

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

December 12, 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/>

Review Meeting Minutes and Facilitator's Summary

Emily conducted a round of introductions for TMT members on the call. The group approved minutes and summaries from the 10/17, 10/29, 11/7, 11/21, 11/28 TMT meetings. Emily will follow up with Paul Wagner, NOAA, to confirm he has no further edits.

Official Water Supply Forecast

Logan Osgood-Zimmerman, Corps, reported to the TMT on the water supply forecast for Libby Dam, which is looking a bit low. The water supply forecast for April to August is 5.78 MAF, which is about 98% of average. This puts the draft for the end of December at 2,415.7 ft.

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, updated the TMT on chum operations since the last TMT meeting. On December 7, the Corps sent out an email regarding unexpected power-down of the Columbia generating station, and the need to move more water through the system. In coordination with Washington, the daytime tailwater elevation was narrowed from 11.3 ft – 13.0 ft down to 11.3 ft – 12.0 ft in order to keep the daytime tailwater below 12 ft. This short duration operation was needed in order to move the excess water without inadvertently allowing chum (and Chinook) to spawn at elevations that could not be supported in the future due to below normal precipitation. On December 11, the Corps expanded the daytime tailwater elevation range back to the previous operation of 11.3 ft – 13 ft.

Doug reported that the RFC water year precipitation to date shows below average precipitation throughout the basin for the current water year. The Snake River basin above Ice Harbor Dam currently is 81% of normal, with below normal precipitation throughout the upper Columbia River basin. The Columbia River main stem above the Dalles Dam is 78% of normal. The current 10-day QPF forecast shows the northern portion of the basin with above normal precipitation, while the 5-day QPF is showing some volatility and has gone down in precipitation. At Bonneville Dam, total outflow at 0600hrs was 123.8 kcfs, with a project tailwater elevation of 12 ft. Project inflows are expected to range between 128 kcfs – 140 kcfs over the next 10-day period. Tony Norris, BPA, noted that Willamette flows are projected to increase, which could impact the Bonneville tailwater and outflow needed to support the chum operation.

Tony and Charles Morrill, WA, noted that this is usually the time of year when a date is set to end chum spawning operations, but due to reports from the field that indicate there are still green and spawning fish, it is too soon. As of yesterday, there were still about 300 live chum in the area. On Tuesday, December 18, Washington will conduct another field survey (weather permitting) and will coordinate with BPA, the Corps, and NOAA on an end date if warranted. The TMT will be notified of any changes in operation via email. If a date is not confirmed, a calendar end date is set for December 31. Typically the chum spawning operation has been concluded before the 31st, however, the agencies will continue to monitor spawning activity and assess spawning activity prior to ending the operation. As this is the last TMT business meeting for the year, Tony and Charles will circle back with the TMT if an additional call is needed regarding chum.

The TMT Year End Review is planned for December 19, 2018, at 9:00am, in CRITFC's Celilo Room on the 5th Floor. If interested in attending, please RSVP by COB on December 14 to Colby Mills (colby@dsconsult.co). The next TMT Business meeting is scheduled as a conference call on January 2, 2019.

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.

Columbia River Regional Forum

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM OFFICIAL MINUTES

December 12, 2018

Minutes: Melissa Haskin, FLUX Resources

1. Introduction

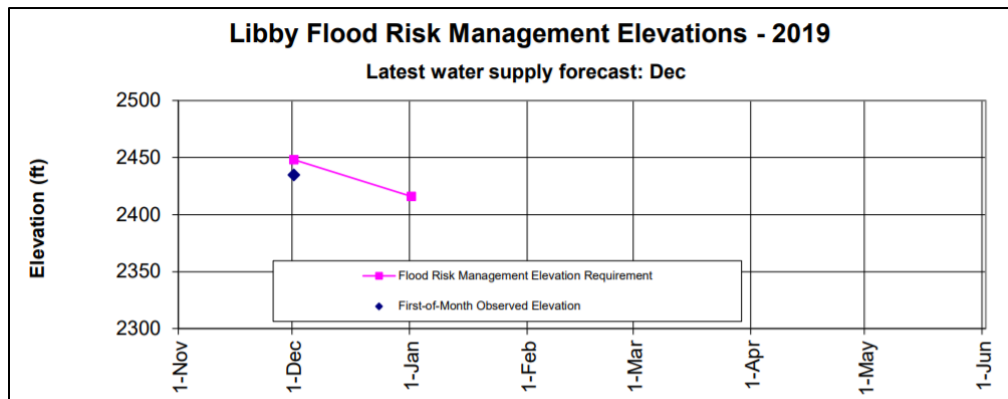
Representatives of NOAA, Corps, BPA, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Reclamation, Nez Perce Tribe, Umatilla Tribe, and others participated in today’s TMT meeting chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

2. Meeting Minutes

Meeting summaries and minutes for 10/17, 10/29, 11/7, 11/21, and 11/28 were approved.

3. Official Water Supply Forecast

Logan Osgood-Zimmerman, Corps, updated TMT on the water supply forecast for Libby that was released last week and is available on the TMT website. The forecast for April-August Libby runoff volume is 5.78 MAF, or 98% of average. This is below normal and results in an end of December Flood Risk Management elevation of 2415.7 feet. Osgood-Zimmerman does not expect much change in this forecast, meaning there will not be much of a draft next month either.



4. Chum Operations

Doug Baus, Corps, updated TMT on chum operations. A full explanation of the operation is available on the TMT website. On December 7, there was an unexpected down power of the Columbia Generating Station, resulting in a need to move some additional water. In response, the Corps coordinated with BPA and WA to narrow the daytime tailwater operating range from 11.3-13 ft down to 11.3-12 ft. This was meant as a short-term operation to keep the daytime tailwater below 12 ft while allowing for additional water to be moved at night. Yesterday the Corps returned to the operation to the previous range (11.3-13.0 feet).

The 10-day NRWFC forecast calls for above normal precipitation and Charles Morrill, WA, noted that the forecast “looks much more encouraging.”

At Bonneville, outflows at 0600 this morning were 123.8 kcfs and the tailwater elevation was 12 ft. The 10-day inflow forecast calls for 128-140 kcfs.

Tony Norris, BPA, noted that typically this time of year would project an end date for chum spawning operation. However, reports from the chum surveys indicate that there are new fish in the area and it is too early to set an end date for the chum spawning operation. Next Tuesday, WA, BPA, and the Corps will coordinate with the WDFW and NOAA personnel to determine if an end to the spawning operation can be determined. The Corps will send an email notification updating TMT members on the end date of the spawning operation. If no end date is set, the spawning operation expires December 31 and the protection level for the incubation phase of the chum operation will be a Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation of 11.3 feet.

Charles Morrill and Trevor Conder, NOAA, both agreed that there are still green and live fish present in the area and hopefully an end date for the operation can be planned by the middle of next week, however, it will be a wait-and-see situation.

5. Next TMT. The next TMT meeting is a year-end review on December 19, 2018, at 9 a.m. at the CRITFC Celilo Room (5th floor) in Portland, OR.

Today’s Attendees:

TMT Members:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Julie Ammann, Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Trevor Conder
US Fish & Wildlife Service	N/A
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	N/A
Warm Springs Tribe	N/A
Kootenai Tribe	N/A
Spokane Tribe	N/A

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Logan Osgood-Zimmerman, Aaron Marshall, Alfredo Rodriguez

TMT – December 12, 2018

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

FLUX Resources – Melissa Haskin (Note taker)

Snohomish PUD – Mike Shafley

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Reclamation – Chris Runyan