

# COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

May 4, 2012

## 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.*

### **Bonneville Special Operation**

TMT reconvened after their 5/2 meeting to follow up on a special operation that had been agreed to for the period 0500-0900 hours on 5/3 to support adult passage at Bonneville. Doug Baus, Corps, reported on actual operations. Spill was reduced to 138 kcfs at 0500 hours, followed by 121 kcfs at 0600 hours, 116 kcfs at 0700 hours, 126 kcfs at 0800 hours and 135 at 0900 hours. Forebay elevations ranged 74.8' to 75.5'. An unforeseen unit outage occurred as well as unforeseen elevated precipitation that resulted in elevated inflows into the system which did not allow the Corps to get to the 120/110 kcfs spill rate requested, nor the elevation they had anticipated (although they stayed within their normal forebay operating range).

Adult fish passage numbers increased to 2,506 on May 3 from 1,746 on May 2. Doug also noted that Spring Creek operation ended on 5/3 at 1100 hours at which time Bonneville reverted back to normal unit operations as identified in the 2012 Fish Passage Plan. Spring Creek data from the Smolt Monitoring Facility:

- April 30 at 2245 to May 1 at 0700 = 674 sampled, 1 mortality (0.1% mortality rate), no descaling or injuries.
- May 1 at 0700 hours to May 2 at 0700 = 176 sampled, 1 mortality (0.6% mortality rate), no descaling or injuries.
- May 2 at 0700 to May 3 at 0700 = 33 sampled, 0 mortalities, no injuries or descaling.

Paul Wagner, NOAA asked if there were any screen cleaning issues to which Doug responded that nothing extreme resulted from this operation. Paul said the increase in adult numbers was not as much as he had hoped for, but was appreciative of the efforts to implement the operation. Tom Lorz, CRITFC/CTUIR, said during that time, Powerhouse 2 did go outside of the mid-range of 1% and there was an increase in juvenile mortalities on 5/4 (though the actual numbers were low). He said he too appreciated the efforts to coordinate and implement this operation, and encouraged TMT to try to do a better job thinking through and coordinating these special operations so that we are making the best decisions and so that all affected parties (including tribal fishers) are coordinated with ahead of time, to the best of our ability. Paul Wagner, NOAA, agreed that this was a very short turnaround, and said it was because the time period may have offered the only opportunity to do such an operation given the expected additional water in the system. He acknowledged that the timing turned out not to be the best.

There was some discussion of how to better understand what is happening with the adults this year. An adult tracking study is planned for next year, but this year the region will need to rely on traditional passage count data to monitor and analyze their movements.

Next steps – The action agencies will continue with ‘normal’ operations at Bonneville, as defined in the 2012 Fish Passage Plan.

**Other**

- Lower Monumental Operations – the Action Agencies will continue implementing a uniform spill pattern using the criteria from the Fish Operations Plan.
  
- Question about the % spill tab on the TMT site – will that be updated for 2012? Corps: Yes – it has been a CWMS 2.0 conversion issue and 2012 data will be available very soon.

**Next Face to Face Meeting, 5/16:**

Agenda items include:

- Water supply forecasts
- Prep for Libby/Sturgeon pulse operations SOR
- Vernita Bar Update
- Upper Snake Flow Augmentation
- Operations Review
- Other?

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

**May 4, 2012**  
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 Washington, BPA, the Colville Tribe, NOAA, CE, Umatilla/CRITFC and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

**2. Bonneville Special Operations**

The purpose of today's call was to follow up on the special operation to improve adult passage that was coordinated at the May 2 TMT meeting in response to an apparent downturn in adult passage at Bonneville Dam.

The preferred operation discussed on May 2 had two elements: (1) At 5 am on May 3, cap spill at 120 kcfs at Bonneville. (2) For the subsequent hours of 6-9 am, make best efforts to maintain a spill rate of 110 kcfs. Baus recalled the concerns TMT members voiced regarding the effect fluctuations in the Bonneville forebay elevation might have on treaty fisheries upstream. He reported to TMT on the actual operation for adults:

1. At 5 am on May 3, spill at Bonneville was capped at 138 kcfs.
2. By 6 am, spill was capped at 121 kcfs; by 7 am, 116 kcfs; by 8 am, 126 kcfs; and by 9 am, spill rose to 145 kcfs.
3. Subsequent forebay elevations during this operation were held at a range of 74.8 to 75.5 feet.

The higher spill rates than desired were the result of two issues: 1) An unanticipated unit outage and, 2) higher flows than anticipated, Baus said. Adult chinook passage for May 3 at Bonneville was 2506 fish, an improvement over the previous day's count of 1746 fish. Nevertheless, the results of the test were not as positive as the Salmon Managers had hoped.

The special operation for Spring Creek Hatchery smolts also ended on May 3, based on passage index counts. Baus gave TMT some preliminary data gathered during the hatchery operation:

- From 7 am on May 2 to 7 am on May 3, there were 33 fish sampled with no mortalities, injuries or descaling.
- From 7 am May 1 through 7 am May 2, there were 176 fish sampled with 1 mortality and no descaling or injuries (a mortality rate of 0.6%).
- From 7 am on April 30 to 7 am May 1, there were 674 fish sampled with one mortality and no descaling or injury, 0.1% mortality rate.

Wagner thanked the COE for its efforts to improve adult passage and asked whether screen cleaning became a problem during the operation; Baus said no. Wagner expressed reluctance to continue the special operation or repeat the experiment in light of the results. This is unfortunate because current adult passage numbers are low.

Tom Lorz, Umatilla/CRITFC, said the operation for adults may have adversely impacted juveniles. According to Tom, PH2 operated outside of 1% best efficiency because there was an increase in subyearling mortalities. The lack of adult response to the test begs the question, how many adults were actually below Bonneville? We need to coordinate future operations of this nature far enough in advance to avoid such problems and ensure we can carry out the operation as intended, Lorz commented.

Scott Bettin, BPA, clarified that PH2 did not operate outside of 1%; rather, when the Spring Creek operation was ended on May 3, the project resumed operating both PH1 and PH2 within the full 1% range consistent with the Fish Passage Plan.

**NOAA, CRITFC** and the **COE** all agreed the experiment is not worth continuing. Therefore normal FPP operations at Bonneville will resume until the COE hears from TMT that a change is desired.

### ***3. Lower Monumental Operations***

The COE will continue to operate Lower Monumental in the uniform spill pattern, per the criteria described in the FOP and discussed at the May 2 TMT meeting, Baus reported.

### ***4. Next TMT Meeting***

TMT will meet again in person on May 16. There will be a conference call May 9 if needed.

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Affiliation</i></b>
Charles Morrill	Washington
Scott Bettin	BPA
Cindy LeFleur	WDFW
Sheri Sears	Colville Tribe
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Doug Baus	COE
Shane Scott	PPC
Tony Norris	BPA
Dave Benner	FPC
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Brandon Chockley	FPC
Tom Lorz	Umatilla/CRITFC