

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

September 17, 2014

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator, Emily Plummer; Notes, Tory Hines 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.

Review of Meeting Minutes

The August 20th and August 27th Official Minutes and Mediator's Summary were approved.

Dworshak Operations

Steve Hall, COE-NWW, provided an update on Dworshak operations. He noted that the Lower Granite tailwater is at 61 degrees Fahrenheit and the temperature augmentation is complete. On Monday, September 15th, Dworshak reduced discharge from 8.7kcfs (up to 115% TDG) to 6.7kcfs discharge (up to 110% TDG). The project will hold this operation until Friday and will then ramp down to 4.8kcfs (no spill) for approximately 2-3 days, then down to 2.4 kcfs (one small unit) until the forebay reaches 1,520 feet on September 25, per the Dworshak Board Nez Perce agreement. After that time, the project will go to a minimum discharge rate. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that the lower three Snake River projects returned to the August 31 MOP range on the 25th coincident with the draft to elevation 1520' at Dworshak, as has been implemented in previous years.

Operations Review

Reservoirs:

Mary Mellema, BOR, reported on Reclamation projects:

- Hungry Horse midnight elevation was 3,552.26ft, with 2.6kcfs outflow. Mary noted there would be a continued release until the end of the month to get down to the targeted 3,550ft by the end of September.
- Grand Coulee elevation was 1,280.5ft; the project will refill to 1,283' by the end of September.

Lisa Wright, COE, reported on Corps projects:

- Libby midnight elevation was 2,449.3ft, with 5.6kcfs inflow and 9kcfs outflow. Joel Fenolio, Corps Seattle, indicated the project would hit 2,449.0 ft in the next couple of days, then reduce discharge to minimum flow (6 kcfs) or slightly more.
- Albeni Falls midnight elevation was 2,061.7ft, with 12.6kcfs inflow and 16.9kcfs outflow.
- Dworshak midnight elevation was 1,524.8ft, with 1.4kcfs inflow and 6.7kcfs outflow.
- Lower Granite average inflow was 21.1kcfs.
- McNary average inflow was 90kcfs.
- Bonneville average inflow was 90.3kcfs

Fish: Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported on fish. He noted the fall Chinook numbers at Bonneville have decreased to 25,000 to 32,000 per day, with a total of 610,000 so far this year. This represents 193% of the 10 year average and 87% of last years' count, but is so far below what was

forecasted for this year. Chinook jacks are at 173% of the 10 year average, 97% of last year's average. Steelhead are at 88% of the 10 year average, with wild steelhead at 114% of the 10 year average. Lamprey are at 130% of the 10 year average. At Lower Granite, fall Chinook counts are at 220% of the 10 year average, 131% of last year's average with an estimated 20,920 counted. Based on counts since January 1, steelhead are at 66% of the 10 year average, 187% of last year's average with an estimated 31,260 counted. Russ Kiefer, ID, noted the sockeye count at Red Fish Lake is at 1,408 as of September 11, a record since the four dams were installed on the Lower Snake River.

Currently, the juvenile numbers are winding down as the run ends with a few sub-yearling Chinook rallying into November. Juvenile sub-yearling numbers are less than 100 per day at Lower Granite and Goose; and between 73-200 per day at Lower Monumental. They are seeing some Columnaris in fish collected at Lower Monumental, which is normal for this time of year, and so have switched to every other day bypass and collection for transport. A change form will likely be submitted to make this operation a formal addition to the Fish Passage Plan.

Water Quality: Scott English, COE, reported that other than the TDG levels at DWR that Steve Hall reported on (see above) there is nothing to report on water quality.

Power System: Nothing to report.

Upper Snake Flow Augmentation: Mary Mellema, BOR, reported on the completion of the Upper Snake River flow augmentation operation. A total of 487kaf was released: 190kaf from above Milner; 78kaf from natural flow; 173kaf from the Payette and 46kaf from the Boise River system. The release from the Payette was completed on August 30th and the others were completed in July.

The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on October 1st at 9:00am.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM – OFFICIAL MINUTES

September 17, 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, NOAA, Montana, USFWS, Colville Tribe, CRITFC, Idaho, and others participated. This summary is an official record of the proceedings, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Meeting Minutes - August 20 and 27

The official minutes and facilitator's summary for both meetings were approved as final.

3. Dworshak Operations

Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, reported. The Lower Granite tailwater temperature is down to 61 degrees F and temperature augmentation flows are essentially done, although the COE continues to release the remaining augmentation volume. On Monday, September 15, Dworshak ramped down from 8.7 kcfs, with 115% TDG saturation levels below the dam, to 6.7 kcfs and 110% TDG. On September 15, TDG levels below Dworshak dropped to 107-108% due to cooler weather and a reduction in spill. The project is currently operating to not exceed 110% TDG because the temporary state exemption has ended.

The 6.7 kcfs releases will continue through Friday, September 19, when Dworshak will ramp down to 4.8 kcfs (no spill) as previously coordinated at TMT under the Nez Perce agreement. Early next week, September 22-23, the operation will drop to one small unit until the forebay reaches 1520' elevation on September 25. Once 1520' is attained, Dworshak will drop to minimum discharges. Hall clarified that the project will release 4.8 kcfs for 2-3 days based on whether unit 3 will be back in service. If unit 3 is not in service by September 22, the COE will probably add spill to the single-unit operation for a few days to ensure the project reaches 1520' by September 25.

Tony Norris, BPA, noted that when Dworshak reaches 1520', Lower Granite, Little Goose, and Lower Monumental will return to their August 31 MOP elevation range, bringing MOP operations to an end for the year.

4. Operations Review

- a. **Reservoirs.** Hungry Horse is at elevation 3552.26' and releasing 2.6-2.7 kcfs,

Mary Mellema, BOR, reported. The BOR anticipates that operation will continue with a goal of reaching 3550' by end September. Wagner asked if releases are likely to stay at that level; Mellema said they will probably go down. Rain is forecasted next week in the area. Grand Coulee is at elevation 1280.5', headed toward a refill elevation of 1283' by end September.

Dworshak is at elevation 1524.8' with inflows of 1.4 kcfs and releases of 6.7 kcfs, Lisa Wright, COE, reported. Albeni Falls is at elevation 2061.7' with average inflows of 12.6 kcfs and releases of 16.9 kcfs.

Libby is at elevation 2449.3' with average inflows of 5.6 kcfs and releases of 9 kcfs. Jim Litchfield, Montana, asked if Libby will continue to release 9 kcfs for a few more days before ramping down to bull trout minimum flows of 6 kcfs. Joel Fenolio, COE, said Libby is likely to hit 2449.0' in the next few days, so there is a possibility of releasing more than minimum flows once elevation 2449' is attained. Jim Litchfield, Montana, thanked the COE for gradually ramping down Libby flows in August, which provided water when inflows dried up.

b. Fish. Paul Wagner, NOAA, reported.

Adults: Fall chinook are passing Bonneville at the rate of 25,000-32,000 a day with 610,000 to date, which is 193% of the 10 year average and 87% of last year's run. That is generally considered an excellent run, although it's less than the 1.2 million predicted. Fall chinook jacks at Bonneville are 170% of the 10 year average and 97% of last year's run. Steelhead adult returns are 88% of the 10 year average at Bonneville, with wild steelhead at 114% of the 10 year average. That reflects an overall trend this year of around 110% for wild steelhead returns, with the steelhead hatchery composite in the 90% range.

Lamprey adult passage is still going strong at 130% of the 10 year average. However, Wagner noted adult lamprey counts have been low enough that 130% is not a stellar return.

At Lower Granite, fall chinook are 220% of the 10 year average and 131% of last year's average. The count for steelhead at Granite is 31,260, which is 66% of 10 year average and 187% of last year's average. Actual fall chinook counts at Granite so far – it's still early in the season – are 20,920, a good return. Steelhead returns at Granite are 31,260; sockeye are at 2,770. Russ Kiefer, Idaho, reported the sockeye count at Redfish Lake was 1,408 on September 11, a record since the Snake River dams began operating. Almost a third of these were naturally produced adult returns, another good sign for sockeye recovery. Kiefer noted the steelhead count of 31,260 at Granite since January 1, which includes fish from last year's run. This year's steelhead run is actually 23,777 at Granite since June 1, which is about 70% of the 10 year average. Large numbers of fish have passed Ice Harbor in the past few days so the counts at Granite should go up soon, Kiefer added.

Juveniles: Fall chinook subyearling passage is ending, Wagner reported. Current index counts are less than 100 a day at Lower Granite and Little Goose and 200 a day at Lower Monumental. In response to columnaris at Lower Monumental, which is typical for this time of year, FPOM decided last week to bypass then collect fish for transport every other day. The purpose is to hold fish no longer than 24 hours, a strategy that spreads the risk when things are uncertain. FPOM intends to develop a change form making this operation a permanent part of the FPP with no in-season management needed.

c. Water Quality. Scott English, COE, said there was nothing to report beyond Steve Hall's update on TDG levels below Dworshak Dam.

d. Power. There was nothing to report.

e. Upper Snake Flow Augmentation. Mary added this item to today's agenda. Releases for the 487 kaf of Upper Snake flow augmentation ended on August 30 with the last releases from the Payette. Basin by basin, augmentation flows were:

- 190 kaf from above Milner Dam
- 78 kaf of natural flows
- 173k kaf from the Payette basin
- 46 kaf from the Boise basin

The BOR will provide a more in-depth report on upper Snake flow augmentation at the TMT year-end review.

7. Next TMT Meeting

The next TMT meeting will be in person October 1.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Tony Norris	BPA
Mary Mellema	BOR
Steve Hall	COE
Doug Baus	COE
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Lisa Wright	COE
Tori Hines	DSC

Phone:

David Wills	USFWS
Sheri Sears	Colville
Tom Lorz	CRITFC
Joel Fenolio	COE Seattle
Brian Marotz	Montana
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Scott English	COE