

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 6, 2016

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.

Chum Operation - Paul Wagner, NOAA, provided an update on the Chum. He noted that despite regular surveys, the river conditions have made it a challenge to obtain precise data on the location and depth of redds. He continued that it is expected that the spawning peak was in late November when hundreds of Chum were sighted at various locations. Paul noted that, following the November surveys, flows increased and Chum observations decreased. Currently, the survey crew is reporting no visible redds at higher elevations, therefore FPAC recommends discontinuing the 12.5ft minimum, with a four hour rewetting period of tailwater elevation up to 15ft. Instead, FPAC would like to suggest a revised operation with a 12.2ft minimum tailwater during all hours and cease rewetting, recognizing that this will likely yield a range of 12.2-12.5ft tailwater elevation.

Doug Baus, COE-NWW, thanked NOAA for the feedback and noted that there seems to be a common goal to conserve more water as they look ahead to meet April 10th targets. He continued that the RFC forecast (link posted on Agenda) for Bonneville Dam shows inflows declining from 155 down to 115kcfs. The RFC forecast today for April-August is at 96% of the average at The Dalles Dam, a decrease from earlier forecasts due to colder temperatures and a decrease in rainfall. Doug noted that the Corps will implement the 12.2ft tailwater minimum, however, it may be challenging to maintain beyond next week if water supply forecasts continue to decrease. He suggested holding a TMT meeting next week to check in on the operation. TMT members agreed that the operation should be revisited next week.

- **ACTION:** At this time, the AAs will shift operations at BON to set a minimum tailwater elevation of 12.2ft, during all hours, with no rewetting. This operation will start at 0000 hours on January 6th; due to current water shaping, the reduction may not be observed until Friday, January 8th.
- **ACTION:** TMT will hold a conference call at 9:00am on Wednesday, January 13th to check in on the Chum operation.

Paul requested that there is another survey prior to next week's meeting if possible; Charles Morrill, WA, believed all surveys concluded last week, but he will consult with the survey crew. Mary Mellema, BOR, stated that if conditions continue to deteriorate there may be a need to further decrease tailwater elevations, she asked that FPAC consider the final water supply forecast and discuss further reduction for next week's meeting.

- **ACTION:** Charlie will check in with the WDFW survey crew to see if it is possible to conduct another survey prior to next week's TMT meeting.

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call at 9:00am on Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM—OFFICIAL MINUTES
January 6, 2016

Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Representatives of the COE, Washington, NOAA, USFWS, CRITFC/Umatilla, Oregon, BOR, BPA, Yakama Tribe, Idaho, Salish-Kootenai Tribes and others participated in today's TMT meeting chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operation

Yesterday morning FPAC discussed the latest information available on redd depths and locations, Paul Wagner, NOAA, said. While the information collected to date is inconclusive, survey crews believe that peak chum spawning occurred in late November, which is consistent with data collected to date. After that, increased river elevation made it difficult for field crews to conduct an accurate survey of redd locations and elevations.

Because no signs of redds were observed at higher elevations and the decreasing water supply forecast, FPAC recommends ending the four hours of rewetting at a 15 ft minimum tailwater that TMT agreed to in its last meeting. Given current conditions, the Salmon Managers also recommend decreasing the 12.5 ft minimum Bonneville tailwater elevation to 12.2 ft.

The latest RFC 10 day inflow forecast for Bonneville Dam predicts a high of 155 kcfs that will drop to 115 kcfs by January 16, Baus reported. BON tailwater elevation was 12.7 ft as of 8 am today. Today's RFC April-August water supply forecast with 5 days QPF as measured at the Dalles Dam is 96% of average.

Baus recommended that TMT meet again in a week to reconsider the chum operation because the water supply forecasts available January 8th might indicate it would be prudent to go lower than the 12.2 ft minimum Bonneville tailwater elevation. Mary Mellema, BOR, suggested the Salmon Managers envision a possible minimum elevation of 11.5 ft below BON beginning next week, based on the final January water supply forecast for Grand Coulee. The GCL forecast should be available by the time FPAC meets on January 12.

TMT members agreed to a January 13 conference call to review updated information and plan for conserving water if necessary. Wagner wondered whether there will be updated redd survey information by then, and Charles Morrill, Washington, said surveying is most likely done for the year.

Because the hydro system has been shaped to deliver enough water for an intermittent 15.5 ft tailwater elevation below BON, Tony Norris, BPA, said it could take 2-3 days until January 8-9 for the recommended minimum elevation to materialize during all hours. Starting today, the Action Agencies will implement the Salmon Managers' recommendation to end the rewetting operation and position the hydro system to maintain a 12.2ft minimum BON tailwater elevation.

3. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next in a January 13 conference call.

Name	Affiliation
Doug Baus	COE
Charles Morrill	Washington
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Joe Skalicky	USFWS
Tom Lorz	CRITFC/Umatilla
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Mary Mellema	BOR
Tony Norris	BPA
Scott English	COE
Julie Ammann	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Lisa Wright	COE
Karl Kanbergs	COE
Tom Iverson	Yakama
Margaret Filardo	FPC
Russ Kiefer	Idaho
Michael Bryant	CBB
Tory Hines	DSC
Stu Leavitt	Salish-Kootenai