

# COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 12, 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 current water temperatures are near 67 degrees Fahrenheit, cooling off from yesterday's temperature which approached, but did not exceed, 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Steve shared that according to the model, the current discharge will keep temperatures below 68 degrees for the next five days, however, Idaho Power plans to increase discharge in the next three days which will introduce more warm water into the system and thus require an increase in discharge out of Dworshak to maintain 68 degrees. Steve requested regional recommendations. Steve anticipated that with an average discharge of 5.6kcfs out of Dworshak, it is possible to ramp up the operation and still meet the target elevation of 1,535ft for the end of August. It was noted that it is necessary to stay aligned with the Dworshak Board's planned elevation of 1,535ft, and recognized that the Nez Perce need to be consulted; Paul Wagner will follow-up with Dave Statler.

Karl Kanbergs, COE-NWD, noted that the STP average outflows requires 5.5 kcfs to achieve 1,535ft by the end of August, thus if you increase to 7.5kcfs in the coming days you may have to reduce down to a 1 small unit operation (approximately 2.5 kcfs or less) in the final week of August. Steve agreed this is a possibility and it is dependent on fluctuating inflows for the remainder of the month. Steve reiterated that the number of days holding at 7.5kcfs is dependent on inflows, currently inflows are at .5kcfs and on August 4th inflows were at 1.1kcfs; this variability presents uncertainty in determining how long discharge is able to stay at 7.5kcfs without exhausting available water. Steve noted that a decision is required by Thursday night, otherwise temperatures will increase over 68 degrees Fahrenheit on August 15th.

Following a brief caucus, the Salmon Managers recommended an increase in discharge out of Dworshak, beginning at midnight on Thursday, August, 13. Salmon managers acknowledged that discharge flows are dependent on inflows and subject to change.

➤ **ACTION:** The Action Agencies will increase discharge out of Dworshak to 7.5kcfs beginning at midnight on Thursday, August 13th and until midnight Saturday, August, 15th. The operation will then ramp down to an outflow that will achieve 1535 ft end of August, and at this time current anticipated outflow that would achieve 1535 ft end of August is 5.5 kcfs. The Corps will adjust as necessary to achieve 1535 ft end of August.

## **Spill Priority List**

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, reported on the Spill Priority List. He noted that the upcoming list begins on September 1, 2015 and will end no later than March 31, 2016. The list begins with Level 1

Priority at Bonneville and moves upstream from there. FPAC members noted that the proposed list was discussed at FPAC and there are no adjustments at this time.

➤ **ACTION:** The Corps will transition from the current list and implement the upcoming Spill Priority List commencing on September 1, 2015 and ending no later than March 31, 2016.

### **Ice Harbor Operations Update**

Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on Ice Harbor Operations. He noted that per provisions in the FOP, Ice Harbor Dam implemented MOP+1 (438-439ft) operations beginning on August 10th. The elevated MOP operation was implemented to facilitate entrance into the Lower Monumental navigation lock. The navigation lock requires 15ft of clearance to ensure navigational safety. Tony Norris, BPA, also noted that the MOP operation ends on August 31st and Lower Snake projects will transition to a no-net-fill operation range at that time. As in prior years, this operation coincides with the draft operation at Dworshak.

### **Fall Treaty Fishing**

Karl Kanbergs noted that the Corps had received preliminary notice from CRITFC that Fall Treaty Fishing would likely begin next week. Kanbergs said coordination for the operation is underway and it is expected that the standard pool operations requested will be implemented barring unknown conflicts. An update will be provided at the next TMT meeting.

### **Emergency Snake River Sockeye Trap and Haul Operation**

Russ Kiefer, ID, provided an update on the Emergency Snake River Sockeye Trap and Haul Operation which officially ended on Wednesday, August, 5<sup>th</sup>, however, an extension was granted for Sockeye encountered during biological sampling at Lower Granite Dam. If any Sockeye are captured during biological sampling, they are transported to the kelt tank and then moved to the Eagle Fish Hatchery. Yesterday, 3 Sockeye were trapped and transported; a total of 59 Sockeye are at the Eagle Fish Hatchery. Russ noted that the extension will occur as long as the trap and haul operation is viewed as productive.

**The next TMT meeting will be a face to face meeting on August 19th at 9:00AM.**

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

**August 12, 2015**  
Minutes: Pat Vivian

**1. Introduction**

Representatives of Oregon, NOAA, CRITFC/Umatilla, BPA, COE, BOR, Colville Tribe, Washington, Yakama Nation, Idaho, USFWS 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**

Lower Granite tailwater temperature is currently around 67 degrees F, Steve Hall, COE Walla Walla, reported. Yesterday, it approached but did not exceed the 68 degree trigger (as shown in attachment 2a). Based on the latest modeling results (attachment 2b), the COE expects that additional Dworshak discharges will be needed over the next 5-6 days to keep Lower Granite tailwater temperatures below 68 degrees.

Hall asked the Salmon Managers for feedback on continuing current releases of 5.6 kcfs. A factor to consider: Idaho Power discharges out of Hells Canyon/Brownlee are expected to rise in the next three days, which means Dworshak releases should probably go up to counteract the effect of the warm water from Brownlee. Paul Wagner said Brownlee will probably pass inflows or near-inflows on weekends and release 1-1.5 kcfs above inflows during the week, according to NOAA's recent communications with Idaho Power.

Wagner asked why the model indicates temperatures at Lower Granite will exceed 68 degrees F in a week. Two factors are responsible, Hall said: (1) warm temperatures are predicted over the next few days, and (2) the modeling is based on RFC forecasts and information the COE got from Idaho Power's website regarding Hells Canyon operations. In approximately three days, the model shows Hells Canyon will release a few kcfs more than the current 12-15 kcfs, then ramp back to 15 kcfs out. There's a bit of flexibility over the next few days to increase Dworshak augmentation flows because the current release of 5.6 kcfs is less than the average discharge required for Dworshak to reach 1535 ft elevation by end August.

Paul Wagner, **NOAA**, said he needs to confer with Dave Statler, Nez Perce Tribe, before making any recommendation on Dworshak operations that deviates from the Dworshak board's plan, which calls for reaching an elevation of 1535 ft by August 31. Wagner will confer with Statler on Friday, August 14.

Meanwhile, if bumping up releases will not put the 1535 ft elevation target on August 31, at risk, the COE should consider increasing releases for a few days, Charles Morrill, **Washington**, said. He asked how much Dworshak augmentation would need to increase to keep Hells Canyon and Brownlee releases from pushing Lower Granite temperatures above 68 degrees F. An increase to 7.5 kcfs within the next two days would probably be sufficient, Hall replied.

Russ Kiefer, **Idaho**, asked for how many days DWR could release 7.5 kcfs and have enough water left to run the large unit afterward. It depends on inflows, which are currently 0.5 kcfs, Hall said. He estimated releases of 5.5 kcfs would be needed through end August for Dworshak to get down to 1535 ft elevation. Releases of 7.5 kcfs could continue for only a few days without exhausting the water supply. So Kiefer proposed bumping up releases to 7.5 kcfs for two days while NOAA reaches out to the Nez Perce Tribe. Based on yesterday's model results, Hall said, the increase needs to happen by midnight (2400 hrs) Thursday, August 13, to prevent Lower Granite tailwater temperatures from exceeding 68 degrees F.

Joe Skalicky, **USFWS**, asked for how long Idaho Power expects increased releases out of Hells Canyon. For about three days based on modeling, then Hells Canyon would go back to 15 kcfs releases indefinitely, Hall replied. Idaho Power made an agreement to provide adequate flows this weekend for a boating event. Hall estimated releases would actually drop to the 11-12 kcfs range instead of 15 kcfs. Skalicky asked whether solar radiation is less intense now the days are getting shorter, and Hall replied that it's a factor but there may not be any noticeable change until early September.

The Salmon Managers held a brief caucus to discuss this proposal:

1. Ramp Dworshak releases up to 7.5 kcfs beginning midnight (2400 hrs), August 13.
2. Continue 7.5 kcfs out until midnight (2400 hrs), August 15.
3. Ramp down to 5.5 kcfs or whatever flow is required based on inflows to reach elevation 1535 ft by August 31, per the Dworshak Board's plan.

The Salmon Managers present (**NOAA, Washington, Idaho, USFWS** and **Colville Tribe**) agreed to recommend this operation, and the COE will implement it.

### ***3. Spill Priority List***

The draft spill priority list for September 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, is posted to today's agenda for TMT review, Baus said. It has the typical order of spill priority for that time of year, with the order starting at Bonneville and moving upstream.

Kiefer reported that yesterday's FPAC conference call (Wagner didn't attend) yielded no recommendations for adjusting the fall and winter spill priority order. The COE will implement the proposed spill priority list beginning September 1 through no later than March 31, 2016,, unless the Salmon Managers request a change.

#### **4. Ice Harbor MOP Operations Update**

On August 10, the COE implemented MOP+1 operations at Ice Harbor Dam in accordance with a provision in the Fish Operations Plan to maintain navigation safety at the Lower Monumental downstream lock entrance downstream, Baus said. This operation is required during low flow conditions because 15 ft of depth clearance is required at the sill for navigation safety. There were no questions on the MOP+1 operation at Ice Harbor.

Tony Norris, BPA, reminded everyone that MOP operations on the lower Snake River projects end August 31 at midnight. As previously, the lower Snake projects will be operated with a “no-net fill” operation, returning to their respective August 31 operating ranges coincident with the draft of Dworshak Dam to elevation 1520 ft.

Fall treaty fishing is likely to start next week, Karl Kanbergs said. TMT will discuss any issues that arise re: treaty fishing or Ice Harbor MOP operations at the next TMT meeting August 19.

#### **5. Sockeye Trap and Haul Update**

IDFG has reinitiated the emergency sockeye trap and haul operation at Lower Granite Dam after the previous operation ended on August 5, Kiefer announced. Recent efforts to cool the ladder and trap are paying off, and current temperatures allow biological sampling of Chinook and steelhead. Sockeye captured during biosampling are held in the kelt tanks and transported the following day. The permit extension for trap and haul netted 3 additional sockeye, for a total of 50 Snake River adult sockeye hauled to Eagle Hatchery. IDFG has also collected 9 adult sockeye in the Stanley River basin traps, for a total of 59 sockeye saved by the trap and haul operation. IDFG will continue the operation as needed, contingent on acceptable temperatures in the ladder and trap.

#### **6 Next TMT Meeting**

The next TMT meeting will be in person August 19 at the COE's Portland offices.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Tony Norris	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Kathryn Kostow	ODFW
Charles Morrill	Washington
Sheri Sears	Colville Tribe
Steve Hall	COE
Tom Iverson	Yakama

Scott Bettin	BPA
Dave Benner	FPC
Lisa Wright	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Tory Hines	DSC
Shane Scott	PPC
Paula Calvert	ODEQ
Chris Jilco	Genscape
Michael Bryant	CBB
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Julie Ammann	COE
Joe Skalicky	USFWS