

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 19, 2007 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 from the 11/28 short business meeting and 12/12 meeting were posted, and the COE said they would correct the link locations to corresponding dates on the TMT webpage. The facilitator notes from the 11-28 year-end-review, along with the official meeting minutes from 11/28 and 12/12 were not yet posted; they were expected to be posted soon and will be on the agenda for finalization at the TMT meeting on 1/16/08.

Chum Operations

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that one fish was observed on 12/18 in the Ives area but no redd count was provided from the latest chum survey. Discussion at the 12/18 FPAC meeting led to a recommendation from the salmon managers to continue the current chum protection operation of a daytime elevation target of 11.5' (11.3-11.7') until 12/24, when the operation could shift to a 24-hour 11.5' minimum hard constraint. Should spring water availability become a concern, Wagner said a slightly lower tailwater elevation might be acceptable. Wagner clarified that the existing redd locations had been tracked through GPS and that depending on contract funding, a model may be run to map this year's redds. The elevation of the redds could then be determined and a more informed decision on the effects of a lower tailwater elevation could be made. TMT members present on the call (NOAA, USFWS, BOR, BPA, COE, ID) did not object to the Salmon Manager's recommended operation.

Action/Next Steps: The COE planned to issue a teletype describing the following operation: Bonneville operators will target a daytime tailwater range of 11.3'-11.7'; excess waters will be shaped during nighttime hours (1800-0600 hours.) A hard constraint of minimum 11.5' tailwater will take effect at 0600 on 12/24 and will continue until further notice.

Snake River Zero Nighttime Generation

Tony Norris, BPA, said that in light of steelhead counts of 146 on 12/15 and 131 on 12/16, the recommendation is to hold off on implementing nighttime zero generation until 1/1/08, to coincide with the closing of the fish ladders. The COE clarified that video counts through 12/16 were posted on the web and that taping will continue until the

fish ladders go offline on 1/1/08. However, the data from 12/16 through 1/1/08 would not be read off the video tapes until a new contract has been completed and the contractor extracts the information. He added that steps are being taken to amend future contracts so that video counts do not end until the fish ladders close. NOAA and USFWS thanked Jim Adams, COE, for his efforts in extending the video count timeframe for this year.

Action/Next Steps: The operation shift will be made on January 1, 2008 to allow zero generation within a six hour block between the hours of 2200 and 0600, congruent with the closing of the fish ladders at Bonneville. (The auxiliary water supply will be shut down on 12/31 and dewatering will occur from 1/2–22/2008.) As requested, video results for dates beyond 12/16 will be posted sometime in the future. Language will be included in the 2008 Fish Passage Plan that requests video collection through the closing of the fish ladders; the contracting officer is expected to negotiate a contract in February of 2008.

Operations Review

Reservoirs – Grand Coulee was at elevation 1287.3' and being held steady to support chum. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3528.09', with outflows at 2.2 kcfs. John Roache, BOR, gave TMT a heads up on a G3 unit test scheduled at Hungry Horse for 1/14/08, which will require ramping up outflows to an estimated 3-3.2 kcfs for one day. Depending on required discharges for minimum flows, it may require 2 days to ramp flows back down (ramp rates are 600 cfs/day). Libby was at elevation 2418.8' with inflows of 3.4 kcfs and outflows of 21 kcfs; flows will be shaped daily/weekly to reach the end of December elevation target of 2411'. Based on December final forecasts, Libby will maintain outflows to 4.5 kcfs to reach the end of January elevation target of 2408'; the end of January flood control target and therefore the January operation is contingent upon the results of the January final forecast. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2055.4' with inflows of 21 kcfs and outflows at 18.2 kcfs; Dworshak was at elevation 1520.5' with inflows of 1.7 kcfs. 7-day average flows at Lower Granite were in the 20-21 kcfs range; McNary flows had dropped to an 80-90 kcfs range and Bonneville was averaging 127 kcfs.

Fish – No report – see chum update.

Power system – No report.

Water quality – No report.

1/16/08 TMT Meeting:

Agenda items may include the following:

- Final January Water Supply Forecast
- Lessons Learned from 2007
- Updates to the draft 2008 Water Management Plan
- Operations Review

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Technical Management Team Conference Call
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1. Introduction

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Jim Adams (COE) and facilitated by Robin Gumpert (D.S. Consulting). Representatives from USFWS, NOAA, COE, BPA, BOR, Idaho and others were 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 from the year end review on November 28 will be available for comment at the next TMT meeting January 16. Notes from the December 12 meeting will also be addressed on January 16.

3. Chum Operations

The Salmon Managers discussed this yesterday at FPAC and agreed on continuing the current operation until December 24, with daytime flows to maintain an 11.3-11.7 foot tailwater elevation below Bonneville, targeting 11.5 feet unless surplus flows are needed to be passed, Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported. At 0600 hours on December 24, the project will shift from chum spawning operations to chum incubation operations where a minimum tailwater elevation of 11.5 feet will be maintained 24 hours per day as a hard constraint. The 11.5 foot elevation is a minimum unless availability of water becomes an issue or chum survey crews report that a lower tailwater elevation would suffice. NOAA, BOR, BPA, USFWS and Idaho representatives agreed on these operations.

4. 2007 Snake River Zero Flow

Steelhead counts on the Snake River were 146 on December 15 and 131 on December 16, Tony Norris (BPA) reported. Therefore, BPA will hold off on implementing zero flow operations until the fish ladders go out of service January 1, 2008. NOAA, Idaho, USFWS and BOR representatives agreed to that operation. The COE will allow zero generation operations beginning at 2200 hours on the night of January 1. Thereafter, zero generation will be allowed for a 6 hour block between 2200 and 0600 hours each night until February 28, 2008.

Regarding video fish counts at Lower Granite, Adams reported that, when the current videotape runs out, the contractor overseeing the count will move a digital recorder device from McNary to Lower Granite and continue videotaping

through January 1, 2008. The tapes will be archived until the contract reopens. Furthermore, this year's Fish Passage Plan will contain language requesting that video counts continue until the fish ladder goes out of service.

5. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,287.30 feet supporting the chum operation. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3,528.09 feet, discharging 2.2 kcfs to meet the Columbia Falls minimum. On January 14, 2008, scheduled maintenance on G-3 (1 of 4 units) will require to run in the full range of generation up to an estimated 3-3.2 kcfs outflows that day. Depending on required discharges for minimum flows, it may require 2 days to ramp flows back down (ramp rates are 600 cfs/day).

Libby forebay is at elevation 2,418.8 feet, with inflows of 3.4 kcfs and outflows of 21 kcfs. This operation will continue with daily and weekly load shaping through end December to meet the target forebay elevation of 2,411 feet December 31. The COE is targeting an elevation of 2,408 feet by end January, based on the December water supply forecast which is 101% of average. The final January forecast will be available on January 7-8 and will determine the final end of January elevation target.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,055.4 feet at the Hope gage, maintaining a range of 2055.0-2055.5 feet, with inflows of 21.4 kcfs and outflows of 18.32 kcfs. Dworshak forebay is at elevation 1,520.5 feet, with outflows of 1.5 kcfs. The Lower Granite 7 day average is 20-21 kcfs. Inflows at McNary have come down recently to the 80-90 kcfs range, and were around 120 kcfs from December 13-15.

b. Fish. Wagner addressed chum flows earlier today. There was nothing else to report

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

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

6. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be on January 16 with the January water supply forecast, chum incubation status, water management plan update, and lessons learned from the 2007 season on the agenda. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Dave Wills	USFWS
Jim Adams	COE

Tony Norris	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA
John Roache	BOR
Barry Espensen	CBB
Shane Scott	NWRP
Bruce Mckay	consultant
Dan Bedbury	EWEB
Ruth Burris	PGE
Tom Le	Puget Sound Energy
Cathy Hlebechuk	COE
Tim Heizenrader	Centaurus
Russ George	WMC
Scott Boyd	COE
Richelle Beck	DRA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho