

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

CONFERENCE CALL

October 11, 2006 Meeting

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Harkless

Notes: Erin Halton

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.

Winter Temperature Operations for Libby Dam for burbot

Bob Hallock, USFWS, presented a draft SOR for temperature operations at Libby Dam to support burbot; the Libby selective withdrawal system would be used to cool temperatures, with a proposed start date of October 17th. Hallock said there are few burbot in the Kootenai Lake or river area.. Spawning information relative to temperature would be gathered, and the drop in temperature will likely improve conditions for the fish. Hallock noted that the proposed SOR would have no effect on flows or other operations – and that the potential for temperatures dropping below the temperature band agreed upon in 1983 had been discussed and coordinated with Montana Fish and Wildlife and parks. As such, temperatures will be dropped at a rate of no more than two degrees per day. TMT members requested that Vaughn Paragamian, IDFG, provide a description of how the burbot have responded to temperature manipulation in previous years, for inclusion in the final version of the SOR. TMT members raised no objections to the draft SOR.

Action/Next Steps: Russ Kiefer, ID, will contact Paragamian and forward the requested information on to Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, for posting of the final SOR on the TMT website by early next week..

Operations Update

- Cathy Hlebechuk, COE, reported that work at Dworshak on 10/10 had not been completed and would need to be finished. Units 1 and 2 will go offline on 10/12, from 1600-2330 hours. Flows will increase to 2500 cfs during that time, then return to minimum rates.
- Hlebechuk also reported that Albeni Falls elevation was at 2062'.

Next Meeting, October 25th, 9am-noon

A face to face TMT meeting is scheduled to take place on October 25th. Agenda items will include updates on chum, Albeni Falls Operations, and Priest Rapids; Autumn Treaty Fishing review, and revisions to the Water Management Plan. Please regularly check the TMT web page for agendas and any scheduling changes.

Technical Management Team Meeting Notes

October 11, 2006

1. Greetings and Introductions.

The October 11 TMT 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. 2006 Burbot SOR.

Bob Hallock went briefly through the draft 2006 burbot SOR, which requests the following specific operations:

- The Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative burbot subcommittee requests that the Corps of Engineers use the selective withdrawal system at Libby Dam to release the coolest water possible in November and December, 2006 before temperature stratification limits the temperature control capability. The purpose of this operation is to provide cooler in-river conditions downstream of Bonners Ferry and also to determine how radio-tagged burbot in the Kootenai River respond to these temperatures.

Have there been many fish tagged so far this year? Cathy Hlebechuk asked. I don't have the details, but I can find out, Hallock said. It would be helpful to have that tagging information for the record, said Hlebechuk. We can do that, Hallock replied – I'll talk to Vaughan Paragamian. The biggest hurdle for the program is, where do we get some more fish? he said. The year before last, I believe Vaughan was only able to catch 16 or 17 fish. Any information Vaughan can provide on the biological significance of the response by fish to the temperature manipulations we did last year would be very useful, said Russ Kiefer.

It sounds as though the temperature control involves moving the selector gates, Hlebechuk said. It sounds OK to the Corps, but I would like to discuss it with Greg Hoffman when he returns to the office tomorrow. I would also like to get the information from Vaughan, she said. It sounds fine to me, said Paul Wagner. I don't have a problem with it, said Robyn MacKay. Tony Norris said Reclamation has no problem with the requested operation, a sentiment echoed by Kiefer of Idaho and Jim Litchfield of Montana. Kiefer noted that, according to a

report he received from Paragamian, a total of only seven burbot were tagged last year. Kiefer agreed to discuss the tagging information with Paragamian, and to report back to Hlebechuk.

It was agreed that Susan Martin will sign the final burbot SOR. Once you get that to me, we will post it, and replace the draft SOR with the final SOR, Hlebechuk said. We will include your summary of past years' research as part of the justification for the final SOR, Hallock said.

Moving on, Hlebechuk said that, yesterday at Dworshak, units 1 and 2 were supposed to be out of service to allow work on the line, and flow was supposed to be increased to 3.5 Kcfs 0500 – 1700 hours today, but the flows were only held from 0500 – 1000 hours as the contractor had technical difficulties and was unable to complete the work. Flows were then reduced to the Dworshak minimum, 1.4 Kcfs. Thursday night, from 4 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., flows will again be increased to 3.5 Kcfs, then back down to minimum, so the contractor can complete that work, Hlebechuk said.

Albeni Falls discharge was increased on October 7, Hlebechuk continued; the project drafted quickly, and the elevation is currently just under 2061 feet. Also, we're still waiting for TMT comments on the 2007 Water Management Plan, Hlebechuk said. We'll put that on the agenda for October 25, Harkless said.

Will there be any more treaty fishing SORs in 2006? Hlebechuk asked. No – we're done for the season, Dittmer replied.

3. Next TMT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the Technical Management Team was set for Wednesday, August 25. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.

TMT Participant List October 11, 2006

Name	Affiliation
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Robin Harkless	Facilitation Team
Robyn MacKay	BPA
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Tony Norris	USBR
Russ Kiefer	IDFG

Paul Wagner	NOAAF
Jim Adams	COE
Russ George	WMCI
Tom Le	PSE
Mike Buchko	Powerex
Tim Heizenrater	Cascade Energy
Bob Hallock	USFWS
Jeff Loughley	COE
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Bern Klatte	COE