

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 29, 2012

DRAFT 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.

Notes Review

The 8/15, 8/16 and 8/22 Official Minutes and Facilitator's Summaries were reviewed. Paul Wagner, NOAA, and Charles Morrill, Washington, offered edits to the 8/22 facilitator's summary and Paul offered a revision to the 8/15 summary around the McNary discussion. The changes were accepted and with these, the notes were considered final.

Action: Robin Gumpert will make the changes and send the revised/final versions to TMT members and alternates, and the Corps will post them to the TMT web page.

McNary Transportation Update

Doug Baus, Corps, updated TMT that daily truck transport has continued, and would likely continue through 8/30 unless real time conditions warrant a change to the operation. On 8/28, temperatures in the lab in the morning at McNary were 66.4 F. On 8/26, 5,100 juveniles were transported with 0.0% descaled and 0.35% (18) mortality.

Dworshak Update

Steve Hall, Walla Walla District Corps, shared the temperature model for Dworshak and said this would be the last model for the year. It showed temperatures 'comfortably below' the threshold and continuing to drop. He concluded that this year saw a successful temperature augmentation operation from Dworshak to Lower Granite. Through coordination with the Dworshak Board and based on the current forecast, a plan for operations to release 200 kaf out of Dworshak per the Nez Perce agreement has been developed. Steve described the current plan: Current outflows of 8.5 kcfs will continue through about 9/5, be reduced to 8 kcfs for four days; reduced to 5.9 kcfs for three days; to 4.8 kcfs for two days; and to 2.4 kcfs until the full 200 kaf is out, anticipated to be around 9/21. Steve will keep TMT apprised of any shifts in the planned operation as the season progresses.

Spill Priority List

A draft spill priority list to take effect September 1 was posted for review. Paul Wagner, NOAA and Chair of FPAC, said the salmon managers had reviewed and developed a consensus recommendation to keep the current order until Dworshak operations conclude, then 'flip' the list so spill would start at the Lower Columbia projects where fish are more likely to be actively migrating. The salmon managers recognize that spill is unlikely and if it does occur will likely be low in magnitude and short in duration, so were not concerned about adult fallback. BPA clarified that work on the Bonneville spillway will be occurring starting in November and would prevent any spill at the project.

Action: From September 1-21, the Action Agencies will implement the spill priority list posted to today's agenda that prioritizes spill at projects in order from upstream to downstream starting at LWG (e.g., Level 1 up to 110% TDG: LWG, LGS, LMN, IHR, MCN, JDA, TDA, BON, DWR, CHJ, GCL). From September 22-December 31, the Action Agencies will implement a spill priority list that reverses the order of Lower Snake and Lower Columbia projects and prioritizes spill at projects in order from downstream to upstream starting at BON (e.g., Level 1: BON, TDA, JDA, MCN, IHR, LMN, LGS, LWG, DWR, CHJ, GCL)

Operations Review

Reservoirs: John Roache, Reclamation, reported on projects. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1280.3 feet and operating toward 1279.7 feet by 8/31. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3553.8 feet, with 2.2 kcfs outflows and targeting 3550 feet by the end of September. Lisa Wright, Corps, reported on projects. Libby was at elevation 2452.3 feet with 7.4 kcfs in and 12 kcfs out. She confirmed that the Corps is still implementing 'Alternative 4', per discussion and agreement at the 8/8 TMT meeting. The current projected reservoir elevation on 8/31 is approximately 2451.5'-2451.8'. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2062.3 feet with 9.8 kcfs in and 10.8 kcfs out. Priest Rapids inflows were 129.9 kcfs. Dworshak was at elevation 1537.9 feet with 0.7 kcfs in and 8.7 kcfs out. Inflows at Lower Granite were 23.6 kcfs; at McNary were 157.9 kcfs; and at Bonneville were 147.6 kcfs.

Fish: Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish.

- Adults – Fall Chinook numbers at Bonneville were picking up, around 7,300/day and 44,000 for the season (about average). Jack total counts were 10,000 (about average). Steelhead total counts were 167,000 and about 2,000/day (below average). Lamprey counts were 26,000 for the season and about 100/day. Downstream, at Ice Harbor, steelhead counts were 10,000 and about 12,000 at Lower Granite. Fall Chinook counts were 770 at Lower Granite. Sockeye were winding down, with counts at Lower Granite at 454 for the season. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, reported that in the Stanley Basin, 152 sockeye were captured of which 45 were unmarked naturals.
- Juveniles – Subyearling Chinook counts at Lower Granite were about 100-200/day; less than 100/day at Little Goose and less than 20/day at Lower Monumental. Subyearlings at McNary were about 19,000/day. Daily sampling was occurring again at John Day and Bonneville now that temperatures have gone down – counts were 10k-20k at John Day and about 3k-5k at Bonneville. Lamprey counts at John Day were less than 100/day.

Water quality: Nothing to report.

Power system: Nothing to report.

Next Meeting, 9/12 Conference Call and TMT Field Trip

An agenda will be developed and posted to the TMT page prior to the meeting.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

August 29, 2012

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. Representatives of Montana, BPA, COE, NOAA, Washington, USFWS, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Review August 15, 16 and 22 Meeting Minutes

Charles Morrill, Washington, commented on the August 22 facilitator's notes, adding language to the fourth paragraph on page 1 that documents raceway temperatures of over 70 degrees F on August 19. Paul Wagner, NOAA, commented on the August 22 official minutes, adding "to use a 7:30 am temperature reading to collect juvenile fish for transport" to the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 1. Wagner also commented on the August 15 facilitator notes, adding language to the first paragraph for the sake of clarity regarding high temperatures at McNary. The commenters will provide these edits in writing and the notes will be revised accordingly.

3. McNary Transport

The COE continues to transport juveniles by truck daily at McNary Dam, Baus reported. The current plan is to continue daily transport through August 30, but changes will be made if real-time conditions warrant. On the morning of August 28, McNary water temperature in the lab was 66.4 degrees F. On August 26, there were 5,100 fish transported, with a 0.0% descaling rate and a 0.35% mortality rate (18 fish). There were no questions today on the transport operation.

4. Dworshak Update

Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, showed TMT the latest modeling of the Dworshak temperature augmentation operation and reported that temperatures at Lower Granite and Orofino are beginning to drop. Several TMT members agreed that Dworshak temperature augmentation this year was managed well.

Hall described the plan the COE has coordinated with the Dworshak Board for releasing the Nez Perce agreement of 200 kaf of flow augmentation in September. The dam is currently releasing about 8.5 kcfs, with an elevation target of 1535 feet on August 31. Releases of 8.5 kcfs will continue through approximately September 5. At that time the COE plans to reduce discharges to

approximately 8 kcfs for 4 days, 5.9 kcfs for 3 days, 4.8 kcfs for 2 days, and finally 2.4 kcfs on approximately September 17. Releases of 2.4 kcfs will continue until Dworshak reservoir reaches elevation 1520 feet, indicating the full 200 kaf has been released. That is expected to occur around September 21. There were no questions today regarding this operation.

5. Spill Priority List

Baus presented the draft wintertime spill priority list to take effect September 1 attached to today's agenda. Like last year's list, it begins with Lower Granite and proceeds downstream to Bonneville, ending with Dworshak, Chief Joseph and finally Grand Coulee. Baus reminded TMT that the wintertime list receives infrequent use for very short periods.

Wagner reported that FPAC's consensus recommendation yesterday was to maintain the spill priorities currently in effect until Dworshak September operations are completed, which will occur on approximately September 21. At that time, FPAC recommends reversing the order of the fish passage projects, with Bonneville at the top and proceeding in order upstream to Lower Granite. The priority order of Dworshak, Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee will remain unchanged at the bottom of each level. The goal of this recommendation is to spill first where juveniles are more likely to still be actively migrating. Adult migration will most likely be unaffected because there won't be much water to spill.

Baus said the COE will implement the spill priority list posted on today's agenda from September 1-21 that prioritizes spill at fish passage projects in order from upstream to downstream beginning at Lower Granite (e.g., Level 1 up to 110% TDG: LWG, LGS, LMN, IHR, MCN, JDA, TDA, BON, DWR, CHJ, and GCL). Per FPAC recommendations, beginning on September 22 through December 31, the order of the fish passage projects will be reversed to start at Bonneville and proceed in order upstream to Lower Granite. The order of non-fish passage projects (Dworshak, Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee) will not change and will be at the bottom of each level. Scott Bettin, BPA, reminded TMT that the Bonneville spillway will be out of service for repairs beginning in November, as coordinated through FPOM.

6. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1280.3 feet, headed toward an elevation of 1279.7 feet on August 31. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3553.8 feet, releasing 2.2 kcfs with an elevation target of 3550 feet by end September. Releases have been between 2.5-3 kcfs as inflows continue to drop.

Libby is operating per Alternative 4 as discussed at TMT on 8/8. The current elevation is 2452.3 feet, with inflows of 7.4 kcfs and releases of 12 kcfs.

August has been a dry month, so the current projected August 31 elevation is 2451.5-2451.8 feet, which is a little lower than was projected in the slide presented to TMT on 8/8.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2062.3 feet, with inflows of 9.8 kcfs and releases of 10.8 kcfs. Priest Rapids inflows are 129.9 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1537.9 feet, with inflows of 0.7 kcfs and releases of 8.7 kcfs. McNary inflows are 157.9 kcfs. Lower Granite inflows are 23.6 kcfs. Bonneville inflows are 147.6 kcfs.

b. Fish. Adults: Migration is most active in the lower Columbia, Wagner reported. Fall chinook are passing Bonneville at the rate of around 7,300 fish per day, with a total season count of 44,000 to date compared to a 10 year average of 51,000. Fall chinook jack returns are 10,000 to date, which is close to the 10 year average unlike the weak return of spring chinook jacks this year. Steelhead are currently passing Bonneville at the rate of about 2,000 fish per day, with a season count of 167,000 to date. While this is only 60-70% of the 10 year average for this time of year, steelhead migration has been on the increase. Steelhead are still delaying passage from McNary to Ice Harbor – nearly 57,000 have passed McNary but only 10,000 have reached Ice Harbor. This is probably due to a temperature differential in the river. From 10-12,000 steelhead have passed Lower Granite to date. The season count of 165,000 steelhead is well below the 10 year average of 165,000. Fall chinook passage at Lower Granite is 772 fish to date compared to a 10 year average of 484 fish. Sockeye passage is nearly done this season, with only 550 to date. Adult lamprey migration is on the wane, with fewer than 100 passing daily at both Bonneville and at John Day. The lamprey season count is 26,000 to date.

Juveniles: As of August 28, 152 sockeye have been captured in Stanley Basin, of which 45 were unmarked natural fish, Russ Kiefer, Idaho, reported. That is generally in line with expectations. The run has been consistent over the past 2 weeks, with 3-9 fish entering the basin daily. Wagner reported that juvenile passage on the Snake River is coming to an end. Over the past week or so, yearling chinook passage has been 100-200 fish at Lower Granite, less than 100 fish at Little Goose, and less than 20 fish at Lower Monumental. Juvenile sampling every other day has resumed at Bonneville and John Day, now that temperatures are below the 70 degrees F criteria for switching to twice weekly.

c. Water Quality. There was nothing to report today.

d. Power System. There was nothing to report today.

7. Next TMT Meetings

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on September 12 followed by a tour of the BPA Dittmer transmission complex for TMT members

only. Those who want to participate in the tour should notify Tony Norris and Scott Bettin in advance for security clearance. The next regular TMT meeting in person will be September 19

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
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Scott Bettin	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Agnes Lut	BPA
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Steve Juul	COE
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Dave Benner	FPC
Bruce McKay	hydro consultant
Ruth Burris	PGE
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe