

**COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

April 1, 2020

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

**DRAFT Facilitator’s Summary**

*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/>.*

**Little Goose High Pool to Float Bulkhead**

Doug Baus, Corps, updated the TMT on the Little Goose navigation lock floating bulkhead operation revisions, as posted on the TMT website. Due to high winds, the Corps was unable to float the bulkhead on March 30 or 31 as originally planned. The bulkhead will now be floated into place for maintenance on April 1, then back into storage on April 6.

Some Salmon Managers raised concerns on the deviation from the MOP elevation and suggested considering potential mitigation options, as it impacts environmental conditions for fish. Doug acknowledged the concerns and suggested that next year they explore opportunities to move maintenance operations to earlier in the year so as to not impact MOP. The Corps clarified that the extended outage to perform lock maintenance at Little Goose is for additional actions that are routine, but not annual, as described in the Fish Passage Plan Appendix A.

**Chum Incubation Operation**

Doug 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. Bonneville Dam outflows at 0400 hours on April 1 were 134.9 kcfs, with a project tailwater elevation of 12.6 feet. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that the project is still seeing effects from recent precipitation events, causing increased flows.

The RFC forecast shows inflows of 140 kcfs on April 2, dropping down to 120 kcfs by the end of the 10-day period. The Corps will continue this operation as planned through April 9, ending on April 10, unless recommended otherwise by NOAA/Salmon Managers. FPAC is scheduled to discuss chum operations on Friday and will circle back to the Action Agencies if there is a request to amend the current operation.

- **ACTION:** Dave Swank, USFWS, will inform the Corps via email by Friday April 3 if FPAC discussions lead to a request in change of chum incubation operation.

**The next TMT meeting is a conference call on April 8th 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**  
**April 1, 2020**  
**Minutes: Melissa Haskin, Bonneville (contractor, 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. Little Goose High Pool to Float Bulkhead. Doug Baus - Corps NWD**

Doug Baus, Corps, updated TMT on the Little Goose navigation lock floating bulkhead operation that was coordinated with TMT at last week's meeting on March 25. Due to high wind, the operation had to be delayed. Baus shared a document with an updated schedule, available on the TMT website. The bulkhead will be floated into the lock today, April 1 (instead of March 30), then back into storage on Monday, April 6 (instead of April 1). The pool will then be drafted down to the MOP range within three days, by no later than 3pm on Thursday, April 9.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, asked if there has been discussion about mitigation actions for the deviation from MOP and exceedances after April 3.

Scott Bettin, BPA, noted that this operation will result in more spill than would have occurred under normal circumstances. Water that is currently being stored for this operation would otherwise be passing through the turbines, but instead will be additional spill later.

Hesse expressed frustration, noting, "While I understand logistics and weather events, it's frustrating that this happens to coincide and create a change in the conditions that were envisioned in the Fish Operations Plan." His desire would be that the Corps would suggest how to mitigate the impact to fish and not focus solely on the maintenance work.

Charles Morrill, WA, echoed Hesse saying he was hoping for "acknowledgement" of the impact to fish and suggestions from the Corps for how to address the impact.

Doug Baus said the Corps shares fish concerns. He noted that the Corps makes best efforts to implement operations as coordinated but that is not always possible, particularly due environmental conditions beyond the Corps' control. The Corps acknowledged the issue and included the extended outage in the Fish Passage Plan Appendix A, then notified TMT last week of the impacts to MOP as soon as the dates were scheduled. The wind was beyond the Corps' control, he noted. Lock maintenance is a recurring and required action. Moving forward, he suggested that in the future there be discussions about operational flexibility prior to the operation, such as completing the work earlier so as not to impact MOP operations. Stranz will make a note to circle back to this during next years' conversation.

Dave Swank, USFWS, asked if there was a short extension to the navigation lock maintenance outage at Little Goose this year. Referring to the FPP Appendix A, Baus said the maintenance outage was scheduled from March 7 through April 5. Swank wondered why there was an extension, for instance if the maintenance was unusual for some reason. Baus said from his memory there was additional work beyond the usual scope. Lisa Wright, Corps, pointed Dave to Appendix A, which contains a link to the navigation websites run by the districts which has more

information on work performed during the outages. If that is not enough information, the Corps can try to get more specific information.

**2. Chum Incubation Operation. Doug Baus - 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 protection. Total outflow at 0400 was 134.9 kcfs and tailwater was 12.6 ft. Precipitation over the past few days has been evident in the hourly data with respect to discharge. Grand Coulee has been operating to meet the chum minimum but incremental discharges from unregulated streams below Grand Coulee and also the Willamette have increased the Bonneville tailwater. The forecast calls for inflows increasing to 140 kcfs on April 2, decreasing to 120 kcfs by the end of the 10-day period. The chum incubation operation will end when spill starts on April 10, unless otherwise recommended by NOAA. Fish managers will report back soon if that changes. There is a potential for a change, especially for the operation post-April 10. That decision will be made before next Wednesday, said Swank. Norris urged managers to report back as soon as possible so that Bonneville can plan for that operation.

**3. Next TMT**

The next TMT meeting is a call on April 8 at 9 a.m.

**Today’s Attendees:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>TMT Representative</b>
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
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	Jonathan Ebel
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 – Dan Turner, Laura Hamilton, Aaron Marshall  
 Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey  
 DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills  
 FLUX Resources – Melissa Haskin (Note taker)  
 Oregon DEQ – Paula Calvert  
 Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris  
 Yakama Nation Fisheries – Tom Iverson