

# COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

November 14, 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 10/31 Facilitator's Summary and Official Meeting Minutes. With no edits, these were considered final.

### **Chum Update**

The salmon managers reported that the last chum count, on 11/6, found 34 live and 1 dead chum in the Ives Island area. The action agencies were continuing to provide an operation to meet the requests of the salmon managers, targeting an 11.5 foot tailwater elevation during the day and releasing excess water at night. TMT discussed that night time flows had gone up as high as 200 kcfs, which the salmon managers were concerned about if it was a trend likely to continue. Tony Norris, BPA, offered that this increase in nighttime flows had resulted from a release from the Mid-Columbia, and likely would not continue.

Everyone agreed to monitor conditions closely and revisit the chum operation on a weekly basis as needed. A conference call was tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday, 11/21, with the option of cancelling the meeting if no operation change is warranted. TMT members will be notified by Tuesday afternoon if the meeting is cancelled, and this notification will also be posted to the day's agenda on the TMT site by 3:00 pm that day.

### **Operations Review**

**Reservoirs:** John Roache reported on Reclamation projects. Hungry Horse was at elevation 3547.4 feet with 1 kcfs outflows. He noted that the basin had experienced record precipitation in October, which has kept inflows at Hungry Horse up. Grand Coulee was at elevation 1285.8 feet. Doug Baus reported on Corps projects. Libby was at elevation 2447.3 feet, with 23 kcfs outflows. Albeni Falls was at elevation 2055.3 feet, with 18.3 kcfs outflows. Dworshak was at elevation 1521.4 feet, with 1.6 kcfs outflows. Lower Granite outflows were 20.1 kcfs; McNary outflows were 126.9 kcfs and Bonneville outflows were 135.9 kcfs.

**Fish:** Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on the fish. Juvenile fall Chinook counts on 10/31, the last day of recording, jumped to 1,492 and 1,068 at Little Goose. Total passage was very good this year. Adult fall Chinook counts at Bonneville were less than 30/day for the last week; the last adult steelhead count at Lower Granite was 483.

**Water Quality:** Laura Hamilton, Corps, reported that the Corps' water quality data base should be fully converted to the new system by January, no later than 1/30/13.

**Power System:** Nothing to report at this time.

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

**November 14, 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 USFWS, COE, BOR, BPA, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

***2. Review October 31 Meeting Minutes***

There were no comments on either the official minutes or facilitator's notes for October 31.

***3. Chum Update***

Charles Morrill, Washington, reported that chum have been seen in every survey area above I-205 except Harley Creek. There are about 35 chum present above Bonneville and 2 above The Dalles. Normally, next week would be the peak die-off at Grays River. If the timing of this year's run is late, it might turn out to be a good run. Updated chum spawning data can be found on the TMT website under the Fish Passage Center's spawning data tab.

BPA has done a good job of maintaining an 11.5 foot tailwater elevation below Bonneville during the day, Morrill said. BPA expects to continue to operate within the teletype instructions, but the potential for a high Willamette River elevation complicates the chum operation, Tony Norris said. High Willamette flows impact Bonneville's ability to manage the Bonneville Dam tailwater operation for chum.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, expressed concern about night flows, which have been as high as 200 kcfs, producing a Bonneville tailwater elevation of approximately 16 feet. Norris said the higher flows caused by releases from mid Columbia projects that produced high tailwater elevations at night (up to 17 feet for one hour) have passed. Priest Rapids flows indicate that the mid Columbia PUDs released 150 kcfs, which BPA had to move downriver. While more water of that magnitude is not expected, BPA must continue to reverse load factor in order to maintain the daytime tailwater elevation for chum.

Norris invited the Salmon Managers to review the current operation and discuss any desired changes. The Salmon Managers would prefer to move a bit more water in daytime, Wagner said. Up to 12 feet daytime elevation would be acceptable, as 12 feet and 11.5 feet below Bonneville are synonymous in terms of chum spawning conditions. Norris said he will investigate whether this would take some of the pressure off night

flows. There is reluctance to keep Grand Coulee elevation high at this time of year because it can rain a lot between now and the end of winter, and storage space might be needed. TMT scheduled a tentative conference call on November 21 to revisit the chum operation.

#### **4. Operations Review**

**a. Reservoirs.** Hungry Horse is at elevation 3547.4 feet, which is high for this time of year, with releases of 1 kcfs, as there is enough local flow to meet the 3.5 kcfs Columbia Falls minimum, John Roache, BOR, reported. Hungry Horse is high as a result of record precipitation in October. The current flood control elevation is 3,555 feet, which isn't restrictive. However, the end of December flood control elevation of 3,549.2 feet might require some flood control releases in December.

Grand Coulee is at elevation 1,285.8 feet. Libby is at elevation 2447.3 feet, releasing 23 kcfs.

Albeni Falls is at elevation 2,055.3 feet, releasing 18.3 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1,521.4 feet, releasing 1.6 kcfs. McNary outflows are 126.9 kcfs. Lower Granite outflows are 20.1 kcfs. Bonneville daily average outflows are 135.9 kcfs.

**b. Fish. Juveniles:** There's not much activity to report this time of year, Wagner said. Juvenile passage at Lower Granite this year ended with a mysterious uptick of 1,492 fish the day before monitoring ended. The same phenomenon occurred at Little Goose.

It's been a good year for subyearling chinook passage at Lower Granite, with 4.5 million fish, Wagner said. There was discussion of hatchery vs. natural production numbers. The combined counts on the FPC website include both marked and unmarked hatchery fish as well as natural production, Russ Kiefer, Idaho, noted.

**Adults:** Fall chinook are passing Bonneville at the rate of less than 30 per day. Per the zero nighttime generation operation discussed in the water management plan Lower Granite Dam may implement the zero nighttime generation operation when steelhead passage counts drop to 35 per day (or 10 per day for the wild count).

**c. Water Quality.** Laura Hamilton, COE, reported that the transfer of all water quality data into the new database is expected to be complete by January 30. This will change how the data query website operates. The new database is expected to be more stable and reliable than the old version. Hamilton will give TMT an update when the data transfer is complete.

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

## **6. Next TMT Meetings**

A tentative TMT conference call was scheduled for November 21 to discuss chum, and another on November 28 to discuss the Lower Granite Dam zero nighttime generation operation. The TMT annual review will be held on December 5.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Roache	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Rick Kruger	Oregon
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Laura Hamilton	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC

### *Phone:*

David Wills	USFWS
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Mike Landau	Snohomish
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Barry Espenson	CBB
Rob Allerman	Deutsch Bank
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