be able to help you extend your monitoring network downstream.
    - Response: Yes, I will talk to Patrick Moran (USGS) about that.