

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 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.

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, reminded TMT that the chum operation coordinated last week (12/4) was as follows:

1. Continue to maintain the 13.5 minimum tailwater during all hours.
2. Make best efforts to continue to maintain the daytime 13.5 to 15.5 tailwater targeting to 14.0 foot tailwater.
3. If unable to maintain #2 above then pass up to a maximum of 18.5 feet during the nighttime.
4. If unable to maintain #3 above then pass up to a maximum of 18.5 feet during the daytime.
5. If unable to maintain #4 above then operate to full powerhouse plus operation of the B2CC. The goal of this is to avoiding spilling that would delay the spillway repair work that is currently underway.

Given the continuing high flows, the Action Agencies preferred to maintain this operation over the next week. Doug reported specifically that yesterday's day average outflows were 203 kcfs and tailwater elevations ranged from 15-19 feet. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said on behalf of FPAC the salmon managers had no objections. They see there are no other options given the high inflows. Charles Morrill, Washington, said the surveys have been very challenging but he would relay any new data about the chum as it is available.

Action: *(This is carry over from the 12/4 TMT meeting: Scott Bettin, BPA, had offered to check in with the project as to the possibility of studying steelhead movement while the corner collector is turned on for this special operation.)*

Action: *(Also carry over from the 12/4 TMT meeting: The Corps shared that work is progressing on the spillway repair. They will share more information and provide a schedule update during next week's TMT call.)*

Operation/Next steps: The action agencies will implement the operation described above, until further notice. Everyone will monitor conditions closely and agreed to discuss this issue again during a conference call next Tuesday, December 18 at **2:00 pm** (NOTE the different day and start time!).

Zero Nighttime Generation on the Lower Snake River Projects

Paul Wagner, NOAA, said the criteria for implementing zero night time generation on the Lower Snake projects had not been met, and in fact numbers of passing steelhead had gone up since last week's report. The most recent three-day count was 72 wild and 332 combined, and the triggers were 10 and 50, respectively.

Action/Next Step: The action agencies will coordinate with NOAA on this operation. Specifically, when the criteria are met, Paul will notify the action agencies and this will trigger them to begin the zero nighttime generation operation. TMT will receive an update during next week's call.

Wintertime Spill Priority List

The salmon managers had a chance to review the current spill priority list and offer any changes. At this time, they did not request any changes, though noted that while Bonneville is at the top, it won't actually be the first priority given the special operation currently being implemented. Doug Baus, Corps, acknowledged this and said the action agencies will always defer to special operations before using this list; and that to be efficient, they will not revise the list to reflect special operations as they occur throughout the year. TMT will revisit the spill priority list in January or February, 2013.

Next Meeting: December 18 conference call 2:00 pm

Agenda items include:

- Chum Operations
 - Current weather conditions and operation
 - Update on spillway repair work schedule
 - Update on potential opportunity to study steelhead movement while CC is being used for operation
 - Plan forward
- Zero Nighttime Flow on Lower Snake River Projects

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

December 12, 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 the COE Washington, NOAA, Idaho, BOR and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Wintertime Spill Priority List

Yesterday FPAC members discussed the current spill priority list and concluded it should remain in effect for the rest of the winter season, Wagner reported. Although Bonneville is at the top of the list, it will not actually be called into service while spillway repairs are underway. The Action Agencies are aware that special operations take precedence over the list, and it would be inefficient to revise the order each time a special operation takes place, Baus said.

3. Chum Operations

Last week TMT coordinated the chum spawning operation as a range of 13.5-15.5 feet elevation in the Bonneville tailwater, with a daytime target elevation of 14 feet and a minimum of 13.5 feet, Baus recalled.

Flows continue to be high at Bonneville. Yesterday the day average outflow was 203 kcfs with an hourly tailwater elevation range of 15-19 feet. As of 7 am this morning, Bonneville outflows were 165 kcfs and the tailwater elevation was 16.3 feet.

Therefore the Action Agencies proposed to continue the current operation. Wagner and Charles Morrill, Washington, both said that would be acceptable and acknowledged this is the best the Action Agencies can do, given high Bonneville inflows.

High tailwater elevations and weather conditions have made it impossible to date for field crews to survey chum spawning, Morrill reported. Populations above I-205 may have peaked early this year, but that can't be confirmed until detailed surveying is possible. The next scheduled survey date is December 18, if weather conditions allow. Morrill expects to have an update for TMT on the state of chum spawning by the end of this week or early next week. TMT scheduled a follow-up conference call on this operation for 2 pm, December 18.

4. Zero Nighttime Generation at Lower Snake Projects

The steelhead passage count at Lower Granite from June 1 to date has exceeded 100,000 fish. This raises the trigger for zero nighttime generation on lower Snake River projects to 50 marked and unmarked steelhead at Lower Granite and 10 wild (unmarked) fish. The previous trigger was 35 marked and unmarked and 10 wild fish.

The latest three-day running average count was 232 marked and unmarked fish and 72 wild fish, so zero nighttime generation is a long way off, Wagner observed. TMT will revisit this issue on its next conference call. If the trigger to implement the operation is achieved prior to the next TMT meeting the Action Agencies will implement the operation and coordinate with Wagner and provide the TMT with notification.

4. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next via phone at 2 pm, December 18, to discuss chum operations and zero nighttime generation on the lower Snake River.

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
John Roache	BOR
Russ George	WMC
Bruce McKay	consultant
Don Tinker	Seattle City Light
Barry Espenson	CBB
Richelle Beck	Grant PUD
Mike XX	Chelan PUD