

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

August 22, 2018

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Stranz; Notes: Colby Mills, 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. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <http://www.nwd-wc.usace.army.mil/tmt/agendas/2018/>

Treaty Fishing

Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, updated TMT on the recently submitted SOR 2018 C-2, which requests that the Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools be operated within a 1.5 foot band during the treaty fishing periods. They are looking for an initial two-week season, to include: Monday, August 27, 2018, from 6 am, through Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 6 pm and Monday, September 3, 2018, from 6 am, through Friday, September 7, 2018, at 6 pm. Kyle noted that the initial start is later this season because the tribes want to avoid accidentally overfishing the early part of the run.

Current fish forecast at Bonneville is 253,000 adult fall Chinook, 110,000 steelhead, both A-run and B-run, and almost 52,000 coho; all of which are below the 10-year average. Kyle reported that CRITFC will sponsor a series of net survey flights and share the data with the Corps once it comes in.

Doug Baus, Corps, confirmed that the Corps has received the SOR and will implement as requested.

- **ACTION:** The Corps will hold the Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools within a 1.5 foot band for Monday, August 27, 2018, from 6 am, through Thursday, August 30, 2018, at 6 pm and Monday, September 3, 2018, from 6 am, through Friday, September 7, 2018, at 6 pm.

Dworshak Dam Operations

Steve Hall, Corps, updated TMT on Dworshak Dam operations and forecasts. Dworshak pool elevation is 1,544 feet, with inflows of about 1 kcfs, and outflow of 7.6 kcfs. The total dissolved gas (TDG) in the Dworshak tailrace was between 102.5-101.5%, depending on temperature. TDG is below 100% at the hatchery.

Water temperatures in the Lower Granite tailrace have been relatively cool, sitting at 67.3-67.4 degrees F yesterday. Steve noted that both the Anatone and Orofino temperatures are dropping fairly rapidly. Lower Granite's forebay temperature string data stopped uploading to the website last night; however, the data from yesterday indicated there is still cold water at depth below 15 meters. The Corps is looking into the temperature string data issue.

Weather forecasts for Lewiston show a downward temperature trend: the high today is forecasted to be 91 degrees F, with a high tomorrow of 93 degrees F, and then a projected drop continuing into the 70s for the foreseeable future.

Steve provided a temperature model run from Monday, August 20th, which shows temperatures in the Lower Granite tailrace staying close to 68 degrees F for the next few days and then the cooling trend will start to affect things and water temperatures should start to drop off. As a result, the Corps plans to hold Dworshak at 7.6 kcfs discharge for the foreseeable future; likely with a slight ramp up at the end of the month if necessary to get to 1,535 feet. Steve explained that they are holding that bit of additional water for use if needed to help moderate temperatures at the Lower Granite adult trap.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, commented that the Dworshak 1,535 feet elevation on August 31 has not been a hard target for the last couple of years and that extra water at the end of August could be utilized in September to help make the thermal transition more gradual. He asked whether this was a possibility this year. Steve explained that it is a possibility, however, there will be very little extra water and if desired, would need to get support from the Salmon Managers as it is outside of BiOp operations.

After some discussion, the TMT agreed to revisit the question at next week's TMT meeting.

- ACTION: The Corps will hold 7.6 kcfs discharge at Dworshak. TMT will revisit Dworshak operations at their next meeting on August 29th.

End of MOP Operations

Tony Norris, BPA, reported that the MOP operation at the lower Snake River projects ends on August 31st. There will be net zero fill at the Lower Snake projects across the period that augmentation volumes from Dworshak are being released. When elevation at Dworshak is approximately 1,520ft, the lower Snake River pools will be returned to roughly where they were on August 31st, pending any navigation adjustments.

Tony clarified that this operation was agreed to in years past in order to demonstrate that the pools were not being filled with Dworshak augmentation volumes.

The next TMT meeting will be face-to-face on August 29, 2018, at 9:00am.

Columbia River Regional Forum
TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES
August 22, 2018
Minutes: Melissa Haskin, FLUX Resources

1. Introduction

Representatives of NOAA, USFWS, ID, OR, WA, MT, Nez Perce Tribe, Colville Tribe, Corps, BPA, Reclamation, and others participated in today's TMT meeting chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

2. Treaty Fishing - Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC/Umatilla

Kyle Dittmer, CRITFC, presented System Operational Request (SOR) 2018-C2, available on the TMT website, to operate the Lower Columbia pools (Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day) within a 1.5-foot band during the following dates and times to support the 2018 Fall Treaty Fishery:

Monday, August 27, 2018, 6 am, through Thursday, August 30, 2018, 6 pm

Monday, September 3, 2018, 6 am, through Friday, September 7, 2018, 6 pm

The fall Treaty fishery this year is later than normal as the tribes were waiting for enough fish to enter the Columbia so that they would not be overfished or fished too early.

Without any questions from TMT, Doug Baus, Corps, relayed that the Corps will implement the request as described in SOR 2018-C2.

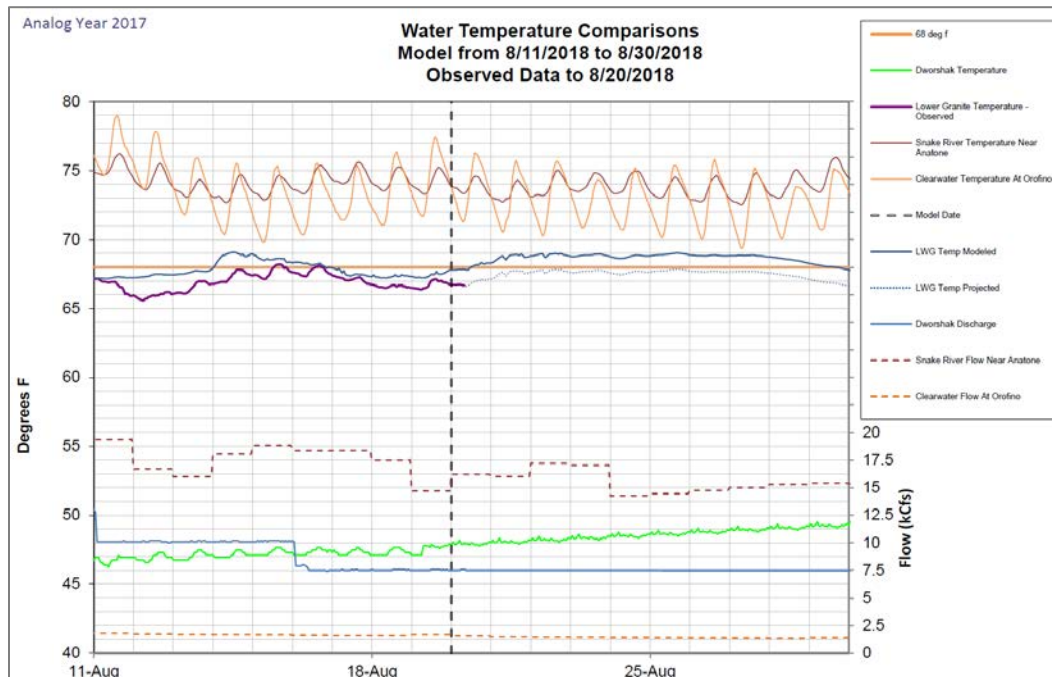
3. Dworshak Dam Operations – Steve Hall, Corps

Steve Hall, Corps NWW, reported on operations at Dworshak Dam in Idaho. The forebay is currently at 1,544 ft elevation, with outflows of 7.6 kcfs and inflows of approximately 1 kcfs. Tailrace TDG is 101.5-102.5% and hatchery TDG is below 100%. Temperatures at Anatone are hovering around 72°F. Right now, the Lower Granite tailrace is at 67.3°F. The area is seeing a slight warming trend.

The Lower Granite forebay temperature string data stopped uploading to the website late last night and Hall does not have information on why it is down or when it will be restored. He reported that the forebay is still relatively cool below depths of 15 meters. There was more solar radiation yesterday as winds pushed off some of the smoke from fires, clearing the air somewhat. The wind direction right now is from the Northeast and pushing in better air. Tonight, the forecast indicates the ridge off the Pacific will break down, bringing cooler temperatures to Lewiston later this week. The high is forecasted to be 91°F today and 93°F tomorrow, then dropping down to 83°F, 82°F, and 79°F in the following days.

Idaho Power backed off of their operations and is not showing their future forecasts on their online tool. Hall thinks they may continue to operate as they have been. Demand for power should drop off as temperatures drop.

The model (see below) shows that the temperature at the Lower Granite tailrace should be just above 68°F for next few days, then drop when the cooler weather comes in. Based on these data, Hall recommended that Dworshak outflows remain at 7.6 kcfs for the near future with a potential ramp up to 8 kcfs later if necessary to hit 1,535 ft by the end of August.



Dave Swank inquired about the discrepancy between the observed and modeled temperatures at the Lower Granite tailrace, asking if it was the result of Idaho Power, perhaps. Hall responded that while Idaho Power could certainly be a factor, it is just one of many. There is some inherent level of error in the modeling itself due to exogenous factors such as eddies created in the tailrace. Additionally, the model can really only predict within about 1°F of where the observed temperature will be. “Things near the dam make it hard to estimate,” he said, “yes, [Idaho Power] is a part of the equation, but not all of it. It’s a combination of factors.”

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, noted that the end of August Dworshak target elevation of 1,535 ft has not been a hard target in recent years. He said holding more water at this time may make the transition to lower flows in September less extreme. He asked to explore the option of holding water now to use in September – as long as it would not be a detriment to current operations.

Hall replied that it is a possibility but the Corps would need the support of the Salmon Managers since the Dworshak end of August target elevation of 1,535 ft is a BiOp action.

Hesse reported that Salmon Managers started the conversation yesterday at FPAC. Their thinking was that the likelihood of excess of water would be above 1535, but based on what Hall reported in today’s TMT, Hesse could see that there was little potential for excess water and that it would become clearer over the next week. Charles Morrill, WA, reported that one thought discussed at FPAC was to manage based on water temperature, not the 1,535 ft target.

Alfredo Rodriguez ran the model again this morning and reported that there may be a very small amount of water where an increase in discharge for a day might be required to achieve 1,535 ft on August 31.

Hall suggested that the idea be discussed at next week’s TMT with the latest forecasts and model runs. Morrill suggested that if the Corps sees an opportunity prior to the next meeting to conserve water that the Corps could act on that. Erick Van Dyke, voiced that he would be uncomfortable with that. “I would like to be more conservative about making shifts at this point,” he said. “I’m not sure I’m feeling there’s enough information on what it really means right now. It sounds like it is pretty meager pickings at this point and I’m not sure that making changes is necessary.” Kiefer concurred with Van Dyke, supporting the continuation of 7.6 kcfs until next week. In response, Morrill voiced trust and confidence in the Corps while also saying he understood what Kiefer and Van Dyke were communicating.

Based on this discussion, TMT members decided to stay the course with 7.6 kcfs and revisit the conversation next week when updated models and information would be available.

4. End of MOP Operations - Tony Norris, BPA

Tony Norris, BPA, reminded TMT that MOP operations on the lower Snake River will end on August 31. Starting September 1, the lower Snake projects may operate their reservoirs within the full operating range, with required adjustments for navigation safety. When Dworshak has completed the draft to 1,520 ft in late September per the Dworshak Board Agreement, the Action Agencies will return the lower Snake projects to the same range they were in on August 31 to demonstrate that the augmentation water has passed through the system (no net fill).

5. Next TMT. The next TMT meeting is in-person on August 29, 2018, at 9 a.m.

Today’s Attendees:

TMT Members:

Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Lisa Wright, Julie Ammann
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder
US Fish & Wildlife	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill

Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Russ Kiefer
Montana	Jim Litchfield
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe	Tom Lorz (CRITFC)
Colville Tribe	Sheri Sears
Warm Springs Tribe	N/A
Kootenai Tribe	N/A
Spokane Tribe	N/A

Other Attendees:

Corps – Steve Hall, Alfredo Rodriguez, John Heitstuman, Amanda Morelos, Steve Burrell,
Michelle Yuen

BPA – Kim Johnson

CRITFC – Kyle Dittmer

Yakama Nation Fisheries – Tom Iverson

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Snohomish PUD – Scott Richards

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

FLUX Resources – Melissa Haskin (Notetaker)