

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 22, 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 February 8 meeting minutes and facilitator's summary with no additional edits.

Chum Operation – Doug Baus, Corps, reported that Bonneville Dam today at 0700 hours had a total outflow of 134 kcfs, with a project tailwater elevation of 12.1 feet.

The NWRFC inflow forecast for Bonneville Dam over the next 10-days ranges from a high of 130 kcfs on February 22 to a low of 119 kcfs on February 28. The 10-day weather forecast period shows quite a bit of variability for precipitation; somewhat average conditions in western Washington, Oregon, and central Idaho, followed by far below average conditions. The 5-day QPF shows well below average precipitation throughout the Columbia River basin. In comparison to the Water Year (October 1, 2022-February 21, 2023), the Snake River above Ice Harbor dam is 80% of normal, the upper Columbia River basin above Arrow Dam is 73% of normal, and the Columbia River mainstem above the Dalles is 72% of normal.

The NWRFC climate forecast for the 6-10-day outlook, as well as the 8-14 and 30-day outlooks, show a probability of below average temperatures and above average precipitation.

Tony Norris, BPA, noted that BPA still expects to continue to support the Bonneville Dam 11.8 feet minimum tailwater for chum while drafting towards Grand Coulee drum gate maintenance elevation. He added that with the forecasted dry conditions and low inflows into Grand Coulee, there is potential that additional draft out of Grand Coulee may be needed to support chum through March. Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, noted that with the dry conditions, there may come a point to consider tradeoffs between spring flows and chum operations over the next 6 weeks.

In response to a query from Kirk Truscott, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Tony noted that regarding additional draft at Grand Coulee, there is potential to draft Grand Coulee below the drum gate operating range (5 feet) before chum emergence is complete.

An additional TMT meeting was scheduled for March 1 to coordinate on the chum operation.

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

The next scheduled TMT meeting is on March 1, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 22, 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 –February 8

- February 8 notes approved

2. Chum Operation – *Doug Baus, Corps-NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Joel Fenolio, BOR, and; Kelsey Swieca, NOAA Fisheries*

a. Bonneville Dam - Hourly Data – *Doug Baus, Corps*
(Hour ending 7)

- Total Project Outflow: 134 kcfs
- Project Tailwater Elevation: 12.1 feet

b. Bonneville Dam – Inflow Forecast

- High: 130 kcfs (February 22)
- Low: 119 kcfs (February 28)

c. NWRFC Forecasted Precipitation Summary

- Precipitation forecasted in the Pacific Northwest – Snow in some areas.
- 10 Day Forecast
 - There is variability of forecasted precipitation over next ten days.
 - Average conditions in Western Washington, Western Oregon, and Central Idaho.
 - Some areas of far below average conditions are also shown in the 10-day QPF.
- 5 Day Forecast
 - 5-day QPF shows well below average precipitation throughout the Columbia Basin.

d. NWRFC – Water Year Precipitation Table (October 1 – February 21)

- Snake River – above Ice Harbor Dam

- Observed: 8.9 in.
 - Normal: 11.2 in.
 - 80% of Normal
 - Upper Columbia Basin – above Arrow Dam
 - Observed: 19.9 in.
 - Normal: 27.4 in.
 - 73% of Normal
 - Columbia River Main Stem – above The Dalles
 - Observed: 10.3 in.
 - Normal: 14.2 in
 - 72% of Normal
- e. NWRFC Climate Forecast
- 6 to 10 Day and 8 to 14 Day Outlook
 - Probability of below average temperatures and above average precipitation
 - 30 Day Outlook (March 2023)
 - Probability of below average temperatures and above average precipitation

Tony Norris, BPA, shared that they still expect to continue to support the 11.8 minimum tailwater at Bonneville Dam as they draft Grand Coulee for drum gate maintenance. There are dry conditions in the forecast. There are low inflows into Grand Coulee and they are expected to decrease into March. There is usually more flow into the Snake River at this time but with the colder than average temperatures there are lower stream flows. There will possibly be a need for additional draft out of Grand Coulee in March. TMT may want to schedule an additional meeting for next week to check in again.

Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, added that with how dry it is there may be a need to look at trade-offs between spring flows and supporting chum over the next six weeks. That the Water Management Plan had spring flows as a priority and continuing to operate for chum could severally impact spring flows. Also that drafting below elevation 1240 ft at Grand Coulee could require more severe cuts to flows to support chum.

Kirk Truscott, Colville, asked Tony about additional Grand Coulee draft. He wanted to know whether it was additional to what is required for the drum gate target.

Norris responded affirmatively. They cannot be above the 1255 once drum maintenance begins on March 15. There is an operating range during drum gate maintenance years where FRM elevations are above that elevation, there is typically a 5-ft operating range to manage the system across the period of maintenance. There is potential they will need to draft below the operating range across March and below April 10 before chum emergence is complete.

Truscott agreed that there would need to be a meeting next week.

An additional meeting was put on the calendar for March 1.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, shared that he may have a conflict with the meeting on March 1.

3. Public Comments:

None

4. Set agenda for next meeting – March 1, 2023

- a. Chum Operations

Today's Attendees:

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

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Aaron Marshall, Scott St. John, Dan Turner

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

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

Oregon DEQ – Marilyn Fonseca, David Gruen

Clearing Up – K. C. Mehaffey

Douglas PUD – Andrew Gingerich

Snohomish PUD – Jesse Pruess