

**Columbia River Regional Forum**  
**TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**December 1, 2010**

Notes: Pat Vivian

***1. Introduction***

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Doug Baus (COE) and facilitated by Donna Silverberg (DS Consulting). Representatives of Montana, the COE, BPA, BOR, NOAA, Washington 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. Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2010***

There were no changes to the meeting notes today. A few TMT members needed more time to review.

***3. Chum Operation***

The latest count was November 23, with 130 live chum observed and 39 redds in the Ives Island complex below Bonneville Dam, Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported. In terms of other locations, the highest chum count this season is at the Woods Landing site near the I-205 bridge, where 252 live chum were observed on November 23.

Due to habitat concerns about overcrowding of redds and superimposition, which diminishes redd productivity, the Salmon Managers are considering whether to recommend a tailwater elevation increase to 13.5 feet from the current 11.3-11.7-foot range. Wagner said the Salmon Managers are aware that raising the tailwater elevation carries the added risk of maintaining the higher elevation through emergence. Because the Ives Island area tends to be warm, emergence there can happen sooner than at other locations.

If the Salmon Managers recommend an elevation increase, it would be made to the Action Agencies next Tuesday, December 7, after FPAC meets. TMT considered the possibility of a conference call at 3 pm on December 7 or a scheduled time at the year-end review on December 8 to discuss the chum operation. Charles Morrill (Washington) added that WDOE crews recently observed 45 live fish in the Ives complex and believe there are more in the area.

Tony Norris (BPA) noted that a tailwater elevation increase combined with curtailment of powerhouse capacity to allow removal of the BGS (see agenda item 7 below) could result in Bonneville having to spill.

***4. Water Management Plan***

Comments on the final version of the 2011 WMP are due December 3, Doug Baus (COE) reported. While the October 1 posting showed prior revisions in track changes format so the edits can be easily identified, the November 16 posting of the WMP doesn't use track changes. However, if people want the revisions posted and explained, the COE would be willing to consider that. Jim Litchfield (Montana) suggested holding a WMP workshop to clarify the changes and reasoning behind them to ensure that commenters' intentions were clear to the COE. The COE will consider this suggestion, Baus replied.

## **5. Snake River Zero Nighttime Flow**

A 2005 SOR submitted by the Salmon Managers suggested guidelines for determining when "few if any" steelhead are passing Lower Granite, Wagner recalled. The language in the WMP said that zero nighttime flows could be adopted as a measure when "few if any" steelhead are passing. Definition of "few if any" was based on a sliding scale according to population size. For this year, the number of steelhead passing Lower Granite to date is 205,000, so the "few if any" criterion is 80 fish. For wild fish, a total of 66,900 have passed, so the "few if any" criterion for wild fish is 35. In the past few days, 66 steelhead have passed, 23 of them wild. According to these numbers, the "few if any" criteria have been satisfied on both counts.

However, Dave Benner (FPC) recalled that the SOR based the "few if any" criteria on fish counts since June 1, not for the year to date. That puts the "few if any" criteria at 65 steelhead and 20 wild. According to those numbers, the latest counts are one fish over criteria in both categories. If the criteria are met within the next seven days, Norris asked whether it would be acceptable for the Action Agencies to coordinate their response via email and teletype the change to the project; Wagner said yes.

## **6. Operations Review**

**a. Reservoirs.** Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,279.3 feet, currently operating to maintain the chum elevation below Bonneville Dam. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3,539.33 feet, with outflows of 1.5 kcfs.

Libby is at elevation 2,434.19 feet, with inflows of 4.7 kcfs and outflows of 9.3 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,055.33 feet, with inflows of 17.6 kcfs and outflows of 16.2 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1,519.68 feet, with inflows of 1.9 kcfs and outflows of 1.7 kcfs.

Lower Granite inflows are 19.4 kcfs, Priest Rapids inflows are 121.2 kcfs, McNary inflows are 136.2 kcfs, and Bonneville inflows are 141.4 kcfs.

**b. Fish.** Chum spawning is the only activity at present.

c. **Power System.** There was nothing to report today.

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

### **7. Other – Bonneville BGS Removal**

The Bonneville 2<sup>nd</sup> powerhouse will go to a two-unit operation starting next week so barges and equipment can move in to remove the behavioral guidance structure, Greg Bowers (COE) said. The operation will run from 5 am to 6 pm weekdays, December 6, 2010, through January 7, 2011, unless the work is completed sooner.

It's unlikely that Bonneville could support a higher chum tailwater without spilling while BGS removal is underway, Tony Norris noted. Scott English (COE) reminded everyone that the TDG standard for this time of year is 110% without state waivers for spill season.

### **8. Next Meetings**

TMT will meet next on December 8 for the annual TMT year-end review. The next regular TMT meeting will be December 22.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Rich Hilt	RCC
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott English	COE
Greg Bowers	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE

#### Phone:

John Roache	BOR
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Charles Morrill	Washington
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