

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

March 25, 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/>.

Juvenile Fish Transport

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on juvenile fish transport. NOAA's recommendation, as detailed in the 2020 Fish Operations Plan (FOP), is for collection to begin on April 23, and transport on April 24. The Corps confirmed this operation. A concern was raised regarding inadequate staffing due to Covid-19, and Lisa Wright, Corps clarified that transport is considered an essential element of the program and will continue as planned.

Little Goose High Pool to Float Bulkhead

Lisa updated the TMT that Little Goose Dam navigation lock has an extended outage for maintenance through April 5, as posted on the TMT website. As part of the maintenance, the project will float the bulkhead into place to dewater the lock on March 30, and then return it to storage on April 3. Floating the bulkhead requires a full pool near the top of the normal operating range of 638 feet. To implement this operation, pool elevation will be near the top on the morning of April 3 to float the bulkhead into its storage location, then the pool will draft down to MOP range, which could take up to 3 days. The Corps notified TMT that MOP at Little Goose could be delayed for up to 3 days (at latest 1500 hours on April 6). The TMT will be notified of any changes to the operation and FOP spill operation will not be impacted, in accordance with the 2020 FOP.

Chum Incubation Operation

Lisa reported that the TMT coordinated chum incubation operation is still being implemented (Bonneville Dam at a minimum tailwater elevation of 11.3 feet at all hours); the operation is posted to the TMT website. The current Bonneville tailwater elevation is fluctuating between 11.3-11.7 feet, averaging at 11.4 feet. The 10-day RFC inflow forecast shows a slight drop over the next week, to between 120-125 kcfs, with increasing flows up to about 155 kcfs around April 1.

Spill Priority List

Dan Turner, Corps, updated the TMT on the Spill Priority List (SPL), which is currently in effect and will extend through April 2 with 110% TDG. Dan confirmed that the adjusted water quality standards don't go into effect until fish passage spill, and the SPL at 125% TDG will begin on April 3, coinciding with the start of spring spill. In response to concerns regarding kelt collection, Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, clarified that kelt collection had been deemed as non-critical (during Covid-19), however, exceptions have been made allow for kelt collection.

The next TMT meeting is a conference call on April 1st 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@diconsult.co.

Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES
March 25, 2020

Minutes: Melissa Haskin, Bonneville (contractor, FLUX Resources)

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

1. Juvenile Fish Transport. Paul Wagner - NOAA Fisheries

Paul Wagner, NOAA, updated TMT on juvenile fish transport. The default procedure in the 2020 FOP calls for a start of collection on April 23 and transport on April 24 (see section 5 on page FOP 16 of the 2020 FOP, available on the FPP website). NOAA's recommendation is to start transport on April 24, per the FOP. With no objections, that is how the Action Agencies will proceed.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC, mentioned that things are in flux at the projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Oregon and Washington, all non-essential businesses have been asked to close due to the pandemic. Lorz wondered if there would be adequate staffing for transport. Lisa Wright, Corps, stated that transport is considered mission critical to the program and that the plan is to continue operations as planned. There will be a special FPOM meeting tomorrow to discuss project restrictions due to COVID-19.

2. Little Goose High Pool to Float Bulkhead. Lisa Wright - Corps NWD

Lisa Wright, Corps, reminded TMT that the Little Goose navigation lock is out for maintenance through April 5 as described in the 2020 Fish Passage Plan, Appendix A. To perform required maintenance, the bulkhead will be floated into place in the lock on March 30, then floated back into storage on April 3. Floating the bulkhead requires a full pool near the top of the operating range (638 ft.). After the bulkhead is floated into storage on April 3, the project will start drafting the pool down to the MOP range, which may take up to 3 days. Thus MOP at Little Goose will be delayed up to 3 days to start no later than 3 p.m. on Monday, April 6. Wright shared the operation summary, available on today's agenda. FOP spill will not be impacted by this.

3. Chum Incubation Operation. Lisa Wright - Corps NWD; Tony Norris - Bonneville Power

In December, TMT coordinated an 11.3 ft. minimum tailwater at Bonneville Dam at all hours for chum incubation. Looking at the hourly data today, the tailwater has ranged from 11.3 ft. to 11.7 ft. with an average of 11.4 ft. The 10-day inflow forecast calls for a slight drop over the next week to 120 kcfs to 125 kcfs, with an increase around April 1 to 155 kcfs.

4. Spill Priority List. Dan Turner - Corps

Dan Turner revisited the spill priority list for the 2020 spring spill season, which was coordinated at the last TMT meeting. The lists (one for March 23–April 2 and one for spring spill April 3–June 21) define project priority order for lack of load spill for management of TDG system-wide. The adjusted water quality standards will not take effect until fish passage spill starts on April 3.

Turner wanted to confirm the dates and project priority order coordinated at TMT last week. For March 23–April 2, the order was modified to move Lower Granite, Little Goose, and McNary to the bottom of the fish passage projects. When spring spill starts on April 3, the order will revert to the default order that starts with Lower Granite then proceeds downstream.

Lorz asked if kelt collection will still happen in light of restrictions at the projects due to COVID-19. If not, there would be no need to modify the priority order since the intent was to move the kelt collection projects lower on the list. Wright said as far as she knows it will continue and that it will be discussed at FPOM tomorrow. Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, clarified that kelt collection has not been deemed “mission critical” but that accommodations have been made to allow for collection.

5. Next TMT

The next TMT meeting is a conference call on April 1 at 9 a.m.

Today’s Attendees:

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

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Army Corps of Engineers –Dan Turner, Laura Hamilton, Jon Roberts, Alfredo Rodriguez, Michelle Yuen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

FLUX Resources – Melissa Haskin (Note taker)

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Snohomish PUD – Julie Potter