

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 15, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Plummer, DS Consulting;

Facilitation Support: Donna Silverberg, DS Consulting

The following facilitator's summary is intended to capture basic discussion, decisions and actions, as well as point out future actions or issues that may need discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Review Meeting Minutes

The official TMT minutes and Facilitator's Summary for the December 18th, 2013 meeting were posted, reviewed by TMT members and approved.

Update on Water Supply Forecast

Doug Baus (Corps) reported that the official water supply forecast can be accessed via the TMT website (<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/>). Monthly summaries are also available on the TMT website.

Doug reported on the January 14th 5-day QFP forecasts for runoff and flood control:

- The Dalles (April – August) - 85 Maf, 97% of average
- Dworshak (April – July) – 2,296 Kaf, 94% of average
- Libby (April – August) - 5,432 Kaf, 92% of average

John Roache (BOR) reported on the January final QFP forecasts for runoff for BOR projects:

- Hungry Horse (April - August) - 2,045 Kaf, 106% of average
- Minimum flow for Columbia Falls is 3,500cfs
- Minimum flow for below Hungry Horse is 900cfs

The current SNOTEL snow water equivalent (SWE) are higher than normal for the eastside, however, lower than average (50%) for the westside and Cascades. The current April through August NWRFC forecast for The Dalles is 79.3%, which is 5-6 MAF lower than the January 8 official NWRFC forecast. NWRFC snow conditions in the headwaters of the Snake are at 95% of average and over 100% for Flathead.

Q: Are these expected forecasts typical for this time of year?

A: John noted that it is too early to make determinations, however, in the last few years, heavy rains in January through May have greatly impacted the forecasts. John also noted that it is good to see the high snow pack in the Upper Snake Basin.

Chum Update

Charles Morrill (WDFW) reported that the Chum tail water operation continues to be implemented and is going as planned, with a minimum of 11.5ft. Tony Norris (BPA) noted that BPA is operating Grand Coulee in a prudent manner to meet chum, April 10th (1,264-1,265ft), and Vernita Bar. These minimums are subject to change as forecasts are updated.

Operations Review

Reservoirs - Doug Baus (Corps) reported on reservoir elevations and flows as of January 14th. Midnight elevations at Libby were 2,425.75ft, with inflows of 2.8kcfs and outflows of 4.0kcfs. Dworshak midnight elevations were 1,525.82ft, with inflows of 3.8kcfs and outflows of 1.6kcfs. Albeni Falls midnight elevations were at 2,051.3ft, with inflows of 15.2kcfs and outflows of 12.1kcfs. Inflows at Lower Granite were 23.7kcfs; McNary inflows were 108.6kcfs; and Bonneville inflows were 122.8kcfs.

John Roache (BOR) reported on BOR reservoirs: Midnight elevations at Hungry Horse were 3,537.3ft, with inflows of 500-600cfs and outflows of 2.2kcfs. Midnight elevation at Grand Coulee was 1,278.4ft.

It was noted that all of the headwaters are at minimum flow, which is typical for this time of year. Additionally, it was noted that forecasts are calling for a dry spell for the next 10 days, with a ridge pattern that, if it follows recent ridging, may provide precipitation in the Cascades and Montana.

Fish- Paul Wagner (NOAA) reported that the forecasts are out and that the spring and summer runs look to be promising. As he noted, time will tell.

Action: Charles Morrill will provide TMT with an overview of the Columbia River Compact draft Joint Technical Staff Report on Spring and Summer Chinook at the February 19th TMT meeting. When available, he will provide TMT with a link to the report.

Water Quality – Laura Hamilton (Corps) directed the group to the water quality portion of the TMT website: under the RCC portion, there are a number of reports, including the narrative and appendices of the 2013 TDG and Water Temperature Monitoring report; the entire report will be posted at a later date. Laura also drew the Team's attention to the Oregon portion of the TMT WQ site which shows that all of the gauges are working fine and that there has not been any systems wide spill for several weeks, with the exception of attraction spill at Bonneville.

Power System – Tony Norris (BPA) reported that, due to good forecasting and preparation, BPA was able to get through the December cold snap without problems.

The next TMT meeting will be a face-to face meeting on February 5th from 9:00-12:00 at the Corps District Office.

February 5th Agenda Topics:

Spring Chum Update; BiOp Update; and (potentially): Snake Confluence Sedimentation Management Plan Update; Spill Priority List, NMFS Oceanic conditions, Adult Fish Forecast, Hanford Reach report, and 2013 Tribal catch report.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

January 15, 2014
Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Today's TMT meeting was chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. Representatives of BOR, BPA, Oregon, COE, Montana, Washington, USFWS, NOAA, CRITFC and others attended. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Review Meeting Minutes for December 18

There were no comments today on the minutes or facilitator's notes for December 18 so they were deemed final unless future concerns are raised.

3. Water Supply Forecast Update

3a. NWRFC water supply forecast current conditions: Baus and John Roache, BOR, gave the current official forecasts for key projects:

- The Dalles (April-August) –85 MAF, 97% of average
- Dworshak (April-July) – 2,296 KAF, 94% of average
- Libby (April-August) – 5,432 KAF, 92% of average
- Hungry Horse – 106% of average for every period (January-July, April-August, May-September)

The current snow pack for the Flat Head basin is 121% of average, Roache noted. Based on the current water supply forecast, minimum flows at Columbia Falls are 3500 cfs. The Hungry Horse project minimum flow is 900 cfs.

3b. NRCS SNOTEL SWE % of normal: Generally, SNOTEL forecasts are higher in the eastern portion of the region, while in Oregon and the Cascades the outlook is well below average.

3c. NWRFC snow: Current snow conditions are unevenly distributed, with as little as 50% or less snowpack on the west side of the basin and above average snowpack on the east side. BOR's current forecast for the upper Snake River basin is 95% of normal, while the Boise basin forecast is 65-70% of normal, Roache reported.

4. Chum Update

Charles Morrill, Washington, reported that flows are being managed to maintain 11.5 feet elevation in the Bonneville tailwater for chum protection. In terms of maintaining that elevation through emergence, Tony Norris, BPA, said Grand Coulee is expected to meet its April 10 flood control elevation, which is currently projected to be 1264-1265 feet.

5. Operations Review

a. Reservoirs. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1278.5 feet, currently operating to provide chum protection, Vernita Bar flows, and meet the April 10 elevation objective. Hungry Horse is at elevation 3537.3 feet with inflows of 600 cfs, continuing to release 2.2 kcfs for Columbia Falls minimums. The reservoir is currently below its end of January flood control elevation.

Libby is at elevation 2425.75 feet, with average inflows of 2.8 kcfs and releases of 4.0 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2051.3 feet, with average inflows of 15.2 kcfs and releases of 12.1 kcfs. Dworshak is at elevation 1525.82 feet, with inflows of 3.8 kcfs and releases of 1.6 kcfs.

Lower Granite daily average inflows are 23.7 kcfs. McNary daily average inflows are 108.6 kcfs. Bonneville daily average inflows are 122.8 kcfs.

b. Fish. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said the 2014 spring and summer runs look promising on the basis of current run forecasts.

c. Water Quality. Laura Hamilton, COE, reported that all gages are working with no problems. Flows are low and there has been no spill in January except for attraction flows at Bonneville. The 2013 annual TDG and temperature report is now posted to the TMT page under the RCC Water Quality Program link. Information on Dworshak operations, court reports, FOP spill and other topics of TMT interest are covered in appendices to this report.

d. Power System. There was nothing to report.

7. Next TMT Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be February 5, with discussion of the BiOp and FOP on the agenda. Also, Charles Morrill will give an update on the WDFW joint technical staff report summarizing expectations for spring and summer chinook returns. At the subsequent TMT meeting February 19, Morrill will give a more in depth presentation on this report.

Name	Affiliation
John Roache	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Doug Baus	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Russ George	WMC
Donna Silverberg	DS Consulting
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Charles Morrill	Washington
Laura Hamilton	COE

Phone:

David Wills	USFWS
Brian Marotz	Montana
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Pete Lyman	PGE
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Heather Dohan	Puget
Bruce McKay	consultant
XX	Grant PUD
Barry Espenson	CBB