

COLUMBIA RIVER TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 19, 2025

Facilitator's Summary

Facilitation Team: Emily Stranz & 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; it is not intended to be the "record" of the meeting. Official minutes can be found on the TMT website: <https://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/agendas/2025/>. Suggested edits for the summary are welcome and can be sent to Colby at colby@dsconsult.co.

Review Meeting Summaries & Minutes – TMT Members approved the official meeting minutes from January 22, and the minutes and facilitator's summary from the February 5 meeting, pending requested edits to the summary from Charles Morrill, WA.

Chum Operation - Doug Baus, Corps, provided an update on the current conditions and forecasts for chum. Complete operation details are posted to the TMT website. Bonneville Dam (BON) at 0700 hours this morning had a tailwater elevation of 11.5 feet, with a total outflow of 128 kcfs.

The RFC inflow forecast over the next 10-days shows a low of 118 kcfs on February 23 and a high of 166 kcfs on February 25. Doug noted that the long-term outlook through the end of March indicates below-average flows, currently between 132-150 kcfs. Action Agencies plan to continue implementing the current chum incubation operation until its scheduled end on April 9 at midnight.

Tony Norris, BPA, reported that Grand Coulee Dam (GCL) has been drafting almost 1-foot/day through February to support the chum operation. Significant levels of precipitation in the basin (particularly the west side) and the Snake River Basin have produced rises in the Willamette River and now the Snake; easing the burden on Lake Roosevelt to support chum operations. The project will transition to meeting the Hanford Reach minimum while the Snake and Willamette help meet chum needs downstream. GCL has been passing inflow or filling slightly over the last few days; this is expected to continue until flows recede in the Snake and Willamette. Chris Runyan, Reclamation, added that GCL has drafted about 10.5 feet since February 1; the drafting has slowed over the last 5 days. Projections show GCL could remain in this range or possibly draft deeper. He emphasized that forecasts change rapidly, and there is a chance of drier conditions which would necessitate further drafting from the project; that said, conditions currently look good for maintaining the chum operation.

Kelsey Swieca, NOAA, had no further updates, echoing the AAs' anticipated ability to maintain the chum incubation phase through April 9. NOAA and others will continue to monitor conditions, with any changes to be reported at TMT.

Official February Water Supply Forecasts – Chris reported the official February water supply forecast for Hungry Horse Dam (HGH), noting that as of February 1, the water YTD precipitation for the South Fork of the Flathead Basin was around 88% of average; January was especially dry, around 41% of average.

The February through July water supply forecast was 1,670 kaf, or 77% of average; April through August was 1,617 kaf, or 79% of average; May through July was 1,303 kaf, or 78% of average; and May through September was 1,409 kaf, or 79% of average (currently indicates 20-foot draft, finalized in May). Chris noted that minimum flows were revised based on the February forecast: Columbia Falls is now 3,420 cfs and below the dam in the South Fork is 760 cfs. Current projections show flow at HGH will be in the 3,515-foot range by the end of April, well below FRM.

Doug reported the February water supply forecasts for Corps of Engineers projects:

- **The Dalles (TDA):** NWRFC April to August volume forecast is 75 maf, or 84% of average.
- **Lower Granite (LWG):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 20 maf, or 100% of average.
- **Libby (LIB):** Corps runoff forecast April to August is 4,728 kaf, or 78% of average.
- **Dworshak (DWR):** NWRFC April to July volume forecast is 2,214 kaf, or 90% of average.

Questions or Comments from Non-TMT Members – There were no questions or comments from non-TMT members.

The next scheduled TMT meeting will be on March 5, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

**Columbia River Regional Forum
Technical Management Team
OFFICIAL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Minutes: Andrea Ausmus, BPA (contractor, CorSource Technology Group)**

Today's TMT meeting was held via conference call and webinar, chaired by Doug Baus, Corps, and facilitated by Emily Stranz, DS Consulting. A list of today's attendees is available at the end of these minutes.

1. Review Summary and Minutes

a. February 5 Summary and Minutes, January 22 Minutes

- January 22 Minutes
 - Approved.
- February 5 Minutes and Facilitator Summary
 - Charles Morrill, WA, sent in an edit for the Facilitator Summary regarding the Chum Operation.
 - The last paragraph, starts with "Kelsey Swieca, NOAA..."
 - "more information will..." to "some information will..."
 - "He noted the emergence and timing data from Hamilton Creek and Springs can't be used as a true index in the Ives Pierce area due to the wide..." addition of "water temperature differentials between the spawning areas."
 - Approved with changes.

2. Chum Operations - Doug Baus, Corps-NWD; Tony Norris, BPA; Chris Runyan, BOR; Kelsey Swieca, NOAA; Charles Morrill, WA

- TMT Coordinated Chum Incubation at the December 18 meeting
- Incubation Start Date: December 19 @ 1:00 pm
- Incubation End Date: April 9 @ midnight
- Spring Spill @ BON Start Date: April 10

a. Bonneville Dam (BON) – Hourly Data – Baus

- Tailwater Elevation (Hour 7): 11.5 feet
- Outflow: 128 kcfs

b. NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (10 day) - Baus

- BON Inflow Forecasted:

- Low: 118 kcfs (Feb 23)
- High: 166 kcfs (Feb 25)

c. NWRFC – BON Inflow Forecast (45 - 120 day) - *Baus*

- March 50% Climatology Inflow Forecasted:
 - Same pattern as last month
 - Low: 152 kcfs
 - High: 202 kcfs
- March Current Forecast :
 - Low: 132 kcfs
 - High: 150 kcfs
 - Below the average values

d. BPA Update – *Norris*

- Norris noted that GCL has been drafting up to 1 foot/day across February to support the chum operation.
- There has been significant precipitation in the basin, particularly the westside but also in the Snake River Basin that is producing some rises.
- The rise in the Willamette is already under way and there is a rise in the Snake River that is expected in the next couple of days. This has eased the burden on Lake Roosevelt for augmenting for chum.
- GCL will transition to meeting Hanford Reach minimums while the Snake and Willamette rivers pick up the slack for supporting chum.
- Over the last couple of days, GCL has been passing inflows or even filled a few tenths of an inch. This will continue as long as there is streamflow in the Snake or the Willamette and there is flow into GCL.

e. Reclamation Update – *Runyan*

- Since February 1, GCL has drafted 10.5 feet. This has slowed over the past 5+ days.
- Current STP projections show GCL staying in its current range and/or could be deeper for April 30.
- Forecasts can change rapidly and there is a chance that the region may go into drier conditions that might mean GCL drafting lower.

f. NOAA Chum Update – *Swieca*

- Swieca said that NOAA does not foresee issues with the ability to maintain chum incubation phase through April 9.

- They will continue offline conversations and report to TMT if that changes.

3. Official Water Supply Forecasts – *Chris Runyan, BOR; and Doug Baus, Corps*

Reclamation

- Hungry Horse – February Final Forecast
 - Initial Notes:
 - February 1 Water Year to Date for precipitation was ~88% of median.
 - January was extremely dry at ~41% of median for the month of January.
 - February – July
 - 1670 kaf
 - 77% of average
 - Apr – Aug
 - 1617 kaf
 - 79% of average
 - May – July
 - 1303 kaf
 - 78% of average
 - May – September
 - 1409 kaf
 - 79% of average
 - Sets the Summer, end of September Draft.
 - Indicates a 20 ft draft.
 - Finalized using the May forecast
- Minimum Flows Downstream of Hungry Horse (revised from the February forecast)
 - Columbia Falls
 - 3420 cfs
 - Below HGH (South Fork)
 - 760 cfs
- Forecasted End of April Forebay
 - Elevation: 3515 ft
 - Below FRM

Corps

- The Dalles

- April to August
 - 75 maf
 - 84% of average
- Lower Granite
 - April to July
 - 20 maf
 - 100% of average
- Libby
 - January Runoff Forecast
 - 4728 kaf
 - 78% of average
- Dworshak (Clearwater Fork)
 - April to July
 - 2214 kaf
 - 90% of average

4. Set agenda for next meeting – March 5, 2025

Meeting Location: Webex

- a. Chum Update
- b. FRM Shifts and FRM Refill Start Information
- c. Operations Review

Today's Attendees:

Agency	TMT Representative(s)
NOAA Fisheries	Kelsey Swieca
Oregon	Erick Van Dyke
Washington	Charles Morrill
Kootenai Tribe	
Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation	Dennis Moore
Umatilla Tribe (CRITFC)	Tom Lorz, Pete McHugh
Yakama Nation	Keely Murdoch, Tom Iverson
Bureau of Reclamation	Chris Runyan
Army Corps of Engineers	Doug Baus (chair), Aaron Marshall, Lisa Wright
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Dave Swank
Idaho	
Montana	Brian Marotz
Spokane Tribe	
Nez Perce Tribe	Jay Hesse
Warm Springs Tribe	
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	
Bonneville Power Administration	Tony Norris, Ben Hausmann

Other Attendees (non-TMT members):

COE –Dan Turner, Chris Peery, Tom Conning, Tiffany Stoeckig-Dixon

BPA – Jaden Boehme

Washington Ecology – Thomas Starkey

DS Consulting – Emily Stranz (Facilitator), Colby Mills

CorSource – Andrea Ausmus (BPA note taker, Contractor)

EKI – Eve James, Eddie Sparks

Snohomish PUD – Scott Richards

Constellation – Jesse Adamski

Clearing Up – KC Mehaffey

Chelan PUD – Jay Fintz, Lance Beyer

Avista Utilities – Mike Dillon