

# **COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM**

July 16, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Plummer, Notes: Tory Hines, DS Consulting

## **Review of Meeting Minutes**

The group approved the June 4th and the July 9th Official Meeting Minutes and Facilitator's Summary.

## **Treaty Fishing SOR 2014-C7**

Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, shared the operation request for the summer fishing support; the request is to hold the three lower pools at a 1.5ft variation. Kyle noted, as of July 8th, there were 266 nets: 110 in the Bonneville pool, 59 The Dalles pool, and 97 nets in the John Day. Kyle expected that they will submit another SOR next week to continue the summer season. Doug Baus, USACE, stated that USACE has initiated implementing the July 14th to 18th request.

## **Dworshak Operations**

Steve Hall, USACE-NWW, provided an update on Lower Granite water temperatures and Dworshak operations. As of July 13, the tailwater temperatures at Lower Granite remain consistent, holding at around 66 degrees Fahrenheit. Steve indicated temperatures around 66 degrees Fahrenheit (plus or minus a degree) are consistent with 2012 temperatures for the same time period. The project is currently discharging 12kcfs and plans to hold this level, however, current 10-day forecasts call for cooler weather which may lead to cooler water and allow for a decrease in discharge. Conversely, if temperatures are forecasted to rise above 68 degrees Fahrenheit in the Lower Granite tailwater, the project will increase discharge. Steve noted that the model seems to be tracking well. Paul Wagner, NOAA, extended appreciation to USACE and Steve, noting that the operation is going well.

## **Operations Review**

### **Reservoirs:**

Mary Mellema, BOR, reported on Reclamation projects:

- Hungry Horse midnight elevation was 3,959.53ft, with 4.4kcfs outflow. BOR is watching inflows and will likely decrease to 3.3kcfs as the pool is within .5ft from full.
- Grand Coulee elevation was 1,289.3ft. They are continuing a slow draft to meet BiOp flow requirements. The project touched full on Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Doug Baus, USACE, reported on USACE projects:

Doug shared that they are watching Snake River inflows and will likely need to adjust the pool elevations at Little Goose and Ice Harbor in order to ensure safe navigation through the Lower Monumental and Lower Granite locks. They have not increased pool elevations yet, however, when necessary will take a step approach and will not exceed MOP +1.

- Libby midnight elevation was 2,452.15ft, with 17.3kcfs inflow and 15kcfs outflow.
- Albeni Falls midnight elevation was 2062.38ft, with 36.3kcfs inflow and 36.1kcfs outflow.
- Dworshak midnight elevation was 1,591.4ft, with 5kcfs inflow and 12kcfs outflow.

- Lower Granite inflow was 43.9kcf.
- Bonneville average inflow was 195.5kcf.

**Fish:** Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish. He noted the adult sockeye passage numbers at Bonneville are around 586,000, 310% of the 10 year average, which is a record for sockeye. Summer Chinook numbers past Bonneville have reached 98,000, 128% of the 10 year average; jacks are at 127% of the 10 year average. It is still early in the season for Steelhead, but the current passage rate is 44,000, 105% of the 10 year average. At Lower Granite, the Sockeye count was 1,240, 270% of the 10 year average; 16,000 summer Chinook have passed Lower Granite, which is 85% of the 10 year average; jacks are at 110% of the 10 year average and it is still too early in the season for Steelhead numbers. Dave Statler, Nez Perce, commented that the good run numbers are a result of good fish management practices. He also noted that the Lamprey conversion from Bonneville to The Dalles is low; 3 Lamprey have passed Lower Granite this season. Russ Kiefer, ID, noted that roughly 2,000 Snake River Sockeye passed through Bonneville and the Dworshak operation assisting successful Sockeye passage.

Paul reported on juveniles. A couple thousand sub-yearling fall Chinook are passing each Snake River project per day. Sub-yearling passage at McNary is around 200,000, which is a strong representation for this time of year, well above the 95% confidence interval.

**Water Quality:** Scott English, USACE, noted that all gauges are currently operating and that TDG levels in the Ice Harbor forebay have been in the 115.5 range for 6-7 days. The project is monitoring for changes and anticipates TDG levels to lower as the weather cools down next week.

**Power System:** Nothing to report.

**The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on July 23 at 9:00am.**

#### **AGENDA**

Treaty fishing SOR  
Dworshak operations

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

**July 16, 2014**

Minutes: Pat Vivian

**1. Introduction**

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

**2. Meeting Minutes – June 4 and July 9**

The facilitator's summary and official minutes for June 4 and July 9 were approved as final.

**3. Treaty Fishing – SOR 2014-C7**

Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, presented the latest SOR for treaty fishing from 8 am-6 pm daily, starting Monday, July 14, through Friday, July 18. The SOR makes the typical request that fluctuations be held within 1.5' elevation bands at the three lower pools, Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day. Last week's CRITFC-sponsored net flight found 266 nets, 110 (41%) of them at Bonneville, 59 (22%) at The Dalles, and 97 (36%) at John Day. Another CRITFC-sponsored net flight is in progress and the results will be reported to the COE later today. The tribes will meet tomorrow morning to plan next week's fishing and on July 21 to discuss autumn treaty fishing. Dittmer will keep the COE informed of tribal fishery plans. As requested the Action Agencies are currently implementing this SOR.

**4. Dworshak Operations**

Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, reported. Water temperatures in the Lower Granite tailwater have hovered consistently around 66 degrees F since July 12-13. The graph attached to today's agenda is based on modeling of data from July 14, using 2012 as an analog year. The model has been tracking temperatures well for the current period. However, last year from July 19 on was warm, while this year's forecast indicates that, beginning tomorrow, temperatures will be slightly cooler over the next 10 days than last year. The modeling shows Lower Granite tailwater temperatures approaching the 68 degrees F threshold over the next week, but actual temperatures will probably be lower than the graph indicates. Yesterday the COE decreased Dworshak releases to 12 kcfs and plans to continue 12 kcfs of flow augmentation unless Lower Granite tailwater temperatures drop below 65 degrees F. If that happens, flows from Dworshak will be decreased. Paul Wagner, NOAA, said this looks like a good plan.

## 5. Operations Review

**a. Reservoirs.** Hungry Horse is at elevation 3559.53' within half a foot of full, releasing 4.4 kcfs. The BOR is watching inflows and will drop releases to 3.3 kcfs when appropriate, Mary Mellema reported.

Grand Coulee is at elevation 1289.3', slowly drafting for BiOp flows. On July 14, the reservoir touched full (within 0.3' of 1290').

Baus notified TMT that the COE is keeping a close eye on lower Snake River inflows in order to maintain navigation safety at the downstream entrance to the Lower Granite and Lower Monumental navigation locks. In past years, TMT coordinated a provision for making adjustments in the Little Goose and Ice Harbor pools when flows on the Snake River drop to approximately 50 kcfs or lower. These adjustments of up to MOP+1' are necessary for safe entrance conditions at the Lower Granite and Lower Monumental navigation locks during periods of low flows. Hall reported that at least six times in the past few days, the gage at the Little Goose lock entrance has shown elevations below the minimum of 633' for navigation safety. Baus informed TMT the Action Agencies would be implementing this operation soon. Further information regarding this operation may be found in the 2014 Summer Fish Operations Plan on page 7 under Navigation Safety.

Dave Statler, Nez Perce, asked whether it's likely the Little Goose and Ice Harbor pools will go to MOP+1'; Baus said yes such increases are usually done incrementally, starting with MOP+0.5' to see if that will maintain an appropriate sill elevation. If MOP + 0.5' does not provide the required navigation lock sill elevation then the the Action Agencies will increase Little Goose and Ice Harbor up to MOP+1. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, asked whether changes in generation and spill amounts throughout the day affect navigation. Baus said they do, but low flows on the Snake generally allow no flexibility to manage both navigation and BiOp spill requirements.

Dworshak is at elevation 1591.4' with inflows of 12 kcfs and releases of 5 kcfs. Libby is at elevation 2452.15' with inflows of 17.3 kcfs and releases of 15 kcfs. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2062.38' with inflows of 36.6 kcfs and releases of 36.1 kcfs.

Lower Granite daily average inflows are 43.9 kcfs; Bonneville daily average inflows are 195.5 kcfs.

**e. Fish.** Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported.

Adults: Sockeye passage at Bonneville is a record-setting 310% of the 10 year average, with 586,000 fish passing to date and 6,000 more coming every day. Summer chinook passage is 98,000 fish or 128% of the 10 year average; jack passage is 127% of the 10 year average. It's still early in the steelhead passage season, but the cumulative count of 44,000 past Bonneville is 105% of the 10 year average.

Adult sockeye passage at Lower Granite is 1,240 fish, or 270% of the 10 year average. Sockeye passage counts are approaching 300% of average at several dams. Combined spring and summer chinook passage at Lower Granite is 16,000 fish to date or 85% of the 10 year average; Wagner noted that spring chinook passage alone was 130% of average. Jack passage at Lower Granite is 110% of average. Sockeye passage at Priest Rapids is 447,000, or 326% of the 10 year average. Summer chinook passage at Priest is 55,551, or 156% of the 10 year average. Jack passage is 157% of the 10 year average.

Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe, emphasized that lamprey are not participating in the robust returns salmonids are experiencing in the Snake River basin. Only 3 adult lamprey have passed Lower Granite during daylight hours this year. Day/night counts would give a more complete picture of the run, and this year's lamprey return at Bonneville is comparable to recent years. Nevertheless, the conversion rate for adult lamprey from Bonneville to The Dalles is low, and it's even lower at subsequent projects upstream. Recently Statler did an analysis of lamprey data and found that less than 50% of adult lamprey successfully pass to the next upstream dam.

Russ Kiefer reported that over 2,000 PIT-tagged Snake River sockeye had passed Bonneville as of July 11, per the last index count. The Snake River sockeye count at Lower Granite is close to 1,000.

Juveniles: Wagner said fall chinook passage is past its peak, with a few thousand subyearlings per day at all Snake River projects. The last index count at McNary was close to 200,000 subyearlings, which is good for this time of year. Overall, the index counts are well above the 95% confidence interval.

**c. Water Quality.** Scott English reported. For the past week, the Ice Harbor forebay has experienced small TDG excursions in the 115.5% saturation range. Kiefer said that's most likely the result of hot weather, not project operations.

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

## **7. Next TMT Meeting**

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call on July 23. Agenda topics will include Dworshak operations, treaty fishing, and the usual operations review.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Tony Norris	BPA
Mary Mellema	BOR
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Doug Baus	COE
Tori Hines	DSC

Robin Gumpert	DSC
Scott Bettin	BPA
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Phone:

Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
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Barry Espenson	CBB
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Kathryn Kostow	Oregon