

## **COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM**

**Technical Management Team**

**Emergency Conference Call**

**March 7, 2003**

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

The following is a summary of the process discussion between members of the Technical Management Team on 3/7/03. The notes are not intended to be a verbatim account of the meeting nor do they serve as the official "record". They are intended to highlight discussion points, decisions, and actions.

### **SOR 2003-02:**

Dave Wills, USFWS, presented an SOR for fishery operations at the Bonneville project following the March 8 Spring Creek Hatchery release. The request reflects this year's unique conditions and facilitates movement of the juvenile out-migrants. The request is to maintain a minimum tailwater of 13' and provide spill at 50 kcfs beginning Monday evening 3/10 for 36 hours (less than the normal 100-150 kcfs from previous years). This operation would provide depth protection of chum redds and TDG levels at or below 110%. The request has been presented due to the extra water from the CGS outage, a forecast for heavy rain and the conjunction with the peak of fish migration. If, however, there is not evidence of passage on Monday morning, the request is to hold off on spill until the following morning. Dave noted that it is also important not to jeopardize the April 10 flood control rule curve.

Ron Boyce, Oregon, advocated for spill at higher levels and a longer period of time, as in past years. While Oregon felt this to be a "bare bones" operation for a critical fishery stock, the state will not elevate the issue to IT. Scott Bettin, BPA, requested that the Regional Executives discuss the issue at their meeting this morning and give the final "go-ahead".

**ACTION:** Cindy Henriksen, COE, will report the following points to the Regional Executives during their meeting this morning:

- From a technical standpoint, TMT members agree that the SOR is feasible.
- Oregon, USFWS, and CRITFC expressed a desire to see more spill, but support the SOR.
- The BPA TMT representative requested Executive approval of the SOR before implementing it.

Cindy will notify TMT on the outcome of the Regional Executives meeting as soon as possible.

Liz Hamilton, Northwest Sport Fishing Industry Association, expressed that the Spring Creek hatchery fish are the driver for the largest fishery of the season. Bob Heinith, CRITFC, noted this is true for sport fishing, trollers, the Alaskan fishery and the tribal fishery.