

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

March 5, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator & Notes: Emily Plummer, 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 further discussion at upcoming meetings. These notes are not intended to be the "record" of the meeting, only a reminder for TMT members.

Water Supply Forecast

Doug Baus, COE, shared that the official April through July water supply forecast for Dworshak is 2,701kaf, which is 111% of average. The March final forecast of runoff volume for Dworshak has been posted on the TMT website in the "Flood Control" link (<http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/>). All official forecasts will be posted Friday, March 7 on the TMT website in the "Official Water Supply Forecast" link. Current forecasts are as follows:

- The Dalles April – August 86.2 MAF (99% of average)
- Lower Granite April – August 22.0 MAF (111% of average)

It was noted that the NWRFC water supply forecast continues to increase, as does the NWRFC Snow forecast, as the region continues to accumulate snow. The NRCS SNOTEL forecast continues to show conditions improving in the North Cascades, and throughout most locations in the basin.

Spill Priority List

Scott English, COE, shared the draft Spring 2014 Spill Priority List (SPL) that will be implemented on April 1-May 31 through the initial spring conditions. Scott noted that the spill priority order of projects is the same as last year and that if there are comments or questions please contact COE. Paul Wagner, NOAA, commented that he will take the SPL to FPAC and will provide any suggested changes at the March 19th TMT meeting. A link to the SPL can be accessed on today's agenda.

Vernita Bar Update

Russell Langshaw, Grant County PUD, updated TMT on Vernita Bar. Russell reported that they are in the post-hatch stage and are expected to emerge around March 22nd, give or take a few days depending on the water temperatures. Russell noted that protection level flows are being met, with 68kcfs at Priest Rapids and 65kcfs at the USGS gauge. Russell expects that the operation will have to work to meet the flow band constraints and that there may be some challenges as a result of reduced capacity at Wanapum, Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams and thus less flexibility when it comes to rebalancing the flows. With no further questions, Russell expressed that Grant County PUD appreciates the cooperation and coordination with partners and said he will provide an update to TMT at the next meeting.

Chum Update

Charles Morrill, Washington, and Doug Baus, COE, said the chum operation is going well and continuing to meet targets. Chum are still in the gravel, Bonneville is currently operating at 171 kcfs outflows with a tailwater elevation of 16.8 feet, and the operation is being implemented as planned. TMT will continue to receive updates at future TMT meetings.

The next TMT meeting will be face to face on March 19th at 9:00 am, followed by a process meeting.

Agenda items include:

- Check in on Spill Priority List
- Vernita Bar Update
- Chum Update
- Other?

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

March 5, 2014
Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

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

2. Water Supply Forecast Update

Baus presented the following water supply forecasts:

- Dworshak (April-July) – 2701 kaf, 111% of average.
- Libby – Official March forecast will be posted later this week.
- The Dalles (April-August) – 86.2 maf, 99% of average.
- Lower Granite – currently 22.0 maf, 111% of average. Official March forecast will be available later this week.

RFC data indicate that snow is accumulating across the basin and the forecasts will continue to increase, Baus said. Readings from the NRCS SNOTEL sites are following the same pattern. After a prolonged dry spell, conditions continue to improve in the northern Cascades and throughout the rest of the Columbia River basin.

3. Spill Priority List

The spring spill priority list attached to today's agenda follows the same order as last year, Scott English, COE, said. It will go into effect as of April 1 unless concerns are raised. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said this list is consistent with FPAC discussions in previous years. FPAC will discuss it again this year and let TMT know at its next meeting March 19 if any changes are needed.

4. Vernita Bar Update

Russell Langshaw, Grant PUD, reported. The operation is currently in the post-hatching phase, with a 68 kcfs minimum outflow requirement at Priest Rapids Dam (or 65 kcfs minimum as measured at the USGS gage). Emergence is expected on or around March 22 depending on water temperatures.

Conditions continue to look good in terms of being able to meet protective flow requirements at Priest Rapids through emergence at this time. Langshaw thanked BPA and the mid-Columbia PUDs for their collaboration, which is making that possible. When flow band constraints do kick in, it will become more challenging to operate within the daily deltas at Priest Rapids Dam. This is mainly due to the loss of normal operations at Wanapum Dam, which the PUD uses to rebalance flows in the mid Columbia. Grant PUD's primary objective throughout emergence is to meet the flow band constraints, Langshaw emphasized.

5. Chum Update

The chum eggs are still in gravel and plenty of water is available, so the operation is going smoothly, Charles Morrill, Washington, reported. Bonneville outflows are 171 kcfs with a tailwater elevation of 16.8 feet, Baus noted.

6. Next TMT Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be on March 19 in person.

Name	Affiliation
David Wills	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Mary Mellema	BOR
Sheri Sears	Colville Tribe
Scott Bettin	BPA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Doug Baus	COE
Tony Norris	BPA
Pete Lyman	PGE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Heather Dohan	Puget
XX	Snohomish PUD
Barry Espenson	CBB
Bruce McKay	hydro consultant
Charles Morrill	Washington
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Scott English	COE
Russell Langshaw	Grant PUD
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Russ Kiefer	Idaho