

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

June 10, 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: <https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2020/>.

Review Meeting Minutes

TMT members approved the meeting minutes and facilitator's summary from the May 27 meeting.

Official June Water Supply Forecasts

Joel Fenolio, BOR, reported the official water supply forecast for Hungry Horse Dam. May saw an increase in water from snowmelt and weather events, and it's been relatively cold recently. Joel noted the increases in terms of percent of averages:

- The June to July water supply forecast is 1100 kaf, or 128% of average;
- The April to August water supply forecast is 2440 kaf, or 126% of average; and
- The May to September water supply forecast is 2200 kaf, or 130% of average.

Doug Baus, Corps, reported official water supply forecasts for Corps projects:

- **The Dalles:** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 93 maf, or 107% of average;
- **Lower Granite:** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 19 maf, or 94% of average;
- **Libby:** Corps NWS runoff forecast April to August is 5,795 kaf, or 98% of average; and
- **Dworschak:** Corps NWW runoff forecast April to July is 2,187 kaf, or 90% of average.

TDG & Flex Spill Update

Dan Turner, Corps, reported that at McNary Dam, TDG levels have been exceeding the 125% TDG state water quality standards over the past couple of days due to the closure of the TSWs and the change in spill pattern required during removal. The project has reduced the spill cap to get TDG levels closer to 125%, and reported out this morning that the TSW removal should be done this afternoon. The Corps will check in with the project before sending out the final spill caps today. Generally, flows are coming down on the Columbia River, with John Day getting closer to 120% TDG, The Dalles closer to 40% spill, and Bonneville getting closer to its 150 kcfs spill target.

Snake River flows have also been going down, with Lower Granite starting to see more possible minimum generation and spill the rest, and fewer TDG exceedances. Dan noted that the McNary tailwater gauge showed 3 values this morning at 154%, and thought it could be due to a ruptured membrane in the gauge. The Corps will reach out to USGS on the accuracy of those readings given that there has been no spill change.

Tony Norris, BPA, reported that Snake River flows dropped below 100 kcfs over the last couple days, and Little Goose has been able to get 8 hours of Performance Standard spill for several days. Lower Monumental operated at performance standard spill for 3 hours on June 8th, and yesterday implemented all 8 hours of performance standard spill in two blocks. Ice Harbor, McNary and John Day dams were able to flex spill yesterday. Tony noted that the system is still experiencing lack of load conditions, and there is continued uncertainty.

Fish Update

Claire McGrath, NOAA, reported that juveniles continue to decrease in passage at Lower Granite and Bonneville, and other smolt monitoring projects. A handful of lamprey were counted at Rock Island. In

response to concern from Salmon Managers, she noted that the passage index at Bonneville and Lower Granite for yearling Chinook and steelhead still falls within the expected range from recent years, although it is on the lower end for hatchery fish. She encouraged TMT members to use the FPC and DART tools for further data.

For adults, spring and summer Chinook have appeared at Bonneville and counts have been steady over the last week with YTD total of 67,884, or 42% of the 10-year average. Summer Chinook specifically, have slightly higher percentages at 79% of the 10-year average so far for June. Jack Chinook counts were 6,427 for the season, or 29% of the 10-year average. Sockeye passage is increasing, with YTD passage of 3,094, or 82% of 10-year average. There are low counts for steelhead and lamprey, while shad are at 93% of the 10-year average.

At Lower Granite this past week, spring Chinook showed steady numbers with YTD passage at 19,187, or 37% of the 10-year average and jack Chinook YTD at 1,974, or 24% of the 10-year average. Not much else is passing in terms of adults. Along the mid-Columbia, adult count data at Priest Rapids may have some error; FPC is checking into data reporting issues to see if all hours have been counted/reported or if there are data lags. Claire will report more on this next week. Daily fish counts are posted on the TMT website.

Adult Spring Chinook Passage

Claire reported that data from this morning show that counts have dramatically increased at Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams during performance standard spill hours.

Chris Peery, Corps, noted a correlation between hourly counts at Little Goose Dam and performance standard spill hours, noting that fish seemed to respond well to the hours with performance standard spill. Chris will provide a summary table of the passage data alongside the spill data. In response to a question from Erick Van Dyke, OR, the Corps will look into data issues with the Lower Monumental RSW and report back to the TMT.

Questions and Comments from members of the public: There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is a conference call on June 17th at 9:00 AM.
A process meeting will follow for TMT Members.**

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

Columbia River Regional Forum

Technical Management Team OFFICIAL MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

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

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

1. Review Meeting Minutes

The facilitator's summary and official meeting minutes for May 27 were approved. Minutes and summaries from May 29, June 3, and June 8 have not been posted to the TMT website for review.

2. June Water Supply Forecasts - Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, and Doug Baus, Corps

May provided some cold weather and additional water. The official June water supply forecasts as released on Wednesday, June 3 are as follows:

- Hungry Horse Dam: June–July runoff 1,100 kaf (128% of average); April-August runoff 2,440 kaf (126%); May–September 2,200 kaf (130% of average).
- The Dalles Dam: April–August runoff 93 maf (107% of average)
- Lower Granite Dam: April–July runoff 19 maf (94% of average)
- Libby Dam: April–August runoff: 5,795 kaf (98% of average)
- Dworshak Dam: April–July runoff 2,187 kaf (90% of average)

3. TDG & Flex Spill Update - Dan Turner, Corps NWD, and Tony Norris, BPA

Dan Turner, Corps, reported on flex spill for the Corps. The TSWs are being removed at McNary, which requires a different spill pattern while they are closed for removal and has caused TDG to increase above 125%. The Corps has reduced spill over the past few days to reduce TDG. TSW removal should be complete this afternoon. TDG at McNary was 154% this morning, however that may be due to an error in the TDG monitoring equipment, such as a torn membrane. Turner will investigate. There will be a new spill pattern tonight once the TSWs are removed and they can spill through those bays. The Corps will likely have to adjust spill tomorrow because of the new spill pattern.

Flows on the Columbia have receded and TDG at John Day is close to 120%. The Corps is targeting 40% spill at The Dalles and Bonneville is closer to its 150 kcfs spill target.

Flows on the Snake River are down as well, which has led to less exceedances and some instances of minimum generation and spill the rest.

Tony Norris, BPA, reported on flex (performance standard) spill hours. With flows on the Snake River below 150 kcfs, BPA was able to spill at 30% for 8 hours at Little Goose for several days.

At Lower Monumental, BPA spilled at the performance standard level for 3 hours on June 8 and all 8 hours yesterday (completed in two separate blocks). BPA was also able to flex at Ice Harbor yesterday. There is still some uncertainty in conditions and lack of load conditions.

Charles Morrill, WA, commented on adult fish counts, which increased from daily counts of 109 to 113 at Lower Monumental to 1,453 yesterday during performance spill.

4. Fish Update - Claire McGrath, NOAA

Claire McGrath, NOAA, reported on fish. There have been decreases at Lower Granite and Bonneville for Chinook subyearlings. A handful of lamprey have been observed at Rock island. According to FPC data, unmarked yearling Chinook for the 2020 season were within the range of what has been observed in recent years. Hatchery releases for yearling Chinook and steelhead at Lower Granite were lower than previous years but not outside of expectations.

For adults, at Bonneville, summer Chinook passage has been steady over the last week with daily passage counts at 13,088, to 19,057 and a YTD for spring/summer Chinook of 67,884, which is 107% of 2019 and 42% of the 10-year average. Thus far, for June, summer Chinook are tracking at 79% of the 10-year June average. For jacks, the season total was 6,427, which is 79% of last year and 29% of 10-year average. There have been increasing numbers of sockeye at the project with 85 to 783 passing per day over the last week (counted through Monday). The YTD sockeye count is 3,094, which is much more than what was observed last year and 82% of the 10-year average. Steelhead and lamprey counts have been low over the last week, with 26-37 lamprey being observed each day. Shad are coming in at 93% of the 10-year average.

At Lower Granite, spring Chinook are showing steady numbers. Over the last week, counts have been 172 to 1,016 per day and the YTD thus far is 19,187, which is 130% of last year and 37% of the 10-year average. Jacks are at a YTD of 1,974, which is 24% of the 10-year average and 61% of what was observed in 2019.

There have been some data issues at Priest Rapids.

5. Lower Monumental Fish Counts - Chris Peery, Corps

Chris Peery, Corps, reported that there was a significant bump in adult spring Chinook counts yesterday at Lower Monumental Dam. Fish seem to be responding to performance standard spill at the project, if you compare spill levels to passage. On June 8, performance standard spill was broken into two blocks with one occurring in the evening. The evening block showed no response from fish, reinforcing that fish do not respond to evening reduced spill. The message seems to be that without performance standard spill, there seems to be some kind of “block” for fish passage, said Peery.

6. Adult Spring Chinook Passage - Claire McGrath, NOAA

McGrath reported that over the past week adult spring Chinook conversion between the Snake projects has dramatically improved (as discussed at Monday’s TMT). Counts are now within expected levels and it seems that adult migration conditions have improved.

There may be a data issue at the RSW at Lower Monumental. The Corps will investigate.

7. Next TMT

The next TMT meeting is call on June 17 at 9 a.m.

Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Claire McGrath
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Jim Litchfield
Nez Perce Tribe	N/A
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	N/A
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, Greg Hoffman, Chris Peery
BPA – Melissa Haskin (CONTR, FLUX Resources, Notetaker),
DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills
Yakama Nation Fisheries – Tom Iverson
Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris
Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O'Bryant
Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey
NPCC – Leslie Bach
Public Power Council – Shane Scott