

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 23, 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 Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2009

The COE submitted changes to page number three of the facilitator notes regarding John Day. The facilitator confirmed that the corrected version had already been posted to the web. No other changes to the 12/10 facilitator notes or official meeting minutes were made during the meeting and both sets are considered final.

Chum Operations

Steve Barton, COE, and Paul Wagner, NOAA, directed TMT to chum data, posted as links to the agenda. Barton reported that 32 live fish were observed during the 12/15 survey. Wagner reported on the 12/22 survey (to be posted to web) and reviewed three weeks of data: for week five (12/4-11th), outflows were held at 11.5 kcfs during daytime hours and per high flow guidance language in teletype, tail water was evacuated at night but stayed at/under 16'. During week seven (12/18-12/22), tailwater was held near 11.5 feet around the clock.

Wagner explained that a total of 7 fish were counted this week at Ives Island as opposed to 32 last week. He noted that Chum are following the usual trend and the numbers are dropping down but yet to zero. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that according to the in-field surveyors, the seven observed fish appeared to be old. He further noted that in past years (2007) when 7 fish were observed in field surveys, there were none observed the following week. Norris suggested that given this assumption, the same pattern could be projected and operations should move to protection. Dave Wills, USFWS, asked if another survey was scheduled. Wagner confirmed that another survey was scheduled for 12/29. Barton asked the salmon managers if there was enough information to lift protection operations before 12/31. The Salmon Managers took a ten minute conference call caucus to discuss the most recent survey data and reported back to TMT following their caucus.

Action/Next Steps: The Salmon Manager's consensus was that regarding the low population strength, they would like to maintain current operations and review the new survey data next week during the FPAC call scheduled for 12/29. This item will be discussed at a TMT conference call at 9 am on 12/30.

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Grand Coulee was at elevation 1284.3' and Hungry Horse was at 3538.15' with outflows of 2.2 kcfs. Libby was at elevation 2415.7', with inflows of 2.1 kcfs and outflows of 20.7 kcfs- likely to reach 13.4 by 12/24. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2051.43', with inflows of 15 and outflows of 17.8 kcfs. Dworshak was at elevation of 1513.35' with inflows of 3.3 kcfs and outflows of 1.6 kcfs. Lower Granite average flows were 20 kcfs, McNary average flows were 100 kcfs, and Bonneville average flows were 112 kcfs.

Fish: Nothing in addition to chum to report.

Power System: Tony Norris, BPA, shared that recent peak wind generation reached 2400 mega watts. There was nothing further to report.

Water Quality: Nothing significant to report.

Other: Russ Kiefer, ID, asked if the COE had come to a decision regarding post-spawning operations at Lake Pend Oreille. Steve Barton, COE, responded that no decision has been made and the COE are still gathering and working through information. Kiefer noted that Kokanee are still in spawning mode and Barton confirmed, per the Seattle District COE report, that fish were being observed during the 12/21 survey.

TMT Schedule: The next meeting will be a **Conference Call at 9 am on 12/30.**

Agenda items will include:

- Notes Review
- Chum Operations
- Operations Review

Future TMT dates are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday 1/6 face to face meeting 9:00am

Wednesday 1/20 face to face meeting 9:00am