

## COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 22, 2020

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Stranz; Notes: Colby Mills, DS Consulting

*The following Facilitator's Summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions, and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://www.nwdwc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2020/>.*

### Review Meeting Minutes

TMT members approved official minutes and summaries from the November 20, December 4 and 18, and January 8 meetings.

### Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, reported that the chum incubation operation that was coordinated at the December 18 TMT meeting is still being implemented. The operation calls for a Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation of 11.3 feet at all hours. A detailed summary of the operation is available on the TMT website. The end of this operation is expected to coincide with the commencement of spring spill operations on April 10. This morning at 0700 hours the Bonneville total outflow was 159.3 kcfs, with a tailwater elevation of 14.4 feet. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that they are not anticipating any issues maintaining the 11.3ft minimum tailwater elevation for the rest of the incubation operation.

The NWRFC forecast currently has Bonneville Dam inflows at 150 kcfs, and ranging between 148-165 kcfs over next 10-day period

Claire McGrath, NOAA, reported that both Coho and chum counts have dropped off, there are still some steelhead in the area. Tony noted that the buoy at Ives Island, which previously housed temperature data collectors to track accumulation of temperature units in order to estimate chum emergence, has been removed and that data will no longer be collected.

### Operations Review

*Reservoirs:* Joel Fenolio, BOR, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Hungry Horse:** midnight elevation of 3,537.7 feet and releasing 4,200 cfs. The project is drafting down to 3,525 cfs by March 31 to allow for inspection of the selective withdrawal, temperature control system in April. The project will be 20 feet below required April 30 elevations.
- **Grand Coulee:** midnight elevation of 1,281.6 feet. The project is drafting through the month and beginning to stage for potential drum gate maintenance. Joel expected that the drum gate maintenance trigger will be hit (flood control elevation no higher than 1,265 feet in April).

Lisa Wright, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects:

- **Libby:** midnight elevation was 2,425.1 feet, with inflows of 2.2 kcfs, and outflows were holding the bull trout instream flow requirement of 4 kcfs;
- **Albeni Falls:** midnight elevation was 2,051.5 feet, with inflows of 17.4 kcfs, and outflows of 17.0 kcfs;
- **Dworshak:** midnight elevation was 1,516.3, with inflows of 1.4 kcfs, and outflows of 1.7 kcfs;
- **Lower Granite:** average outflows of 19.5 kcfs;
- **McNary:** average outflows of 133.3 kcfs; and
- **Bonneville:** average outflows of 143.5 kcfs.

*Water Quality:* Dan Turner, Corps, noted TDG levels are around 99-100% at all projects.

*Fish:* Claire had nothing further to report. Dave Swank, USFWS, provided a final estimate of Bonneville adult lamprey passage at 70,877. Bull trout passage counts for 2019 included three projects: Lower Granite had 5 (9 days with sightings); McNary had 1 (3 days of sightings); and The Dalles had 1.

*Power System:* Tony reported mild temperatures and as a result, loads dropping off. A recent cold spell didn't hit the entire Northwest as predicted, which reduced the amount of load experienced in the region. There hasn't been much wind, although it is starting to pick up with a current front.

**The next TMT meeting is a conference call on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.**

*This summary is respectfully submitted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Colby at [colby@dsconsult.co](mailto:colby@dsconsult.co).*

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**Technical Management Team DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
**January 22, 2020**  
**Minutes: Melissa Haskin, FLUX Resources**

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

### 1. Meeting Minutes and Summaries

Minutes and summaries for 11/22, 12/4, 12/18, and 1/8 were approved.

### 2. Chum Operation - Doug Baus, Corps NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Claire McGrath, NOAA

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on the chum operation. The Corps is implementing the incubation phase of the chum operation as coordinated at the December 18 TMT meeting. The operation is maintaining a minimum tailwater elevation of 11.3 ft. all hours. The end of incubation is generally no later than April 10 (the start date of spring spill), unless otherwise coordinated with TMT to end earlier.

At 0700 today, the Bonneville tailwater was 14.4 ft. Outflow was 159.3 kcfs. The RFC forecast over the next 10 days calls for inflows of 148-155 kcfs (Figure 1).

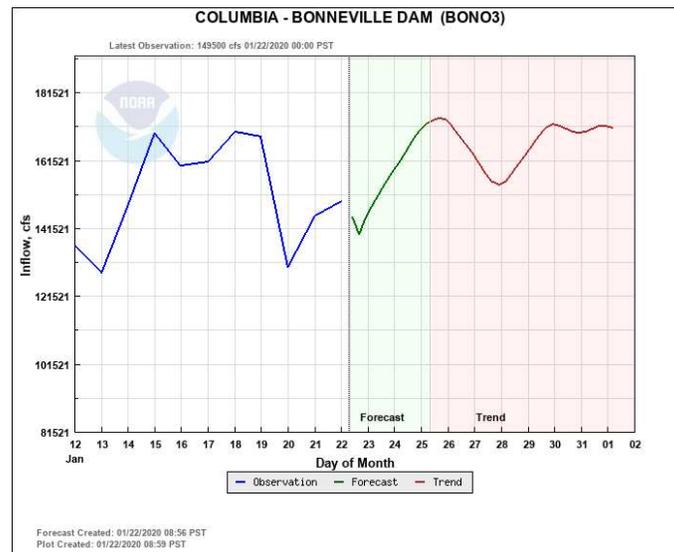


Figure 1. NWRFC observed and forecasted inflow for Bonneville Dam as of January 22, 2020.

Tony Norris, BPA, added that there should not be any issue supporting chum through the end of the incubation period. Baus asked if chum emergence should be tracked during incubation. Norris said it was only necessary in a dewatering scenario.

Claire McGrath, NOAA, reported that chum and coho counts have dropped off. There are a few steelhead, but otherwise there is not much going on in the Bonneville ladders.

### 3. Operations Review

#### *3a. Reservoirs – Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, and Lisa Wright, Corps*

- **Hungry Horse** – Outflows ~4,200 cfs. Midnight elevation 3,537.7 ft. Drafting down to 3,545 feet by March 31.
- **Grand Coulee** – Midnight elevation 1,281.6 ft., slightly drafting through the end of the month. Drum gate maintenance is looking likely based on the current water supply forecast. The trigger is an April flood control elevation no higher than 1,265 feet (if deferred this year, it will be required next year per the Water Management Plan). Last year the requirement was 1,255 ft. but the April flood control elevation was higher than that.
- **Libby Dam** – Midnight elevation 2,425.1 ft., yesterday's average inflows were 2.2 kcfs and outflows were 4 kcfs (the bull trout minimum).
- **Albeni Falls** – Midnight elevation 2,051.5 ft., yesterday's average inflows were 17.4 kcfs and outflows were 17.0 kcfs.
- **Dworshak Dam** – Midnight elevation 1,516.3 ft., yesterday's average inflows were 1.4 kcfs and outflows were 1.7 kcfs.
- **Lower Granite** – Yesterday's average outflows were 19.5 kcfs.
- **McNary Dam** – Yesterday's average outflows were 133.3 kcfs.
- **Bonneville Dam** – Yesterday's average outflows were 143.5 kcfs.

#### *3b. Water Quality – Dan Turner, Corps*

Nothing to report.

#### *3c. Fish – Claire McGrath, NOAA Fisheries, and Dave Swank, USFWS*

McGrath had nothing further to report on fish. Dave Swank, USFWS, reported that the final estimate of Bonneville adult lamprey passage from the Corps is 70,877 last year. Swank also provided a 2019 bull trout update. Lower Granite had a net count of 5 for the year with a total of 9 observations; McNary had a net count of 1 with 3 observations; and The Dalles had a total of 1, which was surprising to see one that far downstream. Swank noted that the net counts are different from total observations because bull trout are going both upstream and downstream.

#### *3d. Power – Tony Norris, BPA*

Tony Norris, BPA, reported on the power system. There was little wind during the cold period. The region is currently experiencing mild temperatures and load is subsequently lower (Figure 2).

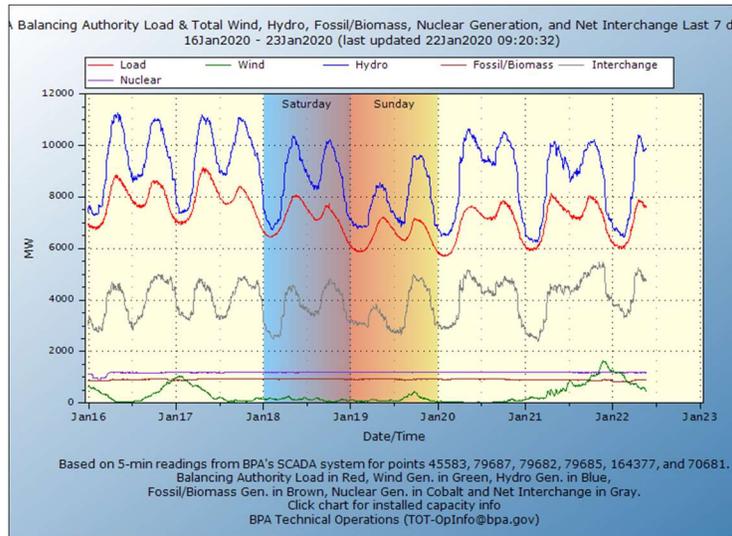


Figure 2. BPA Balancing Authority Load and Generation for the last 7 days, January 16-23.

#### 4. Next TMT

The next TMT meeting is a conference call on February 5 at 9 a.m.

#### **Today's Attendees:**

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin, Eve James
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Paul Wagner, Claire McGrath
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	N/A
Montana	Jim Litchfield
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	Sheri Sears
Warm Springs Tribe	N/A
Kootenai Tribe	N/A
Spokane Tribe	N/A

#### **Other Attendees (non-TMT members):**

Army Corps of Engineers – Alfredo Rodriguez, Aaron Marshall, Alexis Mills, Heather Baxter

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

FLUX Resources – Melissa Haskin (Note taker)

Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife – Todd Hillson

Bonneville Power Administration – Stephanie Ludwig

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Snohomish PUD – Mike Shapley

Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris