

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 2, 2011 Conference Call

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: 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.

Chum Update

Paul Wagner, NOAA, updated that 12 chum had been observed in the Ives Island area, and reminded everyone that TMT reached agreement last week to set an 11.5' tailwater elevation at Bonneville to support the chum. The salmon managers and others have a site visit scheduled for this Friday, 11/4 to observe the area and look for any changes in topography resulting from last year's consistently high flows that might lead to a change in the recommended operation. Doug Baus, COE, also reported that FPOM discussed and made a recommendation to expand the operating range to 11.3-12.0' (rather than 11.3-11.7) to accommodate additional needs at Bonneville. Fish screens are out so PH 2 will not be operated and the expanded range would provide daytime flexibility to manage flows and fluctuating tides. Lisa Wright, COE, added that repair work at Bradford Island was expected to be completed by the end of tomorrow. Also, as yet there have been no local (tributary) flow contributions into the system but once there are, she suggested the need for this expanded operating range might not be as critical.

Operation Plan: Doug said the COE would expand the operating range to 11.3-12.0' for daytime operations today per the FPOM recommendation and will revisit chum operations with TMT next week on 11/9. If any major changes are recommended before then, there may be a need for additional TMT coordination before the regularly scheduled meeting.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

November 2, 2011

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of BPA, NOAA, Washington, USFWS, BOR, the COE, confederated Salish-Kootenai tribes, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Oregon, Idaho and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript. Any questions or comments should be directed to the TMT chair.

2. Chum Operations Update

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported that a dozen chum have been seen in the Ives Island area, triggering an FPAC recommendation to start the chum operation on November 1. Yesterday's FPAC call yielded tentative agreement to maintain the typical 11.5 foot elevation target below Bonneville, but field observations indicated that 11.5 feet might not be adequate because last year's high water event appears to have altered the gravel spawning beds. A field trip is planned for November 4 to assess conditions.

Meanwhile, FPOM has expressed a desire to expand the tailwater operating range from 11.3-11.7 feet to 11.3-12.0 feet in order to accommodate numerous operations currently underway (e.g. powerhouse 2 screen removal, chum operation, contractors downstream of the spillway), Baus said. The purpose of today's meeting was to solicit TMT members' views of the expanded operation.

John Roache, BOR, asked for more details on the reasons for an expanded range. It will provide more room to pass water during the day despite changing tides instead of having to reduce discharges when the tide comes in, Tony Norris, BPA, said. The ultimate goal is to keep water moving so the project doesn't fill. Lisa Wright, COE, reported on coordination of repairs underway. The Bradford Island work will be finished tomorrow. The goal of the expanded tailwater elevation range is to maximize use of the Bonneville 1st powerhouse where the functioning ladders are, Rick Kruger, Oregon, said. Wright added that local creeks are not yet flowing into the spawning area, and when they do, the chum operation won't be as dependent on flows through Bonneville. Then the upper elevation could be decreased.

The **COE** plans to continue the expanded tailwater range until TMT convenes next week for a more robust discussion of the chum operation. **Idaho**

and **NOAA** gave explicit support for the expanded range; **Oregon** and **Washington** voiced no objection.

When asked what daily average discharges from Bonneville will be with the extended range, Norris said it takes 70-145 kcfs to maintain an elevation of 11.3-12.0 feet below Bonneville at present, with flows of around 125 kcfs during the day. Those numbers will change with conditions. There was agreement that TMT will revisit this operation next week in greater detail, and stakeholders will be notified if field reports indicate a need for major changes.

3. Next TMT Meeting

There will be a face to face meeting on November 9 to review the chum operation as well as any other issues that arise.

Name	Affiliation
Tony Norris	BPA
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Cindy Lefleur	Washington
David Wills	USFWS
John Roache	BOR
Joel Hovenkotter	Salish-Kootenai
Kyle Dittmer	CRITFC
Doug Baus	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Barry Espenson	CBB
Shane Scott	PPC
Russ George	WMC
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Alex Cibarra	Grant PUD
Russ Kiefer	Idaho