

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

March 3, 2021

DRAFT Facilitator's Summary

Facilitator: Emily Stranz; Notes: Colby Mills

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://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2021/>.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes

TMT Members approved the official minutes and facilitator's summary for the February 3 and February 17 meetings.

Chum Operation

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on chum operations. The chum incubation operation (coordinated on December 9, 2020) sets a Bonneville Dam minimum tailwater elevation of 11.8 feet and is set to continue through April 9; spring spill operations will begin on April 10.

System Operational Request #2021-1 (updated): Dworshak Load Shaping

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, presented updates to SOR #2021-1. The SOR was revised to include additional language in the Specification section requesting coordination with fish managers aimed at seeking a common vision for future operations, a correct portrayal of past operations and implementation of load shaping operations, and an update to the Attachment 2 memo to reflect this year's juvenile fall Chinook emergence timing. Idaho was added as a signatory to the updated SOR.

The Corps supported the updated SOR, and Doug provided three comments:

- 1) Regarding the operation, the Corps heard the request and ceased within-day load shaping at DWR;
- 2) Regarding future coordination, the Corps and BPA plan to reach out to affected co-managers, ID, Nez Perce, USFWS, and NOAA, to hear concerns and discuss ideas for future operations; and
- 3) To clarify terminology in the SOR Specification section, per TMT guidelines, the intention is to "seek" consensus (rather than "reach").

Tony Norris, BPA, clarified that following discussions with a sub-set of co-managers, potential operations will be brought back to the TMT for input and discussion. BPA and the Corps do not intend to implement within-day load shaping at DWR until after this coordination is complete.

Erick Van Dyke, OR, appreciated the Corps and BPA's consideration of the SOR, and voiced concern on the notion that only some of the TMT member organizations are impacted by the operation. Erick was concerned that there is a trend of moving away from whole team representation in discussions and coordination and recognized that this may be a topic for future conversation.

For clarification, it was noted that TMT member Tom Lorz represents the Umatilla Tribe as a sovereign nation within the TMT, and represents CRITFC within FPAC; sovereigns can choose different representation for both groups.

Dworshak Operations

Willow Walker, Corps, presented on Dworshak operations for spring runoff (this presentation can be viewed on the TMT website), including current basin conditions, forecast, and potential impacts to operations. February saw an increase in snowpack at low and mid-elevations, and is at 110% of average

for the Basin. With the lower elevation snowpack, Dworshak is expecting to have earlier runoff, in the late March to early April time-period. There was a significant increase in WSF for the end of February, with a March forecast of 2,855 KAF.

The Corps is evaluating the operational plan based on 4 scenarios, all with same target elevation for March 31 of 1,516 feet. Hatchery releases are scheduled for March 31 to April 14, with a target of no higher than 100% TDG and meeting March and April FRM targets. The tentative flow schedule through mid-March (subject to change) is March 1-5 at 15,000 cfs, and March 6-12 at 13,700 cfs. Changes in flow should be realized over a span of about 2 hours, starting shortly after midnight on Saturday, March 6. Willow will send updates to the TMT every week through March regardless of the flow schedule.

Willow clarified that the Corps is expecting 5,500 cfs of inflow in the next 2 weeks as an estimate. In response to a question, Willow said that the flexible spring spill operation that allows higher TDG in the lower Snake River could be something to consider moving forward. Joel Fenolio, BOR, also clarified that regarding shifting space to Grand Coulee Dam, the project would probably be releasing more water over time, although not a lot.

2021 Clearwater Basin Hatchery Releases

Jay updated the group on hatchery releases in the Clearwater Basin. The attached tables (posted on the TMT website) are taken from the Clearwater Annual Operations Plan, developed by the fisheries co-managers in the Basin. Jay highlighted tables for steelhead and spring Chinook, from the North Fork specifically.

Hatchery releases are scheduled for March 31 through April 14. Current operational plans for Dworshak fit the conditions in trying to minimize TDG and should result in good fish movement out of the North Fork Clearwater. Jay appreciated the Corps for taking the releases into account when planning operations at DWR.

The 2021 Annual Operation Plan will be posted within the next day or two, and includes documentation for all hatcheries in the Snake River Basin. Jay noted that this has been a benefit to co-managers in the past, and serves as an annual reminder for hatchery objectives and goals. It is also a good demonstration of collaborative efforts.

Questions or comments from members of the public: there were no questions or comments from members of the public.

**The next scheduled TMT meeting is a conference call on March 17, 2021 at 9:00 AM.
A DS Consulting Process Meeting will follow for TMT Members.**

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
DRAFT OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday March 3, 2021
Minutes: Melissa Haskin, BPA (contractor, FLUX Resources)

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. See the end of these minutes for a list of attendees.

1. Review of 2/3 and 2/17 Meeting Summaries and Minutes

The facilitator's summary and official minutes for the February 3 and February 17 TMT meetings were approved with no additional changes. Julie Ammann, Corps, highlighted an addition to the February 3 minutes (Page 4; Bullet point 1, a note in italics and brackets was added).

2. Chum Operation – Doug Baus, Corps

The Corps continues to implement the chum incubation operation as coordinated on December 29, 2020, which calls for a minimum tailwater of 11.8 ft. all hours at Bonneville Dam. The operation will continue through April 9, similar to what has been done in the past, unless otherwise coordinated.

3. System Operational Request: #2021-1 - Dworshak Load Shaping

The TMT revisited System Operational Request (SOR) #2021-1. Originally presented at the February 3 TMT, SOR 2020-1 called for ending within-day load shaping operations at Dworshak Dam. The discussion was tabled at that meeting to allow the Action Agencies time to respond. They had received the request less than 24 hours before the February 3 meeting. The SOR was revisited at the last TMT meeting and the Action Agencies shared that they would not implement the SOR but would continue to work with the region to address the concerns in the SOR.

Following the February 17 TMT meeting, a revised SOR was submitted to the Action Agencies that included the following changes:

1. An update to the portrayal of historical load shaping operations.
2. An update to attachment 2, which includes information on juvenile fall Chinook emergence timing. The original document was not specific and has now been updated to reflect this year's emergence timing as well as historical emergence timing.

Emily Stranz, DS Consulting, polled TMT on the SOR:

Agency	Vote
Army Corps of Engineers	Support
Bonneville Power Administration	Support
Bureau of Reclamation	Support
NOAA Fisheries	SOR Signatory
US Fish & Wildlife Service	SOR Signatory
Washington	SOR Signatory
Oregon	SOR Signatory
Idaho	SOR Signatory
Montana	Absent
Nez Perce Tribe	SOR Signatory
CRITFC	SOR Signatory
Colville Tribe	SOR Signatory
Warm Springs Tribe	SOR Signatory
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	SOR Signatory

In addition to the polling responses above, Yakama Nation is a signatory on the SOR.

TMT members and agencies provided the following explanations for their polling responses and additional comments for the record:

Corps:

1. The Corps has heard the request and changed operations upon hearing concerns, ceasing within-day load shaping in response to the request while coordination occurred.
2. The Corps will reach out to affected fish managers including ID, Nez Perce, USFWS, and NOAA to discuss coordination concerns and communication moving forward.
3. The Corps would like to address terminology in the SOR Specification section. Per TMT guidelines, the agency seeks to reach a consensus but cannot guarantee a consensus.

BPA: As the Corps noted, the Action Agencies will reach out to affected fish managers regarding communication and coordination. Once those discussions have taken place, the Action Agencies will report back to TMT. BPA will not implement any within-day load shaping until that coordination has been completed.

OR: Consensus and coordination without full representation is an issue, which may need to be addressed in the future.

4. Dworshak Operations

Willow Walker, Corps, presented on operations at Dworshak Dam. The presentation is available on the TMT website. Walker covered basin snow conditions, the water supply forecast, flood risk management targets, the current forecast, and how the Corps plans to operate given that forecast.

Currently, Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) conditions are well above normal in the low and mid-elevations and above normal in the upper elevations. Low elevation snow will likely run off early (late-March through early-April).

Looking at the forecast, the last 10 days in February resulted in a significant increase in the water supply forecast. This puts the March 1 water supply forecast at 2,855 KAF. The system FRM target for March 31 is 1,494.6 ft. Assuming the April 1 water supply forecast remains unchanged from March at 2,855 KAF, the April 30 system FRM target would be 1,473.4 ft. Local FRM for March 31 is 1516.0 ft. At Dworshak, the Corps can request to shift the difference between system and local flood control requirements from Dworshak to Grand Coulee for March 31 and NWW has requested this shift for 2021 which will set the Dworshak March 31 FRM requirement at 1516.0 ft.

Hatchery releases are scheduled March 31 to April 14. The tentative flow schedule through mid-March is:

- March 1-5: 15,000 cfs (~113% TDG)
- March 6-12: 13,700 cfs (~110% or lower TDG)

Dave Swank, USFWS, asked for clarification on how Walker calculated snow elevations and classified them as “low” “mid,” and “upper.” Walker shared that the SNOTEL sites that cause inflow to Dworshak Dam are used in those SNOTEL bands.

Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, asked about timing for the step down. Walker shared that the Corps usually starts to step down at midnight and that since the change is small that it will likely be completed by 3 a.m.

Mike Shapley, Snohomish PUD, asked how the flood control shift to Grand Coulee will affect Coulee outflow. Joel Fenolio, Reclamation, noted that some additional water would be released, but not a large amount.

5. 2021 Clearwater Basin Hatchery Releases

Hesse shared tables from the Clearwater Annual Operations Plan, available on the TMT website. Hatchery releases are scheduled for March 31-April 14. Fish egress should be good in the North Fork Clearwater, based on current operational scenarios. Hesse noted the 2021 Annual Operation Plan will be posted in the next few days and will include documentation for all hatcheries in the Snake River Basin.

6. Next TMT

The next TMT will be a call on March 17, 2021.

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (Chair), Julie Ammann, Lisa Wright
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Scott Bettin

Agency	TMT Representative
Bureau of Reclamation	Joel Fenolio
NOAA Fisheries	Claire McGrath, Trevor Conder
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Tom Lorz
Colville Tribe	Absent
Warm Springs Tribe	Jen Graham
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	Absent

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

BPA – Melissa Haskin (CONTR, FLUX Resources, Notetaker)

Corps – Alexis Mills, Aaron Marshall, Eric Chow, Willow Walker, Catherine Dudgeon, Dan Turner, Denise Griffith, Michelle Yuen

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

Snohomish PUD – Mike Shapley

Unidentified affiliation – Mike Buchko, Felix Haung, Liz Oberhausen

West Power Trading – Mark Kruzal

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant