

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

October 4, 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 summary from the September 20 meeting.

Operations Review – Reservoirs: Eric Rothwell, Reclamation, reported on Bureau of Reclamation projects:

- **Hungry Horse:** midnight elevation was just below 3,542.9 feet, with outflows averaging 2,300 cfs. Inflows remain low; the project is drafting around 1-foot/week to maintain Columbia Falls minimums.
- **Grand Coulee:** the project achieved 1,283 feet refill after summer flow augmentation and is currently just above 1,283 feet. Inflows are averaging 58 kcfs with outflows averaging 46 kcfs; the project continues to fill.

In response to a query regarding any increases in inflows from recent rains, Eric noted he has only been looking at calculated unregulated flow and would need to check the gauges. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that flow response from precipitation may be marginal as soil recovers moisture following the extended dry period through the summer.

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on Corps of Engineers projects for October 3:

- **Libby:** midnight elevation was 2,438.8 feet, average inflows of 3.6 kcfs, outflows of 6.2 kcfs;
- **Albeni Falls:** midnight elevation was 2,059.9 feet, average inflows of 12.4 kcfs, outflows of 19.9 kcfs;
- **Dworshak:** midnight elevation was 1,518.5 feet, average inflows of 1 kcfs, outflows of 1.7 kcfs;
- **Lower Granite:** average outflows of 21.8 kcfs;
- **McNary:** average outflows of 81.3 kcfs; and,
- **Bonneville:** average outflows of 80.7 kcfs.

Doug noted that the first draft of the [Water Management Plan](#) (WMP) has been posted to the TMT website and is ready for review and comments. The WMP review timeline is also posted on the TMT website.

Water Quality: Dan Turner, Corps, reported that tailwater gauges are operating as expected and TDG values are currently less than the water quality criteria. The Lower Granite tailwater temperature gauge was malfunctioning. The issue has been reported and should be corrected by end of the week, with all bad data wiped.

Fish: Trevor Conder, NOAA, reported a passage index of 2,926 adult Chinook at Bonneville yesterday, down from a weekly peak of 5,134. Also, 519 jack Chinook, down from a peak of 1,030; 411 steelhead, down from 774; and 2,496 coho, down from 3,025.

At Lower Granite: 356 adult Chinook, down from a peak of 580; 74 jack Chinook, down from 103; 1,491 steelhead, down from 2,137; and 340 coho, down from 615.

For juveniles only sub-yearling Chinook continue to pass. In the past two weeks at Lower Granite, passage index has ranged from 3-39; 3-40 at Little Goose, 0-16 at McNary; and 6-212 at Bonneville.

Dave Swank, USFWS, reported very few juvenile lamprey passing these days, and added that the adult run is pretty much over for the season. The end of season LPS counts are forthcoming.

Charles Morrill, WDFW, posted an update from TAC in the meeting chat:

“TAC met on October 2 and reviewed Chinook and steelhead run size information and lower river Chinook harvest data. TAC estimates through October 1, a total of 88,477 A-Index steelhead (including 32,965 unclipped fish) and 18,674 B-Index steelhead (including 4,872 unclipped fish) have passed Bonneville Dam. TAC updated the A-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 91,800 total A-Index fish including 33,600 unclipped A-Index fish. TAC updated the total B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 20,700 including 5,200 unclipped fish. TAC also updated the upriver fall Chinook run to 378,000 URBs, 57,000 PUBs and 153,000 BPH at the mouth of the Columbia River. The early run coho count at Bonneville Dam through September totaled 106,010. TAC will continue to meet and provide run size updates as appropriate during the fall management season.”

Power System: Tony reported that as the fall season approaches, things are cooling down and less energy is being used. BPA is starting to prepare for the start of chum. He noted an additional TMT meeting was added on October 25th to help TMT prepare for the start of the chum operation.

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 on October 18, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, October 4, 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 Summaries and Minutes – September 20

- September 20 – Approved

2. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs

Reclamation – Eric Rothwell

- Hungry Horse Dam
 - Influence is pretty low.
 - Capturing ~1 foot per week to support Columbia Falls minimums.
 - Outflows: 2300 cfs
 - Midnight elevation: 3543.29 ft.
- Grand Coulee Dam
 - Refill after the flow augmentation in the summer and achieved the 1283' objective a couple of days ago.
 - Midnight elevation: ~1283 ft.
 - Average Inflows: ~58 kcfs
 - Outflows: ~46 kcfs
 - Continuing to fill a little bit.

Brian Marotz, MT, asked if Rothwell has seen any response in the inflows from the nice rain that we have been having.

Rothwell said that he should look at the actual gages, he had been looking at the calculated unregulated flow and that is a daily calculation. He said that he will have to look at the gages. He said that he hopes so. He asked if Marotz had seen it come up.

Marotz said that he has not looked and that is why he asked. He said that he will get on there. He said that sometimes they see a lot of Banks storage in situations like this so you will not see a great response in the calculated field.

Norris said to remember that we have has a pretty extended dry period so we are recovering soil moisture so the response from precipitation events will be muted significantly until those buckets fill up.

Marotz agreed saying that he has seen that before. He told Rothwell thank you.

Corps – Doug Baus

- Libby Dam (October 3)
 - Midnight elevation: 2438.8 ft.
 - Inflows: 3.6 kcfs
 - Outflows: 6.2 kcfs
- Albeni Falls
 - Midnight elevation: 2059.9 ft.
 - Inflows: 12.4 kcfs
 - Outflows: 19.9 kcfs
- Dworshak Dam
 - Midnight elevation: 1518.5 ft.
 - Inflows: 1 kcfs
 - Outflows: 1.7 kcfs
- Lower Granite average outflows: 21.8 kcfs
- McNary average outflows: 81.3 kcfs
- Bonneville average outflows: 80.7 kcfs

Draft Water Management Plan

- As noted at the last meeting the Corps has posted the Draft Water Management Plan. Available on the [Water Management Plan website](#) and ready for review.

b. *Water Quality – Dan Turner, Corps*

- Gages are working properly as expected and TDG values are less than the criteria.
- Lower Granite’s tail water temperature gage was malfunctioning. It has been reported and should be corrected by the end of this week.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC, asked Turner is he was going to wipe the old data or if he was able to figure out how to get the right data. He said that obviously we do not want that bad data in the historical database. He asked what the plan is on that.

Turner said that he will just wipe the bad data out.

c. *Fish*

Salmon – Trevor Conder, NOAA

- Adults
 - Bonneville Counts (October 3)
 - Adult Chinook: 2,926

- Down from the weekly peak of 5,134.
- Jack Chinook: 519
 - Down from a peak of 1,030.
- Steelhead: 411
 - Down from peak of 774.
- Coho: 2,496
 - Down from peak of 3,025.
- Lower Granite Counts
 - Adult Chinook: 356
 - Down from the weekly peak of 580.
 - Jack Chinook: 74
 - Down from a peak of 103.
 - Steelhead: 1491
 - Higher numbers
 - Down from peak of 2137.
 - Coho: 340
 - Down from peak of 615.
- Juveniles
 - Subyearling Chinook (Last two weeks)
 - Lower Granite
 - Range 3 – 39 Indexed
 - Little Goose
 - Range 3 – 40 Indexed
 - McNary
 - Range 0 – 9 Indexed
 - Bonneville
 - Range 6 – 212 Indexed

TAC Update – Charles Morrill, WA

Posted the TAC Update but Andrea Ausmus, BPA notetaker, was not present so was unable to grab the details at the time. Contact Morrill for more information if necessary.

Lamprey – Dave Swank, USFWS

- Few, if any, lamprey juveniles passing at the dams.
- Adult run is over for the season.

- A few are still trickling through but there are days that it is negative because of the way that lamprey pass.
- Waiting for the End-of-Season LPS Counts.

d. Power System – *Tony Norris, BPA*

- Approaching fall season so people are using less energy.
- It is cooling down soon.
- Starting to position the system for the start of chum.

Stranz said that there was an additional meeting added. There is the October 18 meeting and process meeting and then there is also one for October 25. She asked if Norris wanted to say anything about coordinating chum.

Norris said it is just prudent to have a meeting the week before to discuss the start date to the chum operation prior to the first week of November. He said that it is best to have a meeting around the end of the month.

Stranz asked Morrill if he had anything to add but he was unable to come off of mute. She said that she would follow up with him via email.

3. Public Comments:

4. Set agenda for next meeting – October 18, 2023

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Aaron Marshall
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris
Bureau of Reclamation	
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	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe	Tom Lorz (CRITFC)
Colville Tribe	
Warm Springs Tribe	
Kootenai Tribe	
Spokane Tribe	

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE – Dan Turner, Alexis Mills, Chris Peery

BOR – Eric Rothwell

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DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor) – not present.

Oregon DEQ – David Gruen

Energy Keepers – Eve James

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris

Snohomish PUD – Kevin Costello