

# COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

## TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 27, 2006 Meeting and

### FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Donna Silverberg

Notes: Robin Harkless

The following notes are a summary of issues that are intended to 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

TMT Call 2/27: Specifics of the operation were discussed during a TMT conference call on Monday, 2/27 and the operation was planned as follows:

- The Spring Creek hatchery release will occur at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 2.
- The COE will open the B2 Corner Collector at 7:00 am on Friday, March 3. This will allow time for debris to flush out of the collector before the fish arrive, an estimated 24-30 hours after the release.
- Operation of the corner collector will continue for five days, or until 95% of the fish have passed the dam, whichever occurs sooner.
- The Bonneville tailwater will be held as close as possible to a flat 14.5' in order to monitor TDG on Friday. Cathy Hlebechuk, Dave Wills, John Wellschlager and Paul Wagner will discuss a tailwater elevation for Bonneville (possibly reduced from 14.5') during a conference call on Friday at 3:30 pm, based on observed TDG below Bonneville.
- Cathy Hlebechuk, Dave Wills, John Wellschlager and Paul Wagner will have a call on Monday, March 6, to look at the percentage of fish passed and whether or not the operation can end sooner than the planned five days. If they see a need to convene the other TMT members, Cathy will send an email notice to TMT.
- There will be an update on the above operations at the March 8 TMT meeting.

## Technical Management Team Conference Call Notes

February 27, 2006

## ***1. Greetings and Introductions.***

Today's Technical Management Team conference call was chaired by Cathy Hlebechuk and facilitated by Donna Silverberg. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made during this call. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should contact Hlebechuk at 503-808-3942.

## ***2. Operations in Support of 2006 Spring Creek Hatchery Release.***

As you're aware, this topic was discussed at last week's TMT meeting; it was also discussed at an IT conference call, Silverberg said. David Wills said no new SOR has been submitted. The fish will be released this Thursday; we request that the corner collector begin operating this Friday, and continue to operate for five full days. The goal is to operate the corner collector until the 95% passage point is reached, Wills said; if that occurs before the five days is up, we'll be happy to discuss curtailing the operation sooner. Any delay in the release of the fish would be detrimental, however, Wills added.

Hlebechuk asked what time the fish will be released on Thursday. Some time prior to noon, Wills replied. The earlier the better, said John Wellschlager. Based on the current forebay gas levels, I think we'll be in pretty good shape, Wills observed. Rudd Turner said he had just spoken with Dennis Schwartz; Bonneville project personnel would prefer to begin corner collector operation as early as possible on Friday, because there is some accumulated trash in the forebay, and they want to pass it through the corner collector prior to the arrival of the fish. We would like to begin watering up about 7 am, said Schwartz; that will give the cul-de-sac area four or five hours to clear of debris before the fish arrive. I don't believe that will hinder your planned release timing, he added.

And you will begin monitoring gas as soon as the corner collector operation begins? Silverberg asked. Yes – we'll be monitoring at the chum redd sites, as we've done in previous years, Wills replied.

Various TMT participants said that, in their view, a couple of hours will be more than adequate to free the forebay of debris. Wellschlager noted that river flows are expected to pick up later this week, because of recent precipitation events, so the fish may arrive at Bonneville somewhat faster than the 24-30 hours post-release that was observed in 2005. We would certainly prefer to have the flow pattern established before the fish begin arriving in large numbers, Wills said – we'll rely on the Corps' estimate of how long it will take to move that debris out of there. I would say a minimum of two hours, maybe three, said Schwartz.

So is the Corps comfortable with allowing a three-hour window for the debris to leave? Silverberg asked. Yes, was the reply. If the corner collector is OK for fish passage by 10 am on Friday, where does that put the release timing on Thursday? Turner asked. The fish will be released by noon on Thursday, Wills replied. Schwartz added that he will personally be inspecting the corner collector early on Thursday, before the corner collector is watered up. The contractor has guaranteed that he will finish his work by late Thursday night, Schwartz added.

The only other thing to discuss is whether the TMT should touch base on Friday to discuss the TDG levels at the redd sites, with an eye toward reducing the tailwater depth below 14.5 feet, said Wellschlager. We'll put that on the schedule, Silverberg said. Wellschlager added that the action agencies will do their best to hold Bonneville's tailwater depth as close to 14.5 feet as possible in the interim, although there will be some sort of operating range associated with that depth.

Wills noted that the Fish Wildlife Service is pretty sure the corner collector operation will need to continue at least five days, beginning this Friday. Typically, in recent years, after five days, we've seen around 90-91 percent cumulative passage, so five days is probably a minimum, in terms of the duration of the corner collector operation, Wills added. Bonneville is OK with specifying five days or 95 percent cumulative passage, whichever comes first, Wellschlager said. And is the Corps OK with that as well? Silverberg asked. I'm not sure, Turner said – my understanding is that the contractor who is installing the high-flow PIT detector has used up all of his "float" days, so if the corner collector operation continues an extra day, that could delay the completion of the high-flow PIT detector, unless the contractor is ahead of schedule, which he is not, currently. I just want the TMT to be aware that there could be a slight delay in the completion of that work, and the date by which we can start using the corner collector later this spring, Schwartz said. Currently, the corner collector is scheduled to be operational by April 9, Schwartz added. The Corps is OK with five days of corner collector operation, or 95 percent cumulative passage, whichever occur first, Hlebechuk said.

It was agreed that a TMT subgroup consisting of Wellschlager, Wills, Wagner and Hlebechuk, rather than the full TMT, will convene on Friday afternoon and Monday afternoon to discuss the status of the Spring Creek operation, including cumulative passage numbers and TDG data from the chum redds. The full TMT will be alerted via email if significant problems are seen.

Russ Kiefer said that, at last week's TMT meeting, he had said that the salmon managers support a Dworshak-Grand Coulee flood control shift in 2006; it turns out that I spoke prematurely, he said. Several FPAC members have expressed a desire to discuss a 2006 swap in more detail he said; once FPAC revisits that topic at its next meeting, I will inform the TMT of FPAC's recommendation, Kiefer said.

With that, today's conference call was adjourned. Meeting summary prepared by

Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

**TMT Participant List  
February 27, 2006**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Gary Fredricks	NOAAF
David Wills	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Bob Heinith	CRITFC
John Wellschlager	BPA
Dan Spear	BPA
Donna Silverberg	Facilitation Team
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Rudd Turner	COE
Russ Kiefer	