

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

October 29, 2018

DRAFT 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/>

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, updated the TMT on chum, which arrived earlier than previously expected. Current operations show Bonneville Dam project outflows are 98.1 kcfs, with a project tailwater elevation of 10.2 feet. The RFC Bonneville Dam inflow forecast indicates slightly higher inflows, ranging from 88 kcfs to 134 kcfs over the next 10-day period. The 30-day weather forecasts are indicating above average temperatures and below average precipitation; the 90-day forecasts are expected to follow the same trend.

Paul Wagner, NOAA, reminded the group that when the chum operation starts, it runs for five months (through April 2019). He noted that the chum salmon spawning surveys below Bonneville Dam thus far are surprisingly active, on Oct 22, 60 chum were observed and on Oct 25, 137. Today's survey (not yet posted), however, did not observe any chum. This is causing some confusion as chum are in the area as confirmed by counts from crews in the field and fish passing over Bonneville (ladder count of 3). Paul notified the group of today's FPAC meeting, and the general agreement to start the operation on November 2, at 6:00 am, with regular check-ins on river and spawning conditions.

Scott Bettin, BPA, clarified that holding the tailwater at a constant elevation between now and the start of the chum operation on November 2 will be difficult, as there is not enough water currently to keep 11 feet around the clock. Paul noted the preference to provide spawning habitat around the clock, if at all possible.

Doug confirmed the operation that will start at 6:00 am on Friday, November 2. Operate the Bonneville tailwater in the following order of operating ranges as outflow increases:

1. 11.5-13.0 ft during all hours.
2. If necessary, increase outflow up to 16.5 ft during nighttime hours, with highest flows around midnight.
3. If necessary, increase outflow to 18.5 ft during nighttime hours, with highest flows around midnight.
4. Then, if necessary, operate to provide a tailwater between 13.0-16.5 ft during daytime hours, and up to the maximum within the 24-hour ramp rate during nighttime hours.

Due to concerns regarding the ability to hold Grand Coulee reservoir above 1,283 ft until November 15th, BOR, Colville Tribe, and BPA will stay in close coordination. Additionally, if conditions change drastically (i.e., the forecasted precipitation does not materialize), an unscheduled TMT meeting will be called.

Due to the start of the chum operation on November 2, the October 31st TMT Conference call was cancelled. The next scheduled TMT meeting is a conference call on November 7, 2018, at 9:00 AM.

This summary is respectfully submitted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.