

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

October 3, 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 9/19 Facilitator's Summary and Official Meeting Minutes. John Roache, Reclamation, corrected the Official Minutes, page 6 under Operations Review: Hungry Horse outflows were 1.9 kcfs, not 19 kcfs. With this and no additional suggested edits, the notes were considered final.

SOR 2012-C7

Tom Lorz, CRITFC, presented the SOR and said it was for treaty fishing for the period 10/2 at 6 am through 10/4 at 6 pm. Doug Baus, Corps, reported that the request was being implemented by the Corps and would continue to be implemented to the best of the agency's ability as a soft constraint, pending any other operational needs. Tom Lorz, CRITFC, thanked the Corps for meeting the request and said it was unlikely, but not certain, that another fishery would occur after this period.

Water Management Plan

Doug Baus, Corps, said a link to the draft 2013 WMP had been posted to the TMT home page on 10/1 and was open for comment. He outlined a schedule for finalizing the plan, as follows:

- 10/1 1st draft posted
- 11/15 Comments on 1st draft due via email to Doug, Tony Norris (BPA) and/or John Roache (Reclamation)
- 11/27 2nd Draft WMP will be posted incorporating comments received
- 12/14 Comments on 2nd draft due
- 12/31 Final WMP posted

Doug noted that the draft 2013 TDG Management Plan Appendix 4 was not yet posted but would be soon.

Operations Review

Reservoirs – John Roache, Reclamation, reported on projects. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3548.9 feet, with 1.9 kcfs outflows to meet Columbia Falls minimums. A dive operation scheduled for 10/13 and 10/14 will require some special flow operations at the project, and this is being coordinated between Reclamation and the Montana DEQ and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1283.9 feet. Lisa Wright, Corps, reported on projects. Libby was at elevation 2448.4 feet with 6.6 kcfs inflows and about 5 kcfs outflows, ramping down to 4 kcfs minimum discharges for October. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2060.6 feet, with 12.0 kcfs inflows and 19.0 kcfs outflows. Priest Rapids inflows were 71.8 kcfs. Dworshak was at

elevation 1518.5 feet, with 0.5 kcfs inflows and 1.6 kcfs outflows. Lower Granite inflows were 18.8 kcfs; McNary inflows were 92.9 kcfs; and Bonneville inflows were 86.2 kcfs.

Fish – Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish. Adult fall Chinook counts at Bonneville were about 2,000/day, with a total count of 334,821, close to the 10-year average. Jacks were still running very high, well above the 10-year average, at 1,100/day and 113,000 total. Steelhead counts were 1,000/day and 225,000 total, which is lower than the 10-year average. At Lower Granite, Fall Chinook counts were very high with a total of 30,700, about 500/day and jack counts were very high as well. Paul noted that WDFW has been doing adult surveys in the Lower Columbia and have not yet seen any chum.

Subyearling chinook counts were 650/day at Lower Granite, an uptick due to Clearwater fish passage. At McNary, counts were 500-1,000/day and less than 100/day at Bonneville.

Water quality – Laura Hamilton, Corps, reported that the projects have switched to wintertime fixed monitoring stations arrangement. She also reported that some involuntary spill had occurred at McNary and John Day. In response to a question, Laura said the Corps' data base was experiencing some challenges and so some of the tailwater temperature gauge data was not being reported on the web site. The Corps is working to correct this problem.

Power – Nothing to report at this time.

October 17 TMT Meeting

Agenda items include:

- 2012 Survival Estimates (*pending*) – NOAA Science Center
- Operations Review

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

October 3, 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 NOAA, BPA, COE, BOR, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Review September 19 Meeting Minutes

John Roache, BOR, said Hungry Horse was releasing 1.9 kcfs, not 19 kcfs as reported on page 6 of the official minutes under Operations Review. With this change, the minutes and facilitator's notes can be considered final.

3. Treaty Fishing – SOR 2012-C5

This SOR calls for the typical fishery operation of 1.5 foot elevation bands in the three lower Columbia pools at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day, from 6 am, October 2, to 6 pm, October 4. Baus reported that the COE has already implemented the SOR beginning yesterday. The COE has advised CRITFC that, due to operational issues, it may be difficult to maintain those requirements, but at present the request is being implemented. Tom Lorz, CRITFC, thanked the COE for their efforts.

4. Water Management Plan

The draft 2013 WMP has been posted to the TMT website since October 1, Baus reported. The plan is to release two drafts in November in order to avoid the holidays, and to post the final WMP on December 31 as in past years. Baus asked TMT members to send him their comments and outlined the schedule:

- November 15 – Deadline for comments on WMP first draft
- November 27 – COE will release second draft for review
- December 14 – Final comments due on second draft
- December 31 – Final WMP posted

Baus notified TMT that the current draft has last year's TDG management plan and Appendix 4 are excerpted from last year's WMP. The updated versions will be added to the 2013 WMP as soon as they are available.

5. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3548.9 feet, releasing 1.9 kcfs to meet the 3.5 kcfs flow criteria at Columbia Falls. This operation will continue through most of this fall. A dive scheduled for the weekend of October 13-14 might require some periods of low flow, during which BOR will release some discharge from the hollow jet valves to keep flows in the river. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1283.9 feet, attempting to maintain an elevation above 1,283 feet through mid November to support resident fisheries in Lake Roosevelt.

Libby is at elevation 2448.4 feet, with inflows of 6.6 kcfs and discharges of 5 kcfs which will be ramped down to 4 kcfs later today.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2060.6 feet, with inflows of 12 kcfs and releases of 19 kcfs. Priest Rapids inflows are 71.8 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1518.5 feet, with inflows of 0.5 kcfs and releases of 1.6 kcfs. McNary outflows are 92.9 kcfs. Lower Granite outflows are 18.8 kcfs. Bonneville outflows are 86.2 kcfs.

b. Fish. Adults: Fall chinook passage at Bonneville is declining, which is typical for this time of year, Paul Wagner reported. In the past week, the daily average has declined from as many as 3,900 fish to 2,000 fish per day over the past few days. The total for the year is 334,821 fish, which is 88% of the 10-year average for fall chinook adults. Jacks are outperforming adults with a total count of 113,000 fish, which is 220% of the 10-year average. Steelhead are passing Bonneville at the rate of about 1,000 per day with a total count of 225,000 fish for the year, 60% of the 10-year average. Daily steelhead counts are also declining as is typical at Bonneville for this time of year. Fall chinook passage at Lower Granite is about 30,700 fish to date, with about 500 fish per day passing the project. This has been a good year for Snake River fall chinook passage, with counts being over 200% of the 10 year average compared to 120% last year. The jack count is 200% of the 10 year average and 120% compared to last year.

Juveniles: The passage season is ending, with only subyearling passage at Lower Granite on the rise. This is typical for September and October. About 650 fish have passed Lower Granite per day over the last few days. Sampling at Lower Granite ends September 30. Passage at Little Goose and Lower Monumental is minimal. McNary is passing 1,000 to 500 fish per day and Bonneville less than 100 fish per day.

c. Water Quality. Laura Hamilton, COE, reported that the COE has switched to real-time fixed monitoring. McNary and John Day have had involuntary spill over the past few weeks. Wagner asked why there is no temperature report for Bonneville, and Hamilton said this is probably due to problems with the database. The COE is working on resolving this.

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

6. Next TMT Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be in person on October 17. At that time NOAA might have a survival report to present.

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tony Norris	BPA
Lisa Wright	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Bill Proctor	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Lisa Wright	COE

Phone:

John Roache	BOR
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Don Tinker	SCL
Barry Espenson	CBB
Russ George	WMC
Bruce McKay	consultant
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Bill Rudolph	NW Fish Letter
Glen Trager	Iberdrola Renewables
Scott Bettin	BPA