

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

July 8, 2015

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.

Dworshak/Lower Granite Water Temperature

Steve Hall, COE-Walla Walla, updated TMT on Dworshak and Lower Granite water temperatures. He noted that on July 6, 2015, water temperatures at Lower Granite exceeded the 68 degrees Fahrenheit threshold, and as of this morning water temperatures were at 69.5 degrees Fahrenheit and climbing. John Heitstuman, COE-Walla Walla, reported that modelling suggests that warmer temperatures will only last a couple of days and then will drop back down below 68 degrees. John noted that on July 6th Dworshak discharge was increased from 5.4kcfs to 7.5kcfs, which should help lower water temperatures soon (water particle travel time from DWR to LGR is 72 hours), and moderate ambient temperatures are forecasted for the next few days.

Steve reiterated that the per TMT recommendation, the project will continue to operate to conserve water at Dworshak, while striving to maintain water temperatures below 68 degrees. John reported that, although last week's models were a bit off, the current modeling is tracking well. Dave Statler, Nez Perce, noted that moderation in ambient temperatures in the Clearwater area may provide the temperature relief needed and hopefully that coupled with the increase in discharge at Dworshak will bring cooler temperatures to Lower Granite.

The Fish Passage Operations & Maintenance group will meet at 10:00 this morning to discuss Lower Granite operations in greater details.

Little Goose Operation Update

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on the Little Goose Operation, noting that the Corps increased the Minimum Operating Pool (MOP) range from MOP +0.5ft to MOP +1ft as outlined for Little Goose navigation lock safety in the 2015 Fish Operations Plan (FOP). He continued that the increase in pool elevation was necessary to accommodate safe entrance to the downstream navigation lock at Lower Granite.

Snake Sockeye Update

Russ Kiefer, ID, provided an update on the Snake River Sockeye returns. He noted that based off of PIT tag estimates, 2,871 Sockeye passed Bonneville Dam; 2,773 were estimated to have passed in 2014. However, conversion from BON upstream is the lowest to date and fish appear to be stalling throughout the system. Stalling is likely due to the warmer water temperatures.

The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on July 15th at 9:00AM.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM—OFFICIAL MINUTES

July 8, 2015
Minutes: Pat Vivian

Representatives of Washington, Idaho, USFWS, NOAA, Nez Perce Tribe, Montana, Oregon, BPA, COE, BOR, CRITFC/Umatilla Tribe and others participated in today's TMT conference call. Doug Baus, COE, chaired the meeting, with facilitation by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record of the conversation, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Dworshak/Lower Granite Water Temperature

Steve Hall, COE, and others from the COE's Walla Walla office gave TMT an update on current conditions and the temperature operation to date.

At around 1 pm Monday, July 6, the Lower Granite tailwater temperature exceeded 68 degrees F after climbing steadily for a few days. Modeling to that point had suggested that 5 kcfs releases from Dworshak would be sufficient to meet the 68 degrees F threshold, but a number of factors intervened – more solar radiation than expected, a thunderstorm that didn't materialize, complexities in spill operations, errors in modeling data, and judicious use of water in response to TMT's concerns.

By midnight Monday, the Action Agencies responded by raising Dworshak outflows to 7.5 kcfs. It will take approximately 72 hours – or until late this afternoon – for the cooling effects to arrive at Lower Granite. The current tailwater temperature is 69.5 degrees and climbing as of 7 am today, John Heitstumann, COE, reported. The latest modeling shows the tailwater temperature should drop below 68 degrees F in just a few days, thanks to the 7.5 kcfs from Dworshak plus a predicted drop in ambient temperatures. Furthermore, the model seems to be performing better, offering more confidence in the results.

Hall noted that TMT has expressed a wide range of opinions on Dworshak flow management, from advocating a steady temperature buffer to judicious use of water. The exceedances at Lower Granite came about in part because the Action Agencies have been trying to release no more water than necessary. Further discussion regarding Lower Granite operations will take place at FPOM later this morning.

3. Little Goose MOP Operations

Since June 14, Little Goose has been operating at MOP+0.5 ft (633.5 to 634.5 ft.) under a provision in the FOP regarding low flows and navigation safety. TMT was notified of this change by email on June 16. Today Baus told TMT that on July 3, the Action Agencies increased the Little Goose operation to MOP+1 (634.0 – 635.0 ft.) in order to maintain the required 15 ft clearance over the sill at the downstream entrance

to the Lower Granite navigation lock. Current Little Goose elevation is 634.5 ft, right in the middle of the MOP+1 range.

4. Snake River Adult Sockeye Migration Update

Russ Kiefer, Idaho, gave TMT good news and bad news about this year's Snake River sockeye run. Based on PIT tag estimates, more adults have returned to Bonneville – 2,871 to date – than last year's estimate of 2,773.

However, conversion rates this year are some of the lowest seen, and fish appear to be stalling throughout the system in response to warm temperatures. This will be one of the main topics of discussion on the FPOM call today.

5. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next in person July 15, followed by a process meeting.

Name	Affiliation
Charles Morrill	Washington
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Joe Skalicky	USFWS
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Dave Statler	Nez Perce Tribe
Jim Litchfield	Montana
Kathryn Kostow	ODFW
Robyn MacKay	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Steve Hall	COE Walla Walla
John Heitstumann	COE Walla Walla
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Lisa Wright	COE
Julie Ammann	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Paula Calvert	ODEQ
Tory Hines	DSC