

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

September 12, 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

TMT reviewed the 8/29 Facilitator's Summary and Official Meeting Minutes. With no edits, the notes were considered final.

SOR 2012-C4

Doug Baus, Corps, reported that an SOR for treaty fishing had been submitted and was being implemented by the Corps for the period 9/11 at 6:00 am through 9/14 at 6:00 pm. Tom Lorz, CRITFC, said it was uncertain whether another fishery would occur after this period and that he would work with the Corps and keep TMT apprised via updates and future SORs.

Operations Review

Reservoirs – John Roache, Reclamation, reported on projects. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3551.9 feet, with 2.1 kcfs outflows and targeting an end of September elevation of 3550 feet. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1283.4 feet. Lisa Wright, Corps, reported on projects. Libby was at elevation 2450.7 feet with 8 kcfs outflows and 5.7 kcfs inflows. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2062.2 feet, with 6.6 kcfs inflows and 7.1 kcfs outflows. Priest Rapids inflows were 101.4 kcfs. Dworshak was at elevation 1523.0 feet, with 0.9 kcfs inflows and 5.8 kcfs outflows. Lower Granite inflows were 23.6 kcfs; McNary inflows were 119.8 kcfs; and Bonneville inflows were 121.0 kcfs.

Fish – Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish. Subyearling counts at Lower Granite were up to 250/day, about 20/day at Little Goose and as high as 459/day at Lower Monumental. Paul said temperatures have fallen so the fish are moving. Subyearling counts at McNary were 6,000; at John Day were 3,000; and at Bonneville were 1,000. Juvenile lamprey counts were 20-50/day at McNary, John Day and Bonneville. Adult fall Chinook counts were up to 14,000 at Bonneville, with a season total to date 204,000 which is slightly below the 10-year average. Jack counts are very high so far, around 49,000 at Bonneville. Steelhead numbers at Bonneville are well below the 10 year average, about 195,000 for the season so far. At Ice Harbor, Fall Chinook counts were well above the 10 year average, about 16,900. Jacks also are well above the average at about 6,000. Steelhead are 'on the move', with counts below the 10 year average around 33,000. Dave Statler, Nez Perce, reported that adult lamprey conversions from Bonneville to The Dalles are very poor this year. For 2012, a total of 28,456 adult lamprey were detected at Bonneville and only 5,785 were detected at The Dalles. This low conversion rate has been a concern for the past couple years, and there is a study being implemented this year to tag and release adults near Bonneville in an attempt to shed some light on the fate of these adults.

Water quality – Nothing to report at this time.

Power – Nothing to report at this time.

September 19 TMT Meeting

Agenda items include:

- Lake Pend Oreille SOR Development Update – Russ Kiefer, Idaho
- Dworshak Operations Update (Nez Perce Agreement operation, MOP operation)– Corps
- Kootenai River Sturgeon Habitat Project Update (*pending*) – Sue Ireland, Kootenai Tribe
- Lower Granite Programmatic Sediment Management Plan (PSMP) EIS Schedule/Plan (*pending*) – Corps

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

September 12, 2012

Notes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT conference call/meeting was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Robin Gumpert, DS Consulting. As part of the meeting, TMT representatives toured the Dittmer Transmission Complex where electricity is dispatched throughout the region and exported to California and Canada. Representatives of BPA, COE, NOAA, Oregon, Idaho, BOR, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe, Nez Perce Tribe and others participated. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Review August 29 Meeting Minutes

There were no comments today on either the facilitator's notes or official minutes for August 29 so both sets of notes were deemed final.

3. Treaty Fishing – SOR 2012-C4

Baus reported that the COE is already implementing this SOR, which calls for the typical treaty fishery operation: a 1.5-foot limit on elevation fluctuations in the Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day pools. The SOR went into effect at 6 am on September 11 and will end at 6 pm on September 14.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, asked what the process is for scheduling fishery operational requests. Tribal participants and others including NOAA representatives look at catch information and determine whether viable take allowances under the treaty would allow more fishing, Tom Lorz, CRITFC/Umatilla explained. When the representatives agree, they draw up a fisheries SOR and submit it to the COE.

Scott Bettin, BPA, asked whether more fisheries are anticipated this fall. That will depend on take allowances for other species such as steelhead, as well as where fish are migrating, Lorz replied. Bettin later reported there are now 749 tribal fishery nets set up on the three lower Columbia River dams. The nets tend to be moved based on which run they are targeting. Lorz will keep TMT apprised of future fisheries.

4. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1283.4 feet. The operation is on track to maintain an elevation target of 1283 feet for kokanee resident fisheries in Lake Roosevelt from the end of September through mid November.

Hungry Horse is at elevation 3551.9 feet, discharging 2.1 kcfs and headed for an end of September elevation of 3550 feet. Inflows are around 500 cfs and continuing to drop, with no precipitation in the basin.

Libby is operating consistent with the Kootenai sturgeon habitat restoration SOR, maintaining discharges of 8 kcfs through September. Current elevation is 2450.7 feet, with inflows of 5.7 kcfs.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2062.2 feet, with inflows of 6.6 kcfs and outflows of 7.1 kcfs. Priest Rapids inflows are 101.4 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1523.0 feet, with inflows of 0.9 kcfs and outflows of 5.8 kcfs. McNary inflows are 119.8 kcfs. Lower Granite inflows are 23.6 kcfs. Bonneville inflows are 121.0 kcfs.

b. Fish. Juveniles: Subyearling chinook passage numbers at Lower Granite are in the 200 range after falling to fewer than 100 fish per day. This uptick is typical when temperatures cool. Passage numbers at Little Goose rose from 1 per day to 20 per day. Lower Monumental passed 459 fish yesterday, McNary from 3,000-6,000 fish per day, John Day 3,000 per day, and Bonneville 1,000 per day over the past week. However, the Bonneville screens have been removed, so the Bonneville numbers are not truly indicative of how many fish are passing the project.

Lamprey passage is down from 50 per day to 20 per day at McNary, John Day and Bonneville dams, Wagner reported. On the Snake River only a couple of juvenile lamprey are passing per day.

Adults: The peak fall chinook count at Bonneville was 14,000 fish per day, with 8,000 fish passing yesterday. The season count to date is 204,000, which is about 90% of the 10 year average. The jack count this year is unusually high, which could presage a stronger run next year.

Steelhead passage at Bonneville is running low this year average, with a seasonal count to date of 195,000 fish, only about 60% of the 10 year average. However, fall chinook are doing well on the Snake River. 16,900 fish have passed Ice Harbor which is 180% of the 10 year average. Fall chinook jack counts at Ice Harbor are 150% of the 10 year average. Steelhead counts indicate the fish are beginning to move upstream from the Columbia to the Snake as temperatures drop. Yesterdays steelhead count was 3,276 at Ice Harbor and 1,386 at Lower Granite, both well below the 10 year average.

Dave Statler, Nez Perce, reported that adult lamprey passage from Bonneville upriver continues to be poor, with the year to date count of 28,406 lamprey at Bonneville, but only 5,785 at The Dalles. This has been a problem for years and is currently being investigated as part of a JSATs tagging study.

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 meetings in person will be September 19 and October 3 at the COE division office in Portland. The September 19 agenda will include updates on development of the Lake Pend Oreille SOR, the Bonners Ferry habitat project, Dworshak operations, possibly Lower Granite MOP operations and possibly an autumn treaty fishery. The annual Lake Pend Oreille SOR will be presented to TMT at the October 3 meeting.

8. Tour of BPA Dittmer Transmission Complex

Several TMT members toured the BPA Dittmer transmission complex, where power deliveries are scheduled and dispatched along 16,000 miles of high voltage power lines that extend from Canada to Albuquerque. The purpose of the Dittmer tour was to acquaint TMT members with the extensive demands and generation limitations involved in managing such a large grid as they affect forebay and tailwater elevations at each project.

Since electricity was deregulated in 1992, many new demands have been placed on the transmission system, notably wind generation capacity, now at 4,700 MW in the Northwest, and strict legal limits on hydropower operations to protect fish. Since deregulation, Dittmer's schedulers and dispatchers must deal with multiple energy providers and 2,500 transmission schedules a day. They are responsible for maintaining the necessary balance between generation and demand at all times throughout the system. BPA's dispatchers have the final say over whether line repairs can proceed. They also are responsible for voltage control. When things go awry, the consequences can be severe, such as the voltage collapse of summer 1996 when rolling blackouts impacted 21 million people. Furthermore, any major mishaps could result in fines or reserve generation capacity requirements of BPA that would raise the cost of electricity for everyone.

Dittmer's schedulers and dispatchers rotate positions so they can perform all jobs as needed. With new lines being built in the Snake River area and new loads coming on line in Idaho, as well as development of increasingly complex automated schemes to protect high voltage equipment, operation of the Northwest transmission system can only get more complex and challenging.

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	COE
Tony Norris	BPA
Lisa Wright	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA

Paul Wagner	NOAA
Rich Dominigue	NOAA
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Kim Johnson	COE
Steve Juul	COE
Agnes Lut	BPA

Phone:

Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Russ George	WMC
Dave Benner	FPC
Barry Espenson	CBB
John Roache	BOR
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Mike XX	Chelan PUD
Ruth Burris	PGE
Stu Leavitt	Salish Kootenai
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe