

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

July 7, 2006 Meeting

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: 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.

Dworshak Operations

TMT held conference calls on Friday, July 7, to look at current conditions and forecasts, and continue discussions on Dworshak operations.

Friday, July 7: Jim Adams, COE, reported that the COE operated Dworshak at full powerhouse with one small unit in overshot mode on July 5 for several hours with no change in temperature. They switched all units to undershot mode and temperatures dropped to around 42-42.5°. Lower Granite was currently (July 7) at 68.9° and temperatures at Anatone and Orofino had dropped slightly. The COE noted that the impacts from the Dworshak operation implemented on Wednesday (July 5) would not be observed at Lower Granite until sometime over the weekend (July 8 or 9). Local weather conditions had tempered some since the July 4th weekend. The forecast called for increasing temperatures through the July 7-9 weekend and moderating temperatures by next Wednesday (July 12). Dave Statler, Nez Perce, added that the Clearwater at Spalding was running 15.4 kcfs at 55.2°, and Anatone was running 30.2 kcfs at 68°. Weekend operation recommendations were discussed.

NOAA raised concerns that operations so far had not kept temperatures down at Lower Granite, and recommended bumping flows up slightly over the weekend, recognizing the need to try and maintain enough flow through the season. The Nez Perce suggested continuing the current operation through the weekend and having a TMT check in on Monday to discuss the results of Wednesday's operation. Idaho expressed concern and an interest in reserving enough cool water for later in the season, and Oregon reiterated its interest in maintaining temperatures and flows. The USFWS suggested that going below 43° for longer than a few days would be detrimental to the hatchery fish, and asked TMT to be mindful of the trade-offs.

TMT participants agreed to the following: Through the weekend, operate Dworshak at full powerhouse plus 2 kcfs through the RO's (regulatory outlets), with one small unit in overshot mode to maintain (and not go below as a soft constraint) 43°, and not exceed 109% TDG. TMT agreed to check in on Monday, July 10 to determine whether the operations set forth on Wednesday had an effect on Lower Granite. If so, TMT participants agreed to consider dropping flows back down to full powerhouse to support

the interest of saving water for later in the season. If no impact is observed at Lower Granite, the COE would continue its 12 kcfs operation at Dworshak, which would likely show its impact at Lower Granite by Wednesday, July 12.

A face to face TMT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12. Dworshak operations will be on the agenda. The TMT call on Monday will be held at 8:00 am. Please regularly check the TMT web page for details and any scheduling changes.

Technical Management Team Conference Call Notes

July 7, 2006

1. Greetings and Introductions.

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

2. Dworshak Operations.

The group reviewed the current water temperature situation in the Snake and Clearwater Rivers; it was noted that the temperature in the Lower Granite tailrace is still about 69 degrees F. Water temperatures have begun to fall at the monitoring stations upstream of Dworshak, but the bottom line is that the effects of the change we made on Wednesday, increasing Dworshak outflow to full powerhouse capacity with three units in undershot mode, have not yet reached Lower Granite, Jim Adams said. However, that cold water is making its way down through the system, and should reach Lower Granite by tomorrow afternoon at the latest. Adams noted that number of additional informational items, including the latest temperature readings and model runs, are available via hot-link from today's agenda on the TMT homepage.

The discussion then turned to the current weather forecast in the Lewiston and Orofino areas; it was noted that daytime temperatures in the mid-to-high 90s to low 100s are forecast through next Wednesday. In other words, there isn't a lot of cooling on the way until late next week. Adams added that the temperatures in Dworshak pool are somewhat warmer in 2006 than they have been in other recent years; previously we've been able to draw 40-degree water through the powerhouse, but this year, the coldest water we can reach is about 43 degrees, he said.

What does the TMT want to do? Adams asked. Dave Statler suggested that the Corps maintain the current operation, with Dworshak releasing full powerhouse capacity, with a TMT check-in call early next week. Paul Wagner expressed a preference for a more aggressive operation, with Dworshak outflow increased to 12 Kcfs, beginning later today.

In response to a question, Howard Burge of the Dworshak National Hatchery said the juvenile fish at the facility are not being fed right now due to cold water temperatures coming downstream from Dworshak. We're off feed entirely, he said, which means we're not getting any growth, and every day we run 42-43 degrees out of Dworshak is going to make it more difficult to meet our size-at-release criteria.

Rudd Turner said that, according to the most recent STP run, it will be possible to maintain 12 Kcfs from Dworshak from July 12 through August 7, at which point it will be necessary to reduce outflow to full powerhouse capacity. Then, on August 25, Dworshak outflow would be reduced further, to about 8 Kcfs. He noted that the long-term weather forecast for the basin shows above-average temperatures over the next six weeks. Rich Domingue said it was probably a mistake, in his view, to reduce Dworshak outflow to 4.2 Kcfs over the weekend; he said he is reluctant to opt for a more conservative approach now.

The group devoted a few minutes of discussion to the preferred Dworshak operation over the next few days. Ultimately, it was agreed to increase Dworshak outflow to 12 Kcfs, using the regulating outlets (ROs) and putting one of the smaller Dworshak generating units into overshot mode to target a release temperature of 43 degrees F., to help alleviate some of the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery temperature concerns. It was agreed that this operation will begin later this afternoon. That's with the understanding that we will not exceed 109% TDG downstream from Dworshak, Adams said; if we creep up on that criteria, it may be necessary to reduce outflow through the regulating outlets. It was further agreed to re-convene the TMT via conference call on Monday to check in on this operation; if temperature conditions allow, once the cold water currently on its way downstream from Dworshak arrives at Lower granite, the TMT will seriously consider the possibility of reducing Dworshak outflow back down to full powerhouse capacity for most of next week.

The conference call was scheduled for 8 am Monday morning. With that, today's conference call was adjourned.

TMT Meeting Participants
July 7, 2006

Name	Affiliation
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team

Jim Adams	COE
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
David Wills	USFWS
Robin MacKay	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Rich Domingue	NOAAF
Rick Kruger	ODFW
Dave Statler	NPT
Greg Haller	NPT
Howard Burge	Dworshak NFH