

COLUMBIA RIVER REGIONAL FORUM

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

October 26, 2010 Conference Call

FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY NOTES

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.

Chum Operations

Paul Wagner, NOAA, shared that FPAC members held a discussion earlier in the day regarding chum status and any potential recommendation for the Bonneville tailwater elevation. Wagner said that so far 247 chum have been caught in gill nets in the area near Grey's River and 19 chum have been observed passing the Bonneville fish ladder to date. He added that the 10/26 spawning survey had not observed any spawning, but low tailwater elevation may have been a factor. Wagner said FPAC discussion resulted in a recommendation for a 10.5-11' tailwater range for the next few days, until 11/1 when the 11.3-11.7' range will be implemented by BPA. Wagner noted that the objective is to provide a sustainable elevation range where the fish can have access to spawning habitat.

BPA shared that there is some challenge in implementing an operation for this week, given the efforts already underway to prepare for next week's operation. However, BPA said that they could provide a tailwater elevation minimum of 9.5' starting the morning of 10/27. BPA clarified that excess water would be moved during nighttime hours. TMT members present on the call (USFWS, NOAA, ID, WA, Umatilla Tribes, Spokane Tribes, Reclamation, COE and BPA) had no objection to the BPA proposed operation.

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, Spokane Tribe, reported that there have been an unprecedented number of kokanee in Lake Roosevelt this year and until the end of the month is reached, they are still uncertain as to exactly when they will pull the trap. John Roache, Reclamation, reported that the latest STP model run showed that Grand Coulee's November 15 elevation level will be at 1283' or a little higher. Reclamation and BPA offered to keep in close contact with their Spokane Tribe partners regarding Grand Coulee's status. The COE reminded TMT of the work at Powerhouse 1 the last week of October.

Action: BPA will operate Bonneville to provide a tailwater elevation minimum of 9.5' starting the morning of 10/27, until 11/1 when the 11.3-11.7' range will be implemented. TMT will discuss chum operations at the next TMT meeting, scheduled for 11/3.

Upcoming TMT Meetings

- 11/3 and 11/10 Face to Face Meetings:

- 11/17 Conference Call as needed

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

October 26, 2010

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Doug Baus (COE) and facilitated by Erin Halton (DS Consulting). Representatives of the COE, Washington, USFWS, BOR, BPA, Spokane Tribe, NOAA, CRITFC, Idaho 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. Chum Operations

FPAC met this morning and discussed whether to recommend a tailwater operation, Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported. So far this fall, 247 chum have been caught in gillnet fisheries near Grays River, where most of the chum population returns to spawn. Also 19 chum have passed Bonneville Dam. So, although surveys to date haven't indicated spawning activity, chum are in the river. Recent storm activity and forecasts of wet weather for the next 10 days increases the risk of inundating chum redds later. Therefore the Salmon Managers agreed the chum operation should get started this week or as soon as possible, first by raising the Bonneville tailwater elevation to 10.5-11 feet, then to the standard daytime chum operation of 11.3-11.7 feet beginning November 1.

The FPAC call included representation from CRITFC, Idaho, Washington and USFWS as well as NOAA. However, Deanne Kunkel (Spokane Tribe), present on today's TMT call, was not on the FPAC call this morning. She explained the tribe's biggest concern is maintaining the requested minimum elevation of 1,283 feet at Lake Roosevelt during kokanee spawning. Reclamation and BPA will keep in contact with the Spokane Tribe in regards to Grand Coulee's forecasted elevations over the next several weeks during kokanee spawning.

In response to the request to get the chum operation started this week, Tony Norris (BPA) said it's problematic to operate to a tailwater elevation range on short notice. BPA needs approximately 4 days to establish an elevation and begin reverse load factoring to maintain the desired elevation range. Adjustments made to power schedules at the end of the month make it difficult to start the chum operation before November 1. Norris asked whether in the short term the Salmon Managers want a flatter discharge during the day, or a flatter around-the-clock elevation. On 26 Oct there were hourly tailwater readings of 8.5 feet during the chum survey and this low tailwater does not promote spawning activity therefore a more stable daytime operation around 10 feet would be preferable,

Wagner replied. Norris asked whether there's a preferred bottom elevation at Bonneville tailwater; Wagner said a minimum elevation of 9.5 feet would be acceptable. Norris said BPA can provide that starting November 1.

The Salmon Managers gave their views of the BPA proposal to start the chum operation tomorrow, October 27, with a minimum tailwater elevation of 9.5 feet below Bonneville Dam. Starting November 1, the operation will move to a daytime elevation range of 11.3-11.7 feet with excess water to be moved at night.

NOAA – Supports the proposal.

USFWS – Supports the proposal.

CRITFC – No objection.

Idaho – No objection.

Washington – No objection.

Spokane Tribe – Will coordinate with BPA and BOR to ensure that kokanee needs are met, therefore no objection.

BOR – No objection.

COE – Supports the proposal.

BPA – Supports the proposal.

3. Next Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be in person on November 3. Chum operations, a review of Libby data, meeting minutes, possibly a treaty fishing wrap-up, and the usual operations review will be on the agenda. Halton reminded everyone that comments on the first draft of the 2011 Water Management Plan are due on October 29.

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	COE
XX	Snohomish PUD
Rich Hilt	COE
Tom Le	Puget Sound Energy
Rob Allerman	Deutsch Bank
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Russ George	WMC
David Wills	USFWS
Margaret Filardo	FPC
John Roache	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott Bettin	BPA
Deanne Kunkel	Spokane Tribe
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Richelle Beck	DRA

Russ Kiefer

Idaho