

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

April 14, 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 meeting minutes and facilitator's summary from the March 17 meeting. Minutes and summary from April 7 will be reviewed at the next TMT meeting.

Chief Joseph Dam - Hatchery Release

Sheri Sears, Colville Tribe, reported that the Chief Joseph Dam hatchery release will begin on April 21 and finish on April 23 before midnight. BPA confirmed that they could not commit to a daily flow average to assist the hatchery release, however, with higher temperatures, increased snow melt, and resulting drawdown needed, flows are expected to be high. Sheri noted continued concerns of low nighttime flows following the releases. She reported that natural fish are present too and hopefully nearby tributary flows will be increasing and support the wild and hatchery fish in the system.

Mid-Columbia River - Flow Request

Charles Morrill, WDFW, reported an update to the anticipated mid-Columbia River flow request given that the Colville Tribe is no longer requesting a flow increase to assist their hatchery release, and given that more time was needed to consider analysis of the potential impacts, the flow request was postponed. Claire McGrath, NOAA, added that fisheries managers are considering a request to supplement base flows while wild and hatchery fish are expected to move, and are looking at analysis of Grand Coulee Dam's elevation and how requested flows may affect refill and refill patterning. It was noted that coordination next Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning at TMT will allow sufficient time for implementation by April 26th.

→ **ACTION: FPAC will meet to discuss the need for a flow request and will coordinate with BPA following Tuesday's (April 20) FPAC meeting.**

Little Goose Dam - Spill Operations Update

Doug Baus, Corps, reported on Little Goose Dam's operation as described in Table 3 of the FOP, which is posted on the TMT website. Little Goose begins in the spring with a flex spill operation (16 hours per day at 125% gas cap), and spring performance standard spill (8 hours per day at 30%). Currently, the project is being operated as noted in Footnote F, due to reaching the Lower Monumental Dam trigger.

Lower Granite Dam - Minimum Operating Pool Update

Tony Norris, BPA, reported on a request from the Nez Perce Tribe to hold the Lower Granite Dam pool within the lower 1-foot minimum operating pool (MOP) range instead of a 1.5-foot operating range. As a soft constraint, BPA and the Corps agreed to make best efforts to accommodate this request through the end of MOP.

Dworshak Dam - Operations Update

Jon Roberts, Corps, reported on upcoming operations for Dworshak Dam. Currently, project elevation is at 1,505.9 feet, discharging close to 7.7-7.8 kcfs; higher flows are supporting the last remaining hatchery releases at the north fork of the Clearwater. On Friday the project will decrease to 4 kcfs for Monday and Tuesday to support unit testing. Jon noted there will be some fluctuation with the unit ramped up,

minimized by the 4 kcfs during non-testing. After Tuesday afternoon the project will ramp down to minimum discharge to conserve water and start refilling. The Clearwater at Orofino is expected to start increasing natural flows on April 19 & 20, to above 12,000 cfs and remain through rest of season as snowpack melts. Dworshak will transition down to balance with the increases in the natural river system, in an effort to manage refill for the start of summer flow augmentation between the end of June and first week of July. The first 30 feet or so of refill may be quicker due to low elevation snow melt, but will be balanced with higher elevation snow melting slower.

Questions and 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 April 21, 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 April 14, 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 3/17 Meeting Summary and Minutes

The 3/17 facilitator summary and meeting minutes were approved without any additional edits.

2. Chief Joseph Dam - Hatchery Release - Sheri Sears, Colville Tribe

Sheri Sears, Colville Tribe, updated the TMT on hatchery releases at Chief Joseph Dam. The Tribe is planning to release smolts from the hatchery below Chief Joseph Dam starting on April 16 and continuing in increasing numbers through the following two days, ending at midnight on April 23. In the past, the Tribe has requested increased flows to support smolt release; however, this year due to higher than average temperatures and the upcoming drawdown, the Tribes will not be requesting a specific flow. Sears expressed some concern regarding nightly flows following releases but reiterated that at this time the Tribe will not be asking for additional flow.

TMT members did not voice any concern regarding the releases.

3. Mid-Columbia River Flow Request - Charles Morrill, WA, and Tony Norris, BPA

Charles Morrill, WA, provided an update that FPAC discussed requesting flows of 90 kcfs on April 26 and 110 kcfs the next week to augment flow as natural fish begin to move in the basin, should base flows be insufficient. Currently, FPAC is not ready to submit a request. They are waiting on analysis regarding effects on Grand Coulee, especially regarding refill and the refill pattern. Claire McGrath, NOAA Fisheries, asked Tony Norris, BPA, if there would be sufficient time to implement a request with a start date of April 26, if it were brought to the Action Agencies at next week's TMT meeting. Norris said BPA would likely be able to accommodate the request, but that the earlier the agency could be notified, the better. He requested that the salmon managers reach out next Tuesday, prior to TMT, should they plan to submit a request.

Since the salmon managers had originally intended to ask for increased flows, they checked in with Sears to make sure she was comfortable moving forward without a request for increased flows. She shared her hope that the increase in temperatures will trigger snowmelt, particularly in the North Cascades.

4. Little Goose Dam - Spill Operations Update – Doug Baus, Corps NWD

At the request of Charles Morrill, WA, the Corps reminded TMT of the current operation at Little Goose Dam, which has transitioned today to the operation described in the 2021 FOP, Table 3 Footnote F, based on the Lower Monumental counts of adult spring Chinook.

Baus reminded TMT of footnote F, “Little Goose Exception One -Within 1 business day of a cumulative total of 25 adult spring Chinook salmon (not including jacks) passing Lower Monumental Dam, the Corps will implement performance standard spill at Little Goose Dam for 8 consecutive AM hours (April 3-15 starting at 0500 hours; April 16-June 20 starting at 0400 hours) to target hours of peak adult passage. If performance standard spill is not able to be implemented due to lack of load conditions at the targeted start times, performance standard spill will begin as soon as practicable during morning hours and continue for up to 8 consecutive hours consistent with the adaptive management principles of the 2020 BiOps.”

There were no additional questions from TMT.

4. Lower Granite Dam - Minimum Operating Pool Update - Jay Hesse, Nez Perce Tribe, Norris and Tony Norris, BPA

At last week’s TMT, Jay Hesse, Nez Perce, requested that BPA operate the Lower Granite forebay within the bottom 1-ft of MOP, instead of a 1.5-ft range, to lessen the impacts of operating in a raised MOP for navigation safety. Norris shared that BPA will make best efforts to maintain the Lower Granite forebay within a 1-ft range when flows are below 80 kcfs (MOP+2 or MOP+3), as a soft constraint. The Corps and BPA will implement the Tribe’s request as a soft constraint through the end of MOP.

5. Dworshak Dam - Operations Update - Jon Roberts, Corps

Jon Roberts, Corps, reported on operations at Dworshak Dam. The project is at 1,505.9 ft. elevation as of this morning, discharging ~7.7-7.8 kcfs to support hatchery releases on the Clearwater. On Friday, the Corps will begin stepping down to 4 kcfs for unit testing Monday-Tuesday. As testing wraps up, there will likely be some fluctuation in flows. Testing should end Tuesday afternoon. Flows on the Clearwater at Orofino are expected to decrease to 19-20 kcfs and the Corps plans to maintain at 12 kcfs for the remainder of the season. As the natural river rises due to snowpack melt, flows out of Dworshak Dam will be decreased to conserve cold water for summer flow augmentation, which typically begins between June 20 and the first week of July.

Morrill inquired about refill this year, asking if it is expected to happen faster than normal. Roberts replied that while the first 30 feet or so may fill in quicker, that the snowmelt pattern and slightly below average snowpack at higher elevations, that refill will ultimately balance out.

Today’s Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative
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	Claire McGrath
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Washington	Charles Morrill
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke

Agency	TMT Representative
Idaho	Jonathan Ebel
Montana	Brian Marotz
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Umatilla Tribe/CRITFC	Absent
Colville Tribe	Sheri Sears
Warm Springs Tribe	Jen Graham
Kootenai Tribe	Absent
Spokane Tribe	Absent

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

Corps – Jon Roberts, Aaron Marshall, Willow Walker, Dan Turner, David Bogema, Michelle Yuen, Eric Chow

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

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

Clearing Up – K.C. Mehaffey

Columbia Basin Bulletin – Mike O’Bryant

Portland General Electric – Ruth Burris

Oregon DEQ – Paula Calvert

NPCC – Leslie Bach