

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 25, 2023

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & 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; it is not intended to be the "record" of the meeting. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2023/>. Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes and facilitator's summaries from the December 14 and January 4 meetings.

Official Water Supply Forecasts – Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, reported the official January water supply forecast for Hungry Horse Dam. January through July was 2,300 kaf, or 109% of average; April through August was 2,100 kaf, or 104% of average; and May through September was 1,950 kaf, or 110% of average (sets RFM elevations through the draw down period).

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

- **The Dalles:** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 72 maf, or 81% of average;
- **Lower Granite:** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 18 maf, or 90% of average;
- **Libby:** Corps January runoff forecast April to August is 6,061 kaf, or 100% of average; and
- **Dworshak:** NWRFC January runoff forecast April to July is 2,178 kaf, or 88% of average.

Jonathan Ebel, IDFG, asked if the Corps had an estimate on when Dworshak flows might be coming up. Johnathan Roberts, Corps, noted that there is no indication for a need to move water at this time, and that likely flows will come up come mid-February. At this point, the project is conserving water for refill. The Corps will put out a public announcement and email update prior to increasing flows.

In response to Jonathan's concerns around Libby drafts, Leon Basdekas, Corps, noted that it has been a dry January and while the snowpack is holding steady, we are losing ground with respect to average conditions for this time of year. The Corps' forecast and RFC's forecast are closer to one another than in the past (about 85% of average). The project will likely be dropping to minimum flows once the February official water supply forecast is released and will remain there for the month of February unless there are drastic changes in the basin within the next week. He clarified that the project is still drafting to FRM targets and it's still early on in the year, with the potential for more snow.

Chum Operation – Doug reported that Bonneville today at 0700 hours had a total outflow of 134 kcfs, with a project tailwater elevation of 12.2 feet.

The NWRFC inflow forecast for the next 10-days ranges from a low of 124 kcfs on February 3 to a high of 130 kcfs on January 30; it is a relatively constant and stable inflow forecast.

The 10-day forecasted period shows localized areas of above average precipitation in central and eastern Idaho and northwestern Montana, but below average precipitation throughout the majority of the Columbia River Basin. Similarly, the 5-day QPF shows areas in central and eastern Idaho and northwestern Montana with above average precipitation, while the remainder of the Columbia River Basin shows predominantly below average precipitation.

The NWRFC climate forecast for the next 10-days shows generally below average precipitation as well as cooler temperatures; precipitation will come in Thursday through Saturday. Values are below average for this time of year, with forecasted snow levels dropping. Cooling through the 10-day period will start on Sunday with the freezing level down to sea level (0.0 feet).

In response to a query from Charles Morrill, WA, Tony noted that Bonneville is drafting towards the drum gate maintenance elevation and is operating with the draft for Grand Coulee. BPA fully expects to be able to support the chum minimum tailwater elevation through April 10; Reclamation confirmed this.

Questions and Comments from the Public – there were no questions or comments from members of the public.

The next scheduled TMT meeting is on February 8, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Minutes: Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

1. Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – December 14 and January 4

- December 14, 2022 – documents approved.
- January 4, 2023 – documents approved.

2. Official Water Supply Forecasts – Joel Fenolio, BOR, and Doug Baus, Corps NWD

a. January Official Water Supply Forecasts

Reclamation

- Hungry Horse – January Final Forecast
 - January – July
 - 2300 kaf
 - 109% of average
 - Apr – Aug
 - 2100 kaf
 - 104% of average
 - Apr – July
 - 2120 kaf
 - 107% of average
 - May – Sep
 - 1950 kaf
 - 110% of average
 - Sets FRM elevations through draw down period
- Minimum Flows Downstream of Hungry Horse
 - Columbia Falls
 - 3500 cfs

- Hungry Horse
 - 900 cfs

Corps

- NWRFC – The Dalles
 - April to August
 - 72 maf
 - 81% of average
- NWRFC - Lower Granite
 - April to July
 - 18 maf
 - 90% of average
- Corps - Libby
 - January Runoff Forecast
 - 6061 kaf
 - 100% average
- NWRFC - Dworshak
 - April to July
 - 2178 kaf
 - 88% of average

Jonathan Ebel, ID, asked, because Dworshak is using the RFC forecast (Libby is not), if Baus could share Dworshak flows between now and the next water supply forecast. He is concerned because the flow schedule that is generally provided ended on January 20. It looks like it is well below flood control.

Jonathan Roberts, Corps, relayed that flows would come up no sooner than mid-February, right now there are no indications of needing to release water. If there is an indication of a possibility of additional flows, they will put out a public announcement as well as provide in monthly update. As of now, based on current conditions and summer flow augmentation, there is no need to move water and they are conserving flow.

Ebel asked how confident are the Corps that they are not going to overdraft Libby (in the past there has been a strong discrepancy between the Corps and the RFC forecast).

Leon Basdekas, Corps, said snow pack has been holding steady and the average has been increasing, so the forecast in respect to average has been dropping to match closer to the RFC forecast (at 85% of average). They will probably be dropping to minimum flows once they do their official water supply forecast for February 1, 2023, and will stay there

the month of February unless something drastic happens in the basin. They are currently not expecting an overdraft and are drafting to target. It is still early in the year and it will depend on snowfall and other precipitation.

Ebel said that this is good for possible operation experiments with burbot.

3. Chum Operation – Doug Baus, Corps; Joel Fenolio, BOR; Kelsey Swieca, NOAA Fisheries; Tony Norris, BPA

a. Bonneville Dam - Hourly Data

- January 25, 2023 Hour 7
 - Outflows: 134 kcfs
 - Tailwater elevation: 12.2 ft

b. NWRFC – Inflow Forecast – *Doug Baus, Corps*

- 10-day
 - Low: 124 kcfs (February 3)
 - High: 130 kcfs (January 30)
 - Constant and stable inflow forecast

c. NWRFC – Climate Forecast – *Doug Baus, Corps*

- 10-day QPF
 - Localized areas of above average
 - Central and Eastern Idaho
 - Montana
 - Below average
 - Majority of Columbia basin
- 5-day QPF
 - Similar to the 10-day
 - Areas in Central and Eastern Idaho and Montana are higher than average

d. NWRFC – 10-Day Meteorological Forecast – *Doug Baus, Corps*

- Precipitation
 - Below average precipitation generally
 - Precipitation is forecasted for Thursday - Saturday
 - Drying up on Sunday

- Temperatures
 - Forecasted snow level dropping.
 - Freezing level is at sea level (0 feet).

Charles Morrill, WA, asked for a perspective about the last 10-days of flow at Bonneville. It looked like more water was pushed through though there was a good effort to keep to minimum flows.

Norris said that Grand Coulee is being drafted toward the drum gate maintenance elevation.

e. Chum Salmon Spawning Ground Survey

- Expect to be able to support Chum minimum tailwater through April 10.

4. Set agenda for next meeting – February 8, 2023

- a. Official Water Supply Update
- b. Chum Update
- c. Operations Review

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (chair), Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder, Kelsey Sweica
US Fish & Wildlife Service	
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	Kirk Truscott
Warm Springs Tribe	
Kootenai Tribe	
Spokane Tribe	

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Dan Turner, Aaron Marshall, Scott St. John, Leon Basdekas, Jonathan Roberts

TMT – January 25, 2023

NOAA – Chris Magel

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

BPA – Andrea Ausmus (note taker, Contractor with CorSource Technology Group)

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Energy Keepers – Eve James

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen, Marilyn Fonseca

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Chelan PUD – Jay Fintz

Grant PUD – Peter Graf

Energy GPS – Joshua Rasmussen