

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

January 27, 2016

DRAFT 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 – Doug Baus, COE-NWD, provided an update on the current chum operation. He noted that Bonneville is operating at a minimum tailwater elevation of 12.2ft. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that January 17th to January 24th outflows from Priest Rapids ran between 74 and 90 kcfs, which is just above the 74 kcfs required to meet the minimum flow at Vernita Bar. During the same period the flow at Lower Granite was running at 25-30kcfs and the 12 day average incremental flows are approximately 30 kcfs. Tony continued that even if the flow at Priest Rapids was at the minimum discharge for Vernita Bar of 74 kcfs, natural flows would result in tailwater elevations above the protection level. Additionally, the Willamette River is running high and Lower Granite flows have increased with both rivers forecasted to peak again in the next 10 days. The expectation is that these conditions will continue to produce higher tailwater elevations at Bonneville. Paul Wagner, NOAA, summarized that with higher flows in the Willamette, the Snake River and at Vernita Bar, higher tailwater at Bonneville is expected to continue next week.

→ **ACTION:** The AA's will continue operating Bonneville with a tailwater minimum of 12.2ft. A conference call will be held on February 3rd at 9:00am to check in on the Chum operation.

The next TMT meeting will be a conference call at 9:00am on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING – OFFICIAL MINUTES

January 27, 2016
Minutes: Pat Vivian

1. Introduction

Representatives of Washington, NOAA, BPA, COE Montana, BOR, Oregon, USFWS and others participated in today's TMT call chaired by Doug Baus, COE, and facilitated by Emily Plummer, DS Consulting. This summary is an official record of the conversation, not a verbatim transcript.

2. Chum Operation

With flows high on the Snake and Willamette rivers and the Bonneville tailwater elevation well above 15 ft, the purpose of today's call was to provide the details of why the tailwater is so far above the 12.2 ft minimum protection level for chum previously coordinated at TMT.

Six links to today's agenda include data regarding recent inflows and projections at Lower Granite, Priest Rapids and Grand Coulee dams and on the Willamette River. Tony Norris, BPA, gave context. Priest Rapids outflows are running close to Vernita Bar inflows of around 73-74 kcfs, as measured at the USGS gage. Lower Granite inflows have been around 25-30 kcfs over the past several days. Inflows on the Willamette are also high.

All this water ends up at BON, which discharged 90-100 kcfs on January 23. Even if minimum flows were released at Vernita Bar, the BON tailwater elevation would exceed the minimum protection level for chum. It's reasonable to assume that level will be exceeded next week by a safe margin, Norris and Paul Wagner, NOAA, agreed. Given that information, none of the TMT members present today expressed interest in changing the chum operation.

3. Next TMT Meeting

TMT will meet next in a conference call on February 3.

Name	Affiliation
Charles Morrill	Washington
Paul Wagner	NOAA
Tony Norris	BPA
Doug Baus	COE
Scott Bettin	BPA
Lisa Wright	COE
Jim Litchfield	Montana

Julie Ammann	COE
Laura Hamilton	COE
Mary Mellema	BOR
Charlies Wiggins	DSC
Joel Fenolio	COE
Erick Van Dyke	Oregon
Steve Hasaeker	USFWS
Tory Hines	DSC
Mike Shafley	Snohomish PUD
Michael Bryant	CBB
Wayne Jousma	COE Walla Walla
Sherry XX	Puget Sound Energy
Emily Corrigan	Energy Keepers
Margaret Filardo	FPC