

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 30, 2009 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES ON FUTURE ACTIONS

Facilitator/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.

Review Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2009

TMT will finalize the facilitator notes and official meeting minutes from the 12/23 Conference Call at the next meeting, scheduled for 1/6/2010.

Chum Operations

Karl Kanbergs, COE, reported that the chum operation of 11.5' daytime tailwater had continued through the morning of 12/29, as discussed during last week's TMT conference call. Paul Wagner (NOAA) and Charles Morill (WDFW), on behalf of the Salmon Managers, reported that the consensus at FPAC's 12/29 meeting was that chum spawning operations did not need to continue beyond 12/30. Wagner noted that overall, the daytime elevations for chum went very well this year, and commended the Action Agencies, particularly given the construction at The Dalles.

Action/Next Steps: The Action Agencies will submit a new teletype, notifying the region that 2009 chum operations will cease as of 1600 hours on 12/30.

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Libby was at elevation 2411.4', with inflows of 3 kcfs and outflows of 12.9 kcfs. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2051.33', with outflows of 15.5 kcfs. Dworshak was at elevation of 1513.1' with inflows of 1 kcfs and outflows of 1.6 kcfs. Lower Granite average flows were 16 kcfs, McNary average flows were 140 kcfs, and Bonneville average flows were 141 kcfs. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1283.8' and Hungry Horse was at 3536.74' with outflows of 2.9 kcfs.

Fish: Nothing in addition to chum to report.

Power System: Tony Norris, BPA, shared that the agency is getting ahead start on storing the 1 MAF in Canada for summer flow augmentation water. He said they expect half of the MAF to be stored by next week.

Water Quality: Nothing to report.

Other: Russ Kiefer, ID, noted that Kokanee are still in spawning mode.

TMT Schedule: The next meeting will be face-to-face on 1/6/2010
Agenda items will include:

- Notes Review
- Water Management Plan Fall/Winter Update – Comments/Edits Review
- Early Bird Water Supply Forecasts
- Fish Passage Plan 2010 Update
- Discuss Flood Control Briefing for 1/20/10 TMT meeting
- Operations Review

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team Conference Call
December 30, 2009**

1. Introduction

Today's TMT call was chaired by Karl Kanbergs (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting), with representatives of BPA, NOAA, WDFW, Idaho, BOR, CRITFC, 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 December 23, 2009

The official minutes and facilitator's notes from last week's call will be posted to the TMT web page later today. They will be finalized at the next TMT meeting on January 6, 2010.

3. Chum Operations

Karl Kanbergs (COE) gave an update on the chum spawning operation. Last week TMT agreed to continue the operation until the chum count fell below the Salmon Managers' criteria of 6 fish or until December 31.

After discussing the operation with input from Washington fish biologists, yesterday FPAC reached consensus that if no new information on chum spawning is available, the requirement to maintain the currently prescribed chum tailwater operation can be lifted, Paul Wagner (NOAA) and Charles Morrill (WDFW) reported. The current operations set a narrow daytime tailwater range with higher but limited outflows at night. The minimum tailwater elevation at all times has been 11.3 feet.

The chum spawning operation will continue until this evening at 1600 hours (4 pm), at which time the new operation, until further notice, will be a chum incubation operation with the minimum tailwater being 11.5 feet at all times, with no upper tailwater limit. Maintaining the 11.5-foot minimum tailwater elevation for Wednesday, daylight hours, will facilitate removal of the fish trap, which requires a lower tailwater elevation.

This year's chum operation has been challenging during the nighttime hours when flows were rising, but overall things have gone very well despite the spill wall construction at The Dalles, Wagner commented. The daytime chum operation was especially successful.

4. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1283.8 feet, John Roache (BOR) reported. Flows coming into the U.S. from Canada averaged 57 kcfs at the border yesterday, Kanbergs noted.

Hungry Horse is at elevation 3536.74 feet, with discharges at minimum flows of 2.9 kcfs. Inflows are around 700 cfs.

Libby is at elevation 2,411.4 feet, with inflows of 3 kcfs and outflows of 12.9 kcfs. The end-of-year flood control elevation is 2,411 feet. Libby will ramp down to minimum flows on New Year's Day and remain on minimum flows until a more precise water supply forecast is available.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,051.33 feet, with inflows of 11.5 kcfs and releases of 15.5 kcfs. The purpose of this operation is to keep the pool elevation within 2051-2051.5 feet. The most recent kokanee count was 100 adults on December 28, so spawning protections need to remain in effect until January 1, Russ Kiefer (Idaho) said. There should be no problem continuing the current operation, Kanbergs replied.

Dworshak is at elevation 1,513.1 feet, releasing minimum outflows of 1.6 kcfs. Inflows are slightly over 1 kcfs.

Daily flow averages are 16 kcfs at Lower Granite, 140 kcfs at McNary, and 141 kcfs at Bonneville. Spill wall construction at The Dalles is on schedule and proceeding well.

Kanbergs gave a heads-up that snow conditions are below average in most of the U.S. basin, and closer to average in portions of the Canadian basin. Runoff at The Dalles is only 64% of average for the water year, with December runoff at 77% of average. In the Snake basin, runoff at Lower Granite is 60% of average for the water year and 74% of average for December.

b. Fish. Chum spawning is ending and there is no other piscine activity.

c. Power System. By January 3, BPA will have stored over half of the 1 maf of flow augmentation water for 2010 spill season, Norris reported.

d. Water Quality. There was nothing significant to report today.

5. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled TMT meetings will be in person on January 6 and 20. The January 6 agenda will cover water supply forecasting, the Water Management Plan and fall/winter update, the draft 2010 Fish Passage Plan, a flood control workshop, Dworshak and Libby operations, and the usual operations review. This summary prepared by technical writer Pat Vivian.

Name

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Paul Wagner
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