

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 5, 2009 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator: Erin Halton

Notes: Christa Leonard

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.

Review of Meeting Minutes

Paul Wagner, NOAA, provided the following edit to the facilitator's summary notes from the 7/29 TMT meeting:

- In the "fish" section of Operations Review, subyearling numbers should be 15,000 not 1500.

No other changes were mentioned during the meeting and the facilitator's summary notes and official meeting minutes for both 7/29 and 7/31 were considered final.

Review Dworshak Operations

Dan Feil, COE, recalled the 8/3 TMT conference call and reminded TMT members that outflows shifted down to 12 kcfs as of midnight on 8/4. Outflow temperatures were currently at 43 degrees F and the Lower Granite tail race was at 66.4 degrees F. Feil referred TMT to four links, posted to the agenda, detailing temperature and flow modeling results. Steve Hall, COE, reviewed the models/graphs, explaining that the forecast model showed temperatures were likely to stay in the 66.5 degree F range. He explained that the modeling assumed Anatone reducing flows to 18 kcfs based on Hells Canyon releases which were 11 kcfs on 8/4, and expected to drop to 9 kcfs over the next few days. Paul Wagner, on behalf of the Salmon Managers, reported that their recommendation was to continue reducing Dworshak outflows as discussed during the 8/3 TMT conference call.

Action/Next Steps: The COE will hold Dworshak outflows at 12 kcfs until midnight tonight, Wednesday 8/5, when they will shift down to full powerhouse (9.8/9.9 kcfs) and will likely hold through the next 10 days. There is a tentative conference call set for 8/12 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss Dworshak operations if necessary. Confirmation will be sent out via email on Tuesday 8/11.

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Grand Coulee was at elevation 1285.2'. Hungry Horse was at 3558.3' with outflows of 2.6 kcfs. Libby was at elevation 2441.7', with inflows of 9 kcfs and outflows of 7 kcfs (expected to hold through August). Albeni Falls was at elevation 2061.97', with inflows of 13.4 kcfs and outflows of 12.5 kcfs. Dworshak was at 1565' with inflows of 1.4 kcfs and outflows of 12 kcfs (30 feet to draft through the end of August.) Lower

Granite flows were at 37 kcfs, McNary had flows of 117 kcfs, and Bonneville flows were 125 kcfs. Dan Feil, COE, noted with the weather temperature cooling there had been no gas cap exceedances over the past few days. Bonneville gas caps were 75kcfs during the day and 95 kcfs at night.

Fish: Paul Wagner, NOAA, referred TMT to Fish Passage Center data and reported that at Bonneville Fall Chinook and Jacks were in the 100 per day range, Steelhead were in the range of 3800-3600 per day and trending down; Wagner noted that temperatures were fairly warm, around 75 degrees F.) Smolt passage data showed subyearling Chinook also trending down, in the 250-550 per day range at Lower Granite, 600-800 per day at Little Goose, 3800 per day at McNary and about 1000 per day at John Day.

Power System: Nothing to report.

Water Quality: Nothing to report.

TMT Schedule: Conference call tentatively scheduled for 9:00 am PST Wednesday 8/12. (Email confirmation will be sent out on Tuesday 8/11.)

8/19 face-to-face TMT

Agenda items for future meetings will include:

- Notes Review
- Dworshak Operations/Dworshak Board preview of September operations
- Libby Operations update
- The Dalles Spillwall update
- Operations Review

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Conference Call
August 5, 2009**

1. Introduction

Today's TMT call was chaired by Dan Feil (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting), with representatives of BPA, CRITFC, NOAA, BOR, Idaho, COE, Montana, USFWS, FPC and others participating. 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 for July 29 and 31

There was a small change to the July 29 facilitator's notes in the Fish section of the Operations Review. The number of fall Chinook subyearlings passing was 15,000, not 1,500 as written. The notes will be reposted with this change. There were no other comments on facilitator's notes or official minutes.

3. Dworshak Operations

Dworshak outflows have been about 13.3-13.4 kcfs for the past few days, Feil reported. On its August 3 conference call, TMT agreed to drop Dworshak outflows to 12 kcfs at midnight August 4, so outflows are currently around 12.1 kcfs. The current Dworshak outflow temperature is 43 degrees F, and the temperature at Lower Granite tailwater is 66.4 degrees F.

Steve Hall (COE) presented three graphs of modeling results linked to today's agenda. The first graph shows Dworshak outflows dropping to 10 kcfs at midnight tonight. The second graph compares modeled and actual Lower Granite water temperatures; the model is tracking actual temperatures closely. From today on, the model shows Lower Granite temperatures in the 66.5 degrees F range, which the COE believes is a reasonable expectation in light of the cooling trend and a forecast of rain tomorrow. The final attachment shows flows at Anatone and Orofino gages on the Clearwater. The COE has reduced its projection of flows for Anatone to 18 kcfs, based on Idaho Power's estimated releases over the next three days: an average of 11 kcfs for today, then dropping to 9 kcfs per day on August 6 and 7. Based on this information, it's reasonable to expect releases of 9-10 kcfs per day from Hells Canyon Dam for the rest of August, Hall said.

FPAC discussed Dworshak operations yesterday, Wagner said. The Salmon Managers agreed on a recommendation to maintain 12 kcfs outflow through midnight tonight, then drop to full powerhouse, currently 9.8-9.9 kcfs for the next week. Management of Dworshak flows won't be as critical as it has been over the past few weeks, Russ Kiefer (Idaho) observed. TMT scheduled a tentative conference call in a week, if needed. The August 12 meeting will be

confirmed via email on August 11. COE, BPA, BOR, Idaho, Montana and CRITFC representatives voiced agreement with this plan.

4. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Libby is at elevation 2,441.7 feet, with inflows of 9 kcfs and outflows of 7 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,061.97 feet; inflows are 13.4 kcfs and outflows are 12.5 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1,565 feet, with inflows of 1.4 kcfs and outflows of around 12 kcfs, which will drop to full powerhouse at midnight tonight.

Seven-day average inflows are 37 kcfs at Lower Granite, 117 kcfs at McNary, and 125 kcfs at Bonneville. Inflows continue to decline.

Feil provided follow-up on last week's conversation regarding spill at Bonneville. Since the weather has cooled, the rate of exceedances at the Camas Washougal gage has gone down, consequently the gas cap is now 95 kcfs. Daytime spill at Bonneville is 75 kcfs.

Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,285.2 feet. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3,558.3 feet. Discharges were increased from 2.4 to 2.6 kcfs this morning.

b. Fish. Adults – Fall Chinook (by definition any fish passing after August 1) are passing Bonneville at the rate of about 100 per day. There are 35-78 jacks per every 100 adults, so the plentiful jack trend continues. Steelhead are passing at the rate of 3,800 to 8,600 fish per day, with numbers trending downward.

Smolts – Subyearling Chinook numbers are trending down at Snake River projects, with less than 1,000 fish per day at Lower Granite, 6-800 per day at Little Goose, and 200-1,000 per day at Lower Monumental. The McNary passage index has dropped from the 10,000-20,000 per day range to 3,800 fish per day as of August 4. Fish Passage Center numbers for John Day and Bonneville are not full index counts, just conditions sampling: 1,000 fish per day at John Day, and 7,000 per day at Bonneville.

c. Power. There was nothing to report.

c. Water Quality. TDG levels are comparatively low.

5. Next Meeting

A tentative TMT conference call was scheduled for August 12, with email notification on August 11. The next TMT meeting after that will be August 19 in person, with Dworshak operations, Libby operations, an update on The Dalles spill wall construction, the standard operations review, and possibly an update on the Dworshak board's plans for September on the agenda. This summary prepared by consultant and writer Pat Vivian.

Name	Affiliation
Scott Bettin	BPA
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Mary Mellema	BOR
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Tim Heizenrader	Centaurus
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Dan Feil	COE
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Richelle Beck	DRA
Russ George	WMC
Dave Wills	USFWS
Dave Benner	FPC
Steve Barton	COE
Barry Espenson	CBB
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Kim Johnson	COE
Rudd Turner	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Doug Baus	COE
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