

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 14, 2010

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES

Facilitator: Erin Halton

Notes: Robin Gumpert

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 Review

In the 7/7 Facilitator Notes: Under ‘Minutes Review’, a correction to the 6/16 notes had been made re: information shared from John Roache, Reclamation, on Grand Coulee (not Dworshak) operations.

With no further edits, the 7/7 Official Minutes and Facilitator Notes were finalized.

Treaty Fishing

Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, reported on SOR #2010 C-5 submitted for treaty fishing for the 7/13 to 7/15 time period, requesting a 1.5 foot band for the pools at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day. Kyle noted that gill net fishing would likely conclude with this week’s fishing, and that any additional fishing that might be allowed per the catch allowances would be done via platforms. He also suggested that most of the nets were located at The Dalles and John Day. Summer Chinook counts at Bonneville were 6,000-8,000; sockeye counts were 375,000. Karl Kanbergs, COE, reported that the COE had implemented the SOR as written.

Action/Next Steps: Catch counts for the summer treaty fishery will be shared with TMT at a future meeting.

Libby Operations

Karl Kanbergs, COE, provided an update on accounting for Libby flow releases, stating that official accounting for the full operation would be shared at the 7/28 TMT meeting. The project was currently operating at 8 kcfs outflows, expecting to reduce to 7 kcfs (bull trout minimums) at midnight on 7/15 and hold through August. Jim Litchfield, Montana, commended the COE for working with the region to successfully manage this operation.

Action/Next Steps: Seattle District COE will share a full accounting report at the 7/28 face to face TMT meeting.

Dworshak Operations

Karl Kanbergs, COE, reported on Dworshak operations, referring TMT to a chart of water temperatures and noting that Lower Granite was currently at 65°F, still below the 68°F threshold. Steve Hall, Walla Walla District COE, provided graphs depicting different Dworshak operating scenarios and the anticipated effect on Lower Granite

temperatures using the COE's water temperature model. The first graph depicted a flat full powerhouse discharge through the upcoming weekend. Hall suggested an adjustment would be made to the model to true up actual current temperatures with those modeled (using 2006 data), and that the temperatures would shift down about 1.5°. With this adjustment, the COE projected Lower Granite to reach 68° around the early part of next week.

Hall noted the second graph included additional observed data and modeled an increase to 12 kcfs on 7/15; with the 1.5° temperature adjustment, temperatures were not expected to cross the 68° threshold with a shift to 12 kcfs (they were projected to reach about 66°). He concluded that the model is intended to inform recommendations and a decision around temperature management through the summer, and suggested that from the COE's perspective, some increase in outflows by Friday would be prudent.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that FPAC discussed the operation using the latest STP run (not the graphs shared today), and had agreed to recommend an increase in Dworshak outflows to 11 kcfs on 7/15, then ramp up to 12 kcfs on Monday, 7/19. The Salmon Managers discussed outflow options given the new information presented today. It was noted that the Nez Perce had agreed to the proposed operation developed at FPAC, but Dave Statler was not available during today's meeting to offer any further recommendation. Given that, and the minimal difference between the FPAC recommendation to stay at 11 kcfs through the weekend as opposed to the COE modeled 12 kcfs through the weekend, all members present at the meeting agreed to move forward with the FPAC recommendation and allow the COE to use its best professional judgment to make any necessary shifts based on actual temperature conditions that unfold over the next few days. The COE added that cooling at the hatchery and Lower Snake was under control and were supportive of the FPAC-proposed operation.

Action/Next Steps: The COE will increase Dworshak outflows to 11 kcfs on 7/15 and hold through the weekend, then ramp up to 12 kcfs on Monday 7/19. If new conditions require a deviation from this operation, the COE will alert TMT via email as soon as possible.

McNary Transportation

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that the Fish Operations Plan requires McNary transportation operations to begin between July 15 and 30. NOAA recommended (with no objection from FPAC members) to begin collection on 7/15, in order to gather the best available PIT tag data, which will help inform long term decisions about how to manage summer transportation at McNary. Russ Kiefer, ID, added that FPAC members had raised some concerns for the operation when temperatures warm above 68°, and recommended that fish should not be held for 48 hours under those warm conditions.

Action/Next Steps: The COE set up the following McNary transportation operation based on the salmon manager feedback: Collection will begin on 7/15, transportation will begin on 7/16. Collection will continue daily and transportation will happen on alternate days during the time period that temperatures remain below 68°. If this temperature threshold is crossed, a

barging/trucking operation will be coordinated to avoid holding fish for more than 48 hours. TMT will check in on the operation at future TMT meetings.

Operations Review

Reservoirs: Grand Coulee was at elevation 1289.3' and being operated with respect to McNary flows. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3559.12', with 4 kcfs outflows. Libby was at elevation 2437.5' with 16.8 kcfs in and 8.3 kcfs out. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2062.14', with 24 kcfs in and 27.8 kcfs out. Dworshak was at elevation 1594.4' with 2.1 kcfs in and 9.5 kcfs out. Lower Granite daily average flows were 48.7 kcfs; McNary daily average flows were 178.9 kcfs and anticipated to average 175-185 kcfs; and Bonneville flows were 203.6 kcfs.

Water Quality: Laura Hamilton, COE, reported that the fish test at Bonneville began on 7/2 and did not result in any TDG issues. There were malfunctions at the McNary tailwater and Lower Monumental tailwater gauges on 7/7, and both were fixed on 7/8.

Action: Per TMT suggestions, the COE will look into a way to flag on a graph when a gauge has malfunctioned (vs. an exceedance), to highlight that the raw data is invalid and was later corrected.

Fish: Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that adult sockeye counts were a record 379,000, and that steelhead numbers were also exceeding the 10-year average for this time in the migration. Lower Granite sockeye counts were 1,375, also higher than forecasted. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, noted that a Lower Granite adult capture and trucking transportation test is showing positive results.

Subyearling Chinook counts at Lower Granite and Little Goose were 4,000, and 34,000 at McNary (a substantial drop in counts at McNary over the last few days). TMT discussed the status of lamprey, noting these fish were not showing improvements similar to the other fish, even though counts at McNary had increased. Counts through the Lamprey Adult Passage System – “LAPS” – at Bonneville will be integrated with other lamprey passage counts to show a more complete picture in the future.

Power: Nothing to report.

Other: Karl Kanbergs, COE, reported that the COE received a call on 7/13 from the Lower Granite project indicating that debris in the system had knocked a guard rail loose, but was retrieved successfully without needing to shut down the RSW. Karl shared that the COE may need to shut the RSW down for a short period of time today to install the guard rail. This was considered a human safety issue.

Update: The RSW was shut down for less than half an hour Wednesday to complete the repair operation.

Upcoming TMT meetings will be held on:

7/21 (Conference Call) at 9:00 am. Agenda items will include:

- McNary Operations
- Dworshak Operations

7/28 (Face to Face) at 9:00 am. Agenda items will include:

- Dworshak Operations
- Libby Accounting
- McNary Transportation
- Operations Review

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

July 14, 2010

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Karl Kanbergs (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting). Representatives of the COE, Idaho, Washington, USFWS, NOAA, BOR, Oregon, Montana, BPA, CRITFC and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript. Anyone with questions or comments about this summary should give them to the TMT chair or bring them to the next meeting.

2. Review Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2010

Dave Wills (USFWS) pointed out that "Dworshak" should be changed to "Grand Coulee" operations in section 2 of the facilitator's notes. Russ Kiefer (Idaho) said he might comment later. Pending any further changes, the facilitator's notes and official minutes for July 7 will be finalized.

3. Treaty Fishing

The latest SOR, attached to today's agenda, requests a 1.5 foot operating band at the three lower Columbia pools (Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day) from 6 am July 13 to 6 pm on July 16, Kyle Dittmer (CRITFC) reported. Commercial gillnet fishing is finished for the rest of this month, and any further harvesting will be done from platforms, requiring no SOR. This brings the 2010 summer treaty fishing season to an end.

CRITFC is sponsoring a net flight this morning, Dittmer said. Last week's flight counted 392 nets, with 39% of them at Bonneville, 19% at The Dalles, and 42% at John Day. Estimated run sizes this year include more than 8,000 chinook passing Bonneville, and a record-setting 375,000 sockeye. Final tribal catch counts will be shared with TMT when they're available.

4. Libby Operations

A graph depicting Libby storage accounting to date is attached to today's agenda, showing that approximately 79 kaf of storage was released by June 30. For all practical purposes, the stored water volume under the deviation request was fully released as of last night, Kanbergs reported.

Yesterday Libby outflows ramped down from 9 kcfs to 8 kcfs, with a further rampdown to 7 kcfs planned for tomorrow morning. Bull trout minimum flows will continue through August unless inflows are higher than expected. The COE will

provide a summary review of Libby storage accounting the next time TMT meets in person July 28.

5. Dworshak Operations and Temperature Modeling

Kanbergs showed TMT two graphs linked to this item. The first graph in Link 5a shows temperatures at Dworshak, Lower Granite, Anatone and Orofino gages, based on a model run done July 12, which assumes that Libby discharges will remain at full powerhouse through the coming weekend. Today the temperature at Lower Granite tailwater is about 65 degrees F. Sharp downward spikes reflect bad data. The graph projects temperatures through July 18. Kanbergs pointed out that the model, based on the similar water year of 2006, is tracking 1-1.5 degrees F higher than actual temperatures.

The second graph in link 5a is based on observed temperature data, Steve Hall (COE) reported. This graph depicts the potential impact of increasing Dworshak outflows to 12 kcfs on July 15. To account for the disparity between modeled and observed temperatures, the COE has reset the model. Accounting for the over-predictions, it appears that temperatures will remain at around 66 degrees F over the coming weekend. The model is based on full powerhouse flows of 9.5 kcfs from Dworshak until tomorrow, then flows increased to 12 kcfs.

In yesterday's FPAC meeting, Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported, the Salmon Managers agreed to recommend 11 kcfs outflows at Dworshak beginning July 15, then 12 kcfs beginning July 19. The recommendation was based on the available STP model run that Dave Statler (Nez Perce) showed FPAC, not on the modeling information the COE showed TMT today. Dave Wills (USFWS) expressed a preference for 12 kcfs outflows but said 11 kcfs would be acceptable.

The COE is flexible on the magnitude of the increase, which could be 11 kcfs while keeping outflows below the temperature threshold, Kanbergs said. Current release temperatures of 45 degrees F are apparently acceptable to Dworshak hatchery and will provide adequate cooling to the lower Snake River. In the future, the COE will post temperature modeling data whenever available on the TMT website in time for FPAC to use at its Tuesday meetings, Hall noted.

The COE will increase Dworshak outflows to 11 kcfs on July 15, then 12 kcfs on July 19, as requested. The Salmon Managers agreed that if the COE foresees a warming trend, they would support an increase to 12 kcfs outflows before July 19 without further consultation. TMT will revisit Dworshak operations in its July 21 call.

6. McNary Transport

The Fish Operations Plan identifies July 15-30 as the window for making a decision to change the current operation of returning all bypassed and collected fish to the river, Paul Wagner (NOAA) said. In FPAC's discussion of this issue

yesterday, NOAA recommended initiating transport now. Wagner emphasized that if collection doesn't start soon, with a percentage of the collected fish being transported, there will be no data available from this operation. Data on Snake River fish that have been transported from McNary are urgently needed in order to make a final decision regarding McNary summer transportation.

Another factor in favor of starting transportation now is cooler temperatures in which fish can safely wait to be transported. To avoid holding fish for 48 hours in warm water, Russ Kiefer (Idaho) suggested the COE transport collected fish daily via barges and trucks on alternate days, or bypass fish on days when the air temperature exceeds 68 degrees F and the barge isn't loading.

Everything is in place to begin the operation as requested, Doug Baus (COE) said. Collection will begin on July 15 and transport on July 16. Kanbergs noted the FOP says transportation can start early for research purposes. Transport will occur every other day until McNary temperatures rise above 68 degrees F, then daily. TMT will revisit this issue in its conference call next week.

7. Operations Review

Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at 1,289.3 feet elevation, operating to take into account flow management at McNary. Last week flows at McNary were in the 200-210 kcfs range, while this week's are expected to be 175-185 kcfs. Hungry Horse is at 3,559.12 feet elevation, operating in the top foot with releases of 4.4 kcfs.

Libby is at elevation 2,437.5 feet with inflows of 16.8 kcfs and average releases of 8.3 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,062.14 feet, with inflows of 24 kcfs and releases of 27.8 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1,594.4 feet, with inflows down to 2.1 kcfs and outflows of 9.5 kcfs, drafting about 0.8 foot per day.

Lower Granite daily average outflows are 48.7 kcfs. McNary outflows are 178.9 kcfs, expected to be 175-185 kcfs the rest of this week. Bonneville average outflows are 203.6 kcfs.

Fish. Adults: The sockeye count of 379,000 set a record, Wagner reported. The steelhead migration is off to a good start, with counts significantly higher than the 10 year average. The count of 1,375 Snake River sockeye exceeded the 1,250 expected. Columbia River sockeye are returning well, including Snake endangered stock, Kiefer noted. Idaho has been capturing and transporting a small number of adults from Lower Granite as a test.

Juveniles: Subyearling counts at Lower Granite and Little Goose are around 4,000 fish, and only 1,000 at Lower Granite, Wagner reported. The count of 34,000 at McNary reflects the transportation issue. Similar counts are expected downriver – 45,000 at John Day and 60,000 at Bonneville. Many of these are releases from Priest Rapids and Ringold hatcheries.

The positive returns of 2010 don't include Pacific lamprey, Kiefer pointed out. This year, over 300,000 juvenile lamprey passed at McNary, but that's a relatively low number, Charles Morrill (WDFW) added. Dave Wills (USFWS) explained that recent changes at the Bonneville ladder have resulted in more lamprey passing undetected. Lamprey counts should improve when the monitoring system does.

Power. There was nothing new to report today.

Water Quality. The Bonneville spill test began on July 2, Laura Hamilton reported. TDG levels associated with the test have been low despite 3 days of exceedances at Camas Washougal gage. McNary and Lower Monumental tailwater gages recently malfunctioned and are back on line. The COE archives bad data from malfunctioning gages in response to a request from Oregon DEQ. While the bad data is reported, the COE notes in each report that the gages were malfunctioning. Jim Litchfield (Montana) suggested that bad data points be highlighted in a different color; others agreed. Rick Kruger (Oregon) asked whether inclusion of bad data affects spill management; Hamilton said no. The COE will investigate ways of denoting bad gage readings.

9. Other – Lower Granite TSW Closure

The temporary spillway weir (TSW) at Lower Granite may have to be closed later today because yesterday a large piece of debris knocked out a guard rail surrounding the observation area, Kanbergs reported.

Update: The TSW was closed for less than half an hour on Wednesday to complete the repairs.

10. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on July 21, followed by a meeting in person July 28. Dworshak operations and McNary transport operations will be on the July 21 agenda. The July 28 agenda will include Dworshak operations, a final report on Libby storage accounting, an update on McNary transport, and the usual operations review.

Name	Affiliation
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Charles Morrill	Washington
Dave Wills	USFWS
Doug Baus	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
John Roache	BOR
Rick Kruger	Oregon
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