

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 21, 2007 TMT Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Robin Gumpert

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.

Official Minutes/Facilitator Notes

The facilitator notes and official meeting minutes from the 11/7 TMT meeting were posted, and with no further comments or edits, were finalized during today's meeting.

Chum Operations

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that an 11/16 survey observed 11 chum and 6 redds in the Ives Island area. Wagner said the current operation, with tailwater in the range of 11.3-11.7' and a target of 11.5', was providing adequate habitat for that number of fish. The COE and BPA clarified that in the event surplus inflows at Bonneville Dam result in an inability to maintain the 11.5' target range, excess waters will be shaped during nighttime hours (1800-0600 hrs.) These flows will be shaped in time blocks of four hours and may be extended to eight hours, if necessary to maintain tailwater elevations of no higher than 13'.

Action/Next Steps: This item will be on the agenda near the end of the lunch period for the 11/28 TMT year-end-review.

Snake River Zero Generation

Tony Norris, BPA, had no update for TMT members. TMT members will check in on this item near the end of the lunch hour during the year-end-review on 11/28.

Burbot SOR

Jason Flory, USFWS, and Greg Hoffman, COE, referred TMT members to an SOR linked to the TMT agenda. The SOR gives detailed justification for incrementally removing the gates at Libby Dam, to aid Burbot migration and spawning in the Bonners Ferry vicinity. Hoffman clarified that the gate removals began on 10/22.

Action/Next Steps: Greg Hoffman will send the COE a copy of a year-to-year comparison graph, for posting to the web.

2008 Draft Water Management Plan

Jim Adams, COE, said the draft 2008 WMP remains in a "holding pattern." A status hearing for the new BiOP is scheduled for 12/12 and further development of the review process for the new BiOP is expected to be released after that time. Tony Norris

reminded TMT members that they are still welcome to submit comments on the draft document.

Action/Next Steps: This item will likely be on the agenda for the 12/19 TMT meeting.

TMT Year End Review 11/28/07

Facilitator Robin Gumpert reminded TMT members and other meeting participants of the need to RSVP to DS Consulting, in order to be included in the lunch count and the list of attendees for the staff at Robert Duncan Plaza.

Action/Next Steps: Year-end- review presenters should email their power point slides to Jim Adams, COE, by no later than the a.m. of 11/27.

Operations Review

Reservoirs – Libby was at elevation 2434.1' with inflows of 4.7 kcfs and outflows at 12.5 kcfs; flows will be shaped daily/weekly to reach the end of December elevation target of 2411'. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2055.35' with inflows/outflows at 12 kcfs; elevation will be held in the 2055-2055.5' range through 12/21. Dworshak was at elevation 1517.8' with inflows in the range of 1.5-5 kcfs and outflows of 1.5 kcfs. 7-day average flows at Lower Granite were 19 kcfs, McNary averaged 111.4 kcfs and Bonneville averaged 123 kcfs. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1285.2' and is operating to support chum. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3531.01', with outflows of 1.8 kcfs, meeting Columbia Falls minimums.

Fish – Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that adult counts were winding down and that updated video counts from Lower Granite were pending. 11/16 counts showed 100-200 fish passing per day at the project. Dave Wills, USFWS, clarified that video counts record for one week, then download for 3-4 days. An 11/13 chum survey observed 11 chum in the Ives Island area and 20 in the woods area, with operations in place to support chum.

Power system – No report.

Water quality – No report.

Next TMT Meeting: year-end-review 11/28, 9 am-4pm

A TMT check-in will take place near 12:45 to discuss:

- Chum Operations
- 2007 Snake River Zero Flow

12/12/07 TMT Business Meeting:

- Chum Operations
- Operation Review

12/19/07 TMT Business Meeting:

- End of Chum Operations
- Operations Review
- Scheduling for 2008 TMT meetings

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Conference Call
November 21, 2007**

1. Introduction

Today's conference call was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (DS Consulting), with representatives from COE, NOAA, CRITFC, BPA, BOR, Washington, and others on the line. The following is a summary (not a verbatim transcript) of the topics discussed and decisions made at the meeting. Anyone with questions or comments about these notes should provide them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Review Meeting Minutes

The facilitator's notes and official minutes for the November 7 meeting were posted to the TMT web page as of November 16. USFWS, WDFW, BOR, BPA and NOAA representatives have reviewed them. There were no comments on them today.

3. Chum Operations

The current chum operation was initiated on November 9th, and it remains appropriate based on the number of chum seen, Paul Wagner (NOAA) said. As of Friday, November 16, there were only 6 redds and 11 chum in the Ives area, and the current operation is more than adequate to provide habitat for that number of fish.

The Salmon Managers have discussed the potential for increased flows in coming weeks, Wagner said. The preferred operation is to spread any increases over an 8-hour period at night, maintaining a nighttime cap of 13 feet on the tailwater elevation below Bonneville Dam. That is because recent data suggest that flows strong enough to raise tailwater elevations above 13 feet will displace chum from their redds for short periods.

Tony Norris (BPA) asked how higher flows should be handled if the volume of flow exceeds the 13-foot tailwater cap over the course of the 8 hour period. Should flows then be allowed to spike sometime during the 8 hours, or incrementally increased above 13 feet? Wagner didn't have an immediate answer to that, and believed the current plan would suffice for at least the next week. If necessary, TMT will check in on this issue briefly at the year-end review next week. For now, the operation will target an elevation of 11.3 to 11.7 feet during daytime, increasing to no more than 13 feet during the 8-hour period from 6 pm to 6 am (1800-0600 hours).

4. 2007 Snake River Zero Flow

There is not much to report on this, Tony Norris said. Fish are still moving in the river, and will probably continue to do so through the holidays. If necessary, TMT will check in on this briefly at the year-end review next week.

5. Burbot Operations (SOR 2007-FWS2)

Jason Flory (USFWS) presented this SOR (linked to today's agenda) on behalf of the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative. Essentially the SOR calls for the same conditions as last year. The operation involves removing gates at Libby Dam to move cold water from the reservoir into the Kootenai River which aids burbot migration and spawning. The goal is to emulate pre-dam conditions.

Greg Hoffman (COE) reported that the COE began withdrawing gates on October 22, causing temperatures to drop. Figure 1 in the SOR depicts the cold water available in the reservoir from October into early December; Figure 2 shows forebay temperatures in Kooconusa Dam; and Figure 3 depicts conditions in 2006, which were similar to conditions now.

Paul Wagner wondered how closely the operation mimics pre-dam conditions. Hoffman said he'll provide a comparison graph of pre-dam and recent river temperatures, which will be linked to today's TMT agenda.

The operation outlined in this SOR is fine from NOAA's perspective, Wagner said. This takes care of the burbot operation for the year, and TMT shouldn't need to revisit it later, Dave Wills (USFWS) said.

6. 2008 Draft Water Management Plan

The WMP is on hold until a December 12 court hearing regarding the draft 2007 Bi-Op gives us a clearer sense of direction, Jim Adams said. The version of the WMP currently linked to the TMT agenda is still based on the 2004 Bi-Op. Comments on it would be welcome. However, many TMT members have already said they'll wait to comment until the WMP has been updated to reflect the 2007 Bi-Op, Gumpert recalled.

7. TMT Year End Review Preparation

TMT speakers should provide any graphic presentations in PowerPoint to Jim Adams by close of business Monday, November 26.

Adams is looking into the possibility of setting up conference phone access to the meeting. Anyone who wants to attend in person should RSVP by November 26 to Robin Gumpert and Erin Halton to ensure their name is on the security list to enter the building. The facilitators will provide a buffet lunch of

Mexican food costing 6\$ apiece. Notify Robin or Erin by November 26 if you want to partake.

8. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Libby is at elevation 2434.1 feet, with average inflows of 4.7 kcfs and outflows of 12.5 kcfs, which is an increase over the past few days. Expect to see load shaping on a daily and weekly basis as we move through the holidays, Adams said.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,055.35 at the Hope gage, operating within a range of 20.55 to 2055.5 feet through December 31. Inflows are 12.0 kcfs and outflows are 12.0 kcfs, as of yesterday's daily average.

Dworshak is at elevation 1,517.8 feet, with daily inflows fluctuating from 1.5 to 5 kcfs due to recent rain. Yesterday's average inflow was 3.3 kcfs, with outflows holding steady at 1.5 kcfs.

The 7-day average at Lower Granite is 19 kcfs; at McNary, 111.4 kcfs, and at Bonneville, 123 kcfs. There was a spike in the water supply this past weekend, and flows out of Bonneville increased to the equivalent of a 13.5 foot tailwater elevation for about 4 hours the night of November 19.

Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,285.2 feet, operating to meet the targeted tailwater elevation for chum below Bonneville Dam, John Roache reported. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3,531.01 feet, discharging 1.8 kcfs to meet the Columbia Falls minimum flow.

b. Fish. There has not been much adult activity, Paul Wagner said. The focus now is on passage at Lower Granite Dam. Approximately 200 fish (WHAT SPECIES) passed the dam on November 16, the most recent date for which data are available. There's about a 3 to 5 day lag time between data collection via video camera and data reporting.

Scott Bettin (BPA) asked how the data from this year compare with recent years. Last year, between December 6 and 9, the numbers dropped to levels specified in the SOR for 2005, Wagner said. He expects a similar performance this year, as water gets colder and fish slow down until February. Wagner offered no guarantees but said the region could expect a similar pattern this year during the second week of December.

c. Power System. There is nothing to report, Tony Norris said.

d. Water Quality. There is nothing to report, Jim Adams said.

7. Next Meetings

The TMT year-end review is November 28 at Robert Duncan Plaza in downtown Portland. If necessary, at the end of the lunch break TMT will briefly check in on chum operations and Snake River zero nighttime flow. The next regular face-to-face TMT meetings will be on December 12 and 19. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Jim Adams	COE
Dave Wills	USFWS
Scott Bettin	BPA
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Tony Norris	BPA
Cindy LeFleur	Washington
John Roache	BOR
Jason Flory	USFWS
Bruce McKay	Consultant
Katrina Starr	USFWS
Dan Spear	BPA
Bob Buchholz	COE
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Richelle Beck	DRA
Paul Wagner	USFWS
Greg Hoffman	COE
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