

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Friday, August 7, 2020

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Stranz; Notes: Colby Mills

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://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2020/>.

Lower Granite RSW Operation

Dave Swank, USFWS, presented SOR 2020-5 (posted on the TMT website) which would adjust Lower Granite RSW operations from those described in the 2020 Fish Passage Plan (FPP). The request is for the Corps to leave the RSW in place through the end of August (summer spill season), regardless of river flow level, unless there is a recommendation from FPAC to remove it if juveniles stop using it. Salmon Managers noted that they are closely monitoring data from the new PIT tag antennae in the RSW at Lower Granite, which currently shows sub-yearling Chinook still using the RSW at higher rates than the Juvenile Bypass System (JBS). It was noted that because fish are still using the RSW route, this is an opportunity to learn and experiment with a new tool and evaluate for future operations as a possible permanent change.

The operation will be reviewed regularly at FPAC and TMT meetings; passage information is available on the DART and FPC websites. Jon Roberts, Corps, noted that Dworshak operations will not be impacted, as the project is on minimum generation based on current flows. Spill will be maintained regardless of the RSW operations.

SOR signatories included: NOAA, USFWS, ID, WA, OR, Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, Colville Tribes, and CRITFC. The TMT Members polled on the SOR:

NOAA	Support	USFWS	Support
OR	Support	ID	Support
WA	Support	MT	No objection
Kootenai	Absent	Spokane	Absent
Colville	Absent, but signatory of SOR	Nez Perce	Support
Umatilla	Absent, but signatory of SOR	Warm Springs	Absent
BOR	Absent	BPA	Support
Corps	Support		

Doug Baus, Corps, reported that the Corps will implement the SOR as written. If there is desire or need to revert back to the flow trigger identified in the FPP, Dave will notify the Action Agencies via email.

Dworshak Operations

Jon reported that the turbine outage for Doble testing at Lower Granite was completed yesterday at 1900 hours, and the project is at minimum generation. The project tailwater is at 66.61 degrees F, with forebay temperatures currently under 70 degrees F. The 10-day weather forecast only shows 2 days with 90-degree F heat, with should result in water temperatures staying below 67.5 degrees F in the next 5-6 days. Dworshak flows will be reduced by 600-700 cfs tonight at midnight to be most efficient with the water through the rest of August in case of additional heat waves. Temperatures will continue to be evaluated in the coming week to determine future operations.

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 August 12 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.

Columbia River Regional Forum

Technical Management Team DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES

Friday, August 7, 2020

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

This Friday TMT meeting was convened to discuss Lower Granite RSW operations. The 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. Lower Granite RSW Operation - Dave Swank, USFWS

Today's special Friday TMT was scheduled to discuss the Lower Granite spillway weir (RSW) operation. The salmon managers of FPAC presented SOR 2020-5, which recommends that the RSW remain in operation through August 31 to maintain PIT-tag detection through the new RSW antenna. This diverges from the default operation in the 2020 Fish Passage Plan, which states the RSW will close when flows are below 30 kcfs (which is currently forecasted to occur sometime next week). The full SOR is available on the TMT website.

Dave Swank, USFWS, reported that juveniles – mostly Chinook subyearlings – are still passing the project via the RSW at a higher rate compared to the juvenile bypass system. Salmon managers have questioned if juvenile migrants change their behavior (i.e., travel deeper in the water column) in the summer when water is warmer. Studies on the subject are limited. Leaving the RSW open would allow the salmon managers to continue collecting PIT-tag data, which they hope will help inform future decisions and may lead to a more permanent request.

Swank added that FPAC will continue to monitor PIT-tag data at the RSW and bypass, as well as adult passage, to ensure the operation of the RSW is meeting the intent and not causing any issues for adults. The data will likely be reviewed at each TMT and FPAC meeting. Scott Bettin, BPA, mentioned the data may need to be reviewed more often than that, likely daily. In the event the managers think the RSW needs to be closed, they will notify Doug Baus, Corps, via email. Spill will be maintained at the FOP level even if the RSW is closed.

Jon Roberts, Corps, said the operation will not result in changes to Dworshak Dam. Lower Granite is currently at minimum generation due to low flows and spill will remain the same.

Signatories of the SOR included: NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, Yakama Nation, Colville Tribes, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Stranz polled TMT agencies regarding the SOR. For details on how TMT is polled, please see the TMT meeting guidelines and specifications on the TMT website. While the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Colville Tribes were not present at today's meeting, their support was assumed as they are signatories on the SOR.

Polling results were as follows:

Agency	Vote
Army Corps of Engineers	Support
Bonneville Power Administration	Support
Bureau of Reclamation	Absent
NOAA Fisheries	Support (SOR signatory)
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Support (SOR signatory)
Washington	Support (SOR signatory)
Oregon	Support (SOR signatory)
Idaho	Support (SOR signatory)
Montana	Absent
Nez Perce Tribe	Support (SOR signatory)
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Absent (SOR signatory)
Colville Tribe	Absent (SOR signatory)
Warm Springs Tribe	Absent
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	Absent

Based on today's poll, the Corps will implement the SOR as written and leave the RSW in operation regardless of flows. If there is a desire to change the operation, Swank will notify the Corps and BPA via email.

2. Dworshak Dam Update

Roberts provided a short update on Dworshak Dam. The turbine outage related to Doble testing at Lower Granite Dam was completed yesterday at 19:00 and the project is operating at minimum generation. The water temperature in the Lower Granite tailwater is 66.61°F in the tailwater and under 70°F in the forebay, even at the 1.5-meter depth. The 10-day weather forecast only shows two days where air temperature is expected to rise above 90°F. To be efficient with the remaining water available, the Corps will reduce flows out of Dworshak Dam by 600-700 cfs at midnight tonight. This will help preserve water in case there is an additional heat wave later in August. Roberts will notify TMT members and agencies of this change via email later today.

Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Absent
NOAA Fisheries	Claire McGrath, Trevor Conder
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Absent
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Absent

Agency	TMT Representative
Colville Tribe	Absent
Warm Springs Tribe	Absent
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	Absent

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Eric Hockersmith, Chris Peery, Dan Turner, Laura Hamilton, Jon Roberts

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant